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Photo: Ross G. Vennesland

Great Blue Heron *(Ardea herodias)*

Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des Ornithologistes du Canada
Website: www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/SOC CanOrn/

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NEWS ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2002 Joint Meeting of American Ornithologists' Union
and Society of Canadian Ornithologists

This will be held in conjunction with the 3rd North American Ornithological Council (NAOC)

NEW ORLEANS
SEPT 24-30, 2002
See Pages 11-17 in this issue for the details.

TRY THE NEW SCO/SOC LIST-SERVER

The SCO representatives to the Ornithological Council would like to solicit your ideas and feedback on issues of importance to Canadian Ornithology. A new SCO list server has been created for this purpose. Note that this list server is a secure server that can only receive emails from its members, and is thus safe from spam. The list server will be maintained by Lesley Evans Ogden, but it will not be a monitored list server, so please use it only for the discussion of Ornithological or SCO issues.
SCO members can join the list by sending email to maillist@sfu.ca with "subscribe sco-members" in the subject or body of the message. Only SCO members who choose to join will be added to the list. Once your name has been added to the list, you may send to all members of the list by emailing: sco-members@sfu.ca

VISITthe SCO/SOC web site: www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/SOC CanOrn/
It is our web connection through the Ornithological Societies of North America (OSNA)

LATEST NEWS ON NEW SCO/SOC JOURNAL!

Erica Nol: enol@trentu.ca

As Chair of the SCO journal committee, I am pleased to report that the long-term dream of many councillors for a full-fledged journal in ornithology, published in Canada, is taking shape. We do have someone who has committed, with enthusiasm, to editing this fledgling journal. We also have plans to publish both electronically and in paper form simultaneously. We are currently working on finding financial support to see us through at least five years. These details are sketchy, because the planning is still preliminary, but we are all cautiously optimistic about this new SCO venture. More details will be released as they become available.

IN MEMORIAM: J. MURRAY SPEIRS 1909-2001

J. Bruce Falls

Photo: R. Wilson

Murray Speirs died peacefully in his sleep on September 3, 2001 at the age of 92. When he was six years old he identified his first Ruby-crowned Kinglet and at age 90 was still observing birds daily with granddaughter Margaret Wilson. His fascination with birds and love of nature inspired a long career as an ornithologist and field-naturalist.

Murray studied Mathematics and Physics at the University of Toronto and then turned his quantitative interest to Fluctuations in the Number of Birds in the Toronto Region – the subject of his Master's thesis in Zoology. He used his own records and those of others foreshadowing later, more ambitious projects. Rather than collect birds, Murray became proficient at identification by ear and in 1937 organized a pioneering bird census on a surveyed plot near Toronto. He went to the University of Illinois for his PhD with noted ecologist Charles Kendeigh who had developed census methods to study bird communities. He completed his thesis on Local and Migratory Movements of the American Robin in Eastern North America in 1946, following a wartime stint as meteorologist with RCAF. After his graduate studies he conducted surveys for provincial and federal governments, including a study of the effects of DDT on vertebrate populations.

In 1947 Murray joined the Fisheries Research Laboratory in the Department of Zoology at the University of Toronto. He combined library and bibliographic work with teaching in ecology until his retirement in 1974. He and the writer took students on field trips, including visits to his home, where we demonstrated ecological succession and changes in microclimate from field to forest. After his retirement he continued to help with these projects for many years.

In 1948 Murray and his wife, Doris Heustis Speirs, moved to Pickering east of Toronto where he focused his attention on bird communities in Ontario County (now part of Durham Region). He scoured the county for breeding birds and with young assistants, censused plots in different habitats. The results of these studies were published in six volumes on Birds of Ontario County from 1973 through 1979. This was the forerunner of two large volumes on Birds of Ontario in 1985. In these publications he provided meticulous compendia of bird records broken down by seasons and regions. Population data were illustrated by his own censuses (scattered throughout the province), as well as Christmas Censuses and Breeding Bird Surveys, for both of which he had acted as coordinator. A major legacy is Murray Speirs' 75 years of field notes, 40 years in Pickering alone where he kept track of all the birds encountered on his frequent field trips. This mine of information is already being analysed in relation to effects of urbanization on birdlife.

In addition to his interest in bird populations and communities, Murray studied the life histories of several species – American Robin, Black-capped Chickadee, Evening Grosbeak and Lincoln's Sparrow. He and Doris co-authored the account of the Lincoln's Sparrow in Bent's Life Histories of North American Birds published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1968.

Murray Speirs was a long-standing member of all the major ornithological societies in North America and became a fellow of the AOU in 1983. He and Doris supported the SCO in its early years. They also supported many natural history organizations devoted to conservation. Murray was a founding member of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON), Toronto Ornithological Club, Toronto Field Naturalists Club and Pickering Naturalists. From 1953 to 1961 he edited the Bulletin of the FON, and co-edited A Naturalists' Guide to Ontario (FON, 1964). He was also life science consultant for the 12-volume Illustrated Natural History of Canada (1970) published by Jack McLelland.

Murray strongly supported the protection of natural areas. In the early 1970's he was a member of the Conservation Committee for Ontario of the International Biological Programme (IBP-CT). In 1995 he donated 2.8 ha of his own property to protect part of the larger Altona Forest, one of the least disturbed stands in the Toronto Region. The protected area bears his name as the J. Murray Speirs Ecological Reserve.

For their contributions to conservation Murray and Doris received the W. W. H. Gunn Trophy from the FON in 1974. Murray received the Distinguished Ornithologist Award for 2000 from the Ontario Field Ornithologists. In the same year the Governor-General travelled to Murray's home for his investiture as a Companion of the Order of Canada. Murray Speirs was a friendly and gentle man who, in his quiet way, dispensed knowledge, wisdom and good humour. He encouraged and inspired generations of students and naturalists. He will be missed by his many friends.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE DORIS HUESTIS SPEIRS AWARD

The Speirs award is our Society's most prestigeous honour, presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions in Canadian ornithology. Awardees have included those who worked at museums, government agencies, private agencies, universities, or as volunteers. The most recent winners are Dr. David Hussell, of Bird Studies Canada, and Dr. Erica Dunn, of the Canadian Wildlife Service of Enviroment Canada, whose contributions are highlighted in this issue of *Picoides*. If you wish to suggest a candidate, with or without supporting data, please contact the committee chair for this Award:

Dr. Marc-André Villard, Département de biologie, Université de Moncton, NB. E1A 3E9.
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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Dorothy McFarlane: mandd@nbnet.nb.ca

I am learning that one has to be flexible at this job, and willing to work hardest at the last minute, when deadlines are looming. Planning ahead is not the best strategy. I am also learning that I will have to apologise often, hopefully with decreasing frequency, as I learn to check spellings, grammatical errors, and just plain faux-pas.

So, along with my gratitude to those who contributed articles for this edition, I apologise to Drs. Erica Dunn and David Hussell whose story had to be repeated due to my having printed the wrong version in the last issue, to Russ Bradley for omitting his name from the Murrelet article, to Hank Deichmann for mispelling his name, and to Kathy Martin for letting a few spelling errors slip by my notice. Also, note that the student membership remains at $10, not $15 as was reported in the AGM highlights.

The NAOC circular of events has filled a large section of this issue, but I hope there remains enough to interest those who cannot attend this up-coming meeting. My thanks go to Robert Nero who sent several of his poems, one of which is included this month on page 7.

Be sure to return your ballots for the SCO/SOC elections, found as an insert to this edition of Picoides. They are due on March 30, 2002. If you don't know the people who are letting their names stand, then ask someone who does.

2001 DORIS HUESTIS SPEIRS AWARD TO DRS. ERICA DUNN AND DAVID HUSSELL

Erica Nol: enol@trentu.ca

This article appeared in different form in the last issue of Picoides, but has since been revised, with apologies to Ricky and David.

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award for outstanding lifetime contributions to Canadian Ornithology is awarded this year to two people, a pair that have worked tirelessly, both separately and together, to advance the science of ornithology in its pure and applied forms. This year's award is presented to Drs. Erica H. Dunn and David J. T. Hussell. Both began their academic careers in ornithology at the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor. In the mid-1970's they began their permanent stay in Canada, when David became the first director of the Long Point Bird Observatory. At this oldest bird observatory in North America, David and Ricky began the tradition of "birdathons", fun events with an element of friendly competition. The events helped to turn bird listing into hard-sought funds for non-government organizations. These events have also become critical in supporting and promoting the institutions that support bird research throughout North America. At Long Point, in particular, David put together a scheme that proved of benefit to both the bird observatory and amateur ornithologists, as some of the funds, under the name of the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, were distributed to worthy amateur projects that greatly enhanced bird conservation and public awareness of birds throughout Canada. David also was the prime mover behind creating the Baillie Student Research Award in 1989, while Ricky was President of the SCO). At that time David, with an endless stream of volunteers, also began a detailed study of the Tree Swallow, a study that has become one of the longest running in North America, and is currently providing useful information on the influence of climate change on the breeding phenology of birds. David was also instrumental in helping to organize the first Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, an important and significant source of baseline information about Ontario bird populations. During this period Ricky was responsible for organizing the Ontario Bird Feeder Survey, and jointly, with others, the Ontario Heronry Inventory and Director of Volunteer Naturalists.

In 1982 David and Ricky left Long Point to live, first in Aurora, Ontario, where both worked for the Ministry of Natural Resources, fulfilling a personal goal to find ways to assess Ontario passerine populations, despite the Ministry's greater interest in white-tailed deer. In the work during this period, David continued to draw heavily on data coming from the migration monitoring station at Long Point, using the records to assess long-term population changes of dozens of species. During this time Ricky continued to coordinate the Ontario Bird Feeder Survey, and as a result of that survey, the North American survey of wintering bird populations (Project Feederwatch) began, which Ricky coordinated for six years at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. This work resulted in the well-received popular book published in 2000 on "Birds at your Feeder". David, in addition to analyzing the Long Point passerine data, also analyzed hawk migration data, applying similar techniques to determine whether these data were useful in assessing population changes. In 1993 David and Ricky moved to Ottawa, the capital of Canada, where Ricky took on a job as a research scientist with the Canadian Wildlife Service. There, Ricky and David introduced the concept of 'responsibility' to bird conservationists. This concept, published in a 1999 issue of Conservation Biology, stated that a species was important, not only if it was rare or endangered, but also if the range where it was most abundant (breeding, wintering or migratory) was within a single or a small number of political jurisdictions, making it particularly vulnerable to unwise land-use decisions. Warblers breeding in the eastern boreal forests of Ontario and Quebec are excellent examples of widespread, though vulnerable species, owing to heavy exploitation of these forest resources. The identification of these codes and the introduction of this concept have already led to greater cooperation between neighboring jurisdictions sharing high responsibilities for particular species.

Ricky and David have been firm believers in the value of data gathered by volunteers, and their publications show the validity of trends derived from migration counts made by amateur ornithologists. As a result of this conviction, their work has led to the establishment of numerous migration monitoring stations across Canada, where data on bird species from every biome can be analyzed for population trends.

Ricky and David have greatly stimulated interest in population trends. Ricky was also involved with the publica-

tion, in 2000, of the comprehensive Canadian atlas of bird banding, detailing the recoveries of most of Canada's banded birds.

Ricky, in particular, has been heavily involved in the organization and establishment of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists. She helped to write the constitution, was Secretary in 1983-85, Vice-President 1985-87, and finally, President from 1987-89. Ricky was the one who worked with Doris Speirs to establish both the Speirs and Taverner Awards. David has also served on the SCO council (two separate terms). Ricky has also been very active in the organization of the AOU, and both have attended over 25 meetings of this society with the meetings being highlights of their summer. During this time they have also acted as mentors to dozens of students of ornithology who have worked, often first, as volunteers at the Long Point Bird Observatory (now called Bird Studies Canada).

David and Ricky both have over 40 publications on a wide variety of subjects, including: clutch size variation, asynchronous hatching, parent-offspring interactions, migration of Empidonax flycatchers, mass loss during nocturnal migration, and analysis of migration counts (DH); and energy allocation and thermoregulation of nestling birds, biology of arctic-nesting geese, breeding biology of Black Terns, migratory behaviour of adult and immature warblers, mass change of migrants at stopover sites, and validation studies of volunteer surveys (ED). Their past and present contributions to ornithology are greatly appreciated by all. We wait with anticipation for more creative approaches to ornithology from these two exceptional scientists.

Congratulations Ricky and David.

D. McFarlane

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

Minor Movement

Robert Nero, October 2001

Sometimes all it takes
to quicken my spirit
is a bird hopping backwards
as did a Junco just now,
after dropping to the lawn
beneath the feeder,
startled by a falling leaf
it hadn't seen coming down.

D. McFarlane

DARK-EYED JUNCO

BIRD RESEARCH IN THE ATLANTIC COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE ECOLOGY RESEARCH NETWORK (ACWERN)

Tony Diamond, Senior Chair, ACWERN, University of New Brunswick (Fredericton)
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D. McFarlane

COMMON TERN

ACWERN is the east-coast counterpart to the Centre for Wildlife Ecology profiled in Picoides in Fall 2001. Like CWE, it was established as an NSERC/CWS Research Chair; unlike CWE, it was established as a network rather than at a single site, and incorporates Chairs at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's (Dr. Ian Jones) and Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S. (Dr. Philip Taylor) as well as myself at UNB in Fredericton. The three Chairs collaborate with each other and with staff of the CWS offices throughout Atlantic Canada. The Network was founded in 1994 and NSERC support was renewed for a second five-year term in 1999. ACWERN's overall goal is to enhance understanding of the ecology of wildlife in Atlantic Region ecosystems through scientific research applied to conservation and management issues, and to provide educational opportunities to students.

Each University "node" of the Network has its own research program addressing this overall goal. Details of the various programs and projects can be found through the central website (http: //landscape. acadiau. ca/ acwern/) which has links to each University node and to CWS. The three main foci of research are marine ecosystems and their seabirds; forested ecosystems; and conservation biology and landscape ecology. Most research is on birds, but other organisms are addressed too, especially by the Acadia group. Here I will focus on the bird work.

Two long-term seabird research projects have been established, one at Gannet Islands in Labrador, run by Ian Jones, the other at Machias Seal Island (MSI) on the political border between Canada and the U.S. and the oceanographic border between the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf of Maine (see website: http://www.unb.ca/web/acwern/msi2001/msi2001.htm). At both sites we have banded several thousand seabirds with field-readable bands to track demographic changes over the long term; many of the birds were banded as chicks so we will also determine age at first breeding. At MSI we are fortunate to be able to tap into data from researchers who had the foresight to establish long-term projects before ACWERN came on the scene; on MSI itself Dr. David Nettleship (then with CWS) established a puffin-banding program in the early 1980s, and Dr. Stephen Kress of the National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology established a Seabird Restoration Project on many seabird colonies in the Gulf of Maine in the late 1970s and continues a strong program of seabird conservation, monitoring and research in a wider network (the Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group) into which our seabird work on MSI is fully integrated. This wider network in the Gulf of Maine allows us to explore critically important questions in seabird research, such as inter-colony movement and metapopulation dynamics, that are possible only with long-term collaborators working as a network. Part of our research there addresses the question of seabirds as indicators of changes in the marine environment; two M.Sc theses (Krista Amey in 1998, Julie Paquet in 2001) have focused on using Arctic Terns in this respect. Two seabird species breed at both MSI and the Gannet Islands - Atlantic Puffins and Razorbills - and we expect to learn a great deal about these species (for which Atlantic Canada is the North American headquarters) through our parallel studies at opposite ends of their distribution. The Gannet Islands are also an important breeding site for both Thick-billed and Common Murres, whose feeding biology was the subject of Rachel Bryant's M.Sc thesis (1998). The Puffins of Gannet Island were the subject of

an M.Sc. thesis on feeding biology by Shauna Baillie (2001). Rosana Parades (Ph.D.) is now studying the diving behaviour of auks; seabird parasites were studied by Sabir Bin Muzaffar (M.Sc. 2000); and Great Black-backed Gulls are the subject of a comparative study (on Gannet Islands and in Witless Bay) by Brian Veitch. Brian's work builds on previous work in Witless Bay by Melanie Massaro (M.Sc. 2000) on predation by black-backs on Black-legged Kittiwakes, co-supervised by Dr. John Chardine of CWS. Dr. Chardine is also helping to supervise several seabird studies by the UNB group in the Bay of Fundy, including Kate Devlin's Ph.D. study of the Arctic Tern metapopulation in the Gulf of Maine (based on Machias Seal Island), Dedreic Grecian's M.Sc work on nesting habitats used by Razorbills on MSI, and Nikki Benjamin's M.Sc. research on comparative breeding and feeding biology of Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls in the Bay of Fundy.

Our interest in gulls - especially Great Black-backed - arose largely from Kim Mawhinney's Ph.D. (2000) work at UNB on the Common Eiders in the Bay of Fundy. Kim wanted to understand creching behaviour in eiders but most of the broods she tried to follow (on the Wolves Archipelago, site of earlier studies by CWS) did not survive, and she was able to demonstrate through radio-telemetry that the gulls were eating far more eider chicks than had previously been realized. It became evident that we needed to know much more about gull biology if we were to provide advice on managing this situation, and both Brian's and Nikki's work will help to do this.

Common Eiders are a good example of a bird that poses scientific questions of both general and management interest. As with many waterfowl, the brood-rearing stage is something of a "demographic bottleneck", and we continue to explore habitat factors affecting this stage of the life-cycle with Brenda Blinn's (M.Sc.) study of the characteristics of eider brood-rearing habitat in the Bay of Fundy, particularly in relation to the rockweed-harvesting industry. Understanding eider biology is a concern too for CWS and we collaborate not only with Atlantic Region but also with CWS researchers in the Arctic: two research students, Karel Allard (Ph.D.) and Sarah Jamieson (M.Sc.) are co-supervised by myself and Dr. Grant Gilchrist of CWS Prairie & Northern Region in their studies of Arctic eiders, Karel at Grant's East Bay camp and the Belcher Islands, and Sarah on comparing eider diets and body composition throughout the eastern Arctic.

The big picture context of seabird distribution patterns off North-Eastern Canada was explored by Falk Huettmann (Ph.D. 2000) who compiled and analysed many years of data on distribution of seabirds at sea assembled by CWS in the PIROP program. Falk carried out spatial analyses of these data and related them to geographic, oceanographic and meteorological information to better relate the birds' distribution to the characteristics of their physical environment. His approach of broad-scale spatial analysis has also been a feature of ACWERN's work on terrestrial environments, where Phil Taylor's group at Acadia (Meg Krawchuk, M.Sc.) have explored bird distributions in relation to forest fragmentation in the Gros Morne and Main River areas of Newfoundland, and my lab at UNB is carrying out similar work in the Fundy Model Forest area (Matt Betts, Ph.D., Lasha Young, M.Sc.F.) and in Labrador (Neal Simon, Ph.D.). This work builds on the completed Ph.D. studies of John Gunn and Pete McKinley on Fraser Paper land in northern New Brunswick, funded by the Sustainable Forest Management Network of Centres of Excellence and carried out in parallel with studies in Alberta, on spatial aspects of forest bird distribution and productivity. Tara Warren (M.Sc.) is following up this work looking at the value to cavity-nesting birds of Habitat Management Areas established by Fraser Papers to conserve marten habitat.

A strong focus of the UNB forest bird work is on developing ways to assess the fitness - not just presence/absence or abundance - of birds across forest landscapes; this requires ways to measure productivity and survival, as well as density, over large areas. We are careful not to forget the importance of bird behaviour at small scales - territory, study plot - to their fitness at large scales; Pete McKinley's work on foraging behaviour, Neal Simon's (M.Sc.F. 2000) study of effects of logging in Labrador, Dorothy McFarlane's (M.Sc. 2000) on use of territories by juveniles, and Lasha Young's (M.Sc.F.) on Blackburnian Warbler habitat use, address this point.

Our forest bird work also addresses problems of long-term monitoring of populations. Phil Taylor has established the Atlantic Bird Observatory on Bon Portage and Seal Island, N.S., as part of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, and Trina Fitzgerald (M.Sc.) is studying the orientation of vagrants while also running the observatory. Dorothy McFarlane and I have been running MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) stations in Fundy National Park as part of our overall forest bird studies in the Greater Fundy

Ecosystem and Fundy Model Forest. In both cases our interest is in improving monitoring methods by focused research. Tracey Dean's (M.Sc.F. 1999) analysis of previously-collected data on survival of resident and migrant passerines wintering in the Bahamas is a further contribution to understanding variation in the demographics of migratory forest birds. Jill Boucher (M.Sc.F.) is exploring the broader question of the influence of climate change on songbirds in the Maritimes.

Several projects have been undertaken in response to specific requests from wildlife agencies. As might be expected from our major funding partner, CWS has recruited ACWERN researchers to several projects of immediate concern for management reasons. Early examples were the study of the impact of mercury on Common Loons, initiated by CWS and conducted in collaboration with both UNB and Acadia, which resulted in Joe Nocera's M.Sc. thesis (1999) at Acadia; Erin Nixon's (M.F.) study of habitat requirements of Bicknell's Thrush in industrial forest in New Brunswick; and Ian Goudie's (Ph.D.) work on effects of low-flying military aircraft on Harlequin Ducks in Labrador. Recently Diana Hamilton (Postdoctoral Research Associate) and Mark Dionne (M.Sc.) have begun work as part of AquaNet (a national Network of Centres of Excellence on Aquaculture) on the impact of seaduck predation on farmed mussels in P.E.I. Diana's own work as an NSERC Post-doctoral Research Fellow has given new insights into the dynamics of the invertebrate communities supporting shorebirds migrating through the mudflats of the Bay of Fundy in the fall.

Projects stimulated by requests from other wildlife agencies include Ed Hearne's (M.Sc. 1999) study of effects of boat disturbance on cliff-nesting seabirds in Witless Bay; Laurel Bernard's (M.Sc. 1999) study of Black Tern breeding habitat in New Brunswick; and Cam Stevens' (M.Sc. 2000) research on effects on wetland communities of pond excavation in Prince Edward Island. Though apparently disparate, these projects share the common theme of the influence of human beings on components of ecosystems supporting migratory bird populations.

Finally I would like to note the value of personnel changes between CWE and ACWERN. Ian Jones came to his ACWERN Chair from CWE; Greg Robertson, now with CWS in Newfoundland, is a CWE graduate and was ACWERN's first Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, at UNB; and Falk Huettmann went to CWE on graduating from ACWERN.

Some recent ACWERN publications on birds:

Huettmann, F. and Diamond, A.W. 2001. Seabird colony locations and environmental determination of seabird distribution: a spatially explicit seabird breeding model in the Northwest Atlantic. Ecol. Modelling 141:261-298.

Huettmann, F. and Diamond, A.W. 2001. Using PCA Scores to classify species communities: an example using seabird classifications at sea. J. Appl. Stat. 28(7):843 -853.

Massaro, M., Chardine, J., and Jones, I.L. 2001. Relationships between Black-legged Kittiwake nest-site characteristics and susceptibility to predation by large gulls. Condor 103(4):793-801.

Nixon, E. A., Holmes, S. B. and Diamond, A. W. 2001. Bicknell's Thrushes (*Catharus bicknelli*) in New Brunswick clear cuts: their habitat associations and co-occurrence with Swainson's Thrushes (*Catharus ustulatus*). Wilson Bull. 113(1):33-40.

Wiese, F.K. and Jones, I.L. 2001. Experimental support for a new drift block design to assess seabird mortality from oil pollution. Auk 118:1062-1068.

Adams, P., Robertson, G. and Jones, I.L. 2000. Activity budgets of Harlequin Ducks *Histrionicus histrionicus* moulting at the Gannet Islands, Labrador. Condor 102(3):703-707.

Corrigan, S. and Diamond, A.W. 2000. Northern Gannet, *Morus bassanus*, nesting on Whitehorse Island, New Brunswick. Can. Field-Nat. 115:176-177.

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Huettmann, F., MacIntosh, K., Stevens, C., Dean, T. and Diamond, A.W. 2000. A large mid-winter observation of Bonaparte's Gull (Larus philadelphia) in Head Harbour Passage, New Brunswick. Can. Field-Nat. 114(2):327-330.

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Continued on page 21.

THIRD NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

a joint meeting incorporating the
One Hundred and Twentieth Stated Meeting of the
American Ornithologists' Union

21st Annual Meeting of the
Society of Canadian Ornithologists/
Société des Ornithologistes du Canada

72nd Annual Meeting of the
Cooper Ornithological Society

The 2002 Annual Meeting of the
Raptor Research Foundation

The 2002 Workshop of the
Society of Caribbean Ornithology

VI Congress of the
Sección Mexicana del Consejo Internacional
para la Preservación de las Aves

24 - 28 September 2002
in New Orleans, Louisiana

Issued by the Committee on Local Arrangements
and the Program Coordinator

The Third North American Ornithological Conference is a joint meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), Cooper Ornithological Society (COS), Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des Ornithologistes du Canada (SCO/SOC), Raptor Research Foundation (RRF), Society of Caribbean Ornithology (SCO) and Sección Mexicana del Consejo Internacional para la Preservación de las Aves (CIPAMEX). The quadrennial event will be held this year in New Orleans, Louisiana, from Tue through Sat, 24 - 28 Sep 2002, at the invitation of Tulane University and the Audubon Nature Institute; co-hosting are The Audubon Zoo, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Louisiana State University - Shreveport, Louisiana State University - Baton Rouge, Louisiana Ornithological Society, Mobil Oil Corporation, Orleans Audubon Society, Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Southeast Louisiana University, University of Arkansas, and Weyerhaueser Corporation. The meeting will take place at the InterContinental Hotel.

Participants are encouraged to register early by submitting the enclosed Registration Form (Page 17). Registration Form with payment postmarked on or before 3 May 2002 will be $200 ($100 for students and $100 for non-member spouses). After 3 May, registration will be $250 ($150 for students and $150 for non-member spouses). Two-day registration, for Fri and Sat only, 27 - 28 Sep, will be $100 ($150 after 3 May).

Early registration is highly recommended, as space for many events will be limited. Registration will be held at the InterContinental Hotel. The registration desk will be open from Noon to 18:00 on Tue, 24 Sep, and from 08:00 to 17:00, Wed, 25 Sep - Fri, 27 Sep.

For details on Host city, Host university, and Audubon Nature Institute, please see the NAOC website.

BUSINESS SESSIONS

Monday, 23 September

09:00 - 16:00	AOU Checklist Committee Meeting
18:00 - 21:30	AOU First Meeting of Council

Tuesday, 24 September

08:00 - 15:30	AOU Second Meeting of Council
08:00 - 17:00	COS Board Meeting
08:00 - 17:00	RRF Board Meeting
15:45 - 17:00	AOU First Meeting of Fellows

Wednesday, 25 September

13:00 - 13:30	AOU Third Meeting of Council
13:30 - 14:00	AOU Second Meeting of Fellows

Thursday, 26 September
13:00 - 13:30 COS Business Meeting of Members
17:00 - 18:00 AOU Business Meeting of Members
Friday, 27 September
12:00 - 13:30 The Auk Associate Editors Luncheon
17:00 - 18:00 RRF Business Meeting of Members
Saturday, 28 September
12:30 - 13:30 SCO/SOC Annual General Meeting of Members

OTHER BUSINESS

Information on all meeting rooms will be available at registration. All committees or groups desiring to meet during the NAOC should contact the Scientific Program Committee to confirm or request time and space allotments as soon as possible - space is limited. Policy Council of American Bird Conservancy, Tue, 24 Sep, 13:30 - 17:30. Society of Caribbean Ornithology executive officers and board, Wed, 25 Sep, 18:00 - 20:00. Anyone who would like to visit the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science bird collections while in the area should make special arrangements with Van Remsen (najames@lsu.edu).

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

Plenary Sessions: Each day will begin with a plenary session starting at 9:00. Wed, 25 Sep: Thomas E. Martin, "A new view of avian life history evolution applied to parental care, clutch size, and developmental patterns across the world." Thu, 26 Sep: Theo Colborn, "On a wing and a prayer: Is endocrine disruption affecting birds?" Fri, 27 Sep: John Avise, "The ongoing transformation to molecular-genealogical thought in avian microevolution: Conceptual springboard, quicksand, or both?" Sat, 28 Sep: Kenneth P. Able, "Migratory orientation: Development and adaptive plasticity." Special lecture - Wed, 25 Sep, 17:00 - 18:00: James Ingold, "History of Louisiana ornithology."

Lecture and Poster Sessions: Concurrent paper sessions will be held in smaller conference rooms following the plenaries and coffee break. Two poster sessions will be held in LaSalle A. The first, with reception with authors present will be held Wed, 25 Sep, 18:00 - 21:00; the second, with reception with authors present will be held Fri, 27 Sep, 19:00 - 22:00.

Symposia, Workshops and Roundtables Scheduled activities listed below; updated information available at meeting website as well as in April issues of OSNA Newsletter and Picoides Newsletter.

Tuesday activities. Symposia: Putting wildlife first: contributions to bird conservation on National Wildlife Refuges (P. J. Heglund, K. Granillo & J. Taylor); Colonial waterbird biology and conservation (J. Kushlan); Enriching the conceptual basis of bird monitoring schemes (A. McCallum & T. Scott); Avian infections (S. Roberts); Linking physiology, morphology, and ecology in nectar-feeding birds (T. J. McWhorter, J. E. Schondube & D. R. Powers); The use of ornithology in education (D. J. Watt); Current issues in bird conservation: The application of sound science to formulate policy decisions (G. W. Winegrad). *Workshops:* Empowering large-scale, long-term studies on Neotropical bird populations on permanent bird plots (B. Loiselle & J. G. Blake); Putting wildlife first: Research opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges (P. J. Heglund, K. Granillo & J. Taylor).

Meeting Symposia: The ecology of cavity nesters: Keystone processes (J. Bednarz, P. Radley & D. Ripper); Island treasures: Avian research and conservation in the Caribbean (R. Gnam); Problems and opportunities in avian deep phylogenetics (J. Harshman & A. Driskell); Physiological ecology of migration: How to fly, fast, and feed en route (R. L. Holberton & S. R. McWilliams); Satellite telemetry of birds (K. D. Meyer, J. A. Coulson & B. A. Millsap); Natural climate variability and birds: Recent advances in our understanding of worldwide climate systems, and an examination of their effect on avian population dynamics (E. A. Schreiber & D. Gemmill); Celebrating 100 years of bird banding in North America (J. Tautin et al.); Conservation and ecology of disturbance-dependent birds (F. R. Thompson III & J. Brawn)

Meeting Workshops: Introduction to Band Manager (M. Gustafson); Advanced Band Manager (M. Gustafson); Ageing and sexing birds in the hand (and in the field) (M. Gustafson); Conservation of Gyps vultures in Asia (J. Parry-Jones & T. Katzner).

Meeting Roundtables: Bird strike mitigation: Opportunities in applied ornithology (J. M. Lamb); Satellite telemetry methods (K. D. Meyer, J. A. Coulson & B. A. Millsap).

Teacher Workshop: A bird-themed workshop for New Orleans-area public school teachers will be held 21 - 22 Sep. The workshop will emphasize technologically innovative, experiential, and standards-based activities. Materials and professional expertise will be provided through partnerships with Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, and Audubon Louisiana Nature Center. For more information contact David Brown; e-mail: dbrown5@tulane.edu; phone, (985) 419-2818.

Audio-Visual Materials: 35 mm carousel slide projectors, overhead projectors, and multi-media (computer) projectors will be available for all presentations; if possible, bring your own loaded carousel. Speakers should deliver slides to the projectionist at least 15 min before start of their sessions. Slide preview room will be available. Individuals wishing to make PowerPoint presentations (the only electronic presentation software supported) must consult procedures available on NAOC website. Any other AV equipment must be specifically requested when submitting an abstract.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Members and other ornithologists are invited to contribute to the scientific session. To apply for a place on the program, follow instructions on Circular. DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THE ABSTRACT BY THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR IS 3 MAY 2002. Proposals for oral presentations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until the schedule is full. The Scientific Program Committee will select and organize papers in appropriate sessions based on scientific content of the abstract. Abstracts should summarize findings, not methods. Indicate preference for either lecture or poster presentation. Oral presentations limited to 15 min, including questions and technical difficulties. Poster size limited to 122 x 122 cm. To apply, submit abstracts by e-mail (preferred) or by post for receipt by 3 May 2002 to Peter E. Lowther, NAOC Program Coordinator, The Field Museum, 1400 South Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60605-2496, USA; e-mail: NAOC_Abstract@fmnh.org.

STUDENT TRAVEL AND PRESENTATION AWARDS

Full-time students who are members of one of the participating ornithological societies may apply for a Travel Award to help defray expenses (travel and lodging) of attending the meeting. Some gratis student memberships will be awarded, especially to students that are not U.S. or Canadian residents. Eligible students (see below), both member and nonmember, may also apply for a Presentation Award. Students graduating after 1 Jan 2002 are still eligible for either award. To compete for a Travel Award and/or a Presentation Award, students must submit materials to the Student Awards Committee (guidelines below), as well as submit a standard abstract and application to the Scientific Program Chair to receive a place on the program. Application deadline for all materials is 3 May 2002.

Student Travel Awards: Travel Awards from the AOU (Marcia Brady Tucker Travel Awards), COS, SCO/SOC, and RRF can be made to students who are sole authors or joint authors of papers, but students must present the poster or oral paper and be the first author. A Travel Award is issued only after the paper/poster has been accepted by the Scientific Program Committee. The number of Travel Awards is limited. Applicants are expected to present their poster or paper regardless of whether they receive an award. Marcia Brady Tucker Travel Awards have a limit of two per lifetime. Students may receive both research and travel awards in the same year from the ornithological societies. Travel Awards do not cover registration or food.

Student Presentation Awards: As with Travel Awards, the student must present the paper or poster and be first author to be considered for a Presentation Award. Each student competing for a Presentation Award will receive a free banquet ticket. Students in symposia preceding the normal meeting days (25 - 28 Sep) and with talks longer than 15 min are ineligible for Presentation Awards.

Applicants for Travel Awards must submit 15 copies of the following in this order, collated and stapled:

(1) expanded abstract that is printed double-spaced with 12-point font, 3-page maximum including references, tables, and figures; (2) 1-page curriculum vitae; (3) detailed listing of anticipated expenses (transportation and lodging only) in U.S. dollars; and, (4) list of ornithological societies of which the student is presently a member. The expanded abstract should state objectives/hypotheses, methods, major results, and scientific significance, and it should identify the contribution as an oral or poster presentation. Students applying for a Travel Award are automatically considered for a Presentation Award. Students applying only for a Presentation Award must submit 6 copies of the standard abstract, 1-page curriculum vitae, and list of societies of which they are members.

All application materials for student awards should be sent by mail to NAOC Student Awards Committee, c/o Frank C. Rohwer, School of Renewable Natural Resources, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-6220, USA (For FedEx/UPS delivery add Highland Road at Nicholson Extension@ for street address). Questions may be directed to Frank Rohwer by phone, (225) 578-4146, or e-mail, frohwer@lsu.edu. Deadline for receipt of applications is 3 May 2002. Applications sent by fax or e-mail will not be accepted.

ART SHOW theme" The Audubon legacy: The ornithologist as artist". See website for info.

THE AUKLET Send written contributions to Van Remsen (najames@lsu.edu).

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tuesday, 24 September

17:30 - 20:00 No-host Dinner for AOU Council & Fellows and Officers of COS, RRF, SCO/SOC, SCO, and CIPAMEX (restaurant to be announced)

19:00 - 22:00 Opening Reception at Audubon Nature Institute/Aquarium of the Americas featuring Wings over the Wetlands, a film produced recently by the Barrataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program; Louisiana hors d'oeuvres & cash bar.

Wednesday, 25 September

18:00 - 21:00 First Poster Session, Wine & Cheese (light hors-d'oevres) Reception with complimentary soft drinks & cash bar.

Thursday, 26 September

18:00 - 21:00 Mid-Conference Picnic & Party, House of Blues (with Sunpie and the Louisiana Sunspots), cajun buffet dinner and free drinks included. Please note that this is Thursday dinner, paid for with registration, and it is hoped all registrants will attend. Space will be available to socialize away from the music.

Friday, 27 September
18:30 - 21:30 Second Poster Session, New Orleans Dessert Reception with coffee and cash bar.

Saturday, 28 September
17:00 - 18:00 Cocktail Hour - cash bar
18:00 - 23:00 Final Banquet, Hotel with Cajun dance band, Les Freres Michot.

FIELD TRIPS: Field trips provide a range of options to experience the rich bird communities of Louisiana wetlands and the central Gulf Coast region, supplemented by the beginning of the fall migration season. Join us for some of Louisiana's best migrant birding in a day trip to Grand Isle (the most accessible barrier island) or a three-day trip to the rice field country of southwest Louisiana. A day trip to the Delta National Wildlife Refuge visits the mouth of the Mississippi River, where waterfowl and wading birds abound in one of the most ecologically productive wetlands in the country. Canoeing the Honey Island Swamp, and owling the outskirts of New Orleans are two half-day excursions.

Another half-day trip will highlight the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and its active management in the Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge north of Lake Pontchartrain. On a day trip to the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge learn about the intensive program to maintain this population of approximately 100 endangered cranes through captive breeding and the management of nesting habitat the longleaf pine savanna of coastal Mississippi. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, south on the delta from New Orleans, boasts some of the most beautiful swamps accessible by foot, and its Bayou Coquille trail ends overlooking the country's only flotant (floating freshwater) marsh. Hummingbird banding and gardening by local experts, swamp boating tours, and daily early morning bird walks in New Orleans parks round out the menu for "tasting" the diversity and abundance of Louisiana bird life.

Visit the NAOC web site (http://www.tulane.edu/~naoc-02/) for excursion schedules and other details, sign-up information, and additional resources for local birding. Early morning bird walks will be led by experienced local birders each morning of the conference (Wed, 25 Sep - Sat, 28 Sep) to locations in or near New Orleans, such as City Park, Audubon Park, and Bayous Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. Sign-up sheets will be available at registration.

CLIMATE see website.

TRAVEL

Air Travel: Airlines serving New Orleans are Air Canada, Air Tran, American, America West, Comair, Continental, Delta, JetBlue, Midway, Midwest, Northwest, Southwest, TWA, U.S. Air, Group TACA. See NAOC's web page for links to each airline's home page.

Discount airfares have been arranged with Southwest Airlines. Ticket reservations can be made at (800) 433-5368; I.D. Code S9726 identifies 3rd Annual North American Ornithological Conference. Activation dates for this group is 6 months prior travel. Deadline to obtain the group discount, reservations must be made 5 or more days prior to travel to take advantage of this offer.
Ground transportation between the airport and the heart of the city is easily arranged at the airport upon arrival. The Airport Shuttle can be obtained at their booth. Cost is approximately $10 per person one-way. For more information contact (504) 592-1991 or 1-800-543-6332. Taxi service is also available at approximately $21 for one-way from Louis Armstrong International Airport. Prices subject to change.
Amtrak- New Orleans is serviced by Amtrak; depot is a short taxi ride from the InterContinental Hotel.
Parking - Valet parking $19/d at the Hotel InterContinental. All-day self-parking is $7 - $9 for weekdays in surrounding lots.

ACCOMMODATION

more details at website: http://www.tulane.edu/~naoc-02
Hotels: The official conference hotel is Hotel InterContinental, 444 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130-3171; phone: (504) 525-5566; FAX: (504) 523-7310; E-mail: neworleans@interconti.com. Rates: $165 plus taxes (single), $175 plus taxes (double), $20 for each additional person. These rates are available until 25 Aug 2002, after that date rooms are subject to availability. Hotel InterContinental Web Site is located at http://www.NewOrleanshotel.com/Hotel Intercontinental Reservations Online.
Rooms are also reserved at the Hampton Inn, 226 Carondelet, New Orleans, LA 70130-2911. Phone: (800)-HAMPTON; (504) 529-9990, Rates: $142 plus taxes (single) and $152 plus taxes (double). These rooms are being held through 24 Aug, after that date rooms are subject to availability. Rooms are also available at La Quinta Inn, 301 Camp St., New Orleans, LA 70130-2803. Contact 1-800-531-5900 or (504) 598-9977. Rates: $119 single or double plus taxes. These rates are available until 24 Aug, after that date, rooms are subject to availability. (Both hotels are within one city block of the Hotel InterContinental. Information about other hotels in New Orleans is available through the conference website (http://www.tulane.edu/~naoc-02/).

Several economical housing options are also available for graduate students, international attendees, and families. These include room-sharing at the Hotel InterContinental, rooms in the Dominican Conference Center in uptown New Orleans, and cabins and bunkhouses at Bayou Segnette State Park. Room-sharing is by special arrangement: Please send name, phone number, postal and e-mail addresses, gender, smoking/non-smoking preference, and number (and ideally names) of roommates to Donata Roome (droome@tulane.edu). The Dominican Conference Center is located near St. Charles Avenue, a direct streetcar ride away from the Hotel InterContinental. Rooms are $52 for a double, one bathroom

shared between two doubles. There are only 26 rooms available and preference will be given to sharing rooms by international guests. For reservations contact Donata Roome (droome@tulane.edu).

Bayou Segnette State Park offers cabins and bunkhouses for those with their own transportation in a scenic wetland environment. Waterfront cabins equipped with cooking facilities house up to 8 people, cost $65 per night. These will be rented by the cabin, to groups such as graduate students or extended families. Bunkhouses provide 120 beds for as little as $3 per night. There will be separate bunkhouses for men and women. You must provide your own transportation to and from the conference (parking at the Hotel InterContinental is $19/d). Travel time to the InterContinental Hotel is approximately 35 min, but can be much more than this during rush-hour periods (about 07:00 - 09:00 and 16:00 - 18:00). More information about Bayou Segnette State Park, including a map, is available through their website:
http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/parks/default.htm. To make reservations contact Donata Roome (droome@tulane.edu) or write her at Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department, 310 Dinwiddie Hall, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118-5698, USA. Space will be limited and allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, so make reservations as soon as possible. Payment must be received by 30 Jul 2002.

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

Registration -- Abstracts are sent to Program Coordinator (address below). Students should consult the Circular for application instructions concerning Travel and Presentation Awards. Send Registration Form (one for each person registering) to UNO Conference Services - NAOC 2002, Metropolitan College, New Orleans, LA 70148-9999, with check, money order or credit card information. Check should be made out to "UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS". Registration can also be done by visiting the website: http://conferences.uno.edu (which can be reached also through links on the meeting's home page). Confirmation of registration and payment receipts will be mailed to conference attendees along with New Orleans and Hotel maps, and transportation information. Payment must be in US dollars drawn on a US bank. For assistance or questions about registration, contact UNO Conference Services; FAX: (504) 280-7317; e-mail: confmc@uno.edu; or call (504) 280-6680 or (800) 258-8830. Reservations for accommodations should be made directly with hotels.

NAOC Web Site -- Extended information and real-time updates on conference and associated information and activities is available at http://www.tulane.edu/~naoc-02. Check also the Program Coordinator's web site (www.fmnh.org/aou/aoupage.htm) for copies of this circular and registration forms, additional information, updates and corrections, and, as the program is developed, program listing and abstracts. These sites can be found indirectly through http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/.

VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL DONATIONS to help sponsor participation by students and foreign visitors are particularly welcomed; contributions are sought for participation by students of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology and CIPAMEX (Consejo Internacional para la Preservación de las Aves, sección Mexicana) and by Cuban ornithologists. Make separate check out to "Tulane University" noting >Bird Conference 2002= in memo line, and send to NAOC Local Committee, ATTN: Thomas Sherry, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, 310 Dinwiddie Hall, Tulane University, New Orleans LA 70118-5698. Please indicate whether we may use your name.

NEXT MEETING see website

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING ABSTRACT FOR SUBMISSION

There are no pre-printed forms, please READ AND FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS. Include the following information on a single page. Examine the format and style in the sample abstract.

The entire abstract -- title, author(s), address(es), and text -- may be, at most, about 250 words. Abstracts may be submitted by e-mail (preferred), or by post, and will be formatted to meet standard style; make note of, spell out or explain special characters which are not standard ascii characters (e.g., "PLUSorMINUS for +,-, or "UMLAUT on u for ü).

By post, send one (1) copy for receipt by 3 May to Peter E. Lowther, The Field Museum, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605-2496, USA.

By e-mail, submit one abstract per message, for receipt by 12:00 CDT (NOON) on 3 May to Peter E. Lowther at NAOC_Abstract@fmnh.org. No FAXes.

Abstracts received after the 3 May deadline will not be accepted.

Eligibility for Student Presentation Awards are determined on the basis of expanded abstracts submitted to the Student Awards Committee; these expanded abstracts are separate from, and in addition to, the abstract submitted to apply for a place on the program (described here).

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING 8 POINTS OF INFORMATION . . .

1) The abstract:

Abstract Title. FIRST AUTHOR(s), short address of first author(s), SECOND AUTHOR, short address, ... LAST AUTHOR(s), short address, ...

Presenting author should be listed first. Most style requirements are in the Title-Author-Address line. "Short address" is in the form Department, University, City, and State or Province; as examples: "Dept. Zool., Univ. Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI" or "Dept. Biol., Univ. British Columbia, Vancouver, BC" or "Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Stinson Beach, CA" or "Delta Waterfowl Res. Sta., Portage la Prairie, MB". Use appropriate nomenclature. Use only AOU common names for

North American birds in the title. Note style used in the printed proceedings of earlier Stated Meetings (e.g., Auk 112 (1,Suppl.):10AA-36AA).

2) E-mail address for necessary correspondence, including notification of program position. Include also a 4-line, June address of corresponding author for postal contact (if necessary) and phone number, especially if no e-mail access. Receipt of abstract will be acknowledged upon receipt by e-mail (or post). Notification of program position will be made by 15 Jun.

3) List of all authors, especially if more than one; this information is used to create the author index. List authors in format: last name, initials (e.g., Audubon, J. J.).

4) Enter "POSTER", "LECTURE" or "EITHER" to indicate preferred means of presentation. If part of an organized symposium, enter "SYMPOSIUM" instead and specify convener.

5) Equipment needed if other than 35 mm slide projector; check meeting web page for specific instructions if planning a PowerPoint presentation.

6) If willing to chair your lecture session or another session, enter "CHAIR OWN" or "CHAIR OTHER". Otherwise leave blank.

7) Recommended session. Please suggest topic(s) from this list: BEHAVIOR, BREEDING BIOLOGY, CONSERVATION, ECOLOGY, FORAGING, MIGRATION, ORIENTATION, MORPHOLOGY, PHYSIOLOGY, VOCALIZATIONS, TROPICAL, SYSTEMATICS, EVOLUTION, OTHER.

8) Other comments or special scheduling requests, e.g., "NOT on Saturday" or "Schedule after paper by Smith" or "EITHER, prefer poster".

EXAMINE THE FOLLOWING SAMPLE APPLICATION FOR STYLE . . .
Testing experimental nest boxes.
PETER E. LOWTHER, Field Museum, Chicago, IL; JOHN L. LOWTHER, Dept. Computer Sci., Michigan Tech. Univ., Houghton, MI; and GAIL E. LOWTHER, Field Museum.

Several nest box designs for House Sparrows were tested. Experimental boxes (with entrance holes) were used at much higher frequency than control boxes (without). This difference supports the hypothesis (Lowther 1999, Auk 103:23-45) that ...

lowther@fmnh.org

Peter E Lowther
The Field Museum
1400 South Lake Shore Dr
Chicago IL 60605-2496
(312) 665-7953

Lowther, P. E.
Lowther, J. L.
Lowther, G. E.

LECTURE
CHAIR OWN SESSION
BREEDING BIOLOGY
This paper should precede Lowther J L, Lowther & Lowther.
During July, address is:

SPECIAL POINTS ABOUT e-mail SUBMISSIONS:

Send one (1) abstract per message. If sending a second time, for any reason, include the word "duplicate" in Subject line.

Send abstract as the message, NOT as an attachment. Just copy the text from your wordproccessor and paste into your mail program. Do not try special formatting (i.e., italics, bold) in submission. Do not include signature file in message. Do not number items, just begin each item on a new line (see example above).

Many mail programs accept wordprocessing documents as attachments to a mail message, but use some encoding scheme (BinHex, uuencode, MIME, etc.) to convert the binary wordprocessing document (with embedded formatting codes) to a form that can be transmitted with your message. Assume that the receiving mail software is different from what you use and cannot decode attached documents. Assume that the receiving wordprocessor cannot convert the format of your wordprocessor.

All submissions will be acknowledged; by e-mail, if e-mail address is given, or by post. If no acknowledgment is received in a reasonable time, please make inquiries. Note that 70% of abstracts are received within 3-4 days of the deadline, so make some allowances at that time.

REGISTRATION FORM - Third North American Ornithological Conference -
ONE FORM PER PERSON
New Orleans, 24 - 28 September 2002 -- Hotel InterContinental
Registration also by FAX (504) 280-7317 or online (preferred) at http://conferences.uno.edu.

NAME and AFFILIATION: Please complete for nametag purposes
Full Name _____
Affiliation: _____
Mailing Address: _____
_____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____ e-mail: _____
SPOUSE/GUEST, full name for badge _____
I will be staying at the following hotel/campsite: _____

REGISTRATION FEE Please register early. Student registration requires copy of student ID enclosed and ID presented at on-site check-in. Refunds until 29 Aug 2002 (minus 20% processing fee). After 18 Sep, please register on-site.

Postmarked by 3 May	Postmarked from 4 May and on-site
_____ $200 Early Bird Member	_____ $250 Late Member
_____ $100 Early Bird Student	_____ $150 Late Student
_____ $100 Nonmember Spouse/Guest	_____ $150 Late Spouse/Guest
_____ $100 Partial (Fri/Sat only)	_____ $150 Late Partial (Fri/Sat only)

SOCIAL EVENTS (for details on food and beverages please see page 5)

Tuesday, 24 September	No. people	Amount	
No-host Dinner for AOU Council, Fellows, other society officers, and guests ONLY, @ local restaurant	x _____		Pay on-site
Opening Reception B Aquarium of the Americas	x _____		No Charge!
Wednesday, 25 September			
Poster Session/Wine and Cheese Reception	x _____		No Charge!
Thursday, 26 September			
Mid-Conference Picnic & Party, House of Blues	x _____		No Charge!
Friday, 27 September			
Poster Session/Louisiana Dessert Reception	x _____		No Charge!
All-Out Ostrich 5k Run ($10 donation collected at run)	x _____		
Saturday, 28 September			
Closing ceremonies and Banquet @ $50/person	x _____		$ _____
Student competing for Presentation Award	x _____		No Charge!

Indicate main dish selection: ____ Louisiana crab cake; ____ prime rib (default); ____ vegetarian

Mail this form with payment to University of New Orleans@ for Registration fees/activities to:
UNO Conference Services - NAOC 2002, Metropolitan College, New Orleans, LA 70148-9999
OR: PO No. _____
OR: Charge fee to credit card: ___ VISA; ___ MasterCard; ____ American Express
card number: _____ expiration date: _____
Name printed on the credit card _____
cardholder signature _____

Please specify any special needs for the conference by 1 Aug (sign interpreter, Braille program, large print, mobility/accessibility, dietary).

CANADIAN BIRD-RELATED THESES ABSTRACTS

Vennesland, R. G. 2000. The effects of disturbance from humans and predators on the breeding decisions and productivity of the Great Blue Heron in south-coastal British Columbia, MSc. Thesis, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Ross Vennesland: rgv@sfu.ca

The effects of disturbances from humans and predators were studied at 35 Great Blue Heron breeding colonies in south-coastal British Columbia from 1998 to 1999. Heron breeding productivity was the lowest reported to date in North America, and has probably declined since 1971 due to increased breeding abandonment. Levels of human and Bald Eagle activity in this region have increased over the past half-century. Productivity in the Fraser Valley was the highest of all regions, and might have offset the significantly lower productivity of the Sunshine Coast and Vancouver Island. Variation in productivity across the study area was due primarily to breeding abandonment. In 1999, breeding abandonment occurred in 58.5% of 1247 breeding attempts, and 42% of 31 colonies were totally abandoned. Breeding abandonment accounted for 96% of the variation in productivity among colonies, and was due to eagle disturbance and, to a lesser degree, human disturbance. Colony productivity was negatively and significantly related to eagle disturbance and human pedestrian activity. Herons abandoned breeding due to real and perceived threats of disturbance from eagles and humans. Productivity increased significantly with colony size due to a higher frequency of breeding abandonment at small colonies compared to large colonies, and productivity was significantly lower late in the breeding season than early in the season due to breeding abandonment.

Herons significantly increased their level of nest defense against the approach of the investigator through the breeding season. My study is the first to show experimentally that herons habituate to non-threatening human activity near breeding areas through the breeding season. The level of response varied significantly among colonies, indicating different perceptions of risk, and varied significantly with the level of urbanization near colonies. Restrictive buffer zones around colony sites are recommended to reduce human disturbance of breeding herons. A calculated set-back distance of 165m should protect heron colonies from pedestrian disturbance. However, set-backs will not reduce the impact of stronger disturbances, from either humans or eagles. I hypothesize that increasing disturbance of breeding herons in south-coastal BC will result in a redistribution of herons among colonies, such that fitness benefits become equalized among breeding sites.

R. G. Vennesland

GREAT BLUE HERONS

Stevens, C. E. 2001. An experimental study of faunal communities in Prince Edward Island. MSc. Thesis. ACWERN, U. of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB.

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The landscape of Prince Edward Island (PEI) has been heavily modified since European settlement. In addition,

poor soil structure, cultivation of steep slopes, and use of row crops result in high soil erosion. Erosion on agricultural field averages 20 tons/ha/ yr in PEI, and most eroded soil accumulates in nearby aquatic ecosystems, such as small wetlands. It is well documented that small wetlands are important habitat for wildlife. Thus in 1990, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan implemented a small wetland restoration program in PEI to enhance the landscape for waterfowl. Wetlands were restored by means of dredging accumulated sediment from erosion to create open water and emulate pre-disturbance conditions. In 1998 and 1999, I compared avian community patterns on 22 restored and 24 reference wetlands as part of a study examining the wildlife response to wetland dredging (see also Stevens et al., in press)

In this study, restored wetlands were dredged two to seven years prior to surveys. The proportion of each restored wetland dredged varied from 30 to 95 %. Using information from a 1990 pre-restoration wetland inventory, I chose reference (i.e. control) wetlands within the range of pre-management characteristics of restored wetlands. All wetlands were freshwater and small (approximately 0.3 to 6 ha).

Bird surveys were conducted using songbird point counts, a waterfowl 'beat-out' method, and a playback-response technique aimed at secretive marsh birds (e.g. Virginia rail). To properly examine differences in community structure, I devised a list of wetland obligate birds using the 'Delphi Approach' and published information for each species. To assess the effect of wetland restoration on the bird community, I used ANOVA and several community measures (i.e. species richness, Simpson's diversity index, and PCA site scores from ordinations of bird density as measures of community composition).

Eighty-seven species were recorded on small wetlands in PEI. However, analyses were restricted to 22 wetland obligate bird species recorded more than once during both years. The swamp sparrow was the most abundant species, followed by the common yellowthroat, red-winged blackbird, American black duck, and sora.

Simpson's index of diversity was significantly higher on restored versus reference wetlands; whereas species richness was not significantly different between the two wetland types. Principal component analysis revealed five bird communities on small wetlands. Two communities consisted of waterfowl and non-waterfowl species; however only the tree swallow, American black duck, blue-winged teal, and belted kingfisher community was more frequent on restored wetlands than on reference wetlands. All species in this community are typically associated with open water. Two bird communities were composed entirely of non-waterfowl species: a swamp sparrow and sharp-tailed sparrow community, and a common yellowthroat, common snipe, northern waterthrush and palm warbler community. Neither community was more frequent on restored versus reference wetlands. Rather, evidence suggests that restoration of wetlands adjacent to a salt marsh estuary or of peatland/shrub wetlands may be detrimental to non-waterfowl bird communities. For example, the northern waterthush and palm warbler are associated with vegetative cover that typically dominates natural shrub and peatland wetlands in PEI.

C. Stevens

BLUE-WINGED TEAL

In summary, diversity of wetland obligate bird species and occurrence of an open marsh bird community was higher on restored versus reference wetlands. Wetland restoration may be beneficial for inland marsh ecosystems and bird communities in PEI. However, I recommend additional research on reproductive success in restored wetlands, and on local population trends to determine if management is creating additive habitat for wetland birds.

Stevens, C. E., T. S. Gabor, and A. W. Diamond. Use of restored small wetlands by breeding waterfowl in Prince Edward Island, Canada. Restoration Ecology (in press).

Blight, L. K. 2000. Egg neglect and its implications for egg predation in the Rhinoceros Auklet (*Cerorhinca monocerata*). MSc. Thesis. Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

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Depredation of island-nesting seabirds by introduced vertebrates is a conservation problem world wide, particularly as marine birds have generally evolved in the absence of terrestrial predators. In contrast, at island colonies where seabirds have co-evolved with native predators, the evolution of defensive behaviours is expected. For breeding seabirds, the primary predation risk is often incurred by their eggs and chicks.

For my thesis research, I studied egg predation and parental incubation behaviour in Rhinoceros Auklets (*Cerorhinca monocerata*) at the seabird colony on Triangle Island, British Columbia ($51^{0}52'$N, $129^{0}5'$W). Native deer mice (*Peromyscus keeni*) opened and ate the eggs in up to 34% of monitored auklet burrows. I used stable isotope analyses of mice and their potential prey items to determine the role of seabird eggs in rodent diets. δ^{13}C and δ^{15}N values of mouse liver and muscle tissues suggested that for Triangle Island *Peromyscus*, seabird eggs are a primary source of protein during spring and summer.

Although mice can only take eggs when incubating birds are absent, parents often took lengthy recesses (>18h) from their nests. Incidents of parental egg neglect were greater in 1998, a year of poor at-sea food availability, than they were in 1999, indicating that lower food supply may lead to more frequent neglect. Incubation behaviour by breeding Rhinoceros Auklets did not appear to take the risk of egg predation into account, supporting a life history interpretation. In both years of my study, incidents of egg neglect were more frequent early in incubation. Previous research suggests that this pattern tracks the more stringent developmental requirements of older embryos. I experimentally chilled auklet eggs for 48 h either early or late in incubation to test this hypothesis. Hatchability of experimental eggs did not appear to be affected by embryo age at date of chilling. Observed nest attentiveness patterns in Rhinoceros Auklets are thus more likely explained by increasing parental investment in the embryo over time, or as a response to the loss of adult body reserves during courtship and egg formation.

McFarlane-Tranquilla, L. A. 2001. Using multiple methods to describe breeding, stress response, and disturbance of Marbled Murrelets (*Brachyramphus Marmoratus*). MSc. Thesis, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

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I investigated the breeding biology of Marbled Murrelets using (a) vitellogenin (VTG) analyses (b) brood patch (BP) scores (thought to imply incubating adults), and (c) radio telemetry data. VTG analyses allowed description of the 5-month breeding season for Marbled Murrelets, the timing of which did not vary between years (1999-2000). Of the females caught between April to July (the egg-production period), 55% were producing eggs. Using brood patches (BP) to infer reproductive status is an approach that should be used cautiously: 53% Marbled Murrelets caught with fully-developed BP never incubated, and likewise, 50% of fecund, radio-tagged females never incubated (failed incubators?). Of a sample of fecund females, 40% started incubation about 15 days later than expected (delayed incubators?). This suggests large numbers of birds failed to start incubation, for reasons that were not clear. While investigator disturbance explained some cases, seasonal date also had an effect on breeding success.

We detected a seasonal decline in breeding success in Marbled Murrelets, with failed incubators occurring later in the season (by 18 days) than successful incubators, and delayed incubators initiating incubation later (by 24 days) than those not delayed. Thus, while capturing murrelets sometimes affected individual breeding status, later breeders were affected more than earlier breeders. This finding suggests that researchers should aim to capture Marbled Murrelets early in the breeding season.

My investigation of capture effects also included an analysis of the stress response to capture, using corticosterone. Like other birds, Marbled Murrelets reach maximum corticosterone levels at 30 min. Corticosterone increased with mass in females (but not males), suggesting that females are more sensitive to stress when they are heaviest, during egg-production.

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D. McFarlane

YOUNG WILLOW PTARMIGAN

D. McFarlane

HERRING GULL COLONY

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POETRY CORNER:

The Heron by Theodore Roethke

The heron stands in water where the swamp
Has deepened to the blackness of a pool,
Or balances with one leg on a hump
Of marsh grass heaped above a musk-rat hole.

He walks the shallow with an antic grace.
The great feet break the ridges of the sand,
The long eye notes the minnow's hiding place.
His beak is quicker than a human hand.

He jerks a frog across his bony lip,
Then points his heavy bill above the wood.
The wide wings flap but once to lift him up.
A single ripple starts from where he stood.

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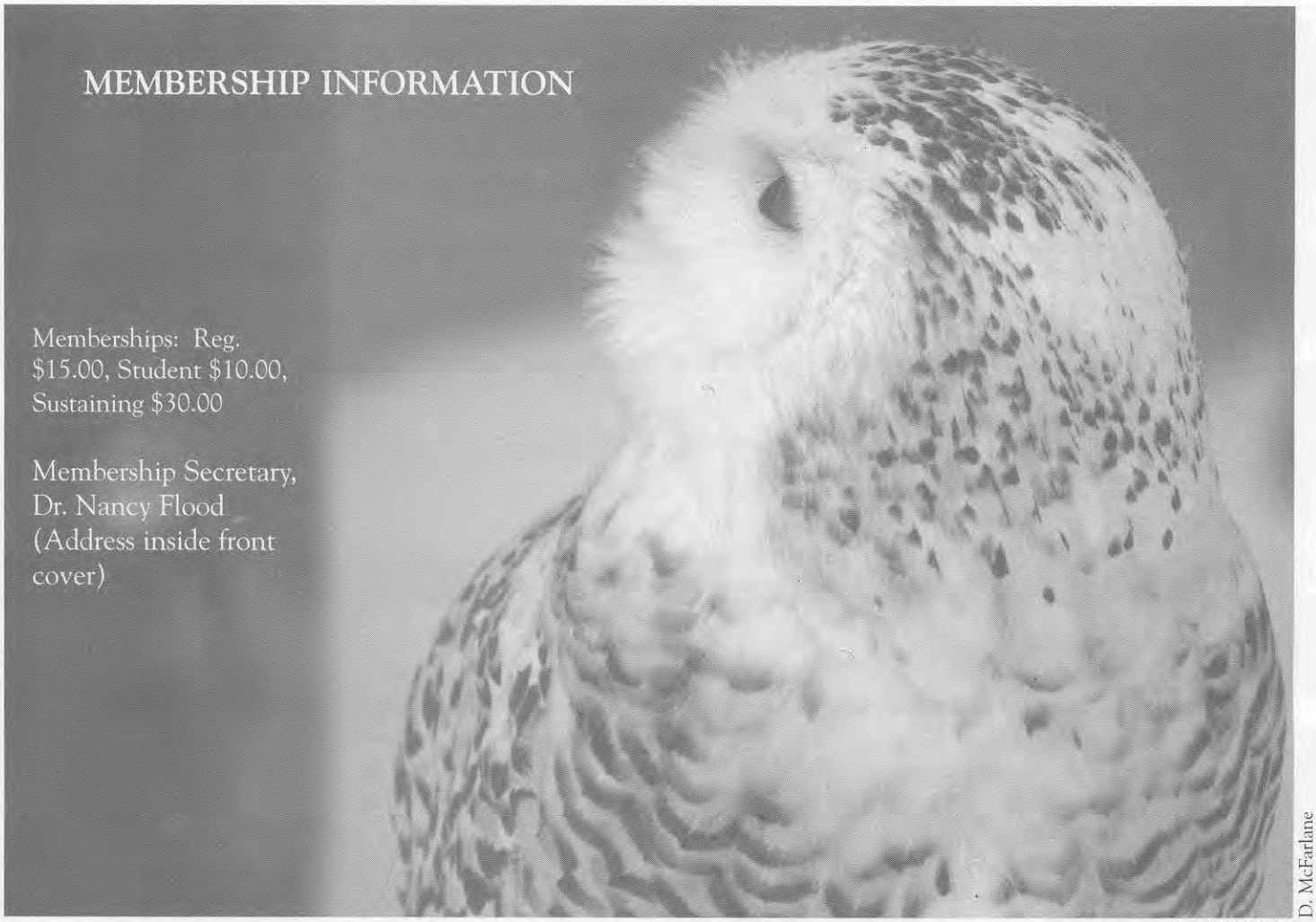

SNOWY OWL D. McFarlane

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