



Number 10 Autumn 1985

NEWSLETTER/NOUVELLES

SCO NEWS

I am sorry that once again the newsletter is late, but the best laid plans always seem to run into problems. First was a strike by support staff at the ROM putting everything behind schedule. Then I waited for news and ballot forms after the AOU meeting in October. My apologies where this delay has caused difficulties.--Ed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - OCTOBER 1985

The past year has seen progress in the Society's affairs, although it has been slow. After several false starts, incorporation papers have been filed with Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada and once the wheels of government turn, we will have official status. Then we will be able to file for tax-exempt status with Revenue Canada.

Activities related to the 19th IOC are continuing. Our compilation of Canadian ornithological "resources" was distributed with the final brochure to all potential delegates. Our list of housing for foreign guests travelling in Canada before or after the Congress has been mailed to a number of interested parties. Ricky Dunn has been primarily responsible for both these activities. Our "Checklist of the Birds of Canada" is almost ready for printing and will be distributed to all registrants at the Congress.

Action continues on other fronts as well. We are currently establishing the committee to nominate the first recipient of the "Doris Speirs Award for Contributions to Canadian Ornithology," to be made in 1986. This will be an annual award recognizing individuals or organizations which have had a significant influence in advancing Canadian ornithology. Our newsletter continues, thanks to the efforts of Ross James, to inform our membership of activities and events across the country. It also continues to require the support of every member.

1986 will be a landmark year for the Society. The IOC, which seemed so far in the future, will be upon us. This is a unique opportunity to demonstrate the vitality of Canadian ornithology to the international community. The SCO bears a considerable portion of the responsibility for the success of the Congress and I hope that every member will do everything they can to insure this success. The conclusion of the Congress will also mean

that one of the main reasons for the formation of the Society will have passed. Therefore, we must look to the future to insure that we develop new ideas and new programs to foster the Society's objectives.

This will be my last report as President of the Society. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all of the members of the Society for their support during several difficult years. Special thanks are due to the Councillors and Officers of the Society. I am certain that Spencer Sealy, as President-Elect will be able to count on their support in the coming years.--M. Ross Lein.

GLEANINGS from the AOU meeting, Tempe, Arizona, October 1985. Although many actions of the AOU Council, Fellows and Elective Members meetings are completely devoid of interest to Canadians (or anyone else), and others appear eventually in print, there were a few items from the 1985 deliberations worth passing on here.

The AOU's Conservation Committee will soon be publishing (1986?) "Ornithology in the Neotropics: a Directory." This includes information on research, education, conservation and regulations in 40+ countries in the Caribbean, Central and South America. Over 400 organizations are listed, with names and addresses of individuals to contact. Watch the OSNA Newsletter for details, or write to the Chairman of the committee (Dr. Jonathon Bart, Ohio Coop Wildlife Research Unit, 1735 Neil Ave., Ohio State Univ., Columbus, OH 43210).

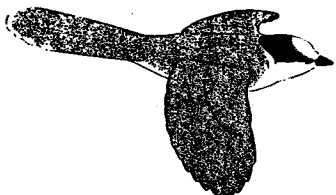
The Committee on Foreign Translations is editing a bibliography of ornithological translations, with a final draft due this fall. If you can't wait to see this either, contact Dr. Douglas Siegel-Causey, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.

The Committee for Conservation of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers produced a large report, with summaries of the problem and available data, and specific recommendations. This is to be published as an AUK Supplement, presumably in 1986. For a pre-publication copy, contact Dr. David Ligon, Department of Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131.

A resolution was passed concerning programs and staff reductions in federal, state and provincial wildlife agencies in the U.S. and Canada (the full text will appear in an AUK Supplement in due course). There was some feeling that AOU shouldn't be pushing the Canadian government on political issues. Does this perhaps indicate a future direction for SCO?--E.R. Dunn.

Ottawa, Canada, 22-29. VI. 1986

**XIX CONGRESSUS
INTERNATIONALIS
ORNITHOLOGICUS**



Secretary General's Report

In a little more than 6 months from now, the Congress will take place. So far the organization process is well under control and the various committees have been working very hard or are preparing themselves for the demanding tasks that are coming ahead.

Registrations are coming in regularly and many people have already subscribed to a number of pre or post-congress excursions and workshops, but it is not until the end of January, the deadline, that it will be possible to assess firmly how many and which ones of the excursions are viable. Indications still point out that the total attendance will be around 2,000 delegates.

The Scientific Programme Committee; particularly the Canadian members under the Chairmanship of Bruce Falls, have put in a tremendous effort in assembling the large number of summaries for contributed papers to be divided between spoken (150) and posters (up to 400). Well over 500 such abstracts have been received and that part of the programme appears to be very exciting considering the diversity and the quality of the abstracts submitted. It is interesting to note that the abstracts have been submitted by colleagues from over 50 different countries. On that basis alone, the Congress will be truly international. So far, about 40 submissions have been received for round table discussions, many of which will be very interesting and should draw a large audience.

Small changes have been made with the symposia, and, the last news are that the large majority of the conveners have resolved the major problems related to their organization. That part of the programme is very dynamic and will contribute to bring together some of the foremost researchers in a given field. There is no better opportunity to update one's knowledge in fields with which one may be less familiar. As you have seen in the Final Circular, the list of symposia is very exciting and the few abstracts received so far indicate that the papers will be of high quality, with a lot of new ideas.

The overall number of abstracts submitted by Canadians is very good and indicate well the ornithological activity of the country in spite of the difficulties experienced by all for funding. The number of Canadian participants in the symposia is very good also and gives an excellent cross-section of the diversity and quality of the ornithological work done in Canada.

A few films have been submitted or called to the attention of the Film Committee, and that part of the programme should be very good in view of the ornithological films of excellent quality produced during the last few years. However, suggestions about good "bird" films you have seen recently would be appreciated.

Post Canada will be producing and release at the Congress a set of four stamps: Great Horned Owl, Snow Goose, Spruce Grouse, and Great Blue Heron. The original work has been done by Jean-Luc Grondin. The birds are beautiful and the layout of the stamps should provide an excellent reproduction of the original art work. They should be very popular at the congress and among stamp collectors.

I am very pleased to report that the council of the A.O.U. (American Ornithologists' Union) has generously approved a grant of \$5,000.00 (U.S.) to assist with the travel expenses of Latin American ornithologists who participate in the programme of the Congress. Allen Keast, has volunteered to chair the fund raising committee. The role of this committee will be to solicit funds from a number of agencies, the private sector, etc. If you have any idea about who could be solicited please write to Allen Keast or myself so that the appropriate letters can be sent soon. Please note that the 19th I.O.C. has been incorporated as a non-profit organization and that any financial contribution will be duly recognized in the proceedings and that receipts for income tax purposes can be issued by the Secretary General if required by potential donors. Some support is now available, but the number of requests is high and exceeds by far the amounts available and it will obviously not be possible to help all the colleagues from Third World or East block countries who need assistance.

The early morning bird walks have so far generated a great deal of interest. There will be five of them each morning to five different locations, and this on five different mornings during the congress. Local ornithologists, bird watchers, and members of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club have volunteered to lead these bird walks but it appears that a number of extra leaders could be used. There is no need to know the area as all transportation arrangements, etc., will have been worked out beforehand; one needs to know the breeding birds of the Ottawa area equally by sight and song. If you are interested in leading a small group of colleagues, mostly from overseas or the U.S.A., please contact me and let me know when you would be available.

I hope to be able to summarize for you in the spring newsletter what will have taken place between November and the time of publication. At that time, a figure on attendance should be available along with a list of the viable pre and post-congress excursions, of the other activities, etc. In the meantime, much remains to be done and the various committee members will be busy in order to meet all the deadlines. Remember the important deadline for registration at reduced rates is still 31 January 1986. I hope that you all can join us for this unique event in Canada. -- Henri Ouellet

RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAILLIE FUND GRANTS. In the last field year of the Ontario Atlas of Breeding Birds, the Trustees of the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation were pleased to help support completion of the project through the awarding of 13 grants totalling \$5600.00. Grants totalling \$3400.00 were bestowed on six other projects: Status of Baird's Sparrow in Manitoba (Brian Ratcliff), Banding Study of House Finch Dispersal (Ontario Bird Banding Association, coordinated by Erica H. Dunn), Spotted Owl status in British Columbia (Federation of British Columbia Naturalists, coordinated by Hue MacKenzie), Survey of the Northern Harrier in central southwestern Ontario (Al Sandilands), Innis Point Bird Observatory (Ottawa Banding Group), and Late fall bird movements at East Point, James Bay (R. Douglas McRae). The Federation of B.C. Naturalists were unable to use the grant in 1985, but hope to have the survey well underway next year.

Applications are welcome for funding in 1986. All projects must be conducted in Canada, but applicants may reside elsewhere. Although all types of bird research are eligible for consideration, preference will be given to projects conducted by amateur researchers and to those by professions who use a high level of amateur participation. Applicants lacking access to other funding sources will be given priority over applicants of similar quality with greater means of support.

All applications should be submitted on forms available from the Secretary, and should be postmarked by 31 December 1985 to be guaranteed consideration by the Trustees.

The current board of Trustees consists of Fred Bodsworth (Chairman), Robert Curry, Clive E. Goodwin, Dr. David J.T. Hussell, Dr. David M. Scott, Dr. J. Murray Speirs, and James Woodford. The chief source of funding is the Jim Baillie Birdathon conducted annually by the Long Point Bird Observatory, but direct donations are welcome and tax deductible. A receipt will be issued. Application forms and further information can be obtained from: Martin K. McNicholl, Secretary, c/o Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0. Donations should be sent to the same address.

THE ALFRED B. KELLY Memorial Fund of the PQSPB Annual Research Grants of up to \$1000 will be available for studies pertaining directly to Quebec Ornithology. Applications will be accepted from any interested person regardless of place of residence. For application forms write to Dr. Marianne G. Ainley, PQSPB Research Committee, 4828 Wilson Ave., Montreal. H3X 3P2. Applications must be postmarked by 1 March 1986. Applicants will be notified of the Committee's decision before the end of April.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Several Canadians were made Elective Members of the AOU at its annual meeting. Congratulations to P.T. BOAG, R.D. JAMES, P.H.R. STEPNEY and M.T. MYERS.

MARIANNE G. AINLEY is currently postdoctoral fellow in the Dept. of History at McGill University. She is working on two major projects: (1) a biography of William Rowan, and (2) a history of Canadian women natural scientists.

MIKE MAHONEY has presented his M.A. thesis proposal entitled "Brood Preferences in Brooding Mallard Hens." Mike completed the laboratory and field work for his thesis during the summer of 1985. He will presently defend his thesis. In the spring of 1986 Mike is planning to spend some time at the Wildfowl Trust in Slimbridge, England, working with Mr. Michael Ounsted.

From the University of British Columbia:

PETER ARCESE is carrying out a study of the social system of the Song Sparrows of Mandarte Island. In particular, he is looking at territorial acquisition and defence, and dispersal in relation to inbreeding.

ANDRE BREault is beginning a study of the consequences of coloniality in Eared Grebes.

DICK CANNINGS has just begun a study of Saw-whet Owls and other cavity nesters in the Okanagan Valley.

KIM CHENG is continuing his studies of the behavioural genetics of quail and waterfowl, as well as conducting a project on production of pigeon squabs.

JOHN EADIE is studying egg dumping in Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes. He is trying to measure who does it, how much it affects the hosts, and whether intraspecific brood parasitism is an ESS.

GILLES GAUTHIER is completing his doctoral study of the determinants of territoriality in Bufflehead. He will be taking up a Killam PDF at Université Laval in the fall of 1985.

ERICA NOL is conducting a study of the relationships between incubation length and neonatal development in Killdeer and Common Snipe.

JEAN-PIERRE SAVARD is completing his doctoral dissertation on territoriality and interspecific competition among ducks of the genus Bucephala, and has returned to full-time work with C.W.S.

JAMIE SMITH is investigating the effects of food supplementation on reproductive success, growth, and adult size in Song Sparrows.

ALISON SOMERVILLE is completing her M.Sc. thesis on "why do Ruddy Ducks breed so late?"

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

VOLUNTEER FIELD ASSISTANTS are needed for a study of breeding ecology of Tree Swallows at Long Point Bird Observatory. This is a long-term study in its 16th year. Fieldwork begins in late April and ends in July. Work involves checking nest-box contents, weighing eggs and young, banding adults and young, sampling insect food supply, etc., at 3 sites with a total of about 180 nest-boxes. Up to 6 assistants are required for periods of one month or more. Room and board and other living expenses are paid. Previous experience not necessary, but interest in field ornithology and willingness to work long hours is essential. Send letter, brief resume, references and indication of time available to David J.T. Hussell, "Tree Swallow Assistants," c/o Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0, preferably before 1 March 1986.

THE ASSOCIATION OF SYSTEMATIC Collections has published "Federal Wildlife Permit Procedures (Vol. 1 of "Controlled Wildlife," Estes and Session, editors), an item of major interest to anyone importing birds to the U.S. Is

there an equivalent handbook for Canada? If so, would someone submit details (name, cost, where to obtain) to this newsletter for publication?

ANY PROVINCIAL GROUP that has a bird related issue of major international significance that should be addressed by the International Council for Bird Preservation in the form a a resolution, please contact Martin K. McNicholl (Chairman ICBP-Canada, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0) by early January. If anyone has issues that would be helped by a letter from that committee, also contact Martin, including background information and addresses of appropriate Ministers if possible.

THE CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE has been requested by Mr. Johan Dalgas Frisch, vice-president of the Brazilian Association for the Preservation of Wildlife to cooperate in a study of the movements of Purple Martins (Progne subis) between North American and Brazil. The study was undertaken to learn more about the migratory movements of the species, and to promote their conservation in Brazil.

Mr. Frisch marked a total of 300,000 Purple Martins last March at roosts in cities in the state of Sao Paulo in southern Brazil, with fluorescent microtags of five different colours. The microtags consist of a fine none-toxic powder which was sprayed over the birds and adhered to the feathers.

The Canadian Wildlife Service has offered to assist in the search for marked birds this summer by asking people with Purple Martin houses to collect feathers shed by the birds and send them to Ottawa. They will be examined under UV light for the presence of the Brazilian microtags. Feathers should be sent to:

Purple Martin Project
Canadian Wildlife Service
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E7

The long wing feathers are the most likely to retain the fluorescent microtags. Please include your name and address, and the name of the place where the feathers were collected (nearest town or city), so you can be notified if any microtags are found on the feathers.

PUBLICATIONS

McNicholl, M.K. 1985. Manitoba bird studies 1744-1983: a bibliography. Man. Nat. Resources & Man. Mus. of Man & Nature. 290 pp.

MISCELLANEOUS

VISITORS TO LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY. North America's oldest bird observatory, at Long Point, Ontario always welcomes visitors, but we wish to extend a special invitation to ornithologists and naturalists planning to attend the meetings of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) and/or the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) in June 1986. Information on how to get there will also be supplied. For visitors who prefer to come prior to the meetings, information can be obtained by writing to us at Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0, Canada, or by phoning (519) 586-2909. While we welcome you at any time, advance notification will help ensure a more worthwhile visit. Long Point is about a 6 or 7 hour drive from Kingston, or 8 or 9 hours from Ottawa.

ATTACHED to the end of the newsletter is a ballot form to elect an executive and council for the coming year. Please fill it out and return as soon as possible.

Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des Ornithologistes du Canada
c/o National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa,
Ontario K1A 0M8, Canada.

President: M. Ross Lein, Dept. of Biology, University of Calgary, Calgary,
Alberta T2N 1N4

Vice President: Spencer G. Sealy Treasurer: W. John Richardson
Recording Secretary: Erica H. Dunn Newsletter Editor: Ross D. James
Membership Secretary: John P. Ryder, Dept. of Biology, Lakehead University,
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 5E1

The NEXT NEWSLETTER is planned for April 1986. Send items for inclusion to the editor, Ross D. James, Dept. of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6, by 15 March 1986.

MEMBERSHIP

Please take this opportunity to renew your membership and consider asking a colleague to join.

SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS/SOCIÉTÉ DES ORNITHOLOGISTES DU CANADA APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP-1986-DEMANDE D'ADHESION

Name/Nom: _____

Address/Adresse: _____

Telephone/Telephone: _____

Fee enclosed/Cotisation annuelle ci-jointe: \$5.00

Renewal

New

Please complete form and return, with cheque or money order to:
S.V.P. remplir et retourner cette formule, avec un chèque ou mandat-poste à:
Dr. W. Bruce McGillivray, Dept. of Ornithology, Alberta Provincial Museum,
12845-102 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta T5N 0M6.