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Society of Canadian  
Bulletin of The Ornithologists

# PICOIDES

Bulletin de la  
Société des Ornithologistes du Canada

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ISSN 0836-060X

Picoides, December, 1990  
Volume 4, Number 2



Snow Bunting

*"They eat very fine in a pye."* (Andrew Graham, c.1770)

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# Editor's Message

Although Snow Buntings are not featured in any article, I couldn't resist the quote by Andrew Graham about these birds for the cover. Stuart and Mary Houston have provided more insight into the early natural history of Canada through their report on Graham. Of course, we still don't know if Snow Bunting "pye" was a main course or dessert. History being a focus for *Picoides*, we have an article, this time by Tony Gaston, concerning the confusion over the discovery of the Ancient Murrelet.

Although the attendance at the SCO annual meeting (in conjunction with the AOU) in Los Angeles was relatively small, members took considerable pride in the Society's achievements. Despite our small size, we administered 3 significant research awards (the James L. Baillie award and the two Percy Taverner awards). We also have never failed to find a worthy candidate for the Doris Speirs award. Although the award is given for contributions to Canadian Ornithology, each of our winners, including Bruce

Falls this year, has won international recognition for their achievements. For only the second time in our history, this year's annual meeting will be held in Canada - in Montreal during August. Details will be given in the next *Picoides*.

As usual I have many people to thank for *Picoides* including the authors, Colleen Steinhilber for her typing, Bob Kidd for editorial help and Steve Fisher and Carolyn Lilgert for desktop publishing.

W. Bruce McGillivray

## RESEARCH AWARDS FOR 1991 Call for Applications

Applications are sought for 2 Taverner Awards (up to \$500 each) and 1 Baillie Award (\$1,000) for 1991.

Taverner Awards are offered by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists to honor and further Percy A. Taverner's accomplishments in increasing knowledge of Canadian birds through research, conservation and public education. The award is aimed at people with limited or no access to major funding, regardless of professional status, who are undertaking ornithological work in Canada.

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 will support field research on Canadian birds. The James L. Baillie Student Research Award is funded by Long Point Bird Observatory from proceeds of the Baillie Birdathon, and is administered by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists.

A single application may be made for both awards, but only one award can be won by an applicant in a given year. Taverner Awards are only given once for the same project; Baillie Awards only once to the same person - but past winners of either award may apply for the other. Funds are not awarded for stipends.

To apply, submit a resumé, 2 letters of reference and a

proposal (maximum 3 pages) which should include the purpose of the study, methods to be used, and a budget outlining total costs and other sources of funding received or applied for.

Applications should reach the following address before February 15, 1991;  
c/o Jon Barlow,  
Dept. of Ornithology,  
Royal Ontario Museum,  
100 Queen's Park Crescent,  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6.

Awards will be announced by April 1, 1991.

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