# PICOIDES

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Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*). // Paruline à collier. Photo: Brock and/et Sherri Fenton.

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# Editors' Message

*Rob Warnock and Barbara Bleho*

Welcome to the first issue of *Picoides* in 2025. We hope everyone had a great holiday season and start of the year.

In Daneille Ethier's latest President's Message, she encourages SCO-SOC members to renew their membership through the Zeffy platform and volunteer for committees and initiatives including for the upcoming SCO-SOC conference in Saskatoon in August 2025. SCO-SOC is also looking for more conference sponsors. Check out the conference notice on page 16.

We congratulate Dan Mennill for receiving the 2024 Jamie Smith Award for Mentoring. It is well-deserved. The award citation is on page 3. There are several interesting articles in this issue. They include research summaries of the 2024 Student Research Award recipients: Connor Acorn (Discovery), Rebecca Jardine (Fred Cooke), Alysha Riquier (Taverner) and Nelsy Niño Rodríguez (Taverner). Other items in the issue include a summary of a newly published monograph on Golden Eagle banding and ecology on the Canadian prairies honouring the late Stuart Houston and the late Robert Fyfe, an article on aggressive starling behaviour and a Glenn Sutherland poem about Nighthawks. And of course, the latest *Avian Conservation and Ecology* Table of Contents is included in the issue. Check them all out!

The next *Picoides* deadline is May 15, 2025. We look forward to your next submission, especially from students and bird labs. Without submissions, there is no *Picoides*. We also welcome your feedback as it is your publication, and we wish everyone a safe spring!

## *FRANÇAIS—Message des éditeurs – Rob Warnock et Barbara Bleho*

Bienvenue dans le premier numéro de 2025 de *Picoides*. Nous espérons que vous avez tous a passé d'excellentes fêtes de fin d'année et un bon début d'année

Dans son plus récent message, Danielle Ethier encourage les membres de la SOC-SCO à renouveler leur adhésion par le biais de la plateforme Zeffy ainsi qu'à se porter volontaires au sein de nos comités et initiatives, notamment pour la prochaine conférence de la SOC-SCO qui se tiendra à Saskatoon en août 2025. La SOC-SCO est également à la recherche de nouveaux sponsors pour la conférence. Consultez l'avis de conférence à la page 16.

Nous félicitons Dan Mennill d'avoir reçu le prix Jamie Smith 2024 de mentorat. Cette distinction est bien méritée. La description de ce prix se trouve à la page 4. Ce numéro contient plusieurs articles intéressants. Notamment, vous y retrouverez les résumés de recherche des lauréats des bourses de recherche pour étudiants 2024: Connor Acorn (Découverte), Rebecca Jardine (Fred Cooke), Alysha Riquier (Taverner) et Nelsy Niño Rodríguez (Taverner). Ce numéro contient également le résumé d'une monographie récemment publiée sur le baguage et l'écologie de l'aigle de royal dans les prairies canadiennes, en hommage à feu Stuart Houston et à feu Robert Fyfe, un article sur le comportement agressif de l'étourneau sansonnet et un poème de Glenn Sutherland sur l'engoulevent d'Amérique. Bien entendu, la table des matières de la dernière édition du journal *Avian Conservation and Ecology* est incluse dans le numéro. Jetez-y un coup d'œil!

La prochaine date limite de soumission pour *Picoides* est le 15 mai 2025. Nous espérons pouvoir y lire votre prochain article, en particulier ceux d'étudiants et de laboratoires ornithologiques. Sans soumissions, il n'y a pas de *Picoides*. Nous vous invitons également à nous faire part de vos commentaires puisqu'il s'agit de votre publication, et nous vous souhaitons à tous un bon printemps!

**Follow SCO on social media for news, exciting research, updates from members, and more!**
**Suivez SOC pour faire le plein de nouvelles, de recherche passionnante, des mises à jour de nos membres, et plus!**

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# President's Message

*Danielle Ethier*

Happy New Year to all our members! I hope 2025 is off to a great start and that as the winter melts away into Spring you are getting excited for the return of the birds and upcoming field season.

It is time to renew your SCO membership, if you haven't already. Our new membership portal, supported by Zeffy, is easy to use for making payments and donations to the society. Memberships are good for the calendar year and will give you access to student awards and a discount on conference registration, among other membership benefits. Membership can be renewed online by following this link or scanning the QR code.

Conference planning for 2025 is well underway. We will be hosting a standalone conference from August 13-16 at the University of Saskatoon. The theme of this year's conference is "Under Our Wings: Avian Conservation and Ecology in a Changing World," which is in celebration of Avian Conservation and Ecology's 20-year anniversary – a joint publication between Birds Canada and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists. A personal "Thank you!" to everyone that is helping with conference planning, and to our conference sponsors. If you wish to become a sponsor, please contact me directly.

Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back to SCO? Consider becoming a member of a committee. We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to support SCO initiatives. Being on a committee is a great way to meet new people and build your experience. We have immediate openings on the Elections and Fundraising Committees.

## *FRANÇAIS— Message de la présidente – Danielle Ethier*

Bonne année à tous nos membres! J'espère que 2025 a bien commencé et qu'au fur et à mesure que l'hiver se transforme en printemps, vous vous avez hâte au retour des oiseaux et à la prochaine saison de travail sur le terrain.

Il est temps de renouveler votre adhésion à la SOC si vous ne l'avez pas encore fait. Notre nouveau portail d'adhésion, soutenu par Zeffy, est facile à utiliser pour effectuer des paiements et des dons à la société. Les adhésions sont valables pour l'année civile et vous donnent accès aux prix étudiants et à une réduction sur l'inscription à la conférence, entre autres avantages. L'adhésion peut être renouvelée en ligne en suivant ce lien ou en scannant le code QR.

La planification de la conférence de 2025 va bon train. Nous organisons cette conférence indépendante du 13 au 16 août à l'Université de Saskatoon. Le thème de la conférence de cette année est « Sous nos ailes: La conservation et l'écologie aviaires dans un monde en évolution », pour célébrer le 20ème anniversaire de *Avian Conservation and Ecology*, une publication conjointe d'Oiseaux Canada et de la Société des Ornithologistes du Canada. Un grand merci à tous ceux qui participent à l'organisation de la conférence, ainsi qu'à nos sponsors. Si vous souhaitez devenir un commanditaire, veuillez me contacter directement.

Cherchez-vous une façon significative de rendre service à la SOC? Envisagez de devenir membre d'un comité. Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de bénévoles enthousiastes pour soutenir les initiatives de la SCO. Faire partie d'un comité est un excellent moyen de rencontrer de nouvelles personnes et d'acquérir de l'expérience. Nous avons des postes à pourvoir dans le comité des élections et le comité de collecte de fonds.

# 2024 SCO-SOC Award Recipients

## Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award – Dan Mennill

The Jamie Smith Memorial Award for Mentoring is one of the top honours of the Society and recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the fledging of new generations of Canadian ornithologists. Nominees are ranked based on their commitment to fostering achievement among their students and peers and demonstrating the importance of mentoring in their professional life. On behalf of the Jamie Smith Committee, who also consisted of Theresa Burg, Tony Gaston, Kara Lefebre and Oliver Love, I am pleased to announce that the 2024 award is being presented to Dan Mennill. The following summary has been summarized from the nomination letter of Camille Rondeau Saint-Jean, a former student of Dr. Mennill, as well as other letter-writers, and we are grateful for her summary of some of Dr. Mennill's lengthy career.

*-Kyle Elliott, Chair of Jamie Smith Mentoring Award Committee.*

Dr. Dan Mennill is widely regarded as an exceptional mentor, known for his unparalleled dedication to the academic and personal growth of his students. His compassion and understanding create a supportive environment, as highlighted by one mentee: "When I experienced a chronic illness flare-up early in my PhD, Dan reassured me that my health needed to come first, and that I needed to take time to care for myself. I know not all mentors would be so kind and compassionate." This sentiment resonates deeply with students who credit Dan's empathy and encouragement for helping them navigate challenging periods, including balancing family life and research. His unwavering commitment to fostering both personal wellness and professional success makes him a standout in academia.

Dan surrounded by mentees and a Sound Meter. What could better represent Dan's work? //
Dan entouré de mentorés et d'un sonomètre. Qu'est-ce qui pourrait mieux représenter le travail de Dan ?

Dan's mentorship extends beyond technical guidance to creating opportunities for students to excel independently. He is particularly known for welcoming even first-year undergraduates into his lab, a rare and impactful gesture. One mentee recalls, "Dan took me under his wing as a first-year undergraduate, and now as a teacher myself, I realize how rare it is to find a professor to provide such opportunities." His open-door policy, willingness to engage in late-night problem-solving calls, and collaborative approach during lab meetings cultivate a sense of belonging and confidence in his students. From critiquing research papers to discussing *Thinking, Fast and Slow* for personal growth, Dan's initiatives ensure his students develop both academically and holistically. He has always been aware of the needs and concerns of all, including medically vulnerable students and colleagues, and made careful efforts to keep the lab COVID-free and safe for everyone. Regular and engaging online lab meetings allowed the team to thrive, even though students and collaborators were working from home in different provinces or countries.

A hallmark of Dan's mentorship is his focus on inclusivity and empowerment. He consistently accommodates diverse backgrounds and personal challenges, as noted by a mentee: "Dan treats me as an equal, being a woman, Hispanic, first-generation PhD, and from Costa Rica. Working with him inspires me every day to continue researching birds' vocal behaviors in the tropics." His ability to inspire is matched by his practicality—he mentors students on essential skills such as fieldwork

logistics, grant writing, and publishing while encouraging independent research projects tailored to their interests. As of early 2024, Dan had supervised 7 postdoctoral fellows, 9 PhD students, 28 MSc students, 21 Honours thesis students, 3 visiting scientists, and 104 undergraduate students. Many of his students have gone on to successful careers in academia (including six faculty members), conservation NGOs, and government, a testament to the transformative impact of his guidance. Through his mentorship, Dan not only elevates individuals but also makes a lasting contribution to the field of ornithology.

Finally, Dr. Erica Nol wrote a compelling nomination for Dan: "Dan was a caring and extremely helpful co-supervisor who was instrumental in shepherding through the thesis to completion and publication. I also see on social media that Dr. Mennill champions his students like no other. He does this by featuring and congratulating them on their thesis examinations, featuring them in posts on his field work and generally, being highly supportive while also furthering their careers through his considerable outreach experience, networking opportunities and scientific expertise. Dr. Mennill has revived the graduate program in ornithology at the University of Windsor through his supervision of many graduate students since his appointment in the Department of Biology at the university. In this way he has also, in some ways, revived ornithological graduate work in Ontario as many of the previous potential graduate supervisors at other universities have now retired. His ability to attract high quality students is unsurpassed. Many of his students are also active in local ornithological activities including monitoring hawks at the Holiday Beach hawk monitoring station. Thus, there is now so much more necessary ornithological research in an area of the province that houses many of our listed species. Dan, also notably, oversaw American Ornithological Society (AOS) student membership awards between 2005 and 2022, a long time for such administrative service that directly benefitted students. Dan has also been active in SCO-SOC for years (and as an elective councillor between 2014 and 2018), also superbly supporting students."

## *FRANÇAIS— 2024 Prix commémoratif Jamie Smith pour le mentorat – Dan Mennill*

Le prix commémoratif Jamie Smith pour le mentorat est l'une des plus hautes distinctions de la Société et récompense les personnes qui ont contribué de façon exceptionnelle à l'éclosion de nouvelles générations d'ornithologues canadiens. Les candidats sont classés en fonction de leur engagement à favoriser la réussite de leurs étudiants et de leurs pairs et à démontrer l'importance du mentorat dans leur vie professionnelle. Au nom du comité Jamie Smith, qui se composait de Theresa Burg, Tony Gaston, Kara Lefebre et Oliver Love, j'ai le plaisir d'annoncer que le prix 2024 est décerné à Dan Mennill. Le résumé suivant est tiré de la lettre de nomination de Camille Rondeau Saint-Jean, une ancienne étudiante du Dr Mennill, ainsi que d'autres auteurs de lettres de soutient, et nous lui sommes reconnaissants d'avoir donné un aperçu de la longue carrière de Dr Mennill.

-Kyle Elliott, président du comité du prix de mentorat Jamie Smith.

Dr Dan Mennill est largement considéré comme un mentor exceptionnel, connu pour son dévouement sans égal à l'épanouissement universitaire et personnel de ses étudiants. Sa compassion et sa compréhension créent un environnement favorable, comme l'a souligné l'une de ses élèves: « Lorsque j'ai souffert de symptômes reliés à une maladie chronique au début de mon doctorat, Dan m'a rassurée en me disant que ma santé devait passer en premier et que je devais prendre le temps de m'occuper de moi. Je sais que tous les mentors ne font pas preuve d'autant de gentillesse et de compassion. Ce sentiment trouve un écho profond chez les étudiants qui reconnaissent que l'empathie et les encouragements de Dan les ont aidés à traverser des périodes difficiles, notamment à concilier la vie de famille et la recherche. Son engagement inébranlable en faveur du bien-être personnel et de la réussite professionnelle fait de lui une personnalité hors du commun dans le monde universitaire.

Le mentorat de Dan va au-delà des conseils techniques et crée des opportunités pour les étudiants d'exceller de manière indépendante. Il est particulièrement connu pour accueillir dans son laboratoire des étudiants de première année, un geste rare et significatif. Un stagiaire se souvient : « Dan m'a pris sous son aile alors que j'étais en première année de mon baccalauréat, et maintenant que je suis moi-même enseignant, je me rends compte à quel point il est rare de trouver un professeur qui offre de telles opportunités ». Sa politique de porte ouverte, sa disposition à régler des problèmes, même tard le soir et son approche collaborative lors des réunions de laboratoire cultivent un sentiment d'appartenance et de confiance chez ses étudiants. Qu'il s'agisse de critiquer des travaux de recherche ou de discuter de *Thinking, Fast and Slow* pour le développement personnel, les initiatives de Dan garantissent que ses étudiants se développent à la fois sur le plan académique et sur le plan holistique. Il a toujours été conscient des besoins et des préoccupations de tous, y compris de ses étudiants ou collègues médicalement vulnérables, et a fait des efforts considérables pour que le laboratoire soit exempt de COVID et sécuritaire pour tous. Des réunions de laboratoire en ligne régulières et engageantes ont permis à l'équipe de prospérer, même si les étudiants et les collaborateurs travaillaient depuis chez eux, même dans des provinces ou pays différents.

Dan with recording gear on Kent Island, where he has studied the acoustics of Savannah Sparrows. //
Dan avec son matériel d'enregistrement sur l'île Kent, où il a étudié l'acoustique des Bruants des prés.

L'une des caractéristiques du mentorat de Dan est l'importance qu'il accorde à l'inclusion et à l'autonomisation. Il s'adapte constamment à la diversité des contextes et des défis personnels, comme l'a fait remarquer une mentorée: « Dan me traite sur un pied d'égalité, en tant que femme, hispanique, doctorante de première génération et originaire du Costa Rica. Travailler avec lui m'inspire chaque jour à continuer à étudier les comportements vocaux des oiseaux sous les tropiques ». Sa capacité à inspirer n'a d'égale que son sens pratique: il encadre les étudiants sur des compétences essentielles telles que la logistique du travail sur le terrain, la rédaction de demandes de subvention et la publication, tout en encourageant des projets de recherche indépendants adaptés à leurs intérêts. Au début de l'année 2024, Dan avait supervisé 7 boursiers postdoctoraux, 9 étudiants en doctorat, 28 étudiants en maîtrise, 21 étudiants en thèse, 3 scientifiques invités et 104 étudiants de premier cycle. Nombre de ses étudiants ont poursuivi une carrière fructueuse dans le monde universitaire (y compris six membres du corps enseignant), dans des ONG de conservation et au gouvernement, ce qui témoigne de l'impact transformateur de ses conseils. Grâce à son mentorat, Dan ne se contente pas d'élever les individus, il apporte également une contribution durable au domaine de l'ornithologie.

Enfin, Dr Erica Nol nous a fait parvenir une nomination convaincante pour Dan : « Dan a été un co-superviseur attentionné et extrêmement obligeant qui a joué un rôle déterminant dans le succès de ma thèse jusqu'à son achèvement et sa publication. Je constate également sur les médias sociaux que Dr Mennill fait l'éloge ses étudiants comme personne d'autre. Il le fait en les félicitant publiquement pour leurs examens de thèse, en les affichant en ligne alors qu'ils travaillent sur le terrain et, de manière générale, en les soutenant grandement tout en faisant avancer leur carrière grâce à son expérience considérable en matière de sensibilisation, en mettant à profit son réseau de collaborateurs et grâce à son expertise scientifique. Dr Mennill a relancé le programme d'études supérieures en ornithologie à l'université de Windsor en supervisant de nombreux étudiants diplômés depuis sa nomination au département de biologie de l'université. Il a ainsi, d'une certaine manière, relancé les travaux d'études supérieures en ornithologie en Ontario, puisque de nombreux superviseurs potentiels d'autres universités étaient maintenant retraités. Sa capacité à attirer des étudiants de grande qualité est inégalée. Nombre de ses étudiants participent également aux activités ornithologiques locales, notamment à la surveillance des faucons à la station de

surveillance des faucons d'Holiday Beach. De ce fait, la recherche ornithologique est désormais beaucoup plus nécessaire dans une région de la province qui abrite un grand nombre de nos espèces répertoriées. Dan a également supervisé les bourses d'adhésion des étudiants de l'American Ornithological Society (AOS) entre 2005 et 2022, une longue période pour un tel service administratif qui profite directement aux étudiants. Dan a également été actif au sein de la SOC-SCO pendant des années (et en tant que conseiller électif entre 2014 et 2018), qui soutient aussi superbement les étudiants.

# 2024 SCO-SOC Award Reports

## Discovery Award Report

### Importance of amplitude in the singing behaviour of Ovenbirds

Connor Acorn, MSc, University of Windsor

My Master's research at the University of Windsor focuses on the importance of amplitude in the singing behaviour of Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapilla*). Supported by my supervisors, Dr. Dan Mennill (University of Windsor) and Dr. Jenn Foote (Algoma University), I have been studying how song amplitude varies during different singing contexts in a population of Ovenbirds in Sault Ste. Marie, ON. The amplitude of a song largely determines how loud it will sound to listeners and how far it will propagate through the environment. Previous studies have shown that songbirds can change the amplitude of their songs depending on the context in which they are sung. Male Ovenbirds are known for singing very loud songs during their breeding season. However, the amplitude of Ovenbird songs has never been properly measured. During the breeding season, songs play an important role in a male Ovenbird's ability to defend its territory from its conspecific neighbours and song amplitude may change depending on the type of interaction. The objectives of my research are, first, to describe the amplitude of male Ovenbird songs, and second, to determine whether Ovenbird song amplitude varies depending on the context in which it is used.

Connor using a sound level meter to measure the amplitude of an Ovenbird song. Photo: Jenn Foote.

During the Ovenbird breeding season from May to July in 2023 and 2024, I collected song amplitude measurements from male Ovenbirds inhabiting the Hiawatha Highlands Conservation Area in Sault Ste. Marie, ON. I used a sound level meter to measure the amplitude of over 400 songs sung by more than 45 individual males. I noted the context in which each male Ovenbird was singing as being either distant counter-singing (directed singing in a back-and-forth pattern with a neighbouring male >10 m away), close counter-singing (directed singing in a back-and-forth pattern with a neighbouring male <10 m away), and broadcast singing (singing without vocally interacting with neighbouring males). I also used a laser rangefinder to record the distance between the sound level meter and a singing Ovenbird so that all amplitude measurements could be standardized to their amplitude level 1 m from their source. Using my collected measurements, I can determine the average amplitude of Ovenbird songs, as well as the maximum amplitude that is reached during any point of the song.

Preliminary findings of my research show that Ovenbird songs are significantly louder than other similarly sized temperate songbirds, at times reaching amplitudes greater than 100 dB. I am still working on analyzing my context-related data and am excited to see what it will tell us about the importance of song amplitude in the singing behaviour of Ovenbirds.

I would like to thank my supervisors, Dr. Dan Mennill and Dr. Jenn Foote for their support of my research, as well as Avery Marsh for her assistance in the field. I would also like to thank the SCO-SOC for the financial aid they provided for my research through the Student Discovery Award.

# Fred Cooke Award Report

## Diel variation in behaviour and thermal physiology of breeding Snow Buntings in response to operative temperature

Rebecca Jardine, MSc, University of Windsor

I recently finished my master's work at the University of Windsor where I studied the potential impacts of heat stress on Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) physiology and behaviour during breeding. There is currently a lack of information on how Arctic breeding songbirds may be responding to their rapidly changing breeding environments. Over the course of this project, we wanted to determine baseline information about breeding behaviour and physiology. We were interested in understanding how nestling feeding behaviour and body temperatures might vary over a daily period, and whether there were differences between males and females.

We set out to answer this question by studying a Snow Bunting population located in the low eastern Canadian Arctic, on Qikiqtakuluk (East Bay Island), which is a small island located within the Qaqsauqtuuq Migratory Bird Sanctuary in Nunavut. This migratory bird sanctuary is encompassed within the land, water, and ice of the Inuit Nunangat. Furthermore, this area is the breeding territory of several ecological, economic, and culturally important species such as the Lesser Snow Goose and the Common Eider.

Snow Bunting in a rock crevice, in Qaqsauqtuuq Migratory Bird Sanctuary in Nunavut. Photo: Rebecca Jardine.

During June-July of 2022 and 2023, we travelled to Qikiqtakuluk and banded and tagged breeding pairs of Snow Buntings (14 and 15 respectively). We tagged birds with thermally sensitive PIT tags. PIT tags are small, non-battery powered tags which when passed close to an antenna, activate an internal microchip which returns a unique tag code and body temperature recording. We placed antennas at the entrance/exit of rock crevice nests so we would get a reading every time an individual entered (and exited) their nest. These tags allowed us to quantify the rate and frequency adult birds were making to their nest to feed young, along with their body temperature each time they visited.

We found that low-Arctic breeding buntings maintained daily body temperature patterns, with body temperatures reaching peaks around midday (~). We also found that even at peaks, body temperatures were not reaching near lethal levels. This was not necessarily what we expected, as we thought buntings were experiencing heat stress during breeding, especially as birds are working extra hard to feed young. Instead, we found that buntings were able to maintain normal body temperatures during breeding. Furthermore, we found that both males and females fed young at similar rates throughout the day, but that timing of feeding differed. We think that this suggests 2 different feeding strategies which could indicate a partitioning of effort between sexes, ultimately allowing young to receive consistent food throughout the day. Our findings suggest that individuals may be able to avoid heat stress by

In the future, our team is interested to see whether these physiological and behavioural patterns remain consistent at other bunting breeding sites. I am grateful to the SCO-SOC and Birds Canada for their generous support of this project as it allowed me to present this research at the American Ornithological Society 2024 Annual Meeting this past fall.

# Taverner Award Reports

## Assessing the effects of environmentally-mediated phenological matching of an Arctic-breeding songbird to its arthropod prey

Alysha Riquier, M.Sc. Biology, University of Windsor

Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) are an Arctic-breeding cold-adapted songbird currently suffering from large population declines within the context of rapid environmental change. Therefore, my Master's project explored whether this species can keep pace with the degree of climate change currently facing the Arctic (Figure 1). The first part of my thesis examined whether Snow Buntings can phenologically adjust laying decisions to keep pace with climate change. The second part studied the fitness consequences for phenological mismatches between Snow Buntings and arthropod prey by comparing how indices of temporal and biomass mismatch predicted offspring number and quality. My thesis, conducted in the Integrative Avian Ecology Lab from 2022-2024, used a long-term dataset (2007-2019) and was supplemented by two years of my own data collection in the spring-summers of 2022 and 2023 on Qikiqtakuluq, Nunavut. The last year of my masters was spent analyzing data and writing.

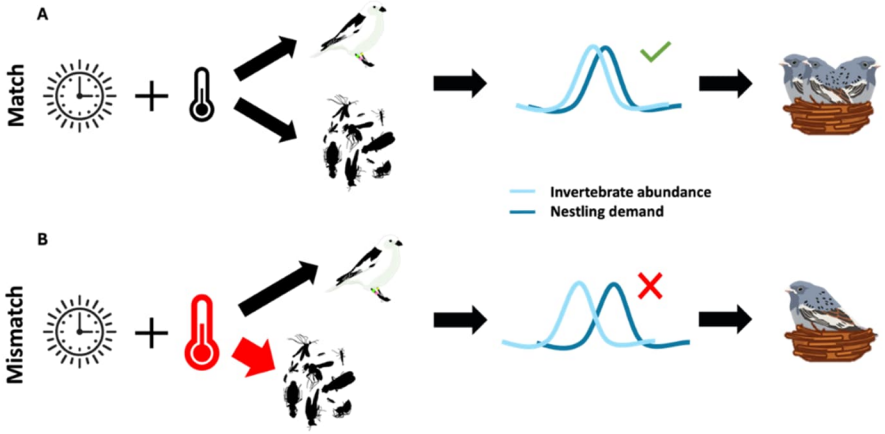


Figure 1. Visual representation of the predicted impacts of a warmer spring on Snow Bunting breeding phenology and arthropod prey emergence. (A) In the event of phenological match between buntings and its arthropod prey, day length predicts temperature which should sync the timing of peak arthropod abundance (light blue) with the peak demand in food of nestlings (dark blue) resulting in high breeding success. (B) Under climate change, daylength will not change but temperature is predicted to increase which could cause the arthropods (which are more sensitive to temperature) to move up more phenologically than buntings, resulting in a mismatch between peak arthropod abundance (light blue) and nestling demand (dark blue) and, therefore, reduced breeding success.

Firstly, to answer these questions, I started by combining long-term historical data on ambient temperature and Snow Bunting lay dates to determine i) whether buntings use temperature as a cue to time reproduction and if so, ii) when this cue is most important to females, iii) whether there is individual flexibility within those temperature-mediated decisions and iv) whether that flexibility affects breeding success. These questions led me to finding that: i) Snow Buntings are extremely responsive to changes in temperature, ii) they rely on cues just days before investment in reproduction to time laying, and that iii) certain individuals can initiate laying at lower temperatures and therefore lay earlier than expected.

Secondly, I combined the relationships developed in the first part of my thesis, historical breeding metrics and data on arthropod abundance during the breeding season to determine if mismatches between Snow Bunting breeding phenology and arthropod emergence impact breeding success. I found that while a widely used temporal mismatch index did not predict variation in breeding success, females timing breeding so that the peak of nestling demand matched higher arthropod biomass levels fledged the greatest number of offspring. However, neither the temporal nor biomass mismatch indices predicted fledgling quality.

Together, these results are the first evidence of an Arctic breeding bird showing an adaptive response to climate change. For the first time, my work provides unique insight into the adaptive capacity of this Arctic passerine bird and suggests this species currently has the plasticity necessary to adapt to a rapidly changing Arctic.

## Exploring the functional role of vocal mimicry behaviour in Colombian Seedeaters

Nelsy Niño Rodríguez, PhD student, University of Windsor

Nelsy Niño Rodríguez conducting field research. Photo courtesy of Nelsy Niño Rodríguez.

Vocal mimicry, the ability to "imitate" the sounds of other species, is a fascinating behaviour found in a wide range of bird families. Although it is well documented in birds from temperate regions, much less is known about tropical species. My doctoral research explores vocal mimicry in two tropical seedeaters: the Gray Seedeater and the Plumbeous Seedeater. This study will be one of the first to examine vocal mimicry in Colombian birds, offering new insights into the behaviour and ecology of avian mimicry.

From May to July 2024, I conducted the first field season of my research in three different regions of Colombia. During this time, I colour-banded 62 Gray Seedeaters (both males and females) and, with the help of a field assistant, recorded their vocalizations. Males imitated the songs of other species, whereas females primarily produced calls.

Interestingly, at one of the study sites, we observed that males of the Thick-billed Seed-Finch also mimicked other species, a behaviour that had not been previously documented for the species. We colour-banded 12 individuals of this species and recorded their vocalizations, which will contribute to a novel finding for vocal mimicry in tropical species.

We also recorded the vocalizations of species that seedeaters mimicked at all three sites. In the coming months, we will analyze these recordings to compare the "models" (the original species) with the mimics. Additionally, I plan to conduct two more field seasons to gather further data on this intriguing behaviour.

I am deeply grateful for the financial support provided by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, which made my first field season possible.

## STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED FOR PICOIDES

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

We also welcome articles describing aspects of student research in greater detail; these should focus on a subject relevant to Canadian ornithology, require references, and may be up to 1,000 words long, again preferably accompanied by one or two photos. See the SCO-SOC Information page for submission details.

# Feature Articles

## Aggressive Behavior among Non-Breeding Adult European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in Southwestern Ontario

Rafael Fernandes

### Introduction

The European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) is a passerine bird native to Europe, Asia, and North Africa, but it has been successfully introduced to many other regions, including Canada (Craig and Feare 2015, Del Hoyo et al. 2020). In North America, the species was first introduced in the late 19th century in New York City and has since spread across the continent, becoming one of the most abundant bird species (Wetmore 1964, Cabe 2020). Its adaptability to a wide range of habitats, particularly urban and agricultural environments, has allowed it to thrive beyond its native range (Kessel 1953). European Starlings are known for their iridescent plumage and complex vocalizations. The species exhibits distinct plumages, including breeding and non-breeding adult forms, characterized by the presence or absence of spots and the degree of glossiness in their feathers (Kessel 1951, Feare and Craig 1998). These birds are gregarious and often form large flocks, especially outside the breeding season. This behavior offers protection from predators and facilitates foraging efficiency (Kessel 1957, Stuart et al. 2023).

The diet of the European Starling is highly opportunistic, consisting mainly of invertebrates, fruits, seeds, and human-associated food waste (Rising 2001). This species is commonly observed in urban and peri-urban areas, foraging on grassy patches and paved surfaces (Wetmore 1964, Gray 2008). They establish nests in various locations, including rooftops, light poles, pavilions, trees, bushes, attics, barns, and crevices in buildings (Gray 2008, Cabe 2020). This adaptability, along with their high reproductive rate and distinct behavioural patterns, has contributed to their classification as an invasive species in many regions worldwide, including recent expansions into South America (Feare and Craig 1998, Jauregui et al. 2023).

Despite their prevalence, European Starlings have been extensively studied concerning their impact on native avian species and agricultural activities (Feare and Craig 1998). However, much remains to be learned about their behavior, particularly among non-breeding adults, who frequently display aggression and competition that have not been well-documented (Koenig 2003). Observations of unusual interspecific interactions and aggressive behavior offer valuable insights into the social dynamics and ecological strategies of this species, which are essential for developing effective management strategies in regions where they are invasive (Witter and Swaddle 1995, Stuart et al. 2023).

This study aims to document and analyze aggressive behaviour observed in non-breeding adult European Starlings in Southwestern Ontario, Canada. By situating these behaviours within a broader ecological and behavioural context, the research seeks to address existing gaps in knowledge of the species and contribute to avian natural history and behavioural ecology. The proposed broadly applicable hypothesis suggests that aggressive behavior among individuals of this species is a key factor influencing how young and adult starlings' express aggression after the breeding season. In summary, the birds develop aggressive behaviours before some individuals in the population partially migrate to other areas, a key factor in the species' ability to expand its home range globally.

### Methods

#### *Study Area and Field Data Collection*

The bird surveys were conducted in ecosystems characterized by diverse vegetation and water resources, which serve as critical habitats for the target bird species in Southwestern Ontario (Thompson 2000). Survey sites were selected based on their ecological significance, including factors like forest cover and accessibility, to ensure comprehensive coverage and representativeness of the data. Since 2018, the majority of Southwestern Ontario has been surveyed, and after 2021, all surveys were incorporated into the data collection for the

Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas 3. Sighting data were submitted for review by each regional coordinator. A total of 388 bird checklists were submitted in Ontario, with each survey lasting between 30 minutes and 1.5 hours. This resulted in a total observation effort ranging from 194 to 582 hours since 2018.The map provides an overview of the province of Ontario in relation to its neighbouring provinces, Manitoba and Quebec (Figure 1).

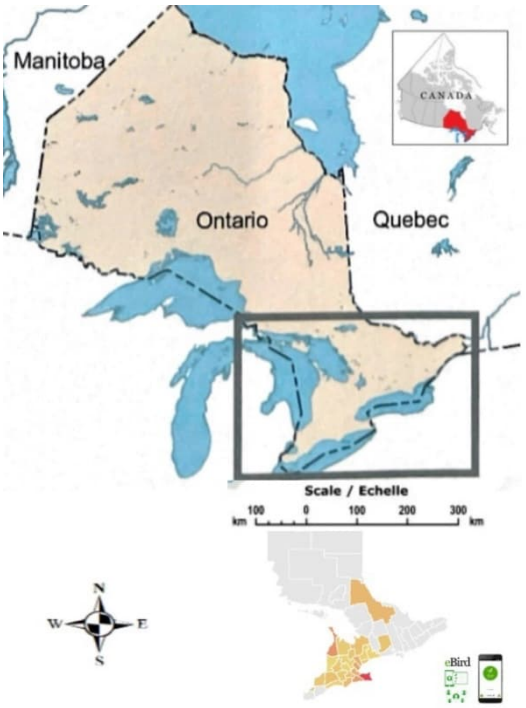


Figure 1. The inset focuses on the map of Southern Ontario, highlighting the eBird data collection regions to emphasize the spatial distribution of bird monitoring efforts within the province. Adapted from Cadman et al. 2007 and eBird 2024.

Direct observation was the primary method for identifying and recording bird species. Surveys were conducted during peak activity periods, typically in the early mornings and late afternoons, to maximize detection probability (Bibby et al. 2000). Observers were equipped with binoculars and cameras with telephoto lenses to ensure accurate species identification. All bird data were submitted to the eBird platform, highlighting notable bird species with photos and recording important behaviours (eBird 2024). An atypical behavior was observed between two non-breeding European Starlings when the researcher moved to a wetland area and immediately stopped documenting the behavior on a paved street in Smithville, Niagara Peninsula, Ontario (43.09°N, 75.54°E). The focal animal sampling technique was employed to record all behaviours exhibited by the individuals (Altman 1974). Photos were taken from a secure distance of 9 feet (3 meters) to avoid disturbing the natural behavior of the birds. Additionally, videos were captured using a mobile phone.

*Indirect Sampling and Citizen Science*

To supplement direct observations of European Starlings, we employed indirect sampling methods by tracking signs of aggressive behavior through citizen science platforms, such as eBird and iNaturalist (eBird 2024, iNaturalist 2024). The researcher utilized both the common and scientific names of the species in the search functions of these platforms and applied filters to narrow down results to photos and records specifically from Canadian territories. Only those photos that displayed aggressive behavior during interactions, whether intraspecific (between individuals of the same species) or interspecific (between individuals of different species), were considered for analysis.

In 2023, the researcher allocated 3.75 minutes per week to search for relevant starling photos on these platforms. This search was conducted four times over the course of one month, resulting in a cumulative monthly search time calculated as follows:

*Total Monthly Time = Weekly Search Duration × Monthly Search Frequency = 3.75 minutes/week × 4 weeks = 15 minutes*

This pattern of searching was consistently maintained throughout the year, leading to an annual total calculated as follows:

*Total Annual Time = Total Monthly Time × 12 months = 15 minutes/month × 12 = 180 minutes*

This equates to a total of 3 hours spent gathering visual documentation of starling behavior from citizen science platforms.

*Literature Review and Analysis*

The first draft of this study was created in 2024, utilizing peer-reviewed publications and books, as a primary sources. The cited literature was obtained from databases such as Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Scopus. The following keyword combinations were employed during the article searches: "European Starling," "Invasive Bird Species," and "Aggressive Behavior in Starlings." Subsequently, the starling photos were processed using image editing software while adhering to ethical criteria throughout the editing process.

Results

On November 8, 2020, two non-breeding adult European Starlings were observed. The species was identified by key field marks, including its dark plumage, finely pointed bill, and the spots on the back and underparts characteristic of non-breeding individuals. Five photographs of the aggressive behavior were taken (two provided in Figure 2), and the entire event lasted 4 minutes. Both individuals vocalized loudly and struck each other with their bills. The researcher also noted that the birds used their legs to hold and exert pressure. At a certain point, the individuals switched positions when it became apparent that neither bird was gaining an advantage, as they alternated their aggressive postures. During vocalizations, the individuals repeatedly punctured each other's plumage with their bills, resulting in feathers becoming dislodged. Throughout the aggressive encounter, no other birds were observed nearby. However, other European Starlings were resting on a rooftop across the street, showing no interaction or inclination to join the aggressive behavior.

Figure 2. Two non-breeding adult European Starlings (Sturnus vulgaris) engaging in aggressive behaviour. Photos: Rafael Fernandes.

Following an indirect sampling from citizen science platforms, 18,639 photo records were gathered from eBird and 20,830 photos from iNaturalist. From these, 2,000 photos were selected from each platform to investigate any aggressive behavior displayed by the species in Canada, totaling 4,000 photos that were monitored weekly over the course of a year. As a result, one photo from eBird and zero from iNaturalist were found showing aggressive behavior between adults. In this photo, the aggressive interactions were compared, and the nature of the interactions was inferred. For example, it was noted whether the birds struck each other with their bills, used their legs, or simply held onto each other for a few seconds before leaving the scene. It was noted in one checklist, which included nine photos from eBird, that the same aggressive behavior was replicated by the species (Watts 2019). In this case, it is categorized as an intraspecific interaction, where two adults exhibited similar aggressive behavior, as observed in this study. However, in the scene, two individuals of the Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) were captured in the photos, but only one photo suggested interference in the aggressive behavior of starlings. The checklist from this study, along with an additional checklist from eBird, is presented in the supplemental material.

Discussion

The observations and indirect sampling data collected in this study provide valuable insights into the aggressive behaviour of non-breeding adult European Starlings in Southwestern Ontario. The findings align with existing literature, suggesting that aggression among non-breeding individuals serves both social and ecological functions (Sandilands 1989). The aggressive interactions observed in this study could be linked to competition for resources, such as feeding sites or roosting areas, which are crucial for the survival and energy conservation of non-breeding individuals, especially during the colder months (Koenig 2003). This behaviour may also have implications for understanding how aggression facilitates the expansion of the species' range. By displaying and reinforcing aggressive behaviours before migration, individuals may better compete for resources in new territories, which could explain the species' successful establishment and expansion across North America and other continents. This aggressive behaviour, particularly in urban and peri-urban environments, highlights the species' adaptability and may contribute to its invasive potential, as it allows them to dominate these human-modified landscapes (Witter and Swaddle 1995, Zichello et al. 2024).

Another aspect worth exploring is the role of social learning in aggressive encounters among European Starlings. Young starlings may observe and imitate the behaviours of adult birds, thereby acquiring and refining their own aggressive strategies as they prepare for future competition (Feare and Craig 1998). Future studies could investigate this potential learning process by following individual birds over time and monitoring behavioural changes as they mature and interact with others. Employing a combination of ornithological methodologies, such as bird banding and geolocation, could provide valuable insights into the social dynamics within different populations of European starlings in Canada. While aggressive behavior in starlings is well-studied, the specific role of social learning remains under-explored. Citizen science platforms like eBird and iNaturalist can enhance data collection by involving birdwatchers and ornithologists in

documenting these behaviours. This collaborative effort reinforces the importance of such platforms, highlighting that contributions from citizen scientists are vital for comprehensive research, even if they may be perceived as less formal or unconventional by some researchers.

## Conclusion

This study documents and confirms the presence of aggressive behavior among non-breeding adult European Starlings in Southwestern Ontario, Canada. The observed behaviours, including vocalizations, bill strikes, and physical confrontations, suggest that aggression plays a significant role in the species' social and ecological dynamics. This aggression likely helps establish dominance hierarchies, secure access to essential resources, and prepare individuals for migration and colonization of new habitats.

The combination of direct observations and citizen science platforms, such as eBird and iNaturalist, has proven effective in documenting these behaviours, demonstrating the value of these resources in ornithological research. The findings contribute to the understanding of European Starling behavior and emphasize the importance of continued monitoring to grasp how these interactions influence population dynamics and range expansion. Future studies should explore the genetic, hormonal, and environmental factors influencing aggressive behavior among non-breeding individuals. Additionally, investigating the ecological impacts of these aggressive behaviours on other bird species in invaded territories will be crucial for developing comprehensive management strategies to mitigate the species' impact. This study serves as a foundation for further exploration into the behavioural ecology of invasive bird species and highlights the complex strategies these animals employ to adapt and thrive in diverse environments.

## Acknowledgments

I am particularly grateful to the Peninsula Field Naturalists for the opportunity to present my findings, which significantly helped refine my work on avian texts. I would especially like to thank Bob Highcook and Jean M. Hampson for their support. I am also grateful to the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas team for integrating my survey data into their ongoing project, as well as to the eBird team moderators from Ontario. Additionally, I extend my thanks to Laurel Ironside and Joy Poyntz for receiving my bird reports and for their encouragement to continue my bird surveys in Ontario. I am also very grateful to biologist Andrew Armstrong for his valuable discussions and suggestions on this text. Finally, my thanks go to Raul Nepomuceno for providing a valuable reference for this study.

## Supplement Material

Rafael Fernandes submitted a checklist via eBird:https://ebird.org/checklist/S76026920
Gord Watts submitted a checklist via eBird: https://ebird.org/checklist/S55647085

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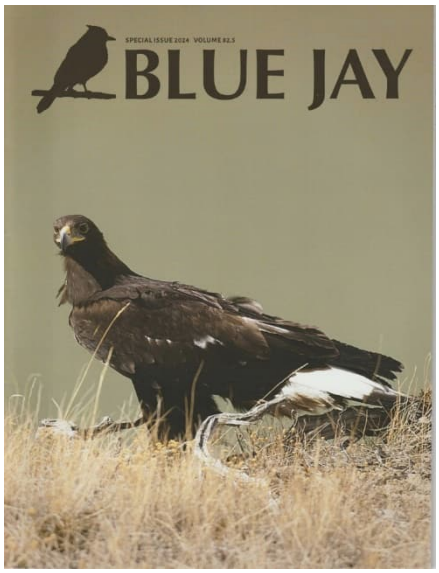
# Golden Eagles in Canada, and the people they'd inspired

Josef K. Schmutz, Saskatoon

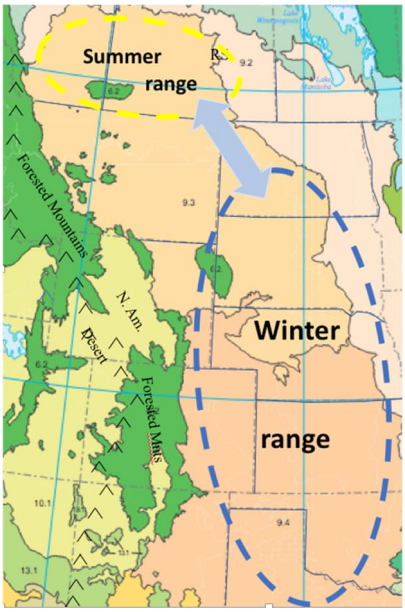
Nature Saskatchewan, originally Saskatchewan Natural History Society, celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 2024. Among several commemorative functions, Nature Saskatchewan created a Special Issue 2024 Volume 82.5 to publish a comprehensive 35-page report on Golden Eagles: Houston, C. Stuart, Richard W. Fyfe, Dan Zazelenchuk, Kirby England, Dale Paton, and Josef K. Schmutz (2024). "Distribution, ecology and conservation of Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in Canada." Blue Jay 82(5) https://doi.org/10.29173/bluejay8f6h




*Blue Jay* is a quarterly journal specializing in natural history and conservation of Saskatchewan and adjacent regions.

It's been said that this publication may be among the very few where two lead authors had died. Richard Fyfe (1932-2017) was a Research Scientist with the Canadian Wildlife Service in Edmonton. His major work was on raptors in the DDT era where studies of organochlorine contamination included Golden Eagles. His primary focus, however, was on falcons with captive breeding and reintroductions. Richard and his Canadian Wildlife Service staff studied raptors throughout Canada.

Stuart Houston (1927-2021) was a Professor in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology at the University of Saskatchewan. Yet Stuart and his wife Mary are better known in natural history circles for their banding of 151,888 birds of 217 species, or for their compilation of three spectacular books dealing with the Franklin's expedition. Stuart began banding Golden Eagles in southwestern Saskatchewan in 1960. After 2002 he turned his study area over to Dan Zazelenchuk who is continuing the work to today.




Hockey-stick-shaped dispersion of prairie-Canada Golden Eagles with summer breeding range, a short migration route and a larger winter range. This pattern is based on over 100 band recoveries with 27 from the United States in winter.

The topics covered in the Special Issue, beyond the typical article headings, include: Nesting distribution and habitat occupancy in Canada, Breeding densities, Estimates of population size, Scattered nesting and scarcity, Nesting, Reproduction, Prey in Saskatchewan, Changes in food availability, Food-web dynamics, Dispersion in Eastern Canada, A Great Plains migration corridor, A young eagle's annual dispersion, Winter dispersion, Mortality, and Sustaining eagles and biodiversity.

There are several insights of note from analysing the data and interpreting these in relation to the many excellent other studies in the United States. For example, we've always known that some Golden Eagles call the Great Plains home summer and winter. We've not known how faithfully eagles from prairie Canada migrate east first and then south, remaining in prairie landscapes throughout. This prairie Canada hockey-stick-shaped corridor is consistent with other studies showing that Golden Eagles are remarkably faithful to their respective north-south dispersion corridors.

Stuart Houston's 43 years of study date back to 1960, and Richard Fyfe's work to 1967. Much has changed over the years. The Houston et al. report should serve as a basis for more analysis. Reports from serious eagle observers indicate that it is now more common for Golden Eagles to winter on the prairies. Also, food appears to include more bird-prey which may be related to the long-term decline among jackrabbits in the diets of the eagles and other large raptors.

# Bird Poetry

**Nighthawk**
By Glenn Sutherland

*On chevron wings*
*they rise up and wheel,*
*turning and diving,*
*catching the vermilion*
*and mauve*
*light of dawn.*

*Exultant they fly,*
*seeking this moment,*
*chasing the promise*
*of this day.*

*From the depths of their being*
*they tumble and dance,*
*and cry*
*over and over and over and over:*
*"Light of this sun –*
*Winds of this earth-*
*Heart of my heart –*
*Grace of this life-*
*am I."*

- Composed on December 17, 2024

# Ornithological News and Announcements

## Society of Canadian Ornithologists 2025 Annual Meeting
## Conférence annuelle 2025 de la Société des ornithologistes du Canada

## August 13-16, 2025 - University of Saskatchewan/ 13-16 août 2025 - Université de Saskatchewan

This year's theme: **Under Our Wings: Avian Conservation and Ecology in a Changing World**
Le thème de cette année: **Sous nos ailes : La conservation et l'écologie aviaires dans un monde en mutation**

**Welcome!**

Please stay tuned as the conference website (https://conferences.usask.ca/sco-2025/index.php) continues to be updated with all the information you need for the SCO-SOC 2025 Annual Meeting! Be sure to follow our socials for updates!

**Bienvenue!**

Restez à l'écoute car le site web de la conférence (https://conferences.usask.ca/soc-2025/index.php) continue d'être mis à jour avec toutes les informations dont vous avez besoin pour la conférence annuelle de la SOC-SCO de 2025! N'oubliez pas de nous suivre sur les réseaux sociaux pour les mises à jour!

**Recent updates:**

- **Call for Workshop Proposals!**
- **Call for Symposia Session Proposals!**
- **Become a student volunteer at the conference!**
- **Become a sponsor for our conference!**

**Mises à jour récentes :**

- **Appel aux propositions d'ateliers!**
- **Appel aux propositions de sessions pour les symposiums!**
- **Devenez bénévole à la conférence!**
- **Devenez sponsor de notre conférence!**

# Doris Huestis Speirs Award
# Prix Doris Huestis Speirs

## *CALL FOR NOMINATIONS / APPEL DE NOMINATIONS - 2025*

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award given by the SCO-SOC. The award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions in Canadian ornithology. Past awardees include professionals who work at museums, government agencies, private companies, and universities, as well as amateur ornithologists and people who have contributed to ornithological infrastructure of Canada. *// Le prix Doris Huestis Speirs est le plus prestigieux prix décerné par la SCO-SOC. Le prix est remis annuellement à une personne qui a apporté une contribution significative à long terme en ornithologie au Canada. Les récipiendaires précédents sont des professionnels qui travaillent dans les musées, les organismes gouvernementaux, les entreprises privées, les universités, ainsi que des ornithologues amateurs et des personnes ayant contribué à la cause ornithologique au Canada.*

Doris Huestis Speirs was born on 27 October 1894 in Toronto, Ontario, and passed away in Ajax, Ontario, on 24 October 1989. Doris was highly prominent in art, literary, and ornithological circles. She founded the Margaret Morse Nice Ornithological Club, which was the only such group specifically for women, and she was also a founding member of the Pickering Naturalists' Club. In her lifetime, Doris made several prominent contributions to the ornithological literature on Evening Grosbeaks and Lincoln's Sparrows (the latter with her husband, J. Murray Speirs). *// Doris Huestis Speirs est née le 27 octobre 1894 à Toronto, en Ontario, et est décédée à Ajax, Ontario, le 24 octobre 1989. Doris a été très importante dans les milieux artistiques, littéraires et ornithologiques. Elle a fondé le club ornithologique de Margaret Morse Nice, qui était le seul groupe ornithologique pour femmes et elle a également été membre fondatrice du Club des naturalistes de Pickering. De son vivant, Doris a fait plusieurs contributions importantes à la littérature ornithologique du Gros-bec errant et du Bruant de Lincoln (ce dernier avec son mari, J. Murray Speirs).*

Process//Processus: Nominations should clearly articulate the nominee's cumulative, significant contributions to ornithology in Canada. Nomination packages containing attestations from more than one individual about the scope and impact of the nominee's contributions are particularly welcomed. To nominate a candidate for the Speirs award, preferably with supporting detailed information, contact the Chair of the award committee: *// Les candidatures doivent exprimer clairement le cumul et l'importance des contributions du candidat à l'ornithologie au Canada. Les dossiers de candidature comprenant le soutien de plus d'une personne au sujet de la portée et de l'impact des contributions du candidat sont particulièrement bienvenues. Pour nominer un candidat au prix Speirs avec, de préférence, des informations détaillées à l'appui, contactez le président du comité d'attribution:*

Matt Reudink
Professor, Biological Sciences
Thompson Rivers University
Email/courriel: mreudink@tru.ca

Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Société des ornithologistes du Canada

Deadline for receipt of nominations is extended to 22 April 2025. // La date limite de réception des candidatures est prolongée jusqu'au 22 avril 2025.

# Avian Conservation and Ecology Articles

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| The Magellanic Woodpecker's role in its assemblage: a case study of cavity provisioning and habitat selection in the world's southernmost forests | Amy L. Wynia, Ricardo Rozzi, Jaime E. Jiménez |
| Hemlock looper outbreak: new insight about how Black-backed Woodpecker (Picoides arcticus) respond to resource pulses in eastern Canada | Myriam Lemieux, Vincent Lamarre, Junior A. Tremblay |
| Migration and wintering strategies of a Eurasian Stone-curlew (Burhinus oedicnemus) continental population, and their conservation implications | Emilie Dedeban, Pamela Lagrange, Alexandre Villers, Steve Augiron, Damien Chiron, Landry Boussac, Alexis Martineau, Willem Bouten, Vincent Bretagnolle |
| Quantifying rosy-finch migration with stable hydrogen isotope feather markers highlights the need for inter-state collaboration to reach conservation goals | Caitlin J. Campbell, Janice H. Gardner, Clark S. Rushing, Cooper M. Farr, Russell Norvell, Kim Savides |
| Sex differences in migration routes and non-breeding areas of a declining shorebird | Ann E. McKellar, Cheri L. Gratto-Trevor, T. Lee Tibbitts |

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| Using an ensemble approach to predict habitat of Dusky Grouse (Dendragapus obscurus) in Montana, USA | Elizabeth A. Leipold, Claire N. Gower, Lance McNew |
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| Factors influencing home range size and overlap in nonbreeding Kirtland's Warblers on Eleuthera, The Bahamas | Joseph M. Wunderle, Jr., Michael E. Akresh, Dave Currie, Javier E. Mercado, Eileen H. Helmer, David N. Ewert |

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| Haemosporidian parasites of Canada Warblers (Cardellina canadensis) and Black-throated Blue Warblers (Setophaga caerulescens): prevalence, diversity, and associations with physiological condition during migration | Gabriella L. Orfanides, Susan S. Pagano |
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| Seasonality, African Cherry occurrence, and human threats determine the spatial distribution of the endangered restricted range Mount Cameroon Francolin (Pternistis camerunensis) | Francis Guetse, Jan Riegert, Simon A. Tamungang, Taku Awa II, Francis Luma Ewome, Francis Njie Motombi, David Hořák |
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| Seeing isn't always believing: visual observations underestimate space use in the eastern Grasshopper Sparrow (Ammodramus savannarum pratensis) | Kevin C. Hannah, Julia E. Put, David D. Hope |
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| Patterns and drivers of population trends on individual Breeding Bird Survey routes using spatially explicit models and route-level covariates | Adam C. Smith, Veronica I. Aponte, Allison D. Binley, Amelia R. Cox, Lindsay Daly, Courtney Donkersteeg, Brandon P. M. Edwards, Willow English, Marie-Anne R. Hudson, Kendall M. Jefferys, Barry G. Robinson, Christian Roy |
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| Name | Title | E-mail |
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| Dr. Leanne Grieves | Member of Council | lag296@cornell.edu |
| Dr. Emily Choy | Member of Council | choye1@mcmaster.ca |
| Dr. Sarah Gutowsky | Member of Council | sarahegutowsky@gmail.com |
| Steven van Wilgenburg | Member of Council | steven.vanwilgenburg@canada.ca |
| Dr. Steffi LaZerte | Member of Council | sel@steffilazerte.ca |
| Dr. Andrea Norris | Member of Council | andrea.norris@canada.ca |
| Other | | |
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