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Crested Auklets (*Aethia cristatella*) in the Aleutians (Photo by Alex Bond)

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Editor's Message

Rob Warnock and Marcel Gahbauer

Welcome to the final issue of *Picoides* for 2011. Our recent annual meeting in Moncton is a focal point of this issue, including a report summarizing the program, special events, and student award winners (see pages 4-5). We congratulate Keith Hobson for receiving the Doris Huestis Speirs Award (see page 5) and President Erica Nol for receiving the Jamie Smith Mentoring Award this year (see page 6). We would also like to welcome Matt Reudink as Treasurer and Lance Laviolette as Membership Secretary, while thanking retiring officers Thérèse Beaudet and Pierre Lamothe for their exemplary service to SCO-SOC. Our deepest condolences go to the families and friends of SCO-SOC members who have passed away recently, including Gary Bortolotti (see page 11) and Navjot Sodhi.

We are quickly approaching the end of 2011, and already eagerly looking forward to the North American Ornithological Conference to be held in Vancouver in August 2012 (see page 13). SCO-SOC will play a key role in hosting this conference, and we look forward to strong participation by our members – note that abstracts for the conference must be submitted by the end of February.

Also in this issue we feature abstracts from six new theses (see pages 8-10), an overview of the latest issue of our journal ACE-ÉCO (see page 7), a review of the new Crossley ID Guide to Eastern Birds (see page 14), and an assortment of other news.

As usual, we invite you to contribute material for upcoming issues of *Picoides*. The deadline for the next issue is February 15, but we encourage you to contact us earlier, especially if you would like to contribute a full article. For example, we do not have a feature article in this issue, but would welcome proposals for one in the next *Picoides*. Other items we always appreciate receiving are photographs of Canadian birds, and short items for the Canadian Ornithological News, Announcements, and Information Exchange sections – and of course any material can be submitted in either English or French. See the box on the final page of this issue for instructions on submitting items for future issues. We wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season!

2012 Student Research Awards Competition

SCO-SOC administers three student research awards - the Taverner Awards, James L. Baillie Award, and the Fred Cooke Award. Applicants must be members of SCO-SOC to be eligible. A single application can be made to apply for all three types of Student Research Awards. **The deadline for application is 15 February 2012.** Applications are available online at: <http://www.sco-soc.ca/studentawards.htm> and should be e-mailed to Ian Warkentin, SCO-SOC Student Awards Committee Chair, at ian.warkentin@gmail.com. **Successful applicants are strongly urged to submit brief project reports (2-3 pages) to *Picoides* within 1 year of receipt of award so that the membership can learn about your award-winning research.**

Taverner Awards: Taverner Awards are offered by SCO-SOC to honour 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 \$1500 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 honours the memory of James L. Baillie and shall be for research consistent with the objectives of the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund. These are to support: studies of Canadian birds in their natural environment, and projects, which contribute to preservation and dissemination of knowledge of birds. The James L. Baillie Student Research Award is funded by proceeds from Birds Studies Canada's Baillie Birdathon and administered by SCO-SOC. A single award of up to \$1000 is made annually.

Fred Cooke Student Research Award: The Fred Cooke Student Award is offered jointly by SCO-SOC 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 \$1000 is made annually.

(Une version française de cette annonce est disponible sur notre site web: http://www.sco-soc.ca/studentawards_fr.htm)

President's Message

The past few months since our annual general meeting in August (*see page 4*) have been busy ones for the society. Most importantly, we have been helping to organize the North American Ornithological Conference (NAOC-V2012), to be held next August. Members of SCO-SOC are involved with all phases of this very large meeting from the Local Organizing Committee, to Scientific Program, Student Travel Awards, Latin American Travel Awards, Finance and Steering Committees. All of this work is 'super-coordinated' by our own past-president, Dr. Kathy Martin. NAOC-V2012 will no doubt be the largest meeting of its kind in North America. It will be the best opportunity to show off Canadian ornithology since the International Ornithological Congress held in Ottawa, in 1986. The very attractive web site is now up (www.naoc-v2012.com), and members of SCO-SOC are encouraged to take a look, and plan to attend.

The SCO-SOC council has agreed to solely support the Student Quiz bowl at NAOC-V2012, a *Jeopardy*-style event where teams of students compete in a quiz show with ornithological questions. This event is always well attended and a big attraction for student and regular members, as the audience sees the absolute best spar for the most knowledge (and prizes). The SCO-SOC and combined society student affairs committees have also achieved sponsorship from the Wilson Ornithological Society for the Student-Mentor lunch. Thus, the organization of student events is well underway.

The next year will no doubt bring more recognition to our society. The substantial press coverage afforded by our August meeting took me a bit by surprise. However, it was informative to see that many of the interviewers knew very little about how human activities impact birds. Thus, we all can play a role in making the general public more aware of the organisms with which we share the earth. Often, communications departments of universities do not know the good work that you all do. Write press releases regularly! These help to further our goals. I know that Marc-André Villard's efforts to alert the media to our activities at our meeting very much increased the awareness of TV and radio listeners in that region (from Moncton to Saint John).

Development of the concept of a Society For Ornithology (SFO) is well underway. We have been invited to stay in tune with these discussions, although members of council are certainly wary of giving up our society! The Raptor Research Foundation has clearly indicated that it will not participate in this broader coalition. For more information, sign on to Ornithology Exchange and watch the fireworks! Nearly 1000 ornithologists around North America are now signed up to this new method of communication.

Yours truly,

Erica Nol, President, SCO-SOC (2010-2012)

Message de la présidente

Les mois qui ont suivi notre Congrès annuel tenu en août dernier (voir page 4) ont été très occupés pour notre Société. Premièrement, nous avons prêté main forte aux organisateurs du *North American Ornithological Conference* (NAOC-V2012), qui aura lieu bientôt (août 2012). Des membres de la SCO-SOC sont impliqués dans toutes les phases de l'organisation de ce très important congrès, du Comité d'organisation locale aux comités en charge du programme scientifique, des prix pour présentations étudiantes, des bourses de voyage pour les participant(e)s Latino-Américain(e)s, des finances ou de direction. Tout ce travail est supervisé et coordonné par notre ancienne présidente, le Dr. Kathy Martin. NAOC-V 2012 sera sans doute le plus grand congrès de ce type à être organisé en Amérique du Nord. Il s'agira de la meilleure opportunité de mettre en évidence l'ornithologie canadienne depuis le Congrès international d'ornithologie tenu à Ottawa en 1986. Un site internet très attrayant est maintenant en ligne (<http://www.naoc-v2012.com>) et les membres de la SCO-SOC sont invités à en prendre connaissance et à s'inscrire au congrès.

Le Conseil de la SCO-SOC a accepté d'appuyer à lui seul le *Student Quiz bowl* au congrès NAOC-V2012, grâce en partie à un don très généreux d'un des membres de notre Conseil. Le *quiz bowl* consiste en un jeu de type 'Jeopardy' où des équipes d'étudiants compétitionnent afin de répondre correctement à des questions ornithologiques. Cet événement est toujours populaire parmi les étudiants et les membres réguliers et il permet à l'auditoire de voir la crème des participants croiser le fer pour faire étalage de leurs connaissances tout en gagnant des prix. La SCO-SOC et les comités des affaires étudiantes de l'ensemble des sociétés ont aussi reçu une commandite de la Société d'ornithologie Wilson pour le dîner étudiant-mentor. Ainsi, l'organisation des événements étudiants est très bien lancée.

Durant la prochaine année, il ne fait pas de doute que notre Société obtiendra une plus grande reconnaissance. La couverture médiatique substantielle qu'a reçu notre congrès du mois d'août m'a quelque peu prise par surprise. Toutefois, il était très intéressant de constater que plusieurs des journalistes connaissaient très peu de choses sur la façon dont les activités humaines affectent les oiseaux. Ainsi, nous pouvons tous et toutes jouer un rôle pour sensibiliser le grand public sur les organismes vivants avec qui nous partageons la planète. Souvent, les départements des communications des universités ne connaissent pas le bon travail que vous accomplissez tous et toutes. Écrivez des communiqués de presse régulièrement! Ils aident à promouvoir nos objectifs. Je sais que le fait que Marc-André Villard ait alerté les médias des Maritimes au sujet de nos activités a grandement contribué à accroître la connaissance des téléspectateurs et des auditeurs des stations de radio de cette région (de Moncton à Saint-Jean).

Le développement du concept et des procédures de fonctionnement d'une *Society For Ornithology* (SFO) est très avancé. Nous avons été invités à nous tenir informés de ces discussions, bien que les membres du Conseil soient certainement inquiets de devoir dire adieu à notre Société! La *Raptor Research Foundation* a clairement indiqué qu'elle ne participera pas à cette coalition. Pour plus d'information, consultez *Ornithology Exchange* et regardez le feu d'artifice! Près de 1000 ornithologues de toute l'Amérique du Nord ont adopté ce nouveau mode de communication.

Salutations,

Erica Nol, Présidente, SCO-SOC (2010-2012)

SCO-SOC annual meeting 2011

President's report on the 30th SCO-SOC Annual Meeting

The 30th annual meeting of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists-Société des Ornithologistes du Canada was held August 4-7, in Moncton, New Brunswick. The host university was the Université de Moncton, and the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee was Dr.



The giant Semipalmated Sandpiper in Dorchester NB
(Photo by Marcel Gahbauer)

Marc-André Villard, a co-editor of our journal. The meeting was well attended by 113 participants, including graduate and undergraduate students, post-doctoral fellows, government and university researchers, and biologists from non-profit organizations. The meeting included 42 oral presentations in two concurrent sessions (a first for stand-alone meetings of our society) over two days. A poster session included 22 posters. Presentations were given in either official language, while visual aids were prepared in the other, thanks to the efforts of both presenters and a dedicated team of volunteer translators helping to make the talks accessible to all.

The meeting officially began with the SCO-SOC council meeting, which was very well attended by 10 councillors and one past-president. This was followed by a welcoming reception where both old and new friends and colleagues were greeted. A plenary by Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, entitled *Frequent Fliers: New Discoveries in Bird Migration* was a highlight. Two days of

talks followed, including a symposium entitled *Estimates of human-related bird mortality from major sectors in Canada, and their biological relevance*, co-organized by Craig Machtans and Richard Elliot from Environment Canada. In this symposium participants attempted to estimate sources of mortality (or 'incidental take') from agriculture, buildings, fisheries, aquaculture and offshore oil and gas industries, forestry, cats and terrestrial oil and gas exploration and extraction. While a bit of a morbid topic, the overview was highly illuminating in allowing the audience to see where the real problems of human developments occur (and estimates of mortality due to feral cats may be the most severe of all). There is a plan to publish papers from this symposium in *Avian Conservation and Ecology*. This symposium attracted a good deal of media attention. At least three television and 5-6 radio stations requested interviews about factors affecting bird populations and these, of course, were granted. It was a great opportunity to get out our message. Graduate students also fielded some questions from interviewers (e.g., Ben Walters, Ph.D. candidate, Trent University on the effects of ATV trails on bird populations, a hot topic in New Brunswick). Officers of the society and organizers of the symposium conducted other interviews.



Just a few of the estimated 60,000+ Semipalmated Sandpipers
observed during the Bay of Fundy field trip
(Photo by Marcel Gahbauer)



Erica Nol presenting Agnes Lewden her
award for top student presentation

Social events included a student-mentor lunch where students were paired with professionals who shared their research interest. The Student Affairs Committee, chaired by Andrea Norris (UBC), organized this great event. On the second evening, a public lecture entitled *Arctic birds under the spotlight: global change and recent discoveries* was presented by Dr. Joël Bêty, and was well-received by many people from the Moncton community. The scientific program was followed by a fantastic field trip (organized by Diana Hamilton) to the Bay of Fundy where participants first took photographs next to a larger than life Semipalmated Sandpiper, and then saw many thousands of this species perform escape flights from several juvenile Peregrine Falcons, likely local birds from nests on the cliffs overlooking the extensive mudflats of the bay.

After the field trip, participants enjoyed an excellent banquet at the university. Highlights included two short presentations in honour of late members of the society, Drs. Navjot Sodhi (University of Singapore) and Gary Bortolotti (University of Saskatchewan), and presentations of the Doris Huestis Speirs award to a very surprised and delighted Dr. Keith Hobson, as well as the Jamie Smith Mentoring award to an equally surprised and delighted Dr. Erica Nol. Our hard-working Membership Secretary, Ms. Thérèse Beaudet, and Treasurer, Mr. Pierre Lamothe, were honoured for their eight years of service to the society in their respective capacities. New officers Dr. Matt Reudink and Lance Laviolette were also welcomed. This was followed by announcement of the Student Presentation awards, adjudicated by John Chardine, with help from Dick Cannings, Stephen Yeszerinac, Ian Warkentin, Erin Bayne, and Geoff Holroyd. The top oral presentation went to Agnes Lewden (University of Northern British Columbia), for her paper entitled *Socially dominant black-capped chickadees are larger and fatter than subordinates but do not show better metabolic performance in winter*. The second place oral presentation went to Samuel Haché (University of Alberta) entitled *Effects of age and landscape structure on probability of return of translocated Ovenbirds*. The top poster



Erica Nol presenting Samuel Haché his award for second place student presentation



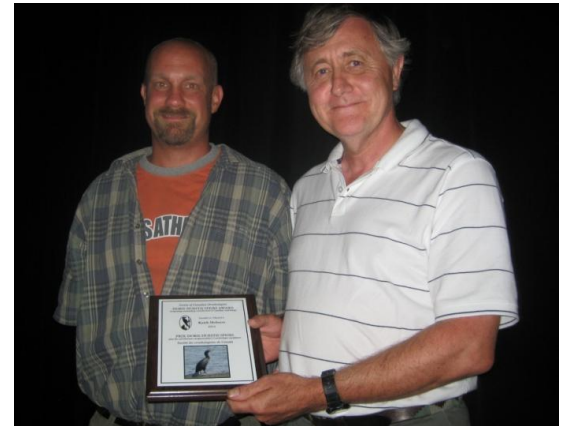
Erica Nol and John Chardine presenting Belen Garcia-Perez with her award for best student poster

presentation went to Belen Garcia-Perez (University of Saskatchewan), for her poster entitled *Population connectivity and differential decline of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) in North America*. Congratulations to these fine young ornithologists, and to all students and professionals who came and presented their findings. The Student Affairs Committee sponsored a silent auction, and raised significant funds for the society. This lively event was enjoyed by all. The meeting ended with a heartfelt thanks to Dr. Marc-André Villard and others in the local organizing committee for a tremendous way to celebrate ornithology in Canada. All abstracts are available on the SCO-SOC website at www.sco-soc.ca/Program.pdf. I look forward to another great meeting in Vancouver next August.

2011 Doris Huestis Speirs Award: Keith Hobson Greg Robertson

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award given by SCO-SOC. The award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions in Canadian ornithology. The D.H. Speirs Award Selection Committee and SCO-SOC council members are delighted to announce that Keith Hobson, a Senior Research Scientist with Environment Canada, is the recipient of the 2011 award.

Keith spent his formative years growing up in the Vancouver area (after arriving in Canada as a youngster from England). Following completion of a degree in physics, Keith was a mainstay at Simon Fraser's archeology laboratory where he honed skills in isotope techniques, including for assessment of early human diets and movements. But, birds got the better of him, and Keith turned his eye to working on questions about brood parasitism with Spencer Sealy at University of Manitoba. After completing his Master's in Manitoba, Keith flew west to the University of Saskatchewan where he undertook a PhD with Malcolm Ramsay, which is where he began his pioneering work in avian isotope ecology. By combining field and laboratory studies of both marine and terrestrial birds, Keith characterized fundamental aspects of tissue-isotope assimilation and turnover, and explored trophic relationships in communities of arctic-breeding seabirds. After a short post-doc sojourn at the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's Freshwater Institute, Keith was hired as a Research Scientist in Forest Ecology with CWS in Saskatoon. Shortly thereafter, Keith sought affiliation with the Department of Biology at University of Saskatchewan as an Adjunct Professor and began supervising a steady stream of top-caliber graduate students. Keith's efforts – alone and with collaborators from around the globe – have forged stronger linkages between science and conservation action and have helped to revolutionize how we



Joe Nocera presenting Keith Hobson with the 2011 Doris Huestis Speirs Award

investigate questions about forest conservation or migratory connectivity. The true hallmark of Keith's personality – something that has shaped his career – is a strong passion for birds and conservation of natural areas, especially in Canada and Latin America.

Keith is world-renowned for his pioneering work using stable isotopes to study foraging ecology, trophic dynamics and, more recently, understanding the migratory connectivity of migratory birds and other animals. A prolific writer (someone once asked, "Does he write in his sleep?!"), Keith and coauthors have produced over 300 scientific papers, with many appearing in top ecological journals and collectively attracting thousands of citations. Keith's service contributions to the ornithological community in Canada and elsewhere have also been stellar; he was Editor of *Waterbirds*, Associate Editor of journals such as *The Auk* and *ACE-ECO*, and co-edited the 2008 book, *Tracking Animal Migration with Stable Isotopes*.

Even with his global reputation, much of Keith's focus has been on Canadian birds. His work on migratory connectivity in a wide range of Canadian breeding species, including several species-at-risk, is leading to improved conservation-decision making for these species now that it is known where they spend the non-breeding season. Keith has also made significant contributions to boreal forest bird ecology and management. Keith has received national and international awards for his research efforts, and this award rightfully acknowledges the outstanding contributions he has made to ornithology in Canada.

2011 Jamie Smith Memorial Award for Mentoring: Erica Nol

Ryan Norris

The Jamie Smith Memorial Award for Mentoring is one of the top honours of the Society and recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to mentoring new generations of Canadian ornithologists. Nominees are ranked based on their commitment to fostering achievement among their students and peers and demonstrating the importance of mentoring in their professional life. I am pleased to announce that this year's award is being presented to Erica Nol.



Joe Nocera presenting Erica Nol with the
2011 Jamie Smith Memorial Award

Erica has made outstanding, internationally recognized, contributions in a number of basic and applied research fields including behavioural and population ecology, physiology, and conservation biology. However, an equally important achievement in Erica's career has been her success in developing young ornithologists. Erica has guided many undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students to such prominent positions as university professors, government scientists, and private sector consultants. However, it's not just about where Erica's former students ended up but how they got there.

Current and former students regard Erica as exceptionally inspirational and supportive with the ability to convince them that a seemingly insurmountable project could be successfully completed. Her constant positive energy always provided them with a renewed sense of motivation to overcome even the largest obstacles in the field and laboratory. Certainly, Erica seems to have some kind of magic touch because many of her students noted that they accomplished more than they initially anticipated, a feat that advisors know is rarely, if ever, realized!

Not only does Erica create an atmosphere in her lab that fosters mutual respect and collaborations between herself and students but she also mentors by example. Her personal involvement in university- and community-based conservation issues is well-known and has inspired students to be effective researchers and teachers and also thrive in their own lives as involved citizens with strong conservation values. Clearly, it is not just about writing papers and defending your thesis in Erica's lab.

Perhaps most surprisingly is that Erica is not only a mentor to students at Trent but also devotes a significant portion of her time to supporting young ornithologists throughout the Americas. One such individual, who now runs an NGO in Argentina, summed up Erica's role as a mentor quite well: "Erica is an educational multiplier because thanks to my experience with her, many children and adolescents in my community are learning about the importance of shorebirds, conservation, and environmental protection".

On behalf of the award committee, I would like to congratulate Erica on her achievements and encourage others to consider making nominations of supervisors and peers for next year's awards.

ACE-ÉCO New Issue (Volume 6, Issue 1)

Editors-in-Chief Marc-André Villard and Tom Nudds are pleased to announce the publication of Volume 6, Issue 1 of Avian Conservation and Ecology. Articles in this issue report on research including conservation of Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead in Alberta, the demography of Greater Prairie-Chickens in Kansas, and the population dynamics of Common House-Martin and Common Swift breeding in Northern Italy.

This issue sees the closure of the special feature *Conservation of Grassland Birds: Causes and Consequences of Population Declines* edited by Nicola Koper and Tom Nudds. The editors of ACE continue to invite new manuscript submissions to the special feature *Aerial Insectivores* edited by Philip Taylor and Jon McCracken. See the Call for Papers for details.

We are also pleased to announce that we have joined with The Publishers International Linking Association to include Digital Object Identifiers (DOI) in the citation of our articles.

To read the full text of the articles or to access all previous issues, please visit www.ace-eco.org.



Les rédacteurs en chef Marc-André Villard et Tom Nudds ont le plaisir de vous annoncer la parution du premier numéro du volume 6 de la revue Écologie et conservation des oiseaux. Ce numéro contient entre autres des articles portant sur la conservation de deux espèces de garrots en Alberta, la démographie du Tétrás des prairies au Kansas et la dynamique des populations d'Hirondelle de fenêtre et du Martinet noir dans le nord de l'Italie.

Ce numéro complète la section spéciale intitulée *Conservation des oiseaux de prairie: causes et conséquences des déclinés des populations*, codirigée par Nicola Koper et Tom Nudds. Les rédacteurs d'ÉCO invitent toujours les chercheuses et chercheurs intéressé(e)s à leur soumettre des manuscrits pour la section spéciale portant sur les insectivores aériens, codirigée par Philip Taylor et Jon McCracken (voir l'appel de manuscrits pour plus de détails).

Nous avons également le plaisir d'annoncer que désormais, nos articles auront un numéro d'identification (DOI), tel que fourni par la Publishers International Linking Association.

Pour accéder aux versions intégrales des articles du présent numéro ou des précédents, veuillez consulter www.ace-eco.org.

English Group Names of Birds

Is your life list up to date and standardized according to one of the established lists of the birds of world? Do you know exactly how many species you have on your life list? Have you run into complications or don't know where to start? Do you sometimes confuse Sparrow-Larks with Lark Sparrows? Did you know that there are 873 English group names (e.g. warbler, antpipit) for all of the world's bird species? Did you know that one world authority claims that there are fewer than 10,000 bird species in the world, whereas another claims that there are more than 10,000? If any of this interests you, please see www.babina.ca for an article by Robert Alvo. On the top area of the home page, click on *Bird life-listing article*. Please send any comments to: robalvo1@gmail.com.

Recent Canadian Ornithology Theses

Bond, Alex L. 2011. Relationships between oceanography and the demography and foraging of auklets (Charadriiformes, Alcidae: Aethia; Merrem 1788) in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. Ph.D. Thesis. Department of Biology, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL.

I investigated bottom-up climate-mediated control of population of auklets (*Aethia cristatella*, *A. pusilla*, and *A. pygmaea*) in the Bering Sea over two decades of environmental variability. Broadly, this thesis comprises two parts: 1) examining the relationships between chick diet and survival in the context of large-scale climate and oceanographic patterns; and 2) using stable-isotope analysis to infer foraging patterns throughout the annual cycle of different age classes of auklets, using information on chick diet and local oceanography to interpret the results.

I found that large-scale oceanographic patterns during the winter and spring in the North Pacific were related to auklet productivity the following breeding season. I hypothesized bottom-up control of auklet productivity through food limitation, but found that chick meal composition throughout the Aleutian Islands did not differ among years or sites. Auklets' main prey, *Neocalanus* spp. copepods were most prevalent in chick diets when local sea-surface temperature (SST) during the breeding season was around 4.5°C, but that outside this range, the proportion of biomass represented by *Neocalanus* copepods declined rapidly. There was significant overlap among Least, Crested, and Whiskered Auklets in the composition of chick meals, suggesting little trophic segregation. Using information on moulting patterns, I found that stable-isotope ratios in the innermost primary feather (grown during incubation) indicated a shift by adult auklets to a more productive foraging location (e.g., oceanic fronts), presumably as a mechanism for reducing their own maintenance costs during chick rearing. I then found that, among three auklet colonies in the Aleutian Islands, there were no differences among sites or years in the foraging patterns of Least Auklets during pre-breeding (breast feathers), incubation (primary 1), or post-breeding (primary 10). There appeared to be some level of ecological segregation between adult Least and Crested Auklets at Gareloi Island.



Colour-banded Least Auklet
(Photo by Alex Bond)

Together, these results also indicate that local factors, such as introduced Norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) at Kiska Island, are important factors in populations' demography, and that demographic responses are not solely driven by bottom-up processes. Future studies should focus on the winter ecology and movements of auklets.

Graham, Brendan A. 2011. The population genetics and phylogeography of the Hairy Woodpeckers (*Picoides villosus*). M.Sc. Thesis. Department of Biological Sciences, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, AB.

This thesis examines the effects that Pleistocene glaciation had on the population structure and contemporary genetic patterns of the Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*). A combination of molecular markers, revealed reduced levels of gene flow among groups of hairy woodpeckers. Microsatellite analyses suggest barriers to gene flow have influenced contemporary population structure, with higher structure found in western North America where barriers to gene flow are more prevalent. MtDNA analyses revealed three distinct genetic lineages, two in North America and a third in Central America. Results indicate these lineages separated prior to the Wisconsin glaciation (~100 kya) and that contemporary population structure is the result of post-glacial expansion from multiple refugia following deglaciation. Current taxonomy recognizes 17 subspecies (Jackson et al., 2002), but molecular analyses in this study do not support current subspecies designations.

Ibarguchi, Gabriela. 2011. Biogeography and diversification of the Andean seedsnipes (Charadriiformes: Thinocoridae): An Antarctic avian lineage? Ph.D. Thesis. Department of Biological Sciences, Queen's University, Kingston, ON.

South America and the Andes harbour a rich biodiversity. High levels of in-situ speciation, survival of relict lineages into modern times, and mixing of biotas (Gondwanian and North American), have been demonstrated to contribute to the extant biodiversity. I examined the four species in the shorebird family Thinocoridae (seedsnipes) as a test case of complementary hypotheses about the origins of this

diversity: 1) that some lineages arose from cold-adapted Antarctic ancestors (post-Gondwana), and 2) that the Andes have promoted diversification through vicariance and via the creation of novel alpine niches. First, I reviewed the tectonic and environmental history of the Andes, and the major biogeographic patterns in South America. Second, I reviewed Antarctic and Southern Hemisphere paleoenvironments, putative refugia, colonisation routes, molecular and biogeographic studies, and found strong evidence supporting the role of Antarctica as a source of global cold-hardy biodiversity. Third, I developed universal protocols to purify mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA). Using these methods, I uncovered nuclear pseudogenes, true mtDNA heteroplasmy, and possible hybridisation between seedsnipe lineages. Fourth, I investigated geographic patterns in seedsnipe morphology in four species. I also investigated the relationships of ecogeographic variables related to cold on morphology. I found strong and significant regional differences particularly in the smaller *Thinocorus* species, including an effect of the high Central Andes. Altitude, latitude, and wind (the effect of cold) have shaped seedsnipe morphology; *Thinocoridae* as a group generally support Bergmann's and Allen's rules. Fifth, based on phylogeographic and phylogenetic analyses of mtDNA and hemoglobin sequences, a putative southern origin for seedsnipes was supported, and an early origin in alpine habitats is suggested. Sixth, I compared data on Andean uplift and glaciation in South America, and found concordance between seedsnipe diversity, known areas of endemism in other taxa, and paleoenvironmental history. Finally, I briefly examined molecular evolution in hemoglobins and mtDNA and found preliminary evidence of adaptations to high altitude (hemoglobins) and to cold (mtDNA and hemoglobins). In summary, an Antarctic ancestor for seedsnipes, pre-adapted for life in the Andes, is supported. Antarctica may have contributed a great proportion of cold-hardy biodiversity to the South and globally.



A female Least Seedsnipe (*Thinocorus rumicivorus*) brooding her four chicks in Tierra del Fuego
(Photo by Gabriela Ibarguchi)

Keyes, Kristen L. 2011. Geographic and habitat fidelity in the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). M.Sc. Thesis. Department of Natural Resource Sciences, McGill University, Montreal QC.

Over the past half-century, the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) has experienced a severe population decline across North America. Many aspects of Short-eared Owl natural history are poorly understood, thus hampering the development of effective management plans. The overall goal of this thesis was to help to fill the knowledge gaps that exist, and at the same time provide a foundation for future studies. The specific objectives were three-fold: 1) to investigate Short-eared Owl spatial origins across North America in the context of nomadic, migratory and/or philopatric movements; 2) to develop a practical visual survey protocol aimed at improving monitoring efforts and facilitating assessments of across season landscape-level habitat use; and 3) to describe nest site characteristics, success, and causes of failure. Stable isotope analysis was used to investigate spatial origins of Short-eared Owls, and while exploratory



Kristen Keyes holding a juvenile Short-eared Owl on Amherst Island, Ontario
(Photo by Chantal Cloutier)

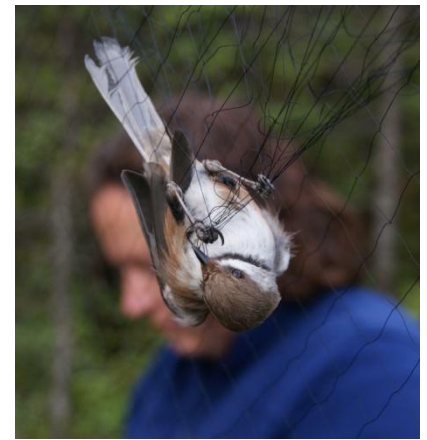
in nature, evidence was provided that the species may exhibit different movement strategies across their North American range. The volunteer visual survey protocol developed here was successful over a trial period, and should become a reliable monitoring scheme to track abundance and distribution through time. Based on the comparison used versus available sites on two islands on Lake Ontario near Kingston, in eastern Ontario, the Short-eared Owl's use of forest cover during the winter appears to be dependent on seasonal effects. Also, during the breeding season in this area, grazed grassland with scattered trees should be considered important habitat. Short-eared Owls exhibited a tendency for loose nesting aggregations in areas that were predominantly tall grasses, and often on grazed grassland. Fledging success was low and both anthropogenic and natural causes of mortality were identified. The findings of this study will contribute greatly to the current understanding of Short-eared Owl natural history, and the techniques described will be valuable tools for subsequent research and conservation initiatives.

Bird-safe building guidelines published by Audubon Minnesota:

http://mn.audubon.org/files/Audubon%20Minnesota/documents/06-01-10_bird-safe-building-guidelines.pdf

Lait, Linda Amy. 2011. The phylogeography and post-glacial expansion of the Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonicus*). M.Sc. Thesis. Department of Biological Sciences, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge AB.

Using a combination of both mitochondrial DNA and microsatellites, as well as spatio-geographic modelling, this study examines how the most recent glaciations may have affected the population genetic structure of the Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonicus*), a small resident passerine of the North American boreal forest. The mtDNA data support a separation between eastern and western populations, with central populations containing a mixture of haplotypes from both the east and west. Estimated dates place the divergence during the Wisconsin (56.2-129.7 kya). Microsatellite analyses support the separation of Newfoundland from all mainland populations, indicating that the eastern straits are restricting gene flow. No evidence for reduced gene flow was found for the Rocky Mountains. The results suggest the use of multiple glacial refugia, one in Beringia and one in the east, followed by stepping-stone colonisation and secondary admixture.



Boreal Chickadee in mist net with
Linda Lait in the background
(Photo by Kim Dohms)

Pulgarín-Restrepo, Paulo C. 2011. The population history of the Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) in North America: Insights from genetics, ecological niche modeling and bioacoustics. M.Sc. Thesis. Department of Biological Sciences, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge AB.

The last Quaternary ice age strongly influenced the distribution of most plants and animals. I used genetics, ecological niche modeling and bioacoustics to understand the possible historical patterns behind the current distribution of the Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) in North America. Analyses of mtDNA sequences and seven microsatellites loci suggest low genetic differentiation among populations (a maximum of two genetic groups), however population structure is subtle. Ecological niche modeling suggests several refugia SE of US, and some restricted areas east and west of the Rocky Mountains with ecological suitable conditions for the species at 18-21 kya. The analysis of the *pik* call suggested no geographic variation in the frequency and temporal variables studied. It is likely that the Downy Woodpecker expanded and colonized northern North America quickly after the LGM from a southern refugium.

Student contributions wanted for *Picoides*!

SCO-SOC encourages students to submit material for *Picoides*.

In particular, we would like each issue to feature abstracts of at least one or two recently published theses. They must be from students at a Canadian university, but need not necessarily focus on Canadian birds. Abstracts should be 250-400 words long, preferably accompanied by one or two relevant photos.

In addition, we welcome articles describing aspects of student research in greater detail; these should focus on a subject relevant to Canadian ornithology, require references, and may be up to 1000 words long, again preferably accompanied by one or two photos.



Female Common Eider on nest,
Nunavut, July 2011
(Photo by Sarah Baldo)

Breeding Bird Atlas updates

Data collection will continue for three Canadian breeding bird atlases in 2012. It will be the last of five years for the British Columbia project (www.birdatlas.bc.ca), and help with filling remaining gaps is welcome. Both Quebec (www.atlas-oiseaux.qc.ca) and Manitoba (www.birdatlas.mb.ca) will be in their third year of data collection. Meanwhile, after 49,000 hours of field work between 2006 and 2010, preliminary results from the second Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas have been posted on the project website (www.mba-aom.ca). They show substantial declines in aerial insectivores and grassland birds, consistent with trends elsewhere. On a more positive note, several raptors and forest birds have increased substantially, and a number of species near the northern edge of their range have expanded greatly since the first atlas period twenty years earlier.

Remembering Gary R.A. Bortolotti, 1954-2011

Russell D. Dawson, Ecosystem Science and Management Program, University of Northern British Columbia

Canadian ornithology, and indeed ornithology around the world, has lost one of its most prominent scientists with the passing of Gary Roy Anthony Bortolotti.

Gary was born in Smiths Falls, Ontario, and was raised in Willowdale, Ontario. Growing up in the suburbs of Toronto in an Italian-Canadian family, Gary was a “city” kid, and like other city kids had little direct experience with the natural world. Among his passions was music, and in particular blues music. At some point in his teens, Gary realized that many of the legends of blues music played the clubs of downtown Toronto, and Gary frequented them as often as he could, even though he was still under age. Later in life, Gary would proudly show us the autographs he had amassed, which included the likes of Muddy Waters, among a host of others. As with many young people approaching the end of high school, Gary was very uncertain about the path he would take for his career, and among the options that he considered was becoming a recording engineer. But spending time during the summers at an aunt and uncle’s cottage on Georgian Bay allowed Gary to observe nature firsthand, and by the time he finished high school, he had decided that his chosen profession would be one that involved the natural world in some way.

Gary received his BSc in Forestry from the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto. At some point along this journey, however, he realized that forestry was not the direction his life should take. Jon M. Gerrard, a professor of hematology at the University of Manitoba with a keen interest in and passion for raptors, had been studying the Bald Eagles that nested around Besnard Lake, in Saskatchewan’s boreal forest. Gary contacted Jon about the possibility of spending a summer doing surveys of the eagles, and Jon managed to find the funds to get Gary out to Saskatchewan and out onto the lake. Gary was hooked. An excerpt from a book that he subsequently wrote with Jon sums up nicely the transformation that occurred; Gary wrote that being there provided “a sense of satisfaction, or perhaps relief, the way one feels when finally starting on the journey home after an extended absence”, and indeed, Besnard Lake played a central role in Gary’s life from that point right up until the end.

Continuing to study the eagles of Besnard Lake, Gary completed his PhD in 1984 under the supervision of Jon C. Barlow of the Royal Ontario Museum. After a postdoc at the University of Toronto, which included more work on the biology of eagles as well as research on feather chemistry of grouse, Gary came to the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) in 1987 as a University Research Fellow, a program of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada to recruit and retain the most talented and promising young scientists in Canada. As a new faculty member in the Department of Biology at the U of S, it seemed only natural that eagles and Besnard Lake would be his focus. While eagles continued to fascinate Gary, it was another raptor, the American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), which would become the nucleus of his research.

Gary told of driving near Besnard Lake when the idea of studying American Kestrels seemed like the direction to take; he stopped the car somewhere along the road and walked a few yards into the forest, and looked up. There in an aspen tree was a cavity that contained a pair of breeding kestrels. “This should be easy”, he thought. Nest boxes were put up at various places along the lakeshore, and eventually in the late 1980s out along the logging roads and other primitive trails that dissected the forest. By the mid-1990s, there were well over 370 nest boxes up for kestrels, along with assorted boxes for Boreal Owls, Buffleheads and goldeneyes, as well as chickadees. And while it was not as easy as he first envisioned, the years at Besnard Lake studying kestrels were fruitful and productive. A number of graduate students, post-docs and summer students passed through the field camp at Besnard, and the work focused on an array of issues, including sex ratio variation, hatching asynchrony, parasitism, parental investment and immune function of kestrels.

In 1995, Gary made a trip to David Bird’s Avian Science and Conservation Centre (ASCC) at MacDonald College of McGill University, where Dave kept a captive colony of kestrels. This work was primarily to extend some of our initial field research on coloration of kestrels within the context of sexual selection. And while this trip was short in duration, it was indeed significant, as it would ultimately change the direction of Gary’s research program, and lead to collaborations with new colleagues that would continue and expand right up to the time of his passing. Also at the ASCC during this initial visit were Juan Negro, a Spanish postdoc, and Jose Tella, then a doctoral candidate visiting from the Estación Biológica de Doñana, in Sevilla, Spain. Together, they began to examine carotenoid pigments, their



Gary Bortolotti holding a Southern Giant Petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*) in 2002, Isla Arce, Argentina (Photo by Keith Hobson)

relation to colour, health, sexual selection and immune function. These collaborations with Negro and Tella were enduring, and Gary developed many friendships and close working relationships with other Spanish colleagues. Many research trips to Spain followed in subsequent years, and the number of Spaniards that came to Canada to work in Gary's lab was in the double digits. Gary's work subsequently branched out into ecotoxicology, and eventually into stress physiology, where he conducted pioneering research into non-invasive methods for quantifying stress in birds using corticosterone concentrations in feathers. All told, Gary published over 130 research articles, 8 book chapters, and 2 books. In recognition of his research accomplishments and service to the Department of Biology, he was named the first Stuart and Mary Houston Professor of Ornithology in 2002, and appointed as the Rawson Professor of Biology in 2008.

Gary was passionate and enthusiastic about the work that he did and the natural world around him, and had a remarkable ability to infect others with that same enthusiasm, regardless of whether they were his undergraduate students in the classroom, graduate students, colleagues, family or friends. From my own personal perspective, I was privileged to be all of these things. As a lecturer in an undergraduate setting, Gary was intense at the front of a classroom, and perhaps just a bit intimidating. He had a penchant for pacing as he spoke, but he very clearly conveyed his excitement and enthusiasm for biology, for birds, for animal behaviour. He was a person that truly has inspired a generation of undergraduates that have passed through the doors of the biology building at the University of Saskatchewan.

I found that as my graduate supervisor, Gary gave me a great deal of freedom to pursue the questions I was interested in. He set in front of me a blank slate and let me chisel out my own path to take, along the way providing the guidance and support to keep me on track, and going in the right direction. He was also a tireless worker in the field. Each summer I spent with Gary up at Besnard, he always had his own research projects on the go, but those always got put on the backburner as he concentrated on helping me, and ensuring that the work I was doing would be successful, and that I would succeed. In addition to his own students, he contributed to the education of a large number of graduate students at the U of S through memberships on supervisory committees. I cannot ever remember a time when Gary was too busy for us; his door was always open to me and to other students. He shared with me, with us, his knowledge, his critical thoughts, and his time.

As a graduate supervisor, a graduate committee member, and even as a reviewer for journals, I believe it would be safe to say that Gary could be described as "tough". One could not get anything by him, and we all knew that if there was a weakness in our work, or a flaw, even something miniscule, Gary would call us on it. He was never afraid to tell us when we were wrong, and to stand behind those opinions – as far as I am aware, Gary always signed the reviews that he did for journals. But in the end all of us that interacted with him benefited greatly because of his input and his rigor. And he was always willing to give us the help that we needed to succeed and find a solution to those problems in our work. Most significantly, however, is that in addition to being constructively critical of our work, Gary would always be the first to compliment students when we had done a good job on something, or had achieved some goal, no matter how big or small.

As a scientist and a mentor, Gary influenced many people over the years, and for that he will be deeply missed. Beyond this, though, what most of us will miss about Gary is his friendship. He had a passion not just for research and birds, but for other people as well. He was warm, kind, and generous. Those of us who knew him well also knew that he *cared* about us. After I finished my graduate work with Gary and moved to British Columbia, I cannot ever recall a time where I would visit him and not be greeted with a hug. He cared about those around him, and was not afraid to show us that. Gary was also a very proud father, and he took great pride in his children, and all of their accomplishments. I think many of us that were fortunate enough to have Gary as a mentor also came to realize that this meant not only becoming his friend, but also becoming part of his family.

In late May 2011, Gary was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia. Gary Bortolotti – professor, biologist, photographer, mentor, husband, father, friend – passed away on 3 July 2011 at the age of 56. He leaves behind Heather Trueman, his wife and partner for 27 years, his children Lauren and Eric, and his sister Linda (Michael Hutcheon). His passion, enthusiasm, warmth, humour, and friendship will be profoundly missed, but will never be forgotten.

Acknowledgements – I am grateful for the information provided by Heather Trueman, Vipen Sawhney, Linda and Michael Hutcheon, and Jon Gerrard. I thank Melody Dawson, Erin O'Brien and especially Heather Trueman for comments on previous drafts. To commemorate Gary's work and life, the Gary Bortolotti Graduate Award in Ecology or Animal Behaviour was established in the Department of Biology, University of Saskatchewan. The endowment will be used for a \$1000 dollar award annually to a graduate student at the University of Saskatchewan. The purpose of the award will be for professional development of the student, e.g. to fund travel and participation in conferences. Donations of any size will be gratefully accepted. Please send contributions to: Ms Kathryn Cousins, Development Office, U of S. # 501, 121 Research Drive, Saskatoon SK, S7N 1K2

Announcement – NAOC 2012



The University of British Columbia will host the **5th North American Ornithological Conference** in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, 14 to 18 August 2012. With its magnificent setting on the Pacific Ocean, Vancouver offers a wealth of marine, coastal, and terrestrial biodiversity, as well as world-class scientific resources and entertainment.

NAOC-V will be a wonderful opportunity for ornithologists to experience the rich natural and cultural biodiversity of Canada's west coast and meet with colleagues from all over North America and the world.

The opening reception will be held the evening of 14 August, and the four-day scientific program (15-18 August) will begin each day with an address by a distinguished NAOC Plenary Speaker (see website for speaker list) and presentation of Society Awards. The remainder of the daily academic program will consist of symposia, contributed papers, poster sessions, and scientific and ENGO workshops.

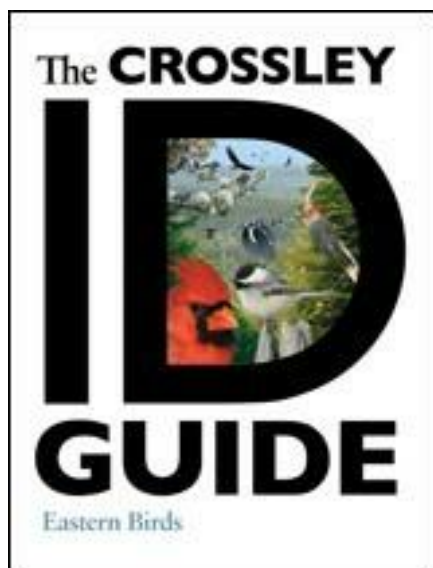
For complete conference details visit the NAOC-V website - www.naoc-v2012.com. Note that abstracts are due by 29 February 2012.

We welcome you to join us in Vancouver in August 2012!

NAOC-V is organized jointly by the American Ornithologists' Union, Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des Ornithologistes du Canada, Bird Studies Canada, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society, Raptor Research Foundation, La Sociedad para el Estudio y Conservación de las Aves en México (CIPAMEX), Waterbird Society, and Wilson Ornithological Society.

Book Review

Crossley, Richard. 2011. The Crossley ID Guide: Eastern Birds.
Princeton University Press, Princeton NJ. 529 pages.
Cloth flexi-bound cover, 19 cm x 25.4 cm. \$35.00 US. ISBN: 978-0-691-14778-9.



This book covers the US to the western borders of the Great Plains states, most of Texas and all of Canada east of Alberta, and the Northwest Territories. The author, Richard Crossley, declares this bird guide 'revolutionary'. Instead of a single or limited number of flat bird photos or illustrations, a collage of bird photos merged into a single composite scene anchors each species account. These composite illustrations create multi-dimensional scenes with details in focus that show birds in their typical habitats and activities at different distances from the birder. At first, I found these composite scenes to be a bit confusing. After a while, I began to see beauty of and the logic behind the composite scenes. This is how birders see birds in the field. Technology limitations prevented the practical use of Mr. Crossley's approach until now. He used over 10,000 photos for the 640 species accounts. These composite scenes take up approximately 80 percent of species accounts. I found the bird views in the composite scenes to be sharp, clear, accurate and relatable to my birding experience. The author labels individual birds in the images by subspecies, morph, gender and age where necessary. This is really helpful to the reader trying to identify a bird. Species that are commonly seen or widespread get a full page and more bird views in the composite scenes. Species that are not commonly seen or rare get less than a page and fewer bird views,

less text and no range map. Very small range maps and limited text take up the bottom 20 percent of the species account of common or widespread birds. Text in the species accounts is focused on bird length, typical regions and habitats where the species is found, bird behaviours, key identifying features and differences between similar species. The author adds basic information about bird song and calls for species where these features are helpful. The text is simple, brief, easy to read and accurate. Similar text and maps can be found in other bird guides. However, expanded species accounts can be found online at the author's website, www.crossleybooks.com. The stunning composite scenes are what separate this guide from all other bird guides on the market.

Before using this guide, first-time users should read the how to use this guide section as it contains key information about the book and its organization. Oddly, the key to the range maps is found in the inside back cover of the book and not in this section. The author makes heavy use of the 4-letter alpha codes throughout the quick guides and species accounts. At the end of the book there is a much-needed alpha code index. The alpha codes are listed by alphabetic order in the index.

I like the writing style of the author as it is easy to read and the text was well researched. Another key strength of the book is the 'how to be a better birder' section. The author succinctly discusses key tools and information needed for you to become a better birder including taking field notes on bird size, structure and shape, colour, vocalizations, topography, molt, appropriate age-molt terminology and factors affecting bird appearance. All of the labeled photo illustrations of topography of a songbird, raptor, duck, gull, shorebird and hummingbird are excellent and very helpful.

Species accounts in this guide are not listed in the typical taxonomic order like most bird guides. The species accounts are divided into these broad intuitive categories: swimming waterbirds, flying waterbirds, walking waterbirds, upland gamebirds, raptors, miscellaneous larger landbirds, aerial landbirds and songbirds. Each species account section has a brief introduction highlighting the key features and members of that bird category.

Species accounts can be easily found in the guide through the alpha code and scientific name indexes and quick guide to species at the beginning of the book. The quick guide contains photo cut outs of species, the 4-letter alpha codes, and page number. The quick guide to species is divided into the eight broad categories described above. Relative size of species is indicated by size of photo cut outs and the largest and smallest species on the side-by-side pages. There is a simpler quick guide on the front inside cover of book as well.

There is one noticeable weakness in the guide. There is no further reading or references section in this guide. I understand you need a fairly large format book so one can see bird features more clearly in the composite scenes but I find the book too large and heavy to carry in my backpack while birding.

I like the innovative Crossley guide but I still like the traditional bird guides such as the North American books by Kaufman¹ and Stokes², and Dorling Kindersley's³ and Lone Pine's⁴ versions of *Birds of Canada*. Other bird guides are more compact (Kaufman); often contain additional species and habitat information (Dorling Kindersley, Lone Pine); information on best birding sites (Lone Pine); bird behaviour, ecology and evolution (Dorling Kindersley); useful features that aid bird identification such as labeled field marks (Dorling Kindersley) and even a CD of selected bird songs (Stokes). However, I do think that Crossley's attractive volume strongly complements both existing traditional bird guides and Thayer's birding software and has the great potential to improve identification skills of birders at all levels. Therefore, I recommend this guide to birders looking to further their identification skills.

Reviewed by Rob Warnock, e-mail: warnockr@accesscomm.ca

Footnotes:

1 Kaufman, K. 2000. *Birds of North America*. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY.

2 Stokes, D. and L. Stokes. 2010. *The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Little, Brown and Company. New York, NY.

3 Bird, D.M. 2010. *Birds of Canada*. Dorling Kindersley, New York, NY.

4 Hoar, T.L., K. De Smet, R.W. Campbell, and G. Kennedy. 2010. *Birds of Canada*. Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, AB.



Juvenile Piping Plover (Photo by Brigitte Noël)

Canadian ornithological news

Greater Sage-Grouse facing extirpation in Alberta

Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is listed as endangered on Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act, with the Canadian range now limited to small areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan along the US border, reflecting a 94% reduction in the historic distribution of the species. Bird Studies Canada reported in September 2011 that surveys this summer found only 13 male Greater Sage-Grouse in Alberta (a 98% decline since 1968), and just 35 males in Saskatchewan. Habitat loss and fragmentation is believed to be the primary explanation for the decline, given the extensive industrialization of the prairies over the past several decades, and the particular sensitivity of this species to disturbance.

Current trends suggest that Greater Sage-Grouse may be extirpated in Alberta as soon as 2013, prompting the Alberta Wilderness Association to host a two-day emergency summit in Calgary in September 2011. Experts identified priority actions, including a call for designation of additional critical habitat, a ban on new development within critical habitat, and restoration of habitat both within and surrounding areas designated as critical. The continued survival of this species in Canada requires political will, as well as public engagement and cooperation by industry. Additional details on the Canadian status of Greater Sage-Grouse and proposed action plans can be found on the Nature Canada website at www.naturecanada.ca/pdf/20110908_communique_sage-grouse_summit.pdf.

SCO – SOC Information

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Erica Dunn	1988-1990	Tony Diamond	1998-2000	Susan Hannon	2006-2008
Jon Barlow	1990-1992	Kathy Martin	2000-2002	David Bird	2008-2010
Bruce Falls	1992-1994				

Membership Information

www.sco-soc.ca/membership.html

SCO-SOC membership forms can be found at the link above.
Current membership rates are as follows:

Student	\$10.00 / year
Regular	\$25.00 / year (\$35.00 / year outside Canada)
Sustaining	\$50.00 / year
Life	\$500.00

SCO-SOC Website

www.sco-soc.ca/index.html

The SCO-SOC website includes sections on membership, meetings, news, publications, awards, information for students, an overview of SCO-SOC, and links of interest to members and other visitors.

To suggest any additions or corrections for the website, contact webmaster Joe Nocera at joe.nocera@ontario.ca.

Submissions to *Picoides*:

Articles and photos relevant to Canadian ornithology are welcomed by the editors. If submitting photos, please save them in tiff or jpeg format with descriptive file names, and supply captions including common names of species, location, date, photographer, and any other notes of interest. Deadlines for submission are February 15, May 15, and October 15. Please send all submissions to Rob Warnock at warnockr@accesscomm.ca.

Disclaimer: *Picoides* is not a peer-reviewed journal, and the publication of an article in *Picoides* does not imply endorsement by SCO-SOC.