

**SOCIETY OF
CANADIAN
ORNITHOLOGISTS**



**SOCIÉTÉ DES
ORNITHOLOGISTES
DU CANADA**

No. 7. Spring 1984

NEWSLETTER/NOUVELLES

SCO NEWS

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER. Some time ago a contest was announced for choosing a logo for SCO. About a dozen suggestions and sketches were submitted, and after 2 rounds of voting, the clear winner was Black-backed Woodpecker.

This species is distributed widely in Canada, doesn't occur much elsewhere, and is resident in winter. We trust it is these features, rather than the relative obscurity of the bird, that made Council decide on it as an appropriate symbol for the Society.

The Council extends its appreciation to all those who submitted suggestions. The species was put forward by Erica Dunn, and Ross James made the final drawing.

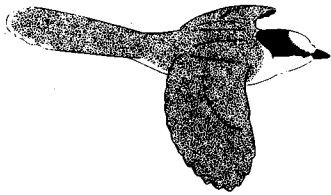
The **NEXT ANNUAL MEETING** of the SCO is to take place in conjunction with the 1984 AOU meeting in Lawrence Kansas, 5 - 10 August.

OFFICERS of the SCO elected for two year terms (1984 and 1985) include M. Ross Lein, President; Spencer G. Sealy, Vice-president; Erica Dunn, Recording Secretary; Ralph D. Morris, Membership Secretary; W. John Richardson, Treasurer; Ross D. James, Newsletter Editor.

ELECTED COUNCILLORS include Glen A. Fox, William W.H. Gunn and John P. Ryder (to retire at the end of 1984), Jon C. Barlow, Jean Bedard and Anthony J. Erskine (retiring 1985), and David N. Nettleship, C. Stuart Houston and Nicholas A.M. Verbeek (retiring 1986).

IN THE FIRST year of existence, the Society of Canadian Ornithologists attracted 212 members, of which 55 chose to elect Founding Member status through a one-time payment of \$50.00. The first call for 1984 Membership payment of dues went out in the late fall NEWSLETTER of 1983 and to date, 161 individuals have paid their 1984 dues of \$5.00. The opportunity to relate news of people, positions available, meetings and other items of interest to the membership, by attaching such items to renewal forms, proved moderately successful and the content of this NEWSLETTER reflects that response. The list of founding members includes: J. C. Barlow, J. Bedard, G.M. Bennett, A. Boag, R.G.B. Brown, J.P. Coey, J.L. Cranmer-Byng, R.L. Curry, A. Cyr, E.H. Dunn, A. Dzubin, R.D. Elliot, A.J. Erskine C. D. Fowle, G.A. Fox, C. Gratto, P.W. Hicklin, H. A. Hochbaum, G. Holroyd, C.S. Houston, D. Hussell, C. Hyslop, S.R. Johnson, J.A. Keast, L. Dek. Lawrence, M.R. Lein, V. Lewin, H.G. Lumsden, C.D. Macinnes, D.I. Mackenzie, D.A. Maclulich, T.H. Manning, W.C. Mansell, M.P. Marklevitz, M. McLaren, A.L.A. Middleton, P. Mineau, L.W. Oliphant, J.B. E. O'Malley, C.D. Orr, H. Ouellet, J.R. Overell, W.J. Richardson, M.E. Riske, R.J. Robertson, J.P. Ryder, D.M. Scott, S.G. Sealy, D.M. Secoy, A. Skeel, D.H. Speirs, P.H.R. Stepney, D.V. Weseloh, I.L. Weston, F.C. Zwickel

XIX CONGRESSUS
INTERNATIONALIS
ORNITHOLOGICUS



Secretary General's Report

Since the last issue of the newsletter, a great deal of action has taken place. The Scientific Program Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Bruce Falls is working hard on establishing the scientific program and in selecting symposia and conveners. The program will be finalized during the next few months, prior to the publication of the final circular in January 1985.

You should all have received by now a copy of the 1st circular and provisional registration form. Should it not have reached you, please let me know and I will be glad to send you another one.

You will notice in particular that the Pre- and Post-Congress Excursions Committee, under the leadership of the co-chairman Drs. Raleigh Robertson and Phil Stephney has accomplished a wonderful job in assembling and selecting a fascinating excursion program. They deserve much credit.

The Local Committee under Roger Taylor has added several new members: Ms. Iola Price, Drs. Roger Titman, Jean Vaillancourt, David Bird, Frank Bell, J. Pickman, Robert Lemon, Vic Solman, and Steve Wendt. This committee has met on a few occasions to date and has generated several ideas for various activities during the Congress. A plan for early morning bird walks has been developed and is very exciting. It should appeal to a large number of people. Other activities and details should be available for the next newsletter.

Dr. Jean Bedard, Chairman of the Art Exhibit Committee, has informed me of his wishes to resign; I regretfully accepted Jean's resignation and thank him for the efforts he had put in the committee and the ideas he has generated. Mr. Peter Buerschaper of the Royal Ontario Museum has accepted to chair this committee. A progress report will be given in the next newsletter. At this stage, some exciting plans are being considered and funding sought for exhibitions.

Dr. Ross D. James of the Royal Ontario Museum has accepted to co-ordinate the Committee on Museum Visits, before and after the Congress.

An Editorial Committee for the Proceedings (Acta) of the congress is being formed and its first task will be to provide guidelines and deadlines to contributors for symposia and abstracts of contributed papers and posters.

The National Organization Committee is planning a meeting in the fall. Should you have any points to be discussed or brought to the attention of the committee, do not hesitate to let me know, so that these matters can be discussed and reported upon in the newsletter.

The Scientific Film Committee has not been formed yet but will be in place in a few weeks as its work will start with the definition of the guidelines for film submission as they will appear in the next circular. This committee will have an important task because the film program is always popular at International Ornithological Congresses.

In the meantime, the Secretary General is still looking around for additional funding and any suggestions will be welcome.--Henri Ouellet.

RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROJET D'UN ATLAS des oiseaux nicheurs du Quebec. Service canadien de la faune, region du Quebec se propose de decrire precisement la distribution des oiseaux qui nichent sur le territoire du Quebec.

Pour de plus amples renseignements concernant ces modalites de participation, contactez: Service canadien de la faune, a/s Jean Gauthier ou Yves Aubry, 1141, route de l'Eglise, C.P. 10100, 9ieme etage, Saint-Foy (Quebec) G1V 4H5. Tel.: (418)694-3914.

The SASKATCHEWAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (SNHS) has received a grant from the provincial government for work on the new Saskatchewan Bird Atlas. SCO members passing through Saskatchewan in the summer and wishing to help out on field work may contact: Al Smith, CWS, Prairie Migratory Bird Research Centre, 115 Perimeter Rd., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4, (306)665-4091, or C.I.A. Adam, 2636 Argyle St., Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0K1, (306)584-9564.

Those able to assist with atlas projects in other provinces should contact: Alberta: A.N. Wisely, #102, 635 56th Ave., S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2V 0G9. Maritimes: D. Christie, R.R. #1 Albert, New Brunswick E0A 1A0.

Ontario: M. Cadman, c/o Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2W8.

GRANTS are available from Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources to Saskatchewan students who are conducting graduate studies on threatened or endangered wildlife species or on game species in Saskatchewan. Studies must be approved by Saskatchewan Wildlife Branch before grants are issued. For information contact: Wayne Pepper, Chief of Program Development, Wildlife Branch, Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources, 3211 Albert St., Regina S4S 5W6.

Two (2) ALFRED B. KELLY ORNITHOLOGICAL SCHOLARSHIPS valued at \$500 apiece are available annually from the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, Inc. to post-graduate student working on Quebec birds, regardless of place of residence. Selections will be based on the merit of both the applicant and his/her project, as well as need. Holders of major scholarships and bursaries do not qualify. For application forms, please write to: Dr. David M. Bird, PQSPB Education Committee, P.O. Box 210, Macdonald College of McGill University, 21,111 Lakeshore Road, Ste-Anne de Bellevue, Quebec H9X 1C0, Canada. The deadline for completed applications is May 31, 1984 and applicants will be notified by June 30, 1984.

MEETINGS

The 5th North American SNOW GOOSE SYMPOSIUM and Workshop will be held in Quebec City, 4 - 7 October 1984. Despite the restriction in the title, the organization committee of the workshop will accept papers dealing with the biology and/or management of northern geese in general (Brant, White-Front and northern forms of Canada Geese), not just Snow Geese. The emphasis will be placed upon workshop sessions and on the discussion of ongoing research. For information: Dr. J. Bedard, Departement de biologie, Faculte des sciences et de genie, Universite Laval, Quebec, Que., Canada G1K 7P4.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Brian O'MALLEY at U. of Calgary is currently studying song dialects in disjunct populations of 5 passerines in the Cypress Hills, relative to the "main" populations, as part of a Ph.D. programme at the U. of Calgary.

(Ruby-crowned Kinglets, MacGillivray's Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco.)

Dr. Rick WISHART - recently promoted to Provincial Biologist for Manitoba office of Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Gary STEWART - of Ducks Unlimited Canada in New Brunswick promoted to Provincial Biologist for the Alberta office.

Dr. Terry NERAASEN of Ducks Unlimited Canada recently became Provincial manager of the Manitoba office.

Dan KOZLOVIC is looking at breeding biology and morphometrics of House Finches in two populations, the colonizing population in the Niagara Region, Ontario, and the parent population in southern California, for a Masters Programme at Brock University.

Robert ALVO is studying productivity of Common Loons on acid-stressed lakes for a masters programme at Trent University, Peterborough, and in conjunction with Long Point Bird Observatory, Port Rowan, Ontario.

Kevin TEATHER completed his M.Sc. on "Female spacing patterns and factors influencing the diversity of mating systems in Brown-headed Cowbirds" - Queen's University.

Mike STUDD completed his M.Sc. on "Patterns of plumage variation, territoriality, and parental investment in yellow warblers" - Queen's University.

Andrew HURLY completed his M.Sc. thesis on "Female competition in Red-winged Blackbirds" - Queen's University.

Iola PRICE is the Coordinator of the Canadian Wildlife Service's Latin American Program. This program is designed to improve the conservation of birds shared with Latin American countries. The current emphasis is on the conduct of joint projects, mostly with Latin American wildlife agencies, relating to conservation, habitat, hunting pressure, pesticides and their effects on migratory birds.

Reed BOWMAN is in his second year of his M.Sc., investigating mate replacement in wild American Kestrels. Initial results support an adaptive strategy to replacement, but also suggest other factors influence it. A second field season will investigate the effect of prey availability and female body condition on mate replacement - Macdonald College.

S. SOBKOWIAK is an M.Sc. candidate in his 2nd year at Macdonald College. He is examining the behavioural effects of American Coot predation by Great Black-backed Gulls in North Carolina, i.e. coot flocking behaviour, defensive strategies, and predation mortality.

S. OLPINSKI has spent 32 weeks in 1982-83 studying the breeding ecology of Rock Ptarmigan at Baie Deception Quebec (62°N, 47°W). Questions concerning female spacing behaviour, reproductive strategies for polygynous vs. monogamous bondings, and nest habitat selection were developed. Ptarmigan being an

important food for local Inuit, the questions addressed have both theoretical and practical value in light of proposed hydroelectric development in the study area, Stas is now in the writing stage - Macdonald College.

Ruth STODDART is undertaking her M.Sc. degree using time-activity budgets compiled from observations of captive Blue-winged Teal. Many species must spend large amounts of energy in order to maintain territories. This may cause a concurrent decrease in other costly activities. Male Blue-winged Teal defend exclusive territories for their mates during the breeding season. Thus, it has been hypothesized that activity and energy devoted to aggressive defense of a territory in Blue-winged Teal will be conservative, provided that it ensures exclusive access to a mate and a nesting site - Macdonald College.

Jim DUNCAN is in his second year of his M.Sc. at Macdonald College. He is examining mate choice in captive American kestrels, specifically whether they avoid mating with siblings. Of 27 tests where females were given choices between siblings and strangers, 8 females chose siblings, 11 chose non-siblings, and 8 made no choice. The experiment will be replicated in the summer of 1984.

Dr. Richard ELLIOT joined Canadian Wildlife Service - Atlantic Region 1 Dec. 83. He is stationed in St. John's, Nfld., where he will be studying particularly factors causing mortality to Murres (including hunting, oil, fish-nets).

Ian GONDIE, also of CWS-AR in St. John's, Nfld., has returned to Univ. of Western Ontario, where he is completing his M.Sc. studies on feeding ecology of sea ducks around southeast Newfoundland.

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

P.A. TAVERNER (1875-1947). I am writing an account of the career of Percy Taverner as an ornithologist. His official correspondence, while he was head of Ornithology at the National Museum of Canada (1911-1942), is preserved in Ottawa, but material on his early life before 1911 is scarce, and so also is information about his home life at any time. I particularly want to gain insights into his character/personality through impressions and anecdotes either of those who knew him personally, or from the reports of others which have been preserved. I shall be very grateful for any information which members may send me. John L. Cranmer-Byng, 190 Glengrove Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4R 1P3.

SHOREBIRD COUNTS anywhere in the Americas are needed to complement information gathered by the International Shorebird Survey (ISS) which is working on an atlas of shorebird distribution. Single or multiple counts of all shorebirds at a particular site from field trips or research projects will help. Please contact ISS at Manomet Bird Observatory, Box 936, Manomet, MA 02345, for further information.

THE CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, Pacific and Yukon Region, has marked 60 female and 16 male Barrow's Goldeneyes with nasal disks to study the breeding and winter ecology of the species. All birds were marked as breeding adults near Riske Creek in central British Columbia in 1982 and 1983. Six shapes of disks were used (square, triangle, ellipse, circle, y, and cross) and four colors (red, yellow, white, blue). If you see a marked bird please report sex, date,

location, and if possible the shape and color of the nasal disk to Jean-Pierre Savard, Canadian Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 340, Delta, B.C. V4K 3Y3.

INFORMATION DESIRED about any research in progress on Gray Jays in Canada. Please contact Robert Curry, Division of Biological Sciences, Natural Science Bldg., Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA 48109-1048.

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, Ontario Region, is continuing its program of color-marking Common Terns at two colonies in the lower Great Lakes to determine their post-breeding dispersal, migration routes and winter range.

In 1981 adults were marked with orange wing-tags and chicks with pink tags. Tags were put on both wings of all birds. All tags had combinations of letters and numbers (the two tags on any bird each had the same combination). In addition, all birds received a metal legband on one leg and a plastic legband (yellow with a black horizontal stripe) on the other leg.

In 1982 many of the adult tagged birds returned to their colonies still carrying their tags. The tagged birds appeared fit and nested normally. Most tags were still clearly legible and showed little wear. In 1982 bright blue wing tags (with black lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and black tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks just prior to fledging.

In 1983 many terns tagged in 1981 and 1982 were back at their colonies. In that year red wing tags (with yellow lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and green tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks.

When you observe a tagged tern would you please report the date, location, color of the tag, and, if possible, the number/letter combination to: Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service, Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7. All reports will be acknowledged.

HOUSE FINCHES, adults and nestlings, are being banded in the St. Catharines area to determine demographics of a colonizing species. Each individual receives one aluminum band plus two to three coloured plastic leg bands in different permutations. Sequence (top/bottom) and leg (left/right) are significant. Observations of banded birds should be sent to Dr. Richard Knapton, Dept. of Bio. Sciences, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario L2S 3A1.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

STUDENTS interested in graduate work on avian population ecology and mating systems: I am working on a long-term project on population regulation in willow ptarmigan in the Yukon and have openings for graduate students. Other research interests include the evolution of monogamy in black-billed magpies and tree sparrows and comparative mating systems of grouse. If interested write to S.J. Hannon, Dept. of Zoology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E9.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS for swallow nesting ecology project, summer 1984. Watch nesting activity at swallow colonies in remote forested Rocky Mountains of Alberta (June - August, \$840.00/month). Room and board available in modern lodge but some field work will include remote camping. Send vitae stressing ecological field experience and list of ecology/behaviour course to Rick Zammuto, Kananaskis Centre for Environmental Research, The University of Calgary, Seebe, Alberta T0L 1X0. Phone 403-284-5355 or 403-673-3662.

TWO GRADUATE positions available for students wishing to enter an M.Sc. program in the fall of 1984. Projects include behavioural/ecological studies of Common Terns, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls. The principal study location is in Lake Erie, offshore from Port Colborne, Ontario (about 25 miles from Brock University). A full complement of equipment including boats, portable blinds and various telemetric monitoring devices is available. Please consider applying. Send a current C.V., transcript, names of 3 referees and your initial ideas concerning a research program to: Ralph D. Morris, Department of Biological Sciences, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario L2S 3A1.

LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY seeks several qualified assistants for its 1984 migration monitoring program. Field identification ability is essential; banding and mist-netting experience preferred. Living expenses are paid. Applicants must be available for at least one month. More information is available from David Shepherd, Migration Program Manager, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, NOE 1M0 (519-586-2909).

PUBLICATIONS

Theses

- Beaver, R.D. 1980. Breeding behaviour of White Pelicans in the Birch Mountains, Northeastern Alberta. M.Sc. U. of Alberta, Edmonton.
- Brechtel, S.H. 1983. The reproductive ecology of Double-crested Cormorants in southern Alberta. M.S. U. of Alberta. Edmonton.
- Dale, B.C. 1983. Habitat relationships of seven species of passerine birds at Last Mountain Lake, Saskatchewan. U. of Regina.
- Holroyd, G.L. 1983. Foraging strategies and food of a Swallow Guild Ph.D. U. of Toronto.
- Cartar, R.V. 1983. Incubation behavior of white-rumped sandpipers (Calidris fuscicollis): the influence of weather. M.Sc. Queen's U., Kingston, Ont.
- Domarchuk, M.A. 1983. Foraging preferences and inflorescence visitation patterns of ruby-throated hummingbirds. B.Sc. Queen's U.
- McLaughlin, R.L. 1983. Behaviour of lapland longspurs (Calcarius lapponicus) feeding nestlings: Tests of central place models for flight and foraging. M.Sc. Queen's U.
- Reid, M.L. 1983. Nest defense behavior of Baird's Sandpipers. B.Sc. Queen's U.

Theses from studies at Delta, Manitoba

- Afton, D. 1983. Male and female strategies for reproduction in lesser scaup. Ph.D. U. of North Dakota, Grand Forks.
- Alisauskas, T. 1982. Nutrient reserves and the bioenergetics of reproduction in American coots. M.S. U. of Western Ontario, London.
- Austin, E. 1983. Postbreeding ecology of female lesser scaup. M.S. U. of Missouri.
- Bailey, O. 1981. The postbreeding ecology of the redhead duck (Aythya americana) on Long Island Bay, Lake Winnipegosis, Manitoba. Ph.D. McGill U., Montreal.
- Diirro, W. 1982. Effects of burning and mowing on seasonal whitetop ponds in southern Manitoba. M.S. Iowa State U.
- Lightbody, J.P. 1982. A comparison of the growth rates and mode of development of the canvasback (Aythya valisineria) and the lesser scaup (Aythya affinis). M.S. U. of Western Ontario.

- Murkin, H.R. 1983. Responses by aquatic macroinvertebrates to prolonged flooding of marsh habitat. Ph.D. Utah State U.
- Nelson, A.M. 1983. Patterns of pothole usage by foraging diving ducks in parkland habitat, southwestern Manitoba. M.Sc. U. of Manitoba.
- Nelson, J.W. 1982. Effects of varying detrital nutrient concentrations on macroinvertebrate abundance and biomass. M.S. Utah State U.
- Rhymer, J.M. 1982. Effect of egg weight and reneating on thermoregulatory ability and growth of mallard ducklings. M.S. U. of Manitoba, Winnipeg.
- Wishart, R.A. 1983. The behavioral ecology of the American wigeon (Anas americana) over its annual cycle. Ph.D. U. of Manitoba.
- Staples-Bortner, S.E. 1984. The influence of territoriality on behavior and reproduction of northern shovelers (Anas clypeata). M.S. Cornell U., Ithaca, N.Y.

MISCELLANEOUS

INTERNATIONAL BALD EAGLE MANAGEMENT - Saskatchewan was one of several provinces that participated in 1983 in the bald eagle restoration program of the new England states. Saskatchewan gave twelve eaglets to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, which successfully released the birds from "hacking" towers built for that purpose.

In preparation for the capture effort, Pennsylvania funded a late May survey of the dense bald eagle breeding population on the lower Churchill River. The survey revealed that the population has not changed in size since it was investigated in 1973-74.

Young eagles were removed from successful nests in late June under provincial supervision. At least one young bird was left in each nest visited. The captured birds were crated and flown to Pennsylvania by chartered aircraft, many being placed in the release facilities within 48 hours of their acquisition in Saskatchewan.

This relocation work may continue, as Pennsylvania has expressed interest in obtaining all the birds for its multi-year program, from Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan bald eagle population numbers in the thousands and can easily sustain the annual removal of a dozen young-of-the-year. - S. Barber.

COSEWIC - Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada - at its annual meeting in April of 1984 assigned status to five additional bird species: Prothonotary Warbler, Barn Owl and Eastern Bluebird as rare, Henslow's Sparrow as threatened and Bald Eagle as Not in Any Category. This brings to 27 the number of bird species for which status reports have been prepared and status assigned. With the exception of reports for Bald Eagle and Eastern Bluebird, where additional information is to be included, all status reports are or will soon be available at cost. For a list of prices contact Nature Canada, 75 Elgin St. Ottawa K1P 6G1.

The full list of bird species includes: Red-necked Grebe, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Trumpeter Swan, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Gyrfalcon, Prairie Falcon, Greater Prairie Chicken, Whooping Crane, Greater Sandhill Crane, Piping Plover, Eskimo Curlew, Ivory Gull, Ross' Gull, Caspian Tern, Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl, Great Gray Owl, Eastern Bluebird, Kirtland's Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Ipswich Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow.

Items for the autumn newsletter should be in the hands of the editor by 15 October. R.D. JAMES, Dept. Ornithology, ROM, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto M5S 2C6.