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Sanderling, New River Beach, NB

Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des Ornithologistes du Canada

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2005 SCO/SOC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN HALIFAX NS OCT. 20-22, 2005

The 2005 SCO/SOC meeting will take place at the Delta Halifax Hotel (www.deltahalifax.com) in Halifax, Nova Scotia from 20 to 22 October, 2005. A block of 50 rooms have been reserved at a reduced rate for conference participants. October is a busy conference month for Halifax so you may wish to book early to ensure availability and the best rates. If you book a room, please mention that you are with the SCO. Alternate budget accommodations are available at the Halifax Heritage House Hostel (<http://www.hostellingintl.ns.ca/>), a 10 minute walk from the hotel. Rooms have not been set

aside at the hostel specifically for the conference.

The formal meeting announcement, including registration and submission deadlines, will be circulated in the Spring.

For general inquiries about the meeting please contact the co-chairs Marty Leonard (marty.leonard@dal.ca) or Andrew Boyne (andrew.boyne@ec.gc.ca), and for inquiries related to the scientific program please contact the program chair Greg Robertson (greg.robertson@ec.gc.ca).

ANNOUNCING ACE/ECO

Avian Conservation and Ecology Écologie et conservation des oiseaux

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO) and Bird Studies Canada (BSC) are pleased to announce the launch of a new journal: Avian Conservation and Ecology - Écologie et conservation des oiseaux (ACE-ECO). This will be an open-access, fully electronic scientific journal whose publication is intended to reflect the broader interests of the sponsoring partners and supporting organisations.

It will publish papers that are scientifically rigorous and relevant to the bird conservation community, to exacting editorial and production standards, in a cost-effective electronic approach that makes them widely available in real-time. Although ACE-ECO is intended in part to enhance the international profile of Canadian ornithology and applied avian science, contributions will be welcomed from all over the world.

ACE-ECO will focus on the conservation, ecology, and status of birds. It is intended to complement other publications, such as traditional ornithological journals, conservation publications, general ecology journals and those focused on specific groups of birds.

The name of the journal – Ecology AND Conservation – further defines its intended publication niche. Distinctions between research with origins in "pure" ecology or in "applied" conservation and management are blurring, as ecologists better appreciate the need to address societal issues of practical concern, and managers require research to address ecological uncertainties that underpin conservation efforts. ACE-ECO will publish papers that report on research in the "radical middle ground" that is simultaneously pure and applied avian ecology. For example, papers will not require a special section on "management or conservation implications", as these will be evident from the nature of the research problem, whether the field be molecular, behavioural, population, community or landscape ecology.

The Editors-in-Chief are now finalizing a Board of Associate Editors. The first official call for papers is expected by mid-February 2005. With this announcement, we are asking authors to consider this new journal for papers that meet this philosophical thrust. Our next announcement and the web-site (<http://www.ace-eco.org>) will identify the process for electronic manuscript submission.



MESSAGE FROM THE SCO/SOC PRESIDENT



charles.francis@ec.gc.ca

It is with great pleasure that I'm writing to you as the new president of the SCO.

The society is at an exciting point in its history, on the eve of launching a new journal. Planning and discussion for a Canadian ornithology journal has been a significant theme of SCO meetings since the inception of the society more than 20 years ago. In 1994, the society prepared a formal proposal for a journal, drafted by Henri Ouellet. Several years later, in 2000, a draft business mcommittee. This committee revised the proposal, clarifying roles and updating the business plan, but was limited by lack of start-up funding. The turning point came at the 2003 SCO meeting in Saskatoon, when Phil Taylor proposed that, instead of a traditional, paper-based journal, the societies aim to develop a state-of-the-art web-based electronic journal, with full open access. This would mean that anybody, anywhere in the world, would be able to view or download the articles for free.

Escalating costs for subscriptions to traditional journals, both for libraries and individuals, are limiting access to many traditional journals especially away from major academic institutions. In contrast, open access transcends national and institutional boundaries, increasing international exposure, overall readership and citation rates. Thus many scientists should be attracted to the journal to ensure that their hard-earned research results reach the widest possible audience.

The idea of an electronic, open-access journal was unanimously accepted by the SCO membership at that meeting, and within a few months its novelty attracted a challenge grant of \$35,000 in start-up funds from the Metcalf foundation. This challenge was matched by the Canadian Wildlife Service executive, and we were underway. In September 2004, the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and Bird Studies Canada signed a Partnership Agreement to jointly publish the journal. A title was selected: Avian Conservation and Ecology/Écologie et conservation des oiseaux with the acronym ACE/ECO. At the same time, an agreement was signed with the Resilience Alliance to publish the journal. They publish the electronic journal Ecology and Society (formerly called Conservation Ecology) after which our journal is being modeled, and had offered to share their

expertise, software and staff. For the past few months, the joint journal committee has been working closely with their Managing Editor, Michelle Lee, who is skillfully steering us through the many little details that are so important to success. Tom Nudds and Marc-André Villard have been selected as joint Editors-in-Chief to help select the highest quality papers for inclusion in the journal.

Many people have worked very hard over the past two decades to reach this exciting milestone. However, the future of the journal now lies in your hands—it will only succeed if members of the SCO, and other scientists, are prepared to publish in it. Although the journal will accept papers from anywhere in the world, we hope that it will particularly serve as a showcase for some of the best ornithological research being undertaken by Canadian scientists. I would like to encourage all of you to think of the new journal as a venue of choice for publishing your work. The publication costs are substantially less than the page charges from most other North American society journals, and in return your article will be accessible to everyone with access to the internet. Please check out the journal web page for more details: www.ace-eco.org.

The new journal is not the only activity keeping the executive busy. Planning is already underway for the next two annual meetings of the society, both of which promise to be excellent, though very different.

The 2005 meeting will be a stand-alone meeting of the SCO, in Halifax, Nova Scotia from Oct 20-22. This meeting will be a valuable opportunity for Canadian ornithologists to meet with each other, and in particular for academic and government researchers to interact. All four of the Canadian Wildlife Service bird research committees (waterbirds and seabirds, shorebirds, landbirds, and waterfowl) will be meeting together just outside of Halifax in the days leading up to the SCO meeting, so that they can also attend the SCO meeting (following the success of similar arrangements in Saskatoon in 2003). The local committee, jointly led by Andrew Boyne, of the CWS Halifax office, and Marty Leonard, Andy Horn and Cindy Staicie from Dalhousie University, is already busy making preparations. A formal call for papers will appear with the next *Picoides*, and posted on the web site in due course.

The following meeting, in contrast, will be a large,

international affair. It will be held in conjunction with the North American Ornithological Conference (NAOC) in Veracruz, Mexico from 2-7 October 2006. This meeting will involve many other societies including: American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, Waterbird Society, Raptor Research Foundation, Wilson Ornithological Society, Association for Field Ornithologists, Mexican ornithological society (CIPAMEX), and ourselves. A steering committee has been established with one representative from each society. José Luis Alcatara (from CIPAMEX) and I are co-chairs. Dozens of other people are involved in planning and preparations of everything from the logistics to the scientific program to field trips. This will be an excellent opportunity to interact with colleagues from all over North America, especially Mexican ornithologists most of whom are rarely able to attend meetings north of their border. It is also a spectacular time of year for birding. The majority of North American raptors pass through Veracruz every autumn, with peak counts of over 300,000 birds in one day. Over 500 species of birds have been reported from the state. The steering committee met with the Mexicans for a planning meeting in October 2004, and was very impressed with the venue, the birds, and the enthusiasm of the Mexicans to host us. Please mark these dates in your calendar.

The NAOC was first established to reduce the numbers of different meetings taking place in the same years as the International Ornithological Congress. The next IOC will take place in Hamburg, Germany in August 2006. The SCO will also be prominently featured at that meeting, with our Vice President, Sue Hannon, as the program chair. The IOC is always an excellent opportunity to learn more about international developments in ornithology,

and to meet colleagues from all over the world. I hope that many of you will also be able to attend.

In addition to planning meetings, the SCO is also updating and expanding the SCO webpages, thanks to the efforts of Ken Otter who has agreed to take on the challenging task of being webmaster. I would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing webmaster Bob Curry for his enormous help in developing and maintaining the SCO web pages over the past several years.

We have now acquired our own web domain: www.sco-soc.ca, Ken has already put together a new design, and much new material is in preparation, including a short history of the society as well as details of all the past winners of the various society awards. Check it out.

Finally, in order to serve you better, we would like to learn more about what you, as members, would like from your society. What features would you like to see on the web page? Should we switch to electronic delivery of *Picoides* to lower the environmental footprint, and reduce costs? What features do you like most and least about *Picoides*? Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire (which is also available on our web page, if you prefer electronic copy), and let us know what you think.

Overall, the next couple of years promise to be very eventful for the SCO and I look forward to serving as your president during this time.

Dr. Charles M. Francis



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COMMON EIDER



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES



Minutes of the 1st executive council meeting of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO/SOC) Université Laval, Monday August 16th 2004, 1500 – 1730h

Present: Sue Hannon, Pierre Lamothe, Marc Belisle, J.-F. Giroux, Bob Clark, Liana Zanette, J.-P. Savard, Charles Francis, M.-A. Villard, Pierre Lamothe, Thérèse Beaudet, Cheri Gratto-Trevor, Rodger Titman, Gilles Gauthier, Kathy Martin, Greg Robertson

Opening discussion:

Hannon would like to switch presidencies with Francis (Vice-president-elect) as she is chairing IOC science committee. Zanette moved to check whether Hannon would need to stand again, seconded by Titman. Carried.

1. Review of Agenda. No change.

2. Minutes of 2003 meeting. Executive Council minutes: Moved by Hannon to accept, seconded by Gratto-Trevor. Carried. Acceptance of AGM minutes. Moved by Hannon, seconded: Zanette. Carried.

3. Future meeting locations: 2005 Planned for Halifax, Leonard/Taylor, cannot do it in fall, but Andrew Boyne may be able to host in Halifax in October (Secretary's note: further discussion with Boyne suggests he will be able to organize meeting).

2006 – with the NOAC in Veracruz (2-7 October).
2007, TBD.

4. President's Report. Titman moved to accept president's report, seconded by Robertson. Carried.

5. Treasurer's Report. Presentation by Lamothe.

- Mid-2004 deficit of \$1200, with one or two Picoides to come.

- Proposing a membership fees increase. \$25 individual, \$15 student, \$50 institution. 2005 projected increase in revenue, \$3500, \$5700 afterwards.

- Clark: what proportion of membership are students? Beaudet: 58 of 306 are students.

- Discussion of options for reducing costs:

Francis: do we need a paper copy of Picoides? Electronic newsletter seems like direction to head in the future, especially with an electronic-only journal.

Villard: Enhanced benefits for SCO-SOC members could

include an OSNA-style jobs site exclusively for members. Lamothe: suggested 2 copies Picoides/year instead of 3.

Robertson moved that student membership remain at \$10, seconded by Savard. Carried.

Discussed options of increasing membership to \$20 or \$25. Titman suggested \$20 should break even with 2 Picoides. Beaudet suggested try \$25 at AGM, and go with \$20 if it fails.

Savard moved to approach membership to increase regular membership to \$25, seconded M-A Villard. Carried.

Further discussion: Question whether Taverner awards require membership in SCO. Answer is that they should, but some applicants may not have been members last year. Action Item: Need to ensure that all winners of student awards from last year pay their membership fees before receiving awards. In future, need to ensure that all applicants for any Taverner, Baillie or Cooke awards are members of SCO before applications will be considered.

Lamothe: Noted that Cooke award is not promoted on BSC website.

Lamothe: Need tax information from a number of members.

Robertson moved to accept Treasurer's report, Savard seconded. Carried.

Savard moved to raise sustaining membership \$50, with \$25 treated as a charitable donation gift, Hannon seconded. Carried.

Lamothe moved to not issue tax receipts for donations of less than \$10, Savard seconded. Carried.

6. Membership Secretary's Report. Presented by Beaudet.

- Currently have 306 members. Need to encourage many of them to renew.

- Beaudet has verified or corrected E-mail address for most members.

- Need to ask members to visit SCO table to check their address, e-mail.

Moved by Hannon moved to accept Membership report, seconded by Francis. Carried.

7. Picoides Editor's Report.

- presented by Savard on behalf of McFarlane

Discussion of what items are most useful in Picoides:

- 1) Project reports from recipients of student awards are good.
- 2) Bibliographies -- slightly out of place and long -- information is readily available elsewhere (e.g. on professor's websites or through search engines).
- 3) Thesis abstracts are useful, particularly MSc theses, as abstracts are not otherwise published.
- 4) book reviews are potentially useful.
- 5) could consider advertising as a source of revenue.

Action item: MA Villard to contact universities to get M.Sc. thesis abstracts from all Canadian Universities.

Discussion: should ask membership what they want in Picoides, and could also ask whether they would be interested in electronic copy (e.g. by E-mail on web). Rather than ask at AGM, better to ask through a questionnaire to members. Could distribute with next Picoides, and also send electronic copy over the e-mail list.

Action item: MA Villard will organize questionnaire on what to include in Picoides. Could also ask about electronic copy. To be distributed with next Picoides.

Robertson moved to accept Editor's report, Hannon seconded. Carried.

8. Committee reports

Nominating committee: 40% voted and all positions contested.

Speirs award. And the winner is: Spencer Sealy. Award will be presented at the banquet.

Bird Studies Canada. George Finney will be the new president. Canadian Loon Lakes Survey being reviewed by science committee.

Ornithological Council. Free access to publications is an issue in US, and creating a large debate because of potential impacts to journal subscriptions for many societies.

- Tony Diamond needs to be replaced as OC rep.

Savard moved that Liana Zanette should replace Tony Diamond, seconded by Robertson. Carried.

Student presentation awards. 12 students applied, 7 are being considered for both AOU and SCO, 5 are solely Canadian.

SCO/BSC journal committee.

Charles Francis gave an update on progress to date.

9. Biographies of Canadian Ornithologists. Tony Erskine would still like some support in preparation of this.

10. No new business.

Minutes of the 2nd executive council meeting of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO/SOC) Université Laval, Friday August 20th 2004, 1215 – 1330h

Present: Sue Hannon, Pierre Lamothe, Bob Clark, Liana Zanette, J.-P. Savard, Charles Francis, M.A. Villard, Thérèse Beaudet, Cheri Gratto-Trevor, Kathy Martin, Rodger Titman, Gilles Gauthier

1. Zanette moved to renew Robertson as Recording Secretary, Martin seconded. Carried.

2. Presentation Awards: Robertson would like to give up student presentation awards chair. Will keep chair for Halifax meeting, re-examine for Veracruz.

3. Student Awards: Teather would like to give up student awards. Rodger Titman volunteered, Ken Otter would like to do something, so approach him.

Martin moved to thank Kevin Teather for his excellent work on student awards, seconded by Hannon. Carried.

4. Speirs award committee: Current members: Gilles Seutin, Erica Dunn, Mark Brigham. Arrange for committee to reorganize. Chair should rotate, with one new person recruited each year.

Action: Francis will approach committee to determine who will be new chair.

6. Journal Committee: Francis moved that journal committee composition be reviewed annually, seconded by Titman. Carried.

Clark moved that JP Savard, Erica Nol and Charles



Francis remain as SCO reps on journal committee, seconded by Villard. Carried.

7. Web Site. Need to coordinate web site improvements.
- Action: Francis to approach Ken Otter whether he can coordinate (Done)

Note that nothing on Cooke award on BSC site. Application only on SCO-SOC web site.

8. President/President-elect: Given the current Vice-President (Sue Hannon) will be the scientific chair of the upcoming IOC, council is proposing that Sue Hannon remain as VP for the next 2 years and Vice-President elect (Charles Francis) become President after this meeting.

We are asking the membership to support this special measure, as it will take advantage of retaining Sue's experience as vice-president while Charles takes the presidency.

Clark moved that we undertake the above course of action, seconded by Martin. Carried.

9. SCO-BSC Journal: Charles Francis updated on the current status of search for Editor in Chief.

Hannon moved to authorize President to sign SCO-SOC/BSC journal agreement, seconded by Villard. Carried.

Hannon moved to authorize President to sign agreement with Resilience Alliance once finalized, seconded by Martin. Carried.

Martin moved to thank journal committee for all their hard work, seconded by Robertson. Carried.

10. Journal announcement at the Banquet: Main points to be mentioned by Savard: Imminent, funding in place, publisher arranged. Call for papers later 2004. Fully electronic. BSC-SCO joint initiative.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AUG 2004



Université Laval, Friday August 20th 2004, 1700 – 1900h
65 in attendance

1. Welcome by Savard and introduction of council. Savard thanked outgoing councillors Cheri Gratto-Trevor, Rodger Titman and Kevin Teather.

2. President's report. Presented by Savard.

3. Motion by Zanette to accept minutes of 2003 AGM, seconded by Baker. Carried.

Erica Dunn: commented that members did not have an opportunity to review minutes prior to the meeting. Robertson replied that we will investigate posting these on the web site in future.

Action: Exec will ensure that minutes are posted on SCO-SOC web site well in advance of the next AGM.

3. Treasurer's report. Presented by Pierre Lamothe.

Savard proposed to the membership that fees be raised according to the following schedule. Raise regular fees from \$15 to \$25 (\$35 non-resident). Sustaining members \$30 to \$50. Motion was carried unanimously by council.

Seutin: Are there other options for reducing costs for Picoides? Response was that we would explore an electronic option in the future, and are preparing a questionnaire to determine membership interest, but currently will retain paper copy.

Hussell: Questioned Speirs and Taverner Award capital, and noted that they should be shown as a separate line in the budget.

Response by Lamothe was that they are currently not shown, but will separate out these funds prior to publication of the report.

Sandercock: requested to standardize membership fee for international members. Lamothe: proposed \$40 for non-Canadian. Flood: suggested \$40 is quite high, what about \$35.

Flood: Life memberships should be considered.

Motion: Raise fees from \$15 to \$25 (\$35 non-resident). Sustaining members \$30 to \$50. Carried unanimously by membership.

Lamothe moved to accept financial report, seconded by Titman. Carried.

Discussion: financial report should have been audited prior to presentation. Need to ensure that 2003 financial report is audited and approved again after audit by the membership.

Auditors: Lamothe moved that Francine Nadeau be appointed as auditor for the 2003 and 2004 financial reports. seconded by Beaudet. Carried.

4. Membership report. Presented by Thérèse Beaudet.

Martin: Asked whether numbers of members include people joining during this meeting. Beaudet replied no. Sandercock: suggested would be helpful to post current membership list on the web. Beaudet: potential problems with Freedom of Information Act. Burger: suggested could e-mail list to current membership. Lein: indicated that if do so, need to be careful about copyrighting the list, and include a dummy address to detect any abuse of the list.

Savard moved to accept membership report, seconded by Robertson. Carried.

5. Picoides report. Presented by Savard.

Hannon moved to accept Picoides Editors report, seconded by Lein. Carried.

M-A Villard: Will be soliciting opinions about Picoides in near future.

6. Elections results. Hannon presented the results of the election.

Savard proposed the following:

Given the current Vice-President (Sue Hannon) will be the scientific chair of the upcoming IOC, council is proposing that Sue Hannon remain as VP for the next 2 years and Vice-President elect (Charles Francis) become President after this meeting.

We are asking the membership to support this special measure, as it will take advantage of retaining Sue's experience as vice-president while Charles takes the presidency.

Hussell: technically the council can appoint from within its own ranks. So solution can be quite simple.

Savard motioned that the above motion be supported, seconded by Dunn. Carried unanimously by the membership.

7. Committee reports

Student awards: Savard read out the award winners.

Speirs award: will be announced tomorrow at the Banquet.

Cooke award: still need further donations to reach target.

Ornithological Council: Tony Diamond is stepping down. Liana Zanette will replace Tony Diamond. Lesley Evans-Ogden will continue as second rep.

BSC: We have 2 SCO reps on BSC National Council (science review for BSC programs). JP Savard and Jamie Smith.

Journal Committee: Francis provided a presentation on the SCO-BSC journal which has the working title "Avian Conservation and Ecology." Journal will be on-line only, with full open access. Hope to complete agreements in early September and be ready to accept submissions in early 2005.

Lein: requested that should feature SCO and BSC prominently in logo, and on every .pdf

Gaston: can we maintain Canadian focus if on the web? Francis: actually would like the journal to be international, to enhance value and profile.

Seutin: if successful, this will be an extremely valuable undertaking.

Language: what about non-English publication, and multi-language abstract?

Francis: will publish in English and French, abstract in other language. May investigate other languages such as Spanish in the future.

Is it conservation and ecology, or just conservation?

Francis: emphasis will be on papers with relevance to applied ecology and conservation, but not exclusively so.

How is the editor going to be chosen? Response: SCO-BSC Journal committee will select.

Lein: Noted that ISI and some other services may not abstract entirely web-based publications. Response: Needs to be investigated.

Publication charges: Some members noted that \$750 is actually quite a bit of money, and may exclude international submissions. Need to investigate options to allow waivers for some papers. Lank: 2-tier page charge



for page charges may help with garnering extra funds (e.g., extra fees for non-members). Could provide an SCO membership benefit. Possibility to use CWS Latin American Program to subsidize journal publication for authors from Latin America.

Martin moved to thank BSC-SCO Journal Committee for their work on the issue.

8. 2005-2007 meeting locations:

2005: late October in Halifax with all 4 CWS national bird subcommittees

2006: NAOC in Veracruz (4 societies confirmed: AOU, COS, SCO, CIPAMEX. Others considering)

Sponsoring Mexican students as one option how SCO can contribute.

2007: undecided at present

9. Other Business.

Suggestion: Present a report on all resolutions adopted at councillor meeting, so that liability of councillors is spread to all members.

Biographies of Canadian Ornithologists. Call for help, contact Savard or Francis.

Web site.

Members asked to review web site and send suggestions for improvements to Council.

Vote of thanks to Bob Curry for his support of the website.

Bird motioned to adjourn meeting, seconded by Robertson. Carried at 1900h.

SCO/SOC 2004 REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP



Thérèse Beaudet, beaudet.lamothe@sympatico.ca

As of August 7, there were 306 members listed on the rolls of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO), including several libraries, various clubs, societies, private agencies and firms, and a number of individual members (See Table 1). This is a decrease of 11 members (roughly 3.4%) from the 317 who were on the membership rolls at the time of reporting last year. As is true every year, this active list includes those who have paid dues for 2003 and beyond, as well as those who have not yet renewed for this year (but are paid up to 2003) (Table 2). Before last year meeting, 74% of the members had renewed for 2003; this year, 85% of the members have already paid their 2004 membership. I hope most of the members who are not in good standing will renew, perhaps after receiving the third (and final) reminder with the fall issue of *Picoides*.

Table 1. Affiliation of SCO members. Note that those working for the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) in a University are listed as CWS (Category #2)

Affiliation (code in membership file) of members	Number
None (0)	38
University (1)	127
Canadian Wildlife Service (2)	61

Other Federal Gov. Agencies (3)	7
Museum (4)	7
Non Gov. Agencies (eg. DU)(5)	14
Provincial Governments, Hydro Quebec(6)	16
Clubs, Societies (7)	9
Private Consultants (8)	20
Libraries (9)	7

Renewal Status of Members: Paid through 2003, 44; 2004, 176; 2005, 62; 2006, 12; 2007, 4; 2008, 6.

During last year's meeting, the SCO gained 46 new members; since Saskatoon, 26 more have joined and 97 renewed their membership. I am confident more will join or will renew soon. The high number of members who joined at the Saskatoon meeting or before the meeting was due to the special efforts of Cheri Gratto-Trevor.

As forecast last year, a slight decrease in the number of members is observed this year, when the remaining non-renewers (39) were deleted at the end of the year, raising the total number of archived names to 170, including deceased. Concerning renewals, the trend seems similar to what is usually observed: new members, mainly students, seem to be harder to hold on than those who have been around for a while. This is despite reminders sent with each issue of *Picoides*, and separate final notices sent in March to members who had not paid dues for 2002. The

students typically move and do not send new addresses.

91 of our current members (30%) have joined the SCO prior to 1990 (including 19 founders), 61 (20%) joined between 1990 and 2000, and 150 (49%) from 2000 on (data are missing for 4 members). It is very common for people to join for one year only and then fail to renew. Allowing people to renew for more than one year probably increases retention, as well as reducing postage costs. As Table 3 shows, roughly 56% of the membership has renewed for more than one year at a time. The number that commits for more than one year is stable (56% in 2004, vs 57% in 2003).

Renewal pattern of members: Number of years paid when renewing: 134 for 1 year, 99 for 2 yrs, 44 for 3 yrs, 8 for 4 yrs, 20 for 5 yrs, 1 for 6 yrs, 0 for more than 6 yrs.

The existence of the SCO webpage, and the fact that a membership application form can be downloaded from there, has proved useful; to date, 34 individuals have joined using the form, at least some of whom undoubtedly discovered the existence of the SCO from the web. Membership might be further increased by interesting additions and more varied and regularly updated information on the webpage.

A breakdown of the membership by category is shown in table 4. As can be seen, the number of students taking advantage of the reduced rate for students is still around

30 per year (32 last year, 29 this year).

Breakdown of SCO membership by categories: Regular 220, Sustaining 20, Student 58, Free student membership 5, Complimentary 3

As usual, SCO membership has been broken down geographically (Table 5), so that this year's provincial and territorial representation can be compared to last year's. The SCO is truly a national body, represented in every province and territory. Abroad membership (many of these are, of course, actually Canadians living elsewhere, mainly in the U.S.) seems to have decrease slightly (34 last year, 29 this year).

Geographical breakdown of SCO membership in 4004: NF 9, NS 8, NB 17, PEI 1, QC 35, ON 72, MN 12, SK 43, AB 31, BC 44, YK 2, NWT 2, NU 1, USA 22, MEX 1, Aust. and NZ 2, Europe 4

It has been my pleasure to serve as Membership Secretary for the first year. My special thanks go to the previous Membership Secretary Nancy Flood, who has been kind enough to pass me all the files, but also to give me precious tips and hints, which helped me a good deal this year. I have to thank also the Treasurer, Pierre Lamothe, with whom I worked closely on the membership file.

Thérèse Beaudet
Membership Secretary, SCO
7 August 2004



PHOTO: D. MCFARLANE - DIAMOND

BROWN PELICAN

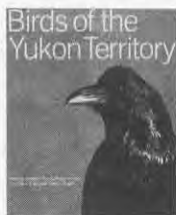


BOOK REVIEW

Birds of the Yukon Territory

reviewed by Dorothy McFarlane-Diamond.

2003, Edited by Pamela H. Sinclair, Wendy A. Nixon, Cameron D. Eckert, and Nancy L. Hughes, UBC Press, Vancouver, BC, Canada. pp. 595.



This latest Canadian bird atlas is the result of 10 years of dedicated work by a small number of people working for the Canadian Wildlife Service in Whitehorse, Yukon, and a larger number of Yukon Bird Club members. Although information on Yukon birds existed in various forms, such as an annotated list compiled in 1945, no previous attempts had been made to bring together data, maps, field work, pictures and status reports of the hundreds of birds which breed and migrate over the vast mountains and plains of Yukon. Thus, this book represents the miraculous result of a decade of work (during which 8 new babies were born to the editors) and a new standard to meet for other bird atlases of the world.

It is a huge book documenting occurrence of 288 species, full of close-up bird photos and stunning habitat shots, excellent drawings and location maps. The thorough 54-page introduction covers geography, movement patterns, history (both human and bird-related), physiography and terms, other wildlife, bird record-collecting, hunting, travel, famous birders, long-term studies, new discoveries, birds in aboriginal culture and history, climate change, land management policy, birds through the seasons, bird conservation and status assessments.

A few pages describe the database and methodology of collecting and organizing the data included. Maps and excellent photos dot the pages of the introduction like jewels. Next are the species accounts, divided into regular species in orders, and occasional species for those casual, accidental, hypothetical and exotic. The accounts include a drawing, often an excellent photo of the bird with habitat and nest, occurrence and confirmed-breeding maps, a paragraph on distribution, seasonal patterns, historical records, specific remarks, world range, and postscript with recent findings.

Appendices to this book detail First Nations Bird Names taken from Inuvialuit, Gwichen, Tlingit, or Tutchone. Not to leave out anything, the authors have also included a list

of French names next to the Latin for each species. The place name list gives lat-long so, with a compass, one can visit each one. Page 555 illustrates one of the great challenges of doing a BBS route in the Yukon: a road completely washed out by a spring flood. All of the editors know the challenges of bird study first hand, as many of the photos are by them.

The clarity of the photos and the professionalism of the written accounts should make this atlas compare very favourably with any in the world. With each turn of the page, the photos surprise the reader because they vary: either very close, showing a wider habitat view, on a nest of begging young, displaying, soaring overhead, sitting on a wire, hunting in winter, cruising a pond, or roosting on a beach. In some, aerial photos of locations impress the reader with the vast landscape and probable difficulties of the collectors.

Given the paucity of research and observers for an area as large as the Yukon, the editors have gone for quality where quantity may be lacking. For example, in the account for Great Horned Owl they list prey as snowshoe hare, muskrat, diurnal mammals, Long-tailed Duck, even Northern Goshawk and other Great Horneds, and caching behaviour is described by Krebs et al. 2001, where hare heads were buried 30-50m from kill sites. Details like this make for interesting reading page after page.

The Yukon breeds excellent photographers, hikers, pilots, canoeists, wanderers and serious birders. This atlas combines all their talents for the pursuit and documentation of birds. One has to get up to the high alpine meadows and to cross mountain ranges on foot to get a sense of breeding areas of many of the Yukon's birds, especially shorebirds. Many others breed in areas of the far northern tundra of Old Crow Flats and the Yukon Coastal Plain.

From Dave Mossup's plywood box above tree-line on the road to Haines in winter to the shores of Herschel Island, from Robert Frisch's stoney alpine heath to the glaciers of the St. Elias Mountains, from Kluane's Artic Research Institute to the forests of lowland river banks, birds of the Yukon are brought to your door by this intrepid group of professionals and birders. If you have been to the Yukon, this book will rekindle a strong desire to return; if you have never been, go during migration or breeding seasons and travel widely to see birds. Let the Yukon Bird Club know you are coming. They are ready for you.

CANADIAN BIRD-RELATED THESIS ABSTRACTS

Perkins, D. E. 2004 The breeding ecology and behavioral endocrinology of Ruddy Turnstones *Arenia interpres* in the Eastern Canadian Arctic. MSc. Thesis, University of Maine, Maine, USA

deborah.perkins@umit.maine.edu

I studied the breeding ecology and behavioral endocrinology of Ruddy Turnstones at East Bay, Southampton Island, Nunavut in 2002 and 2003. I documented breeding phenology, nesting success and predation rates and compared these results to other breeding sites.

Although breeding activities were spread over a wider range of dates in 2003, the median dates for hatching and incubation onset were the same, despite differing spring snow conditions and weather. These data suggest that arthropod availability for chicks may be the most important influence on the timing of breeding.

The East Bay population appeared to nest semi-colonially. Nest success was low, predation was high, and lemmings were scarce. The data from this study (and previous East Bay studies) supported the hypothesis which predicts fluctuations in avian nest success will be synchronous with small mammal populations, as predators switch to alternative prey (eggs and young) when primary prey (lemmings) is low.

I also investigated several hormonal mechanisms associated with energy demand and sex-specific parental efforts to understand better how high latitude breeders meet energy demands. Normally, plasma corticosterone (CORT; the major energy-regulating hormone) is low, but can rise rapidly to help an individual through periods of potential stress (the adrenocortical response). Previous studies have shown some Arctic breeders reduce this response during critical breeding stages, possibly increasing the threshold of life-saving responses that may otherwise compromise breeding success (e.g. desertion).

To look for hormonal patterns that may vary at different parental stages, blood samples were taken during mid-incubation and early brooding for CORT and prolactin (PRL; the major hormone associated with incubation behavior). Energetic condition was assessed by size-corrected body mass and key plasma metabolites associated with fattening, lipolysis, and/or protein mobilization. Relative incubation effort was assessed by 24-hr behavioral watches. Breeding pairs share incubation duties equally, and this is reflected in their similar patterns of CORT and PRL secretion.

Collectively, adults showed a significant difference in the magnitude of the adrenocortical response between mid-incubation and early brooding. Baseline CORT was significantly higher (while PRL was significantly lower) during early brooding as compared to incubation. Metabolites did not vary with sex, body condition, hormone level or parental stage. An increase in baseline CORT during brooding may help individuals meet higher parental demands by facilitating additional foraging and feeding. The reduced adrenocortical response during brooding may be

a mechanism to increase the threshold for abandonment when faced with few or no renesting opportunities.

Finally, I investigated potential ecological and physiological influences on female brood desertion with the use of radiotelemetry and through visual observation. The timing of brood desertion was inversely related to hatch date, where broods hatching earlier deserted significantly later in the chick-rearing period. Energetic condition did not appear to be a factor affecting the timing of desertion.

Timing of breeding may be the primary influence on female desertion decisions and I propose a model which predicts that pairs who initiate clutches earlier should have increased reproductive success, as biparental care in the early brooding period may increase chick survival.



RUDDY TURNSTONE

PHOTO: D. PERKINS



Gunn, J. S. 2004 Local and Landscape effects of industrial forestry on the reproductive activity of forest songbirds in Northwestern New Brunswick, Canada. PhD thesis Universtiy of New Brunswick, NB, Canada.

nrdiver@megalink.net

In the northern hardwood forest of New Brunswick, industrial forest management affects within-stand vegetation and the landscape structure of the forest mosaic. Understanding the effects of industrial forestry on songbird populations requires the investigation of songbird reproductive success, in addition to abundance, on a landscape scale (i.e., in a mosaic of forest stands). I present a method to efficiently assess the reproductive success of multiple songbird species across a large area (e.g., > 300 ha). The method uses systematic playbacks of a recording of black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapilla*) mobbing calls to attract species to an observer. Once birds are attracted to the observer, reproduction-related activities can be recorded to infer successful pairing, hatching, or fledging. Trends in reproductive activity of two focal species obtained using this method were similar to their actual reproductive success as measured using intensive nest monitoring in the same locations. I studied the mobbing response of forest birds at different times of the year and in the presence or absence of potential avian predators. Mean duration of mobbing time was significantly longer when confronted with potential predators, but mobbing intensity was not significantly different. Mobbing group size and overall intensity were greatest early in the breeding season before the initiation of egg laying. I concluded that the variability in avian anti-predator mobbing is based on the proximate (individual safety) and ultimate (safety of offspring) risks of participation. I explored the relationship between reproductive activity and songbird abundance using Spearman correlation coefficients. Reproductive activity and songbird abundance were not significantly correlated in 56% of the comparisons (9 of 16). The lack of a consistent relationship emphasizes the importance of studying fitness parameters in addition to abundance or density. I then used canonical correspondence analysis to assess the relationship between forest management and reproductive activity of eight species of forest birds (Vireonidae, Paridae, and Parulidae) in three study grids of varying silvicultural intensity. I predicted landscape effects would become significant as silvicultural intensity increased. Reproductive activity, local vegetation, and landscape

structure data were collected on one 6 x 8 systematic grid and two 8 x 8 systematic grids with stations spaced 250 m apart. Basal area of American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) within 100 m of the sample locations were the most significant variables associated with reproductive activity on two of the three study grids (most and least intensively managed). In the third study grid (moderately managed), the amount of tolerant hardwood forest within 1 km of the sampling locations was most significant. The relatively minor effect of landscape structure probably reflects the high proportion of suitable habitat remaining in the study area. Landscape effects on songbird populations may become more important if the proportion of suitable habitat declines.

Dionne, M. 2004. Relationship between diving ducks and mussel aquaculture in Prince Edward Island, Canada. MSc. Thesis University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB, Canada.

mark.dionne@ec.gc.ca

Mussel aquaculture on Prince Edward Island started in the 1970's with rapid expansion occurring in the past decade. In recent years, during migration periods, interactions between diving ducks (mainly Greater Scaup and Long-Tailed Duck) and cultivated mussels have increased. Using existing CWS duck survey data, I quantified the relationship between ducks and the industry. Diving duck abundance during the fall migration has increased concurrently with mussel landings over the years. Increases in duck numbers took place mainly in areas where mussel aquaculture intensity is high. Ducks are generally size-selective predators when feeding on mussels. I assessed this behaviour by the Greater Scaup in an aquaculture setting, in relation to the shell-mass and shell-crushing minimisation hypotheses. Ducks avoided the larger mussels from the experimental culture site. Results, however, showed support only for the shell-crushing minimisation hypothesis. Finally, I tested a protective socking material, a non-disruptive technique that could prevent duck predation and foster peaceful co-existence between waterfowl and mussel aquaculture. Protective material was ineffective for small mussel seed and only partially effective for medium seed. Conclusions from this study provide strong baseline data for diving duck-aquaculture relationships and practical management strategies to minimise negative impacts of these interactions.

SCO/SOC STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS



The SCO/SOC administers three different student research awards - the Taverner Awards, James L. Bailey Award, and Fred C. Cooke Award. A single application can be made to apply for all three awards. Candidates for these awards should be members of the SCO/SOC. Consult the SCO/SOC website at <http://www.sco-soc.ca/awards.html>

The deadline for these applications is 28 February 2005.

Taverner Awards

Taverner Awards are offered by The Society of Canadian Ornithologists to honor Percy A. Taverner and to further his accomplishments in increasing the knowledge of Canadian birds through research, conservation and public education. The awards are aimed at people with limited or no access to major funding, regardless of professional status, who are undertaking ornithological work in Canada. Two awards of up to \$500 each are made annually.

James L. Baillie Student Research Award

The James L. Baillie Student Research Award is open to any student conducting ornithological research at a Canadian university. It honors the memory of James L. Baillie and shall be for research that is consistent with the objectives of the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund. These are to support: studies of Canadian birds in their natural environment; projects which contribute to preservation of birds; and projects which disseminate knowledge of birds. The James L. Baillie Student Research Award is funded by Long Point Bird Observatory / Bird Studies Canada from proceeds of the Baillie Birdathon, and is administered by The Society of Canadian Ornithologists. A single award of up to \$1000 is made annually.

Fred C. Cooke Student Research Award

The Fred Cooke Student Award is offered jointly by the SCO and Bird Studies Canada to honour the contributions of Professor Fred Cooke to Canadian ornithology by supporting ornithological conference travel or research activities by a student at a Canadian university. The Award shall be open to any student conducting ornithological research at a Canadian university, except that previous recipients of the Award shall not be eligible. The Award shall be for travel to

ornithological conferences at which the student will make a verbal or poster presentation, or research in any aspect of ornithology anywhere in the world. A single award of up to \$500 is made annually.

Applications should be sent to:

Dr. Rodger D. Titman
Department of Natural Resource Sciences
Macdonald Campus of McGill University
21,111 Lakeshore Rd.
Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC H9X 3V9
e-mail: rodger.titman@mcgill.ca

Bourses de Recherche pour Étudiant(e)s

La SOC/SCO gère trois bourses pour étudiants – les bourses Taverner, la bourse James L. Baillie et la bourse Fred C. Cooke. Une seule demande peut être rédigée pour l'ensemble des trois bourses. Les candidates à ces bourses devraient être membres de la SOC. L'adhésion coûte seulement 10\$ pour les étudiants. Consultez le site web de la SOC/SCO à l'adresse suivante : <http://www.sco-soc.ca/awards.html>

La date limite de dépôt des demandes est le 28 février 2005.

Bourses Taverner

Les bourses Taverner sont offertes par la Société des Ornithologistes du Canada en l'honneur de Percy A. Taverner afin de poursuivre ses accomplissements dans la connaissance des oiseaux du Canada à travers la recherche, la conservation et l'éducation du public. Ces bourses s'adressent aux personnes qui ont un accès restreint ou qui n'ont pas accès aux bourses habituelles, indépendamment du statut professionnel et entreprenant un travail en ornithologie au Canada. Deux bourses d'au plus 500 \$ sont distribuées annuellement.

Bourse de recherche pour étudiant James L. Baillie

La bourse de recherche pour étudiant James L. Baillie s'applique à tout étudiant(e) menant une recherche en ornithologie dans une université Canadienne. Elle honore la mémoire de James L. Baillie et s'adresse à toute recherche en accord avec les objectifs du Fonds Mémorial James L. Baillie. Ceux-ci soutiennent : les études sur les oiseaux du Canada dans leur milieu naturel; les projets



contribuant à la protection des oiseaux; les projets de diffusion de la connaissance des oiseaux. La bourse James L. Baillie est financée par l'Observatoire d'Oiseaux de Long Point/ Études d'Oiseaux Canada à partir des recettes de l'Ornithon Baillie et est administrée par la Société des Ornithologistes du Canada. Une seule bourse d'au plus 1000 \$ est offerte chaque année.

Bourse de recherche pour étudiant Fred C. Cooke

La bourse de recherche pour étudiant Fred C. Cooke est offerte conjointement par la SOC et Études d'Oiseaux Canada en l'honneur des contributions du Professeur Fred Cooke à l'ornithologie Canadienne et pour financer le voyage à une conférence en ornithologie ou les activités de recherche d'un(e) étudiant(e) inscrit dans une université Canadienne. La bourse est ouverte aux

étudiant(e)s faisant de la recherche en ornithologie dans une université Canadienne, à l'exception des précédents récipiendaires de la bourse. La bourse doit servir pour voyager à des conférences en ornithologie auxquelles l'étudiant(e) fera une présentation orale ou par affiche ou bien pour soutenir une recherche sur tout sujet en ornithologie quelque soit l'endroit dans le monde. Une seule bourse d'au plus 500 \$ est offerte chaque année.

Les demandes sont à envoyer à :

Dr. Rodger D. Titman

Department of Natural Resource Sciences

Macdonald Campus of McGill University

21,111 Lakeshore Rd.

Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC H9X 3V9

e-mail: rodger.titman@mcgill.ca



PHOTO: S. JAMIESON

NORTHERN GANNETS

Notices from Sue Hannon, Vice-President

24th International Ornithological Congress 2006
13-19 August 2006 Hamburg, Germany

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTED PAPERS AND ROUND TABLES

The call for contributed papers and round tables will be posted on the IOC website in mid January.
<http://www.i-o-c.org/>

DO YOU WANT TO SERVE YOUR SOCIETY?

As Vice President of the Society, one of my jobs is to recruit people to serve in various positions. It makes my job easier if I get some volunteers. Right now I am looking for councillors. Duties of councillors include attending council meetings at annual meetings, serving on committees and making decisions about the future of the society- the position lasts 2 years. The position does not have an onerous time commitment and allows you to help your society and meet new colleagues.

So, if you wish to volunteer or nominate someone else, please send me an email: sue.hannon@ualberta.ca



PHOTO: D. MCFARLANE - DIAMOND

SANDPIPERS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Members can view the audited 2003 financial statements for the SCO on the society's web page, in the "Society Business" section of the web page.

As they become available, minutes of the society's recent business meetings, as well as the 2004 financial statements will also be posted on this site.

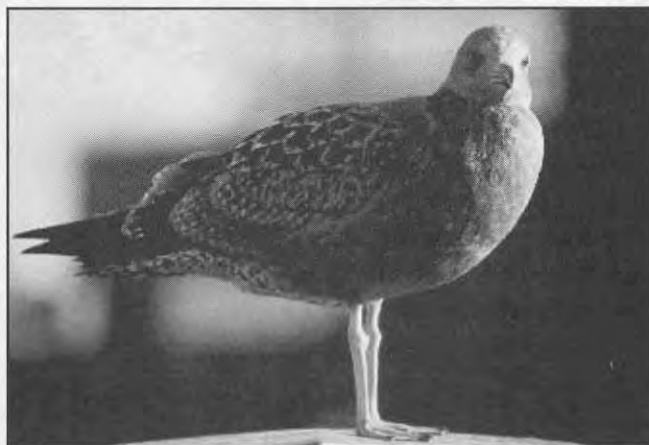


PHOTO: A. W. DIAMOND

RING-BILLED GULL



POETRY CORNER

Heron

Stoop-shouldered heron, head awry,
stick-legged fisher in the stream,
stands alone as destiny;
we see him as we cross the fields,

a figure carved of reed and briar
native to the chill thin air
below the lock whose silver shoals
scatter through his agate stare

that sifts their nature, waiting for
the golden fin, the feathered tail,
of some irradiant star-crossed fish,
patiently as daylight fails,

and as we cross this lover's field
we see him standing grey and still,
and sudden through our shoal of talk
death's image arrows to the kill.

Robin Skelton
from *Chorus*, an anthology of bird poems
compiled by Susanne Knowles.



PHOTO: D. MCFARLANE

GREAT BLUE HERON

Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des Ornithologistes du Canada
WEBSITE: www.sco-soc.ca/index.html



Standing Committees and Work Groups

See inside front cover for contact information for those with # beside name.

Doris Huestis Speirs Award Committee (annual award for excellence in Canadian Ornithology)

Marc-André Villard (chair)#

Research Awards Committee (mandate: annual selection of research candidates, fall call for applications, selection and announcement by April of following year, members appointed and rotated.

Four awards: James L. Baillie 1K\$, Taverner (2 awards) 0.5K\$. Fred Cooke Travel Award.

Roger Titman (chair) titman@nrs.mcgill.ca

Meetings Committee

Jean-Pierre Savard (chair) #, Sue Hannon #

Picoides Committee

Dorothy McFarlane #, Jean-Pierre Savard #, Tony Diamond, University of NB, ACWERN, PO Box 45111, Fredericton, NB E3B 6C2; Voice: 506-453-4926; Email: diamond@unb.ca

Journal Committee

Charles Francis, (Chair) Voice: 819-997-6086; Fax: 819-953-6612; Email: charles.francis@ec.gc.ca

Finance and Investment Committee

Pierre Lamothe #

Bird Studies Canada Representatives

Jean-Pierre Savard #, Jamie Smith

Ornithological Council Representatives

Lesley Evans Ogden,

Email: lesleyje@interchange.ubc.ca

Liana Zanette #

North American Banding Council Representative

Brenda Dale, Voice: 780-951-8686;

Fax: 780-495-2615; Email: brenda.dale@ec.gc.ca

Student Presentations Committee

Greg Robertson #

Findings on the SCO/SOC web site

WEBSITE: www.sco-soc.ca/index.html

Membership Application form

Notes about Annual Meetings

SCO/SOC Award information

Officers of SCO/SOC

For Jobs and to post job openings see our link to the Ornithological Newsletter:

www.ornith.cornell.edu/OSNA/ornjobs.htm

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Email: mmcfarlane1031@rogers.com

PICOIDES



TABLE OF CONTENTS



News Items and Announcements.....	3
Message From the SCO/SOC President.....	4
Executive Council Minutes.....	6
Minutes of The Annual General Meeting - Aug 2004.....	8
SCO/SOC 2004 Report On Membership.....	10
Book Review.....	12
Canadian Bird Related Thesis Abstracts.....	13
SCO/COC Student Research Awards.....	15
General Notices.....	17
Poetry Corner.....	18

January 2005

Volume 18, Number 1

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Reg. \$25.00

Non-resident \$35

Student \$10.00

Sustaining \$50.00

Membership Secretary:

Thérèse Beaudet

(Address inside front cover)

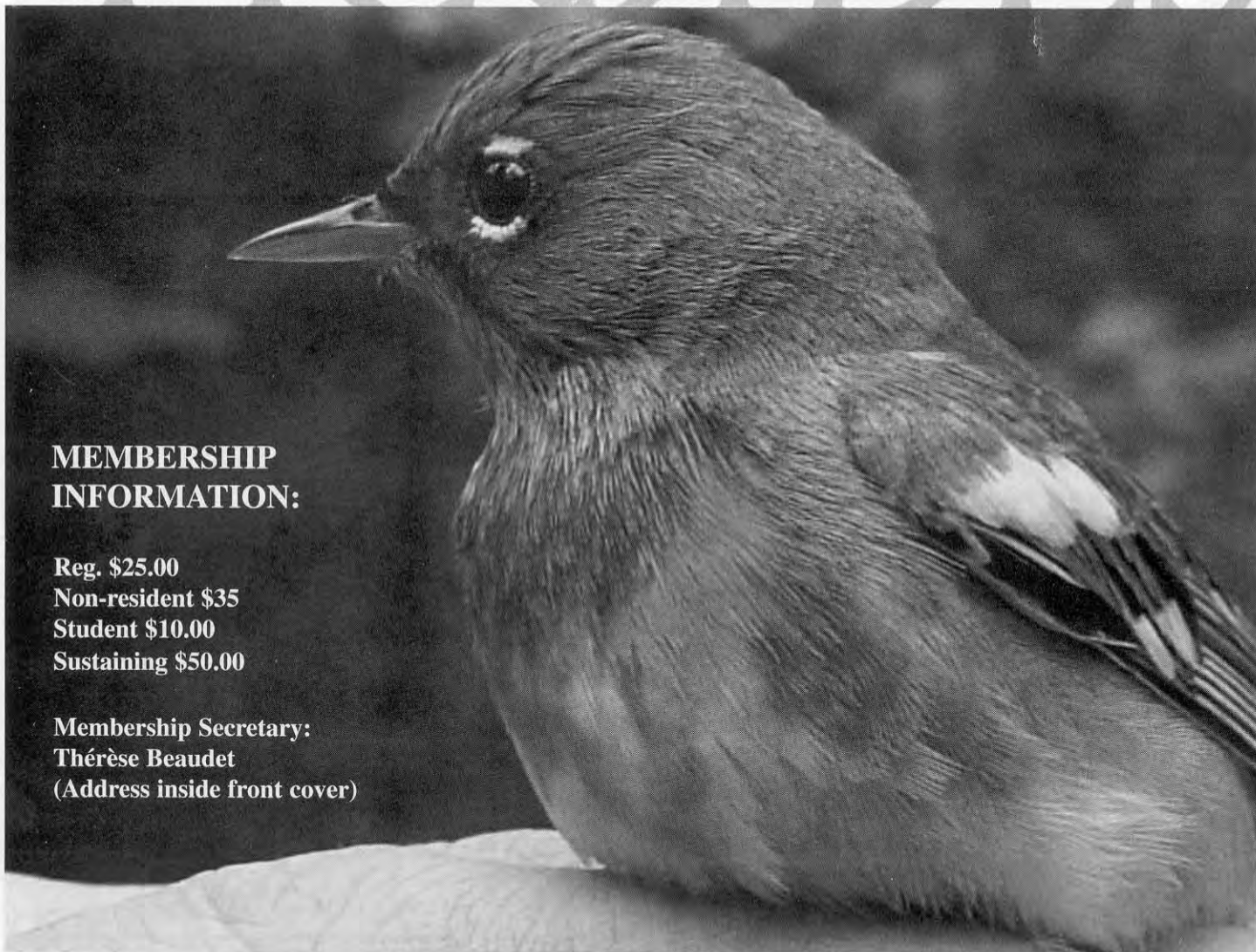


PHOTO: B. ZITSKE

NORTHERN PARULA

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