

# Society of Canadian Ornithologists Société des ornithologistes du Canada

## NEWSLETTER / NOUVELLES

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### SCO NEWS

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING of the Council of the SCO was held on the evening of 28 September 1983, in the Dept. of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, during the Centennial Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union of 26 to 30 Sept 1983, also at the AMNH. The SCO President's Report follows.

When a group of Canadian ornithologists met in Edmonton in August of 1981 to discuss the formation of a national ornithological organization, there was a considerable amount of concern regarding the viability of such an organization and the extent of support it would receive. When the group met again in Chicago last year to form the S.C.O. and to choose the first executive and council, there was still a considerable degree of concern.

Therefore, it is a pleasure to report that the high point of the first year of operation of the Society of Canadian ornithologists is the degree of support which the Society has received from Canadian ornithologists at large. Our call for memberships attracted responses from the majority of professional ornithologists in Canada, and a significant proportion opted for Founding Memberships, providing the Society with the funds necessary to establish the organization formally.

Equally encouraging was the willingness with which people agreed to serve active roles within the Society. Not one individual who was approached to serve as an officer or on the Council declined to do so. Although all members of the Council have provided valuable guidance and advice during the past year, I must specifically acknowledge the valuable roles played by Ralph Morris who handled membership matters; John Richardson, who handled the money and who volunteered to help steer the Society through the registration process; Ross James, who has kept the Newsletter coming out, even if he had to write much of it himself; and especially Ricki Dunn, who has been active in all aspects of the affairs of the Society, and who has served as my "right arm" in Ontario, where much of the action has taken place.

My own role in the Society during the past year has been largely organizational. The real work has been delegated to individuals such as those mentioned above, who are really responsible for getting the Society going. In this regard I should specially thank Henri Ouellet who, although not a member of the Council, has played such an important role in the production and distribution of the Newsletter, in addition to serving as chairman of our nominating committee.

A good start has been made. It is up to the Council, and the membership at large, to insure that the efforts of the past year are not wasted. The coming year will see the formal registration of the Society, bring with it the moral responsibility to see that the Society meets its

aims in a professional and business-like manner. In addition, 1984 will see a dramatic increase in activity related to the 1986 International Ornithological Congress in Ottawa. I am serving as the Society's representative on the National Organizing Committee for the I.O.C. and I assure you that the Society will have to play an active and responsible role to insure that the reputation of professional ornithology in Canada is enhanced.

Finally, I would like to point out the need to continue to draw the general membership into the activities and advancement of the Society. Our Newsletter is the major vehicle whereby this can be done. However, this will require the participation of more than just a few individuals. The exchange of information can occur only if everyone participates in the process. Therefore, I charge the Council and, even more so, the members of the Society, with the responsibility of insuring that the Newsletter continues to improve in the direction we have set for it.-M. ROSS LEIN.

The council of the SCO for 1983 will continue during 1984 as there were not sufficient nominations received to hold an election. However, in future, when the constitution is finalized, it is hoped that at least 2 persons will be nominated for each office so that elections can be held. The new chairman of the nominating committee will be announced in the next newsletter.

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: As of 30 September, 1983, the SCO had a membership of 203 individuals. Of this number, 45 members chose to elect Founding Membership status through a one-time payment of \$50.00. Founding Memberships are still available through the remainder of 1983 as are Regular Memberships (\$5.00). As the NEWSLETTER will be going out only to our membership, please consider passing on the attached membership application form to an ornithological friend.

For your information, membership affiliation by geographic location is shown below. Numbers of Founding Members are in parentheses.

Newfoundland.....1 (0)	Manitoba.....16 (2)
Prince Edward Island...2 (0)	Saskatchewan.....13 (3)
Nova Scotia.....9 (1)	Alberta.....23 (10)
New Brunswick.....7 (2)	British Columbia.....14 (1)
Quebec.....17 (3)	United States.....5 (0)
Ontario.....94 (23)	England.....2 (0)

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

THE MACDONALD RAPTOR RESEARCH CENTRE is offering 4 to 6 non-salaried student internships for the upcoming 1984 season. Free residence is provided within walking distance of the Centre. Each intern gains experience in the care, handling and propagation of 400 captive birds of prey, public education, and rehabilitation of sick and injured raptors. Each intern will also be assigned to a graduate student working in the areas of behavior, nutrition, ecology, reproductive physiology, parasitology, toxicology, and management of birds of prey. Unlike many other internship programs, interns will be given the opportunity to conduct personal research. The Centre also operates a Peregrine Falcon breeding program for those interested in endangered species.

If interested, submit at least one letter of recommendation, a resume indicating interests and experience, and an unofficial copy of any high school and/or university academic record by March 1, 1984 to: Macdonald Raptor Research Centre, c/o Dr. D.M. Bird, 21,111 Lakeshore Rd., Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, H9X 1C0 (1-457-2000, ext. 345).

## PROGRAMMES/RESEARCH NEWS

THE PEREGRINE RELEASE program initiated by the Canadian Wildlife Service is finally showing signs of success in eastern Canada. Over 100 falcons have been released in cooperative projects involving both provincial governments and private institutions. Montreal, Algonquin Park, Toronto and Hull-Ottawa have been the major target areas for re-establishing breeding pairs.

In 1982 a pair of Peregrines attempted breeding on a Montreal skyscraper, however the pair was disturbed by the sudden appearance of a Great Horned Owl on a nearby building in broad daylight! During the subsequent winter, as many as three Peregrines wintered in the city. In 1983 a pair consisting of a banded male and an unbanded female successfully fledged two young on a small cliff on the island of Montreal. Pigeons, gulls and the occasional rat comprised their prey. Further good news came later when another pair of Peregrines, both banded from Ottawa releases in 1980 and 1981, fledged two young from a church steeple in Arnprior, Ontario just north of Ottawa. Sadly though, the female was shot to death within a couple of weeks of fledging her young. It is hoped that both young have gained independence and that the male attracts a new mate to the territory. Unfortunately the misguided individual responsible for the killing has not been apprehended yet.

This latter nesting is the first for southern Ontario since 1963. One pair did fledge two young at an historical nest site in southern Quebec in 1980, however no falcons have returned to the cliff since.

THE WORLD'S FIRST falcon bred from artificial insemination with frozen-thawed semen was produced at McGill University's Raptor Research Centre in 1983. The semen was collected from male American Kestrels, then frozen at  $-196^{\circ}\text{C}$  in liquid nitrogen, and finally, thawed and deposited into non-paired females. Two fertile eggs were hatched by artificial incubation from day one, however only one survived to fledging. Dubbed 'Nitro', the healthy male will be added to McGill's kestrel breeding colony of 300 birds. The research was undertaken by Ms Kelly Brock for her M.Sc. degree under the supervision of Dr. Bird and Dr. George Ansah of the department of Animal Science. The study will continue in 1984.

FROM LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY.-Work on Granite Island continues with an emphasis on the relationship of body condition to reproductive performance in Ring-billed and Herring gulls. Graduate student Cathy Meathrel has started her M.Sc. program on nutrient reserves in gulls. New Canadian colonies of Ring-billed gulls were discovered in the Lake of the Woods in 1982. In 1983 a banding program was initiated to determine the relationship of this population to the larger, disjunct eastern and western Canadian populations.

Investigations continue on the apparent relation between timing of nesting and egg sequence on secondary sex ratios in Ring-billed gulls.

Students are invited to inquire regarding graduate studies in these and other projects. Contact Dr. J.P. Ryder.

AVAILABILITY OF RADAR FILMS for bird migration studies.-From the mid 1960s to early '70s, films were made of radar screens at many locations across Canada to study migratory and local movements of birds in relation to the

bird/aircraft collision problem. Time-lapse films of Plan Position Indicator screens were normally taken 24 hours a day during spring and fall, with limited summer and winter filming. Radar settings varied but radar range was usually about 60 nautical miles.

Some radar films have been analyzed and the results published by us, but films from other areas have not been analyzed in detail. With the exception of films from southern Ontario, we have no intention to analyze the remaining films. Anyone interested in studying them should contact Mr. Tom H. Hammell, Engine Laboratory, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0R6, for a list of available films and/or H. Blokpoel (CWS, Ottawa) or W.J. Richardson (LGL Ltd., Toronto) for information about their potential usefulness. Many films are scheduled to be destroyed by December 1984, because they take up much storage space.

#### Research Facilities Available

FIELD STATION of the Avian Behaviour Laboratory at the University of Manitoba has Canada's largest flock of registered captive giant Canada Geese and a large flock of mallard ducks. The laboratory itself has complete indoor facilities necessary to incubate, hatch and brood ducklings and goslings as well as facilities to test subjects inside or observe and study them outside at the field station. The projects that can be undertaken are wide ranging but should be complimentary to the research program instituted in Winnipeg. Interested individuals should contact Dr. L.J. Shapiro, Director, Avian Behaviour Laboratory, Department of Psychology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N2. A complete description of the laboratory and research program is available on request.

THE SHIELD CENTER is a new field station near the East Gate of Algonquin Park. It will offer research programme participation to amateur ornithologists.

Licensed banders will be on staff to provide quality control and continuity. Data collected will be forwarded to project designers for interpretation and publication.

In this setting it should be possible to run programmes requiring as many as 2000 field hours a year for many years in succession.

The Center is looking for serious research projects that promise to make a real contribution to knowledge. If anyone would like to suggest a project, contact Ron Storey, Whitney, Ontario, K0J 2M0.

THE SANDFORD LAKE WILDERNESS Research Centre, a non-profit corporation, located in northwestern Ontario, 56 km north of Atikokan, is seeking students interested in wilderness preservation and acid rain control. Research seems mainly directed toward limnology/ichthyology, but research on avian subjects is possible. Contact E. Kaluza, director, Box 881, Atikokan P0T 1C0.

#### MEETINGS

THE ONTARIO ORNITHOLOGISTS will hold their annual meeting in Toronto on 24 March 1984, at the Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories, University of Toronto. For further information, contact Ross James, Dept. of Ornithology, ROM, 100 Queen's Park, M5S 2C6.

THE A.A.V. EDUCATION COMMITTEE invites participation in their 1984 Annual Meeting - the International Congress of Avian Medicine - to be held 20-23 June 1984 in Toronto. Deadline for submission of proposals and abstracts of papers was 15 November 1983. Anyone interested in cage and aviary birds requiring further information should contact Dr. Richard Nye, Chairman A.A.V. Ed. Comm., 18 Cranbrook Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60016.

#### NEWS OF PEOPLE

PETER ARCESE, University of British Columbia, was awarded a Van Tyne Memorial fund grant from the AOU in May 1983 for work on the correlates and consequences of dominance behavior in the Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia) on Mandarte Island, B.C.

BRUCE MCGILLIVRAY has been appointed Curator of Ornithology at the Provincial Museum of Alberta.

PAUL KERLINGER has been awarded a U. of Calgary Fellowship for 1983-84 to work on various aspects of raptor migration. Dr. Kerlinger is working on several projects including differential migration of sex and age classes of Snowy Owls, and developmental aspects of flight in Swainson's Hawks.

BRADLEY HILL is working on ecological and behavioral interactions between sympatric Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees for a masters programme at U. of Calgary.

MIKE MAHONEY has been investigating the mechanisms mediating attachments between the parent and young and among the young of Canada Geese and Mallards for a masters programme at Avian Behavior Lab at the University of Manitoba.

WESTERN BIRD BANDING.-The following board for 1983-1984 was elected at the annual meeting of the Western Bird Banding Association at Albuquerque, New Mexico in May: Past President - Charles T. Collins; President - Martin K. McNicholl; First Vice-President - Stephen M. Russell; Second Vice-President - Robert C. Tweit; Secretary - Martha H. Balph; Treasurer - Jane Church; Directors - Peter Bloom & Michael Rigney. Eleanor Radke was re-appointed WBBA editor of North Amer. Bird Bander. The 1984 annual meeting will be held at the South San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, with a field trip to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory in April.

#### REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

NESTLING GYRFALCONS were banded in the Northwest Territories from Coppermine in the west-central N.W.T. to Cape Dorset on South Baffin Island during summer of 1983. In addition to the regular U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leg band, each nestling received one to three coloured, aluminum leg bands with all members of a brood receiving the same combination. Colours used were red, blue and black, and the sequence (top/bottom) and leg (left/right) are significant. Observations should be sent to The Bird Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, K1A 0E7 and/or Bob Bromley, N.W.T. Wildlife Service, Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2L9.

MISCELLANEOUS

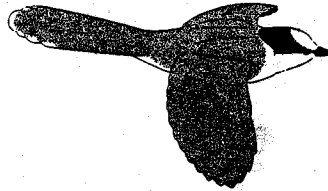
JAMES L. BAILLIE MEMORIAL FUND for Bird Research and Preservation invites applications for grants to support projects on Ontario birds in 1984. The Fund's aim is to encourage field studies by amateur naturalists and to support projects which increase or disseminate knowledge of birds in their natural environment or contribute to their preservation. Priority will be given to projects which draw on the resources of volunteer naturalists in conducting research or fieldwork and to applicants who do not have access to other sources of support. Two types of grants will be offered in 1984: (a) Project Grants and (b) Atlas Fieldwork Grants. Any project which has a volunteer component and otherwise meets the Fund's objectives is eligible for a type (a) grant. Type (b) grants provide partial support for travelling expenses to remote central and northern areas for fieldwork on the Ontario Atlas of Breeding Birds. Grants do not normally exceed \$1,000. Applications for Project Grants are due by 31 December 1983 and for Atlas Fieldwork Grants by 29 February 1984. All applications should be submitted on forms obtainable from the Secretary, The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, c/o Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0.

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION awards grants of up to \$1,000 toward research in avian systematics and neotropical ornithology (Wetmore awards) and for any aspect of ornithology (Van Tyne awards). The grants usually go to students, and for pure as opposed to management or conservation. Competition is severe, particularly for Van Tyne awards, for which about 50 people apply annually (3-4 grants of each type are available). Applications are due in early 1984. For information contact Dr. Patricia A. Gowaty, Div. of Biological Sciences, Section of Neurobiology and Behavior, Seeley G. Nudd Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853-0240.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER is scheduled for April 1984. Please submit items for inclusion to the editor prior to 15 March 1984 or include items with your membership renewal.

ROSS D. JAMES, EDITOR  
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XIX CONGRESSUS  
INTERNATIONALIS  
ORNITHOLOGICUS



Rapport du Secrétaire général/  
Secretary General's Report

Much has happened since the last update in the spring Newsletter. The Scientific Programme Committee met on 3 and 4 October and a preliminary selection of topics for plenary lectures and symposia was made. A definite choice will be firmed up during the next few months and details will probably be available for the next issue of the Newsletter.

The construction at the Congress Centre is completed and the first conference was held in early November. Everything appeared to run smoothly. The Center will be a very fine place for our meetings: elegant setting, good and spacious facilities, functional and flexible arrangements, and excellent location. Those of you who may be in Ottawa should make a point of having at least a quick look at it. I am sure that you will be pleased when you see it. In addition to the space necessary for lectures and symposia, ample space will be available for posters, exhibits, and for people to meet, mingle, and discuss.

I am pleased to inform you that Dr. Roger Taylor, a well known naturalist of Ottawa, and past president of the Ottawa Naturalists' Club, has accepted to be the Chairman of the Local Committee, which is being formed now.

Bien des développements se sont produits depuis le printemps dernier. Le Comité du programme scientifique s'est réuni à Ottawa les 3 et 4 octobre et a fait un choix préliminaire de sujets pour les conférences plénières et les symposiums. Le choix définitif des sujets se fera au cours des prochains mois et j'espère que les détails seront disponibles à temps pour le prochain Bulletin.

La construction du Centre des Congrès d'Ottawa est maintenant terminée et on y a tenu la première réunion au début de novembre. Il semble que tout a fonctionné de façon satisfaisante. Ce centre sera un endroit idéal pour le congrès: un décor élégant, un aménagement agréable et spacieux, des installations fonctionnelles et souples, et enfin un site incomparable. Je recommande à tous ceux d'entre vous qui auront l'occasion de venir à Ottawa de prendre quelques minutes pour aller y faire une visite. Je suis convaincu que l'endroit vous plaira. En plus des pièces requises pour les conférences et les symposiums, il y aura de vastes aires pour les exposés sur affiches, les expositions de travaux ou de produits, et des lieux qui faciliteront la rencontre de collègues et les conversations.

The Pre and Post-Congress Field Trips and Workshops Committee, under the guidance of Raleigh Robertson and Phil Stepney, has been hard at work and will soon have a final and detailed list of the field trips and workshops which can be offered for the Congress. More information on this subject will be available in the first circular and in the next Newsletter.

Jean Bédard has made progress with the planning of the art exhibits and information will be available as the plans become firmer. Graham Cooch and Fred Cooke are investigating various ways of creating a fund to assist ornithologists from the Third World and from the Eastern countries. It is particularly critical to be able to help financially ornithologists from developing countries as many of them may not be able to attend the Congress otherwise.

It has now been firmly decided that the Congress will start on 22 June 1986, a Sunday. In the evening, there will be the official opening of the congress, followed by a social gathering. Then, there will be 3 consecutive days of meetings (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday), followed by a one day break (Thursday) for which several activities are being planned. The scientific activities will resume for two more days (Friday and Saturday). The closing of the congress will be on Saturday evening, and the banquet may be scheduled at that time. However, certain facts are still necessary before a final decision is taken on this matter.

In the meantime, I am preparing the first circular and the second announcement. These should be circulated in late January to the 1,300 people already on our mailing list and to more than 100 periodicals which have published the first announcement.

J'ai le plaisir de vous informer que M. Roger Taylor, un naturaliste bien connu d'Ottawa et ancien président de l'Ottawa Naturalists' Club, a accepté la présidence du Comité local, qui sera formé sous peu.

Le Comité des excursions avant et après le congrès et des ateliers de terrain, sous l'égide de Phil Stepney et Raleigh Robertson a accompli une tâche considérable et aura bientôt un programme détaillé des divers voyages qui seront offerts à l'occasion du Congrès. Des détails supplémentaires ainsi qu'une liste des excursions paraîtront dans la Première Circulaire et dans les prochaines "Nouvelles".

Jean Bédard a entrepris la planification des expositions d'art et des détails concernant ces expositions seront disponibles plus tard. Graham Cooch et Fred Cooke explorent différents moyens qui pourraient permettre la création d'un fonds dont le but serait d'appuyer financièrement des ornithologistes du Tiers-Monde ou des pays de l'Est, ce qui leur permettrait d'assister au Congrès. Autrement il sera sans doute impossible à la plupart de ces collègues de venir au Congrès.

L'ouverture du congrès a été fixée au dimanche, le 22 juin 1986. Après les inscriptions, les cérémonies d'ouverture auront lieu en fin de journée et seront suivies d'une réunion sociale. Les assises du congrès se poursuivront au cours des 3 prochains jours (lundi, mardi, mercredi). Il y aura relâche le jeudi et nous prévoyons de nombreuses activités qui devraient intéresser tous les participants. Le programme scientifique se poursuivra le vendredi et le samedi. Les cérémonies de clôture auront lieu le samedi et il est probable qu'elles concordent avec le banquet, mais la décision finale n'a pas été encore prise à ce sujet.



Air Canada and CP Air are the official Congress carriers whereas the Château Laurier will serve as the headquarters; the advantages and benefits of these designations will be announced at the appropriate time.

The Organizing Committee is still seeking ideas regarding activities for the accompanying members. Any suggestion is most welcome.

The National Museum of Man is planning an exhibition of artifacts and works by native people in which birds figure prominently, and the Postal Museum is planning also an exhibition on birds in stamps and associated topics. The feasibility of other exhibits and activities related to birds are now being investigated and information will be made available as the plans become firmer.

One area where little progress has been made is fund raising. I expect to set up a committee for that purpose early in 1984. Your ideas about possible members to work on this committee and organizations, industries, firms, etc., from which funds could be solicited are welcome. The Congress is incorporated and has applied for the status of non-profit organization. I expect to obtain soon the necessary authorizations that would make it possible to issue receipts for income tax purposes.

With my best wishes for the New Year.

Tous mes meilleurs vœux à l'occasion de la Nouvelle Année.

Henri Ouellet

D'ici à la publication du prochain numéro des Nouvelles, je préparerai le deuxième avis et la première circulaire. Ces documents seront distribués aux 1,300 personnes dont les noms apparaissent sur nos listes et à plus de 100 périodiques ornithologiques ou autres qui ont déjà fait paraître le premier avis.

Air Canada et CP Air sont les transporteurs officiels du Congrès et le Château Laurier en est l'hôtel officiel. Les bénéfices et avantages reliés à cette publicité seront annoncés en temps et lieu.

Le Comité d'organisation continue de solliciter des idées et des suggestions concernant le programme pour les membres accompagnateurs de même que pour toute autre activité. Nous attendons vos idées.

Le Musée national de l'Homme préparera une exposition d'art et d'artefacts autochtones, chez lesquels les oiseaux occupent une place importante. Le Musée des Postes prévoit une exposition reliée à la présence des oiseaux en philatélie. Nous explorons plusieurs possibilités en vue de d'autres expositions et activités reliées à l'ornithologie et nous vous en informeront à mesure que les plans se concrétiseront.

Sur le plan des souscriptions financières ou d'une campagne de financement, il y a peu de progrès. Cependant, j'espère qu'un comité de financement pourra être mis sur pied tôt en 1984. Vos idées concernant des membres possibles pour ce comité, de même que des organismes, industries, etc., susceptibles de contribuer financièrement, seront appréciées. N'hésitez pas à communiquer avec moi. Le Congrès a maintenant une charte et devrait sous peu être désigné comme organisme sans but lucratif, ce qui permettrait d'offrir des reçus à des fins d'impôt.