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1982

Society of Canadian Ornithologists Société des ornithologistes du Canada

NEWSLETTER / NOUVELLES

NO. 2

Spring 1982 printemps

ISSN 0710-4510

NEWS OF THE IOC. The National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada, has received the authorization to proceed with an official invitation on behalf of Canada and the Canadian ornithological community to host the 19th International Ornithological Congress in Ottawa, in 1986. An official letter has been sent by the Director of the Museum to the President of I.O.C. More details will be available for the next issue of the Newsletter (H. Ouellet).

RESEARCH NEWS

RESIDUE LEVELS OF EGG contaminants in Great Lakes Herring Gulls for 1980, have just been received. There is continued decline in DDE, PCBs, Mirex, Dieldrin and most other OCs. Reproductive success of Herring Gulls on monitor colonies in 1980 and 1981 continued to be generally good with the exception of the eastern and possibly northern portions of Lake Superior.

From 1980 to 1981 the breeding population of Double-Crested Cormorants on Lakes Erie, Ontario, Huron and Nipigon increased from 615 pairs to 784. This compares with 125+ pairs in 1973. Productivity for 1981 was good with a total Canadian Great Lakes average of 1.45-2.00 young per nest (based on 18 colonies). New cormorant colonies in 1981 were initiated at Pelee Island and East Sister Island in Lake Erie and on Gull Rocks in Lake Superior. (D.V. Weseloh and P. Mineau).

THERE WAS a massive failure of Puffins breeding at Witless Bay, Nfld. in 1981, apparently resulting from human overfishing of capelin stocks, the preferred food fish. David Nettleship will be reporting on this soon.

ECOLOGICAL/BEHAVIOURAL studies of birds were started at Sarcpa Lake, Melville Peninsula, N.W.T. in 1981, to test some current theory in parental care, territoriality and foraging behaviour. Ralph Cartar is looking at incubation and brood care in white-rumped sandpipers, one of the few *Calidris* sandpipers where all parental care is by the female. Rob McLaughlin is examining whether lapland longspurs forage as predicted by central place foraging theory, while feeding their young. Bob Montgomerie is studying longspurs and snow buntings to dissect the components of their territorial behaviour. Bruce Lyon is studying mate selection and parental care in golden plovers, a species with long term pair bonds and biparental care. This work will continue in 1982 and Mary Reid will begin a study of parental care in Baird's sandpiper. Although most of the work is on the behaviour of individuals, a long term goal is to obtain colour-banded populations of all 6 common species at Sarcpa Lake. Longer term population processes within this community, particularly those that result from philopatry and changes in food supply, will be determined. (R.D. Montgomerie).

LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY:

Migration research: Daily estimates of numbers of migrants at 2 sites over 20 years have been used in developing a statistical technique for generating annual indices of abundance (corrected for confounding effects of weather). These can be used in assessing changes in populations of migrants, many of which cannot be monitored in other ways.

Studies of breeding Tree Swallows: Tree Swallows have been systematically studied for 12 years, and in 1981 about 180 pairs bred in nest boxes at 3 locations. Recent emphasis has been on the effects on reproductive performance of various factors including parental age, habitat and food supply.

Ontario Heronry Inventory: A 2-year census of Great Blue Heron colonies, using volunteer help, covered 83 colonies in 3 sample census areas. The sample areas contained 4,500 pairs of nesting herons, about 35% of the estimated provincial population, and can be recensused in future years to monitor changes in population size.

Great Lakes Beached Bird Survey: Monthly beach walks by volunteers provide data on bird mortality. In 1980, 109 beaches were covered, and the rate of 0.51 beached birds/km was about half that of the previous 2 years. Live waterbird counts showed rough correspondence of beached bird numbers to seasonal patterns of live bird abundance.

Ontario Bird Feeder Survey: Five seasons of standardized observations at 500 feeders have provided data on annual abundance, seasonal movements and sex ratios. Data are currently being analyzed to correlate species presence and abundance to habitat and type of food provided.

Loon Surveys: Loons flying north from the Great Lakes are counted for 1 hour after sunrise in April-May. As well, information is being sought from volunteers on Common Loon use of lakes throughout Ontario. 1981 was a pilot project year for these studies. (E. Dunn and D. Hussell).

THE ORNITHOLOGY Section of the National Museum of Natural Sciences will undertake field work in southwestern Quebec, north of the Ottawa River, between Fort Coulonge and Mattawa, between mid-May and the end of June. Little is known about the breeding birds of that area (H. Ouellet).

THE ORNITHOLOGY Dept. of the Royal Ontario Museum will send a field party to the Albany River about 300km W. of Moosonee for most of June and early July. This is part of continuing ROM studies in the vast Hudson Bay Lowland. (R. James).

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE/POSITIONS AVAILABLE

BOB SIMMONS is seeking financial assistance to continue study of the unusually dense population of Northern Harriers (Marsh Hawks) on the Tantramar marshes, N.B., which he studied in 1980 and 1981 for his M.Sc. at Acadia University. As a visiting student (from U.K.), Bob is not eligible for most of the more usual kinds of financial support.

THE WILDLIFE TOXICOLOGY DIVISION of the Canadian Wildlife Service is establishing a registry of congenital abnormalities in the chicks of gulls, terns, cormorants and other fish-eating colonial birds in North America. We are interested in changes in incidence over time, and with location. Banders and investigators who have handled large numbers of young of these birds are asked to send yearly totals by species and location, and indicate the number and nature of the anomalies (crossed or otherwise abnormal bills, extra digits or otherwise deformed feet, missing or abnormal eyes, etc.) observed. If you have ever seen such anomalies, please supply details. Any information provided will be gratefully received and acknowledged by: Glen A. Fox, Wildlife Toxicology Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Research Centre, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E7.

FOR THE SUMMER of 1982, the Macdonald Raptor Research Centre of McGill University is offering four student internships to university students interested in raptor research, rehabilitation and public awareness. The Centre maintains a colony of 400 captive hawks, falcons and eagles and also conducts field studies in the surrounding area. Each student will gain experience in raptor care and management, public tours of the Centre, rehabilitation of sick and injured raptors, and each will be assigned to a specific research project. Free university residence is available within walking distance of the Centre. Please submit a resume of previous experience with a letter of recommendation to:
(Dr. D.M. Bird, Raptor Research Centre, Macdonald Campus of McGill University, 21,111 Lakeshore Road, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec H9X 1C0. 1-514--457-2000 ext.345)

RESEARCH AT Lakehead University continues on problems related to coloniality and the biology of gull mating systems. Students interested in colonial bird biology are invited to write regarding graduate studies (M.Sc.) to Dr. John P. Ryder, Department of Biology, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 5E1; (807) 345-2121.

HAPPY EXPERIENCE with graduate students from University of Missouri (Pat Brown, White-winged Scoter) and Washington State (Marc Bechard, Swainson's Hawk), suggests opportunities for studies by Canadian graduate students on populations where a good proportion of young birds of past years have been banded. Available to graduate students for consideration are local Saskatchewan populations of: Great Horned Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Tree Swallow and Mountain Bluebird. Interested persons should write to C. Stuart Houston, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8.

DISCUSSIONS to start a breeding bird atlas project covering the three Maritime Provinces have begun. If interested in additional information contact Dr. A.J. Erskine, P.O. Box 1327, Sackville E0A 3C0.

ONTARIO BREEDING BIRD ATLAS is now part of a world-wide scheme to map bird distribution. By 1987 we hope to have a complete, up-to-date, picture of the breeding range of each of approximately 275 species of birds which breed in the province.

The technique used in Ontario was borrowed primarily from the pioneering British project but also from the 50 other countries and states presently working on similar projects. For Atlas purposes the southern part of the province

is divided into 10 kilometer squares using the UTM grid system found on topographic maps. Birders choose a square and visit it over the breeding season (March-August) hopefully accumulating the minimum 16 hours and recording information on the breeding birds found there. In the north 100 km squares and longer survey periods will be used.

The Atlas is being sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Long Point Bird Observatory, and is supported by the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Parks Canada and the World Wildlife Fund. Field work began in 1981 and will continue through 1985. The results will be useful to a variety of groups, including birders, biologists, planners and conservationists.

Roughly 500 atlassers took to the field in 1981 and enjoyed the challenge, the fresh air, and the knowledge that they are contributing to a useful project. If you would like further information or would like to participate, contact the Atlas office at the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 355 Lesmill Rd., Don Mills, Ontario, M3B 2W8, 416-444-8419.

MANY ASPECTS of the Long Point Bird Observatory Program depend on the help of short term volunteers. Anyone wishing to take part in the Observatory activities during 1982 is encouraged to write Dr. David Hussell, LPBO, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, NOE 1M0.

WANTED: Bird skins, skeletons, alcoholics of labelled or unlabelled specimens to help build up our teaching collections for ornithology. All contributions shall be acknowledged upon receipt and in the collection. Please forward any material to Dr. John P. Ryder, Lakehead University.

MEETINGS

THE VII ANNUAL meeting of the Société québécoise pour l'étude biologique du comportement will be held 5-7 Nov. 1982 near Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada in a natural surrounding at the foot of Orford Mountain. An overview Symposium on "OPTIMIZING BEHAVIOR UNDER ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS: SEX AND FOOD" is being organized and will begin Nov. 4th. We are seeking especially studies on higher vertebrates, but other animal groups will be considered as well. A preliminary content is available on request. Those interested in contributing or taking part should contact now ANDRÉ CYR, Dépt. Biologie, Univ. de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Qué, Canada, J1K 2R1.

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION will hold its 100th Stated Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, 10-14 October 1982. For further information on the scientific program write JAMES R. KARR, Program Chm., Dept. Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution, Univ. of Illinois, Champaign, IL 61820.

THE 52nd ANNUAL MEETING of the Cooper Ornithological Society will be held on the campus of Utah State University in Logan, Utah, from Thurs. 22 Apr. through Sat. 24 Apr. 1982 with field trips on Sun. 25 Apr. KEITH L. DIXON, Dept. Biology, Utah State Univ., Logan UT 84322.

THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY will meet at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA, 6-9 May 1982. CURTIS S. ADKISSON, Dept. Biology, VPI&SU, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

THE 6th ANNUAL MEETING of the Colonial Waterbird Group will be held 4-7 Nov. in Chevy Chase, MD.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

KIT KOVACS and Dora Boersma recently completed their graduate studies at Lakehead University. Kit documented the nesting biology and behaviour of female-female pairs and polygynous trios in Ring-billed Gulls. She won a best student paper award at the last A.O.U. meeting in Edmonton for her presentation on aspects of her gull research. Dora's thesis involved consideration of late-nesting Ring-billed Gulls with an attempt on determining some factors that lead to their general poor reproductive performance relative to earlier nesting pairs.

ROSS MELINCHUK is in the final stages of his graduate research at Lakehead University. He is interested in the changes in body condition of Hungarian Partridge during the winter in Saskatchewan.

BILL MONTEVECCHI of Memorial University of Nfld., St. John's, is on sabbatical at Harvard University, where he is working on the MS for Les Tuck's "Birds of Newfoundland" book.

ALAN BURGER is now located at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College of MUN at Corner Brook, Nfld., and would welcome contacts.

GAY HANSEN is teaching the one ornithology course offered at Mt. Allison University, Sackville, N.B. Bob Lamberton who initiated the course now has a fulltime appointment in Classics at Mt.A.

DRS. PETER BOAG and Laurene Ratcliffe are currently doing post-doctoral work in the Department of Zoology at Oxford University, Oxford, England.

MARTIN MCNICHOLL has moved to 21857-64th., RR8, Langley, B.C. V3A 6H4.

PUBLICATIONS

MCNICHOLL, M.K. (Ed.). 1981. The history of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists and its corporate member clubs. Alberta Nat. Spec. Publ. No. 1, Edmonton. 151 pp.

MCNICHOLL, M.K. (Ed.). 1981. Bird banding in Alberta. Alberta Nat. Spec. Publ. No. 2, Edmonton. 73pp.

Available from Ornithology Section, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, Ontario, KLA OMS-Sur demande, à la Section d'Ornithologie, Musée national des sciences naturelles, Ottawa, Ontario, KLA OMS.

MANNING, T.H. 1981. Birds of the Twin Islands, James Bay, N.W.T., Canada. Syllogeus No. 30: 1-50.

FERGUSON, R.S. 1981. Summer birds of the Northwest Angle Provincial Forest and adjacent southeastern Manitoba, Canada. Syllogeus No. 31: 1-23.

THE 1981 RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION conference in Montreal was a resounding success in spite of a modest turnout (300 participants) compared to previous years. Federal restrictions on travel prevented many U.S. federal officials from attending. Abstracts of approximately 50 papers presented at the RRF meeting are available from Dr. David Bird at \$2.00 per copy.

A COMPENDIUM of all research projects either completed or in progress during the years 1974 to 1981 at McGill University's Raptor Research Centre has been published. Abstracts of 27 projects dealing with birds of prey are available from David Bird for \$2.00.

IAN MCLAREN'S new publication on birds of Sable Island has recently appeared in Proceedings of N.S. Institute of Science (1411 Oxford St., Halifax, N.S. B3H 3Z1).

MISCELLANEOUS

THE ODAKIM COMPANY, 43 William Street, Ottawa, K1N 6Z9, (613) 234-8248 are the distributors for a Canadian-made version of the pesola scale known as the JIM SCALE. The product is essentially identical to the other version. Prices for 1 to 11 units are \$20.00 for 5g and 10g models, \$17.50 for 30g and 100g models, and \$17.00 for 300g and 1kg models. Other models available soon. (communicated by Glen Fox).

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I have included virtually all items which have been forwarded to me. If the information seems biased toward certain areas of the country, it is the result of having received nothing from other areas. I would like to thank all those who have participated thus far, and to urge others to consider future newsletters. -ed.

The next newsletter is scheduled for October 1982. Please submit any items you would like to see published to the Editor by 1 October 1982.