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Society of Canadian  
Bulletin of The Ornithologists

# PICOIDES

Bulletin de la Société des Ornithologistes  
du Canada

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ISSN 0836-060X

Picoides, November 1995  
Volume 8, Number 2



Photo by P. Kuhn

Snow Geese destroy their nursery: see S.C.O. Column inside.  
("3mx3m enclosures in (former) brood-rearing area in Lesser Snow Goose colony near LaPerouse Bay, Manitoba, August 1995. Enclosures established 1982 by D. Bazely and R. Jefferies (Botany, U. Toronto). Lush vegetation within enclosures in stark contrast to bare mud surrounding them.")

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## EDITOR'S MUSINGS

The Editor of *Picoides* has a privileged position but a demanding one. He (or she - implied hereafter) can include his own text in each issue and can re-write most of the rest. But if readers don't like what he writes, they send in less, and he has to write more. The editor must be part journalist and part psychologist. Familiarity with Canada and the ornithological literature helps. Feedback suggests that recent issues, combining your contributions and mine, satisfied some expectations without chafing many sore spots.

Other comments show that *Picoides'* role, and

that of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, is not clear to some readers. This uncertainty prevailed when our Society began, and the subject has been kicked around ever since. A Canadian focus for linkages among ornithologists always provided much of the *raison d'être* for the Society. This may be more important now with the changed roles of government agencies such as Canadian Museum of Nature and Canadian Wildlife Service. The nebulous concept of a Canadian focus calls for improved communication among our members, *Picoides* being one mechanism. If a simpler "newsletter" would serve

membership needs as well as or better than this "bulletin", the lower publication costs might allow three or four mailings a year instead of two. The Publication Committee report (see later) noted that many submissions to journals are rejected for lack of space, but few people see *Picoides* as an alternate publication outlet. Our Bulletin is slowly evolving its own character, but we needn't retain its present format or content if another would be more effective as well as less costly.

The Editor

Published by:

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists.  
c/o Canadian Wildlife Service,  
P.O. Box 1590, Sackville, N.B.  
E0A 3C0

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