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Osprey / balbuzard pêcheur. Photo by/par Barbara Bleho.

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Editors' Message

Rob Warnock and Barbara Bleho

Welcome to the second issue of *Picoides* of 2016! In this issue, there is the call for nominations for the Jamie Smith Mentoring Award. Deadline for nominations is June 30, 2016. Please do not forget to make nominations for both the Doris Huestis Speirs and the Jamie Smith Mentoring Awards.

The election results announcement lists the members of the SCO-SOC Council for 2016-17. We congratulate all SCO-SOC Council candidates who won election this year.

In the President's message, Greg encourages SCO-SOC members to attend NAOC VI in Washington, DC later this year. He also highlights declining membership numbers and the need to both improve services for members and improve the Society's online presence in order to boost membership numbers.

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative just released *The State of North America's Birds 2016* report. This report is based on the first-ever conservation vulnerability assessment for all 1,154 native bird species that occur in Canada, the continental United States, and Mexico. Of these 1,154 species, an alarming 432 of them (37%) qualified for the Watch List, which identifies species of highest conservation concern based on high vulnerability scores across multiple factors.

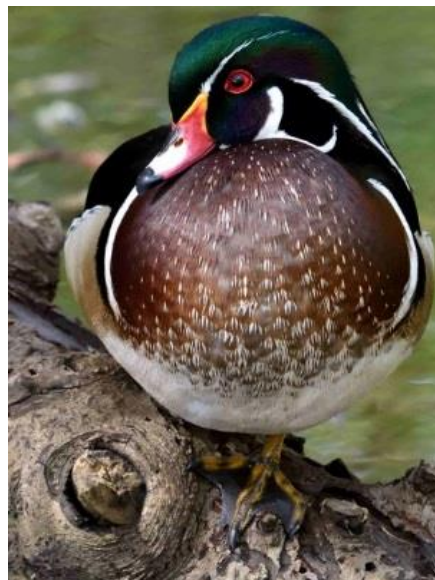
There are a number surveys and monitoring programs seeking volunteers including the Breeding Bird Survey, nightjar surveys, Project NestWatch, and Canadian Lakes Loon Survey. The BC and Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlases are now available. Check them all out!

We are disappointed with the low number of submissions that we received for this issue. Surprisingly, we received one thesis abstract and no research reports. Without submissions, there is no *Picoides*. Let's make the next issue a really big one! The next *Picoides* submission deadline is October 15, 2016. Please keep the submissions coming. Also, we welcome feedback from our readership as it is your publication. Have a safe and wonderful summer!



Follow SCO on Twitter! Follow us @SCO_SOC for news, exciting research, updates from members, and more!

Suivez SOC sur Twitter! Suivez-nous @SCO_SOC pour les nouvelles, la recherche passionnant, mises à jour des membres, et plus encore!



From left to right : Tree Swallow, male Wood Duck, and Bald Eagle. Photos by Martin Jalkotzy.

President's Message

Greg Robertson

To help make sure we're all set to go for our upcoming AGM at the NAOC VI in August, I held a teleconference call with the council in late April. One topic was making the SCO-SOC presence felt at a conference that may host around 2000 participants. We have a number of ideas, and will be active promoting the society and our journal (along with BSC). One thing that all members can do is don't be shy about sporting your Canadiana; so let's see lots of maple leaves, beavers, anchors and NHL team jerseys that did not make the playoffs this year at the NAOC VI. Bonus points if you can find something to wear with a woodpecker on it.

As part of getting ready for the meeting we had a look at membership numbers. Unfortunately, they are rather disappointing, and we are losing members. This is a not a unique situation, all scientific societies have lost members since journal access and membership have largely been decoupled (although that does not apply to the SCO, our journal was open access since day 1). We'll be very active in the coming months recruiting members and renewing old members. Of course we cannot ask people to become members just because, so we are also working on explaining membership benefits, and improving our services to members. Modernizing our virtual presence is a top priority for your council, and we are developing a plan to have all of our web presence and social media updated in the coming year.

Good luck with your 2016 summer field season, and hope to see many of you in Washington this August.

Message du président

Greg Robertson

Afin de vous assurer que nous sommes fin prêt pour notre prochaine AGA à NAOC VI en août prochain, j'ai tenu une conférence téléphonique avec le conseil à la fin avril. Un des sujets abordés a été de s'assurer que la présence de la SCO-SOC soit remarquée lors de cette conférence qui accueillera environ 2000 participants. Nous avons plusieurs idées et nous serons actifs dans la promotion de la société et notre revue (avec ÉOC). L'une de ces idées est que tous les membres ne doivent pas être timides à afficher notre canadienneté; donc affichons à la NAOC VI beaucoup de feuilles d'érable, des castors, des ancres et chandails d'équipe de la LNH qui n'ont pas fait les séries éliminatoires cette année. Des points boni si vous pouvez trouver quelque chose à porter avec un pic dessus.

Nous avons également regardé le nombre de membres de la société. Malheureusement, ce nombre est plutôt décevant et nous perdons des membres. Ceci est un pas une situation unique, toutes les sociétés scientifiques ont perdu des membres depuis que l'accès aux revues et les adhésions ont été largement découplés (bien que cela ne vaut pas pour la SOC, notre revue est libre d'accès depuis le jour 1). Nous serons très actifs dans les prochains mois sur le recrutement de membres et le renouvellement d'anciens membres. Bien sûr, nous ne pouvons pas demander simplement aux gens de devenir membres, nous travaillons également à expliquer les avantages d'être membre et à l'amélioration de nos services aux membres. La modernisation de notre présence virtuelle est une priorité pour votre conseil et nous élaborons un plan pour avoir une mise à jour de notre présence sur le web et les médias sociaux dans l'année à venir.

Bonne chance avec votre saison d'été de terrain 2016 et nous espérons vous voir nombreux à Washington en août prochain.

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 1000 words long, again preferably accompanied by one or two photos. See page 18 for submission details.

2016 Student Awards Recipients

On behalf of the SCO/SOC and Bird Studies Canada, the SCO-SOC Student Awards Committee wishes to congratulate the four 2016 SCO-SOC Student Award winners. We received many outstanding applications from across Canada, making it a challenge for the members of this year's committee (Colleen Barber, Saint Mary's University; Dan Mennill, University of Windsor; Marc Avey, University of Ottawa & Ottawa Hospital Research Institute; Ryan Fisher, Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment; and Ken Otter, University of Northern BC) to select this year's recipients. We would like to thank all those who applied and encourage those not selected to retry in 2017.

2016 Taverner Award

Brad Woodworth, University of Guelph

Year-round environmental drivers of population dynamics in a migratory songbird



Understanding population regulation requires knowledge of demographic and environmental mechanisms acting at all stages of the annual cycle, yet most research to date has focused on a single season (the breeding season) and only a fraction of the four vital rates (fecundity, survival, immigration, emigration) that contribute to population growth rate. These gaps have been due in large part to (i) the difficulty of tracking individuals and populations throughout the year and (ii) a lack of a cohesive analytical framework for assessing the relative contributions of the four vital rates and environmental factors at different stages of the annual cycle to variation in population growth rate. I propose to combine 4 years of geolocator data with 27 years of demographic data for Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) using a spatial integrated population model to assess (i) the relative contributions of the four vital rates to growth rate and (ii) how vital rates and growth rate are influenced by climate and population density throughout the annual cycle.

Nikole Freeman, University of Guelph

Effects of the early life environment on physiology and fitness across life-history stages in a resident boreal passerine

Understanding how climate change is influencing fitness and physiology presents a major uncertainty, particularly in northern species. A changing climate may cause a variety of consequences in an ecosystem including altering food abundance. Gray Jays (*Perisoreus canadensis*) are a year-round resident of the boreal forest and rely on cached food for overwinter survival and reproduction, thus they are sensitive to changing climatic conditions. At the southern edge of their range, some populations have declined by over 50% in the past 30 years. One proposed mechanism for this decline is that increasing fall temperatures negatively impact cached food quality and quantity by increasing food spoilage. This hypothesis, however, does not identify at which life stage the loss of cached food has the greatest influence, nor the physiological mechanisms leading to population declines. I propose to assess how food limitation during early life influences individual development and fitness across multiple life-history stages of Gray Jays.



2016 Baillie Award

Haley Kenyon, Queen's University

Why do avian signals differ in sympatry?

Bird species coexisting in overlapping ranges (sympatry) are often very different in their colour patterns and songs. Why? Selection against hybridization is the most commonly proposed mechanism behind sympatric signal divergence; however, we often make observations in nature that oppose this hypothesis – pairs of closely related species which differ remarkably in their signals frequently interbreed. Alternative hypotheses propose that selection against either interspecific aggression or ecological similarity can also produce signal divergence in sympatry. Here I will test between two alternative hypotheses, conducting model and song presentation experiments to determine 1) whether females are less receptive to the colour patterns and songs of males of closely related sympatric species and 2) whether males are less aggressive towards the colour patterns and songs of males of closely related sympatric species. This work will uncover the relative importance of different selective pressures in producing the breathtaking diversity that exists in avian signals.



2016 Fred Cooke Award

Alana Demko, University of Windsor

Receiver response to vocal and visual signal divergence in a Neotropical songbird

The objective of my research is to experimentally test whether vocal and visual signal divergence among animal populations contributes to differences in receiver response, and how phenotypic differences may influence reproductive isolation. In hybridizing populations, variation in response to multiple signals may indicate which signals are most important in promoting reproductive isolation, and may inform taxonomic relationships within and among species. However, few studies have examined receiver response to multiple signals in hybrid populations. I will present playback of male vocalizations and models to three populations of a Neotropical warbler species,



including one population that is in a known hybrid zone. My work will focus on the Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*), a common resident songbird with considerable geographic variation in plumage and vocalizations. This study is significant in experimentally testing receiver response to multiple signals in wild hybridizing animal populations.

Recent Canadian Ornithological Theses

Alana R. Westwood. 2016. Conservation of three forest landbird species at risk: Characterizing and modelling habitat at multiple scales to guide management planning. Ph.D. Dissertation. Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS.

To effectively conserve species at risk (SAR), it is important to understand their ecology at multiple scales, including stand-level habitat associations and landscape-level distribution. The Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*), Olive-Sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), and Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*) are listed landbird SAR that breed in wet forest habitat in Canada's Maritimes. To characterize their habitat for stand-scale conservation, I surveyed vegetation cover and structure at 99 known locations in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve. Habitat at sites occupied by each SAR was significantly different from habitat at unoccupied sites. However, occupied habitat near recent forest harvesting (within 1 km) did not differ from that in unharvested areas, suggesting features can be retained in managed forest landscapes. I further categorized habitat using Nova Scotia's Forest Ecosystem Classification (FEC) and found these SAR predominantly occupied the same wet-poor ecosites, potentially allowing for management of all three species as a suite. I also used FEC information to verify spatial data layers commonly used in forest management planning and found their accuracy ranged from poor to fair, depending on layer and buffer size considered.

To support regional-scale protected areas planning, I developed a species distribution model (SDM) for these species. I first evaluated 128 published SDM algorithms, finding that a majority did not accurately report model uncertainty, prediction metric, or both. To aid conservation practitioners in selecting and reporting on SDMs for conservation, I developed a guide based on data type, conservation objective, and experience. I then modeled the population density of the three SAR in four national parks in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, using Poisson log-linear regression models with a branching hierarchy. When comparing predicted population sizes to regional population estimates, national parks supported habitat for only 3-4% of Canada Warblers and 1-2% of Olive-sided Flycatchers. Thus it is highly unlikely that existing national parks alone are able to maintain viable regional populations. To help prevent extirpation of these species, forestry prescriptions need to be adjusted to conserve habitat, and key locations for management should be identified at a regional scale.



Western Sandpiper. Photo by Ilya Povalyaev.

Canadian Ornithological News

The State of North America Birds 2016 Now Available

The State of North America's Birds 2016 report prepared by The North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) is completed. The report is based on the first-ever conservation vulnerability assessment for all 1,154 native bird species that occur in Canada, the continental United States, and Mexico. The assessment was compiled by a team of experts from all three countries. Of these 1,154 species, 432 qualified for the Watch List, indicating species of highest conservation concern based on high vulnerability scores across multiple factors. The report can be accessed online at: <http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2016/>.

Maritimes and BC Breeding Bird Atlases Completed

Bird Studies Canada has completed the Maritimes and BC Breeding Bird Atlases with the financial support of the Government of Canada.

The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of British Columbia (<http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca/>) is Canada's first online bird atlas and includes 630,000 records of 320 species, as well as more than 1500 high-quality maps and graphs showing precise locations where each species occurs, how common it is, and which types of landscapes it breeds in. The Atlas will inform environmental assessments and identify purchase and management priorities for conservation and industrially-managed lands. The dataset is also being widely used for academic research.

The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces (<http://www.mba-aom.ca/>) is the most comprehensive and current information source on the status of the breeding birds of the Maritimes and includes detailed information on their distribution, abundance, habitats, and conservation. The Maritimes breeding bird atlas is now shipping. For more information, contact Bird Studies Canada's Atlantic Program Manager Laura Tranquilla at ltranquilla@birdscanada.org.



Dunlin. Photo by Laura Koloski.

Spring Updates from COSEWIC

At its spring meeting in Kelowna, BC in April 2016, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) reassessed the conservation status of the McCown's Longspur and the Red Crossbill (*percna* subspecies).

In Canada, the longspur is restricted to grassland habitats in southern Saskatchewan and Alberta. Grassland habitat is declining across North America. McCown's Longspur was assessed as Special Concern in 2006, and numbers continue to decrease. The Canadian population has declined by 98% since 1970. COSEWIC reassessed this species as Threatened.

The *percna* subspecies of Red Crossbill was previously thought to occur in small numbers only on the island of Newfoundland. COSEWIC assessed this subspecies as Endangered in 2004, but it has now been reassessed as Threatened, owing to the recent discovery of a previously unknown small subpopulation of birds on Anticosti Island, Québec.

Recent COSEWIC and SARA Reports on Birds

The proposed federal recovery strategies for Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) Eastern Population, Chestnut collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*), and Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) are available on the Species at Risk Public Registry. The proposed federal management plan for the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) is also available.

Announcements



Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Soci t  des ornithologistes du Canada

ELECTION 2016-2018/ LECTION 2016-2018

Approximately 22.5% of the membership cast ballots, and we were happy to have overwhelming support for all candidates. The following people will join or continue on council following the AGM at the 2016 NAOC council and will serve in these positions at least until the 2018 IOC meeting in Vancouver, BC. The SCO-SOC would like to thank all those who allowed their names to stand for election.

Nous avons re u environ 22,5% des bulletins de vote des membres et nous sommes heureux d'avoir eu un soutien massif pour tous les candidats. Les personnes suivantes se joindront ou continueront au conseil apr s l'assembl e g n rale annuelle lors de la conf rence de NAOC 2016 et serviront dans ces positions au moins jusqu'  la conf rence de l'IOC   Vancouver (C.-B.) en 2018. La SCO-SOC tient   remercier tous ceux qui se sont pr sent s aux  lections.

Vice-president/President-elect

Vice-pr sidence/Pr sidence  lu(e)

Colleen Barber, Saint Mary's University

Treasurer /Tr sorier

Junior Tremblay, Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

Membership Secretary / Secr taire aux Membres

Darroch Whitaker, Parks Canada

Councillors (2nd Term)/ Conseillers (2^e mandat)

Kyle Elliot, McGill University

Barbara Frei, University of Ottawa & McGill University

David Green, Simon Fraser University

Laura McKinnon, York University

Dan Mennill, University of Windsor

Councillors (1st Term) / Conseillers (1^e mandat):

Jennifer Foote, Algoma University

Marc-Andr  Villard, Universit  du Moncton

**2016 Meeting of Canadian Society of Ornithologists –August 16-20, 2016, Washington, DC.
Réunion de 2016 de Société canadienne d'Ornithologues - août 16-20, 2016, Washington, DC.**



The 2016 meeting of the Canadian Society of Ornithologists will be in Washington DC on August 16-20, 2016 as part of the North American Ornithological Conference. See you there! Visit <http://naoc2016.cvent.com/events/naoc-2016/event-summary-9cca73ad2f044f8790ca08d7f1d28536.aspx> for all the NAOC VI details.

La réunion 2016 de Société des Ornithologistes du Canada Société des Ornithologistes du Canada fera (sera) à Washington DC en août 16-20, 2016 dans le cadre de la Conférence Ornithologique Nord-américaine. Voir-vous là! Visitez <http://naoc2016.cvent.com/events/naoc-2016/event-summary-9cca73ad2f044f8790ca08d7f1d28536.aspx> pour tout le NAOC VI détails.

2016 Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award in Ornithology: Call for Nominations

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists welcomes nominations for the **2016 Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award in Ornithology**. This award is in recognition of Jamie Smith's contribution to fostering ornithological research.

Jamie Smith was a faculty member at the University of British Columbia's Zoology Department where he mentored countless budding ornithologists at postdoctoral, graduate and undergraduate levels. Well known for his ability to ask the hardest and most penetrating questions, Jamie pushed all those who encountered him to take their science farther. Nothing appeared to please him more than to see students rise to, and meet, his challenges. Jamie took his role as a mentor to generations of new scientists very seriously, and his influence on Canadian Ornithology is evident in the many former students now working in academia, industry and government.

The award honours established ornithologists (professional or amateur) from academia, industry, non-government or government agencies who have been nominated by students, colleagues and/or peers in recognition of displayed excellence in mentoring a new generation of professional or amateur biologists. The 2016 award will be presented to the recipient at the upcoming North American Ornithological Conference.

Please submit your nomination to Andrea MacLeod at Andrea.MacLeod@PortVancouver.com by **June 30, 2016**.

Please include the following information in your nomination package:

- A nomination letter that includes a short statement (max. 1000 words) indicating how the nominee has influenced the development of other ornithologists through mentoring.
- At least two additional letters of support (these can be in the form of separately submitted emails). Support letters should not exceed 500 words. The support letter should also indicate that the author has seen and support the nomination letter. Supporters may also add their own comments on the nominee.

For more information on the award and previous award winners please visit the website here: http://www.sco-soc.ca/jamie_smith/jsma_award.htm.

Information Exchange

Bird Studies Canada Seeking Volunteers for Various Programs

Bird Studies Canada is looking for volunteers for the following programs: Nightjar Survey, Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, and Project NestWatch.



Common Poorwill. Photo by Ilya Povalyaev.

Volunteer nightjar surveyors are wanted in six regions across Canada. Signing up for a route will require about two hours of surveying and one hour of data entry, must be completed once per year between **June 15 and July 15**, and will follow a new standardized national nightjar survey protocol. Most routes are along existing Breeding Bird Survey routes. Visit the survey website (<http://wildresearch.ca/programs/nightjar-survey/volunteer/>) to learn more or volunteer.

The Breeding Bird Survey is the primary source of long-term, large-scale data on North American breeding bird populations. In Canada, this valuable information is collected each **June** by more than 300 volunteers who survey over 500 BBS routes on secondary roads throughout the country. New volunteers are needed regularly in all regions of Canada. Volunteers must be able to identify all the birds around their route area by

sight and sound. Visit the BBS map (<https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RouteMap/Map.cfm>) to find a vacant route near you. To volunteer, contact the BBS office at ec.RON-BBS.ec@canada.ca or 1-613-998-0492.

Individuals who spend at least one day a month in summer (**June-August**) on a Canadian lake where loons breed are needed to help monitor loons and lake health for Bird Studies Canada's Canadian Lakes Loon Survey (<http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/cls>). Visit the lake activity map (<https://www.google.com/fusiontables/DataSource?snapid=S930802ueqV>) to view survey locations. To join, please register as a Bird Studies Canada member and opt into the loon survey. Active members can sign up by emailing Kathy Jones (volunteer@birdscanada.org).

Nest observations collected through the NestWatch program help scientists follow the health of bird populations through long-term monitoring of nesting activity. Birds are great indicators of the condition of their habitats, and NestWatch data provide valuable information on changes in the environment, as well as shifts in nest timing due to climate change. Participation in Project NestWatch is fun, easy, and free! After reading about how to minimize disturbance to nesting birds, you will be able to safely record the location and breeding activity of any nests you find, and submit your data online. For more information about this program, visit the BSC website (<http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/pnw>) or email projectnestwatch@birdscanada.org.



Savannah Sparrow. Photo by Nick Saunders.

SCO – SOC Information

Name	Title	Phone	E-mail
Officers for 2015/2016:			
Dr. Greg Robertson	President	709-772-2778	greg.robertson@canada.ca
Dr. Ken Otter	Vice-President/President-elect	250-960-5019	ken.otter@unbc.ca
Dr. Joe Nocera	Past President	705-755-5220	joe.nocera@ontario.ca
Dr. Matt Reudink	Treasurer	250-828-5428	mreudink@tru.ca
Mr. Lance Laviolette	Membership Secretary	613-874-2449	lance.laviolette@gmail.com
Dr. Greg Mitchell	Recording Secretary	613-998-7311	greg.mitchell@canada.ca
Mr. Rob Warnock	Co-editor, <i>Picoides</i>	306-586-2492	warnockr@myaccess.ca
Ms. Barbara Bleho	Co-editor, <i>Picoides</i>	416-705-0092	bleho.barbara@gmail.com
Voting Members of Council: (*second term)			
Dr. Alex Bond	Member of Council *	306-975-5216	alex.bond@usask.ca
Dr. Kyle Elliott	Member of Council	204-390-4277	haliaetus@gmail.com
Dr. Barbara Frei	Member of Council		barbara.frei@mail.mcgill.ca
Dr. David Green	Member of Council	778-782-3981	davidg@sfu.ca
Dr. Laura McKinnon	Member of Council	705-930-4125	laura.mckinnon@utoronto.ca
Dr. Dan Mennill	Member of Council	519-253-3000 ext 4726	dmennill@uwindsor.ca
Dr. Laura McFarlane Tranquilla	Member of Council	709-770-6923	ltranquilla@bsc-eoc.org
Dr. Junior Tremblay	Member of Council	418-649-6260	junior.tremblay@canada.ca
Dr. Darroch Whitaker	Member of Council *	709-458-3464	darroch.whitaker@pc.gc.ca

(Non-voting) Past Presidents:

Ross Lein	1983-1986	Henri Ouellet	1994-1996	Charles Francis	2004-2006
Spencer Sealy	1986-1988	David Nettleship	1996-1998	Susan Hannon	2006-2008
Erica Dunn	1988-1990	Tony Diamond	1998-2000	David Bird	2008-2010
Jon Barlow	1990-1992	Kathy Martin	2000-2002	Erica Nol	2010-2012
Bruce Falls	1992-1994	Jean-Pierre Savard	2002-2004	Joe Nocera	2013-2014

Membership Information

www.sco-soc.ca/membership.html

SCO-SOC membership forms can be found at the link above.

Current membership rates are as follows:

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

SCO-SOC Website

www.sco-soc.ca/index.html

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

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

Submissions to *Picoides*:

Articles and photos relevant to Canadian ornithology are welcomed by the editors. If submitting photos, please save them in tiff or jpeg format with descriptive file names, and supply captions including common names of species, location, date, photographer, and any other notes of interest. Deadlines for submission are February 15, May 15, and October 15; issues are typically published 3-4 weeks later. Please send all submissions to Rob Warnock at warnockr@accesscomm.ca.

Disclaimer:

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

