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PICOIDES

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Photo by P. Kuhn

Snow Geese destroy their nursery: see S.C.O. Column inside.
("3mx3m enclosures in (former) brood-rearing area in Lesser Snow Goose colony near LaPerouse Bay, Manitoba, August 1995. Enclosures established 1982 by D. Bazely and R. Jefferies (Botany, U. Toronto). Lush vegetation within enclosures in stark contrast to bare mud surrounding them.")

EDITOR'S MUSINGS

The Editor of *Picoides* has a privileged position but a demanding one. He (or she - implied hereafter) can include his own text in each issue and can re-write most of the rest. But if readers don't like what he writes, they send in less, and he has to write more. The editor must be part journalist and part psychologist. Familiarity with Canada and the ornithological literature helps. Feedback suggests that recent issues, combining your contributions and mine, satisfied some expectations without chafing many sore spots.

Other comments show that *Picoides'* role, and

that of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, is not clear to some readers. This uncertainty prevailed when our Society began, and the subject has been kicked around ever since. A Canadian focus for linkages among ornithologists always provided much of the *raison d'être* for the Society. This may be more important now with the changed roles of government agencies such as Canadian Museum of Nature and Canadian Wildlife Service. The nebulous concept of a Canadian focus calls for improved communication among our members, *Picoides* being one mechanism. If a simpler "newsletter" would serve

membership needs as well as or better than this "bulletin", the lower publication costs might allow three or four mailings a year instead of two. The Publication Committee report (see later) noted that many submissions to journals are rejected for lack of space, but few people see *Picoides* as an alternate publication outlet. Our Bulletin is slowly evolving its own character, but we needn't retain its present format or content if another would be more effective as well as less costly.

The Editor

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c/o Canadian Wildlife Service,
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E0A 3C0

To advertise in *Picoides*,
please write to:

The address at left, with
Attention: A. J. Erskine

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you would like to be a member of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, please send your name, address, phone number, and a cheque or money order (payable to S.C.O.) for \$10.00 to:

Dr. Tom Dickinson, Dept. of Biological Sciences,
University College of the Cariboo, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 5N3

Si vous désirez devenir membre de la Société des ornithologistes du Canada, faites parvenir vos coordonnées ainsi qu'un chèque ou mandat-poste (à S.O.C.) au montant de 10,00\$ à l'adresse ci-haut.

1996 ANNUAL MEETING - WHAT, WHERE, WHEN?

S.C.O. Council has decided to hold the Society's 1996 annual meeting in Canada, 15 years after the 1981 gathering in Edmonton which initiated our Society. The overall objective is to provide a diverse and extensive program that will accommodate the regular activities of the Society (council and general meetings), as well as special features of interest to S.C.O. members and others interested in Canadian birds and their habitats. The aim is to present a full Canadian ornithological program with emphasis on general problems in avian biology in Canada, conservation biology, and results of current studies. The program may include keynote speakers, mini-symposia addressing selected biological themes, contributed papers open to all aspects of avian biology and conservation, and field trips.

This initiative provides us with a challenge that divides into two parts. We must collectively develop a program theme that will attract ornithologists (professional and non-professional alike) and contribute to our knowledge of birds in Canada. And, equally important, we must identify a suitable location and time for the meeting. Some

S.C.O. members have suggested that it be held independently of other organizations, whereas others feel it may be better to link ours with another scheduled gathering dealing with natural history or zoology. Suggestions range from a stand-alone meeting, in August in association with the Atlantic Waterfowl Celebration in Sackville, N.B., or the Canadian Nature Federation gathering in Winnipeg, Man., to a late summer/fall venture in Fredericton, N.B., on forest birds, or in southern Ontario, related to bird activities at Long Point or Point Pelee. Many more possibilities exist, and should be advanced and discussed.

Your help is essential. Let us know what you think, and please get involved, by presenting your views and wishes on this important and exciting initiative. For a start, it would be extremely helpful for us to receive reactions, comments, or suggestions arising from the questions on the insert sheet in the middle of this issue.

Your answers to these questions, along with any suggestions you offer, will contribute greatly to the planning of this special 15th anniversary meeting, as well as to the Society's future direction as an

effective and useful organization for the understanding and conservation of Canada's avifauna. *An early reply is essential for organizing a meeting that can be announced in the next issue of Picoides, scheduled to appear in March 1996.* Please respond, and stay tuned.

Please do not hesitate to contact directly any members of the annual meeting working group with your ideas and suggestions.

Tony Diamond (506) 453-5006 (a.m.)
(506) 453-4926 (p.m.)
David Nettleship * (902) 426-3274 voice
(902) 426-7209 fax
Henri Ouellet (819) 595-4956

* Written comments/questionnaires to D.N. Nettleship, c/o C.W.S., Environment Canada, Queen Square, 5th floor, 45 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 2N6

S.C.O. COLUMN: "THE OVER-GOOSE-ING OF NORTH AMERICA"

Ed. note: This was condensed/paraphrased from a widely circulated letter, dated 14 February 1995, by C.D. Ankney (of U.West.Ont.) to S.G. Curtis (C.W.S., Ottawa), and from some letters reacting to it. These exchanges are published at Dr. Ankney's suggestion.

The Arctic Goose Conference in New Mexico (January 1995) and an article in a U.S. hunting magazine both highlighted the ever-expanding and probably excessive populations of Lesser Snow Geese in North America, and both noted the bureaucratic reaction that nothing could be done about that situation. Do we really have to wait for an inevitable population crash due to disease and/or starvation? Concern that hunters/hunting don't get blamed for the crash seems likely to emerge, but is not part of the issue.

Probably many waterfowl managers/biologists share those views. Training in waterfowl ecology and management in North America is based on the (implicit) premise that waterfowl abundance and large "harvestable surpluses" are the ultimate goal - but one that is too

narrowly drawn. For historical reasons, managers formulating waterfowl hunting regulations always try to err on the side of under- as opposed to over-harvest. This approach served us well in the 20th Century as we dug ourselves out of the "hole" created by gross over-harvests in the 19th; North American goose populations nowadays truly are one of the natural wonders of the world.

Equally true is that some are already over-populations, and others appear likely to become so in the near future. New approaches to waterfowl management, especially as to harvest, will be required for successful management extending into the 21st Century. Such management must be able to address over-abundance (of geese) as well as scarcity (of ducks).

Over-abundance problems already exist with:

1. Resident Canada Geese. These birds are a major achievement of waterfowl management, but there are simply too many of them in many areas. When biologists and hunters call them "sky carp", there are too many, and their numbers are still growing. Economic losses and "nuisance" problems also are growing, and no effective strategies

exist to deal with them. In southern Ontario, resident Canada Geese have escaped from our ability to control numbers via harvest. Serious goose hunters already kill all that they can use or give away.

2. White geese (Ross', Lesser and Greater Snows). Problems of overabundance of Ross' Geese are not yet known, but may be anticipated, given this species' enormous rate of increase in the past 25 years. Numbers of Greater Snow Geese are nearing 1/2 million (vs. 10,000 in 1900), resulting in "eat-outs" on wintering areas and reduced growth of young in breeding areas. These geese will soon escape our ability to manage their numbers by harvest under current options, if they have not already done so. Lesser Snow Geese of the mid-continent population have already escaped from control by harvest, and they are eating themselves "out of house and home" at certain breeding colonies. Concern has been expressed that this damage to breeding range will affect scarcer goose species (White-fronts and small Canadas) that also breed in the eastern and central Arctic. Effects on other groups of birds, such as shorebirds, have also been conjectured. Probably all of these goose "explosions" resulted from recent and increasing exploitation by geese of agriculture, leading to increased winter survival and enhanced female reproductive output. But the kill of mid-continent Snow Geese has declined in the past 25 years, partly because of fewer goose hunters.

What to do? To "let nature take its course" via starvation and disease will result in enormous waste of a valuable resource, disease not being restricted to the geese. Likewise, continued overpopulation and starvation will degrade ecosystems and seriously affect populations of other species. We must be creative, not precluding new

approaches because of historical prejudice.

First and foremost, we must re-write sections of the international migratory bird treaties that exclude needed forms of management. Canada and the U.S.A. are already negotiating changes in the Migratory Birds Convention to allow spring harvests in northern Canada and Alaska. It has been decided that prohibition of such harvest, mostly by indigenous peoples, is unnecessary and unworkable, and that regulations will be sufficient to ensure conservation. Effective goose management demands similar removal of prohibitions in the Convention, thus:

i. Remove the "closed season" between 10 March and 31 August throughout North America. This would allow increased harvest where necessary, for example of Snow Geese during spring migration from Texas to Manitoba;

ii. Remove the 3.5 month (107 day) maximum length of waterfowl seasons. This would allow winter hunting of, for example, resident Canada Geese in southern Ontario and elsewhere, and of wintering Snow Geese where overuse of habitat is creating problems.

Secondly, we should remove the prohibition on commercial hunting from Canada's Migratory Birds Convention Act (this is not prohibited by the Convention itself). This may be the only pro-active solution to overpopulations of some geese. Recreational hunting for personal consumption cannot sufficiently increase harvest so as to control, let alone reduce, mid-continent Snow Geese or many resident Canada Goose stocks, because few hunters want to eat goose every day. Commercial hunting would be a last resort, but it is a tool that should be available to managers when other tactics prove inadequate.

We grew up with the idea that

commercial hunting was abhorrent, although we (some of us) accept trapping and commercial fishing, when adequately regulated. There would be some public opposition to commercial hunting, but would an informed public disagree that the alternatives - disease, starvation, ecosystem damage, economic losses - are even less acceptable? Many people who are not hunters would enjoy the opportunity to eat wild game, as is done regularly in Europe. The economics of commercial hunting are not discussed in detail here, but the sale of down, feathers, and meat around Snow Goose migration areas could add millions of dollars to the local economies.

This will appear heretical to many, even as the restrictions imposed in 1916 by the Migratory Birds Convention appeared heretical to many. The early 1900s were crisis times, needing stern restrictions on harvest. But in present times we are also facing crises for some waterfowl, and the problems of overpopulation are caused by human actions, albeit indirectly and unintentionally. Therefore, we must ensure that waterfowl managers have the regulatory ability and authority to manage harvest so as to resolve these problems. There is much that can be done, and we owe it to the public as well as to the waterfowl to do it.

C. Davison Ankney
Professor, Zoology
Univ. Western Ontario
London, Ont. N6A 5B7

[Sequel - summary by Editor] Responses to Dr. Ankney's proposal received during March and April 1995 were very supportive. These respondents included management biologists in Ontario, North Dakota, and Kansas, researchers at the Universities of Toronto and Wisconsin and at the American

Museum of Natural History, and Ducks Unlimited personnel. Most people added notes on their own observations of environmental damage and frustration over lack of opportunities to remedy this under existing frameworks. The Central Flyway Council adopted a recommendation endorsing the need for changes in the migratory bird regulatory structure. The research team involved in interdisciplinary study of the effects of Snow Goose populations on coastal environments around Hudson Bay termed the result a "trophic cascade", meaning that the effects extend beyond the immediate, observable damage to other levels in the ecosystems. The Arctic Goose Joint Venture held a workshop to discuss the subject, at Oak Hammock Marsh, Manitoba, 25 October 1995.

Hugh Boyd, Research Scientist Emeritus with C.W.S., noted that changing deeply embedded attitudes would be slow, much as is seen with global warming. People prefer to do nothing, hoping the hazard won't take effect in their time. And the case for active intervention, to prevent crashes later - but surely not much later, is likely to be unpopular for many reasons.

My reaction is that the suggested changes in regulatory structure may be appropriate where geese pose problems. But such changes open the way for abuses in relation to other waterfowl. The "bad apples" among hunters take advantage of any loopholes, and existing blanket regulations provide the only (limited) control of such people, for whom the assumption of voluntary compliance with wildlife hunting regulations does not work. The problems of wildlife management are people management, and enforcement remains one of the weak links in that process.

Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists has reached a critical stage in its development where a review of its activities and involvement in Canadian ornithology is warranted. New initiatives need to be taken to ensure the progress and advancement of S.C.O.. Firstly, its membership must expand. To do so, every member is challenged to recruit a new member for 1996. I am convinced that this can be accomplished, and that the current membership can be increased significantly, or even doubled, during the next few months.

S.C.O., in the past, has held very few of its meetings in Canada, most having taken place in conjunction with meetings of other ornithological groups, in the U.S.A.. Those arrangements resulted in some problems regarding attendance, travel, etc., although it was convenient thus to take advantage of the presence of Canadian ornithologists at those larger meetings. Our last annual and council meetings, held during the American Ornithologists' Union 113th stated meeting in Cincinnati last August, were poorly attended. As a result, reports and other business had to be approved subsequently by council through a mail ballot. This is a most unusual way for a society to function. Our second challenge is to plan for and hold the next S.C.O. meeting in Canada. It seems to me that we have reached a sufficient state of maturity to allow us to arrange our own annual meetings, with a full program, independently of other ornithological gatherings. To reach this goal, a small task-force was set up and has prepared a document for your consideration, which appears in this issue of *Picoides*. Please read it carefully, and respond to it. S.C.O. needs your participation and involvement in order

to progress. Your opinions and ideas are welcomed and even essential for ensuring the future of our Society.

A third challenge for S.C.O. is to review its role in Canadian ornithology beyond its current activities.

- *Are you expecting more from S.C.O. than the publication of Picoides and the Speirs, Taverner and Baillie awards?*

- *Should our bulletin Picoides remain the same, or do you prefer a different approach?*

- *Should its contents differ in future? and, if so, what should it include?*

- *What should be its schedule of publication?*

- *Should S.C.O. initiate a new ornithological journal?*

- *What new initiatives should S.C.O. undertake in the future?*

- *What are you prepared to contribute to the success of S.C.O., and to what extent are you ready to become involved?*

These are only some of the questions that come to mind when one reflects on the future of S.C.O.. Again, I stress that your views must be heard and your opinions voiced to achieve an in-depth review of the Society. Submit your thoughts to the undersigned, or to the incoming president David Nettleship, and thus help provide a stronger voice in the affairs of YOUR Society. The officers and council serve the Society, but members must make their ideas known.

A small task-force consisting of David Hussell, David Nettleship, and myself will review the current by-laws of the Society. We hope to have this task completed by the end of 1995, and our proposals will be circulated with the spring 1996 issue of *Picoides* for your review and comments.

I extend my sincere congratulations to all the recipients of the 1995 awards,

particularly to Robert Nero, winner of the Doris Huestis Speirs Award.

In this, my last message as president, I thank all council members for their support. I am most appreciative of the contributions of all members of the committees, particularly the awards committees, for their dedicated work. It is through their efforts that most S.C.O. activities can take place. Many

thanks to all of you. The editor of *Picoides* as well as the membership secretary, treasurer, and recording secretary, deserve special thanks for their excellent work.

Henri Ouellet, 175 avenue de la Citadelle, Hull, Québec, Canada J8Z 3L9 Phone (819) 595-4956; Fax (819) 595-8725.

REPORTS FROM 1995 ANNUAL MEETING/ RAPPORTS DE LA REUNION ANNUELLE DE 1995

Note: The 1995 meeting of the S.C.O. Council in Cincinatti failed to achieve a quorum, and had to approve annual reports subsequently by mail ballot. The general

meeting was also poorly attended, but necessary business was conducted, with its approval of reports subject to Council approval by mail.

S.C.O. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/ RAPPORT DU PRÉSIDENT DE LA S.O.C.

In addition to the tasks expected from the incumbent, such as completion of reports, replies to correspondence and telephone requests about the Society or about birds, recent activities included the following:

- Preparation, with Nancy Flood, of a flyer to promote the Society and increase membership;
- Discussions concerning the Landbird Conservation Strategy. For more information, please refer to Ricky Dunn's report in the spring issue of *Picoides* [1995, 8(1): 7];
- Discussions and correspondence concerning the new Canadian Centre for the Study and

Preservation of Birds (C.C.S.P.B.). David Nettleship and André Cyr were appointed S.C.O. representatives for the meeting held in mid-October. S.C.O. is supportive of the project, but no commitments have been made as yet.

- Appointment of a small committee, chaired by David Hussell, to revise the By-Laws. Some proposed changes have been anticipated in practice, particular the timing of transfer from one President to the next.

Henri Ouellet

**S.C.O. FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP/
LES FINANCES ET LE NOMBRE DES MEMBRES S.O.C.**

FINANCES (condensed, by Editor, from 1995 report and 1994 financial statement by T.E. Dickinson, Treasurer S.C.O.)

Opening bank balances and investments (1 January 1994) – total \$20,079.36

Income

- Donations	\$ 368.08
- Membership fees	3,043.37
- Transfers from other organizations	1,381.25
- Bank and investment interest	<u>1,039.36</u>
total	5,832.06

Expenditures

- Awards (Baillie, 3 Taverner 1/, Speirs)	2,854.75
- <i>Picoides</i> (fall '93, spring '94)	1,904.36
- Operating and service charges	<u>71.37</u>
total	4,830.48

1/ One Taverner award for 1993 was not paid until 1994.

Closing bank balances and investments (31 December 1994)

– total \$21,080.94

(Audited by F. Huston, 12 August 1995)

1994 was a good year for the S.C.O. with an increase in net assets of about 5%. As a result of our motion last year (1994) to standardize Taverner Awards at \$500, these will be paid in future immediately on my receiving the names of successful applicants, thus appearing in the statement for the year when they were awarded. To avoid the difficulty of periods with very low interest returns on GICs, I have now invested the principal, in five equal parts, for terms of one, two, three, four and five years, each paying interest twice a year into our account. For the current year, our finances are in good shape despite some unanticipated expenses, including the membership brochure. Our savings with projected income for the year will easily cover our expenses.

MEMBERSHIP (condensed, by Editor, from a lengthy report and summary by N.J. Flood, Membership Secretary)

Currently 275 entries appear on the S.C.O. membership rolls, including 261 individuals, 4 societies/groups, and 10 libraries. Not all these are paid up to date (Table 1)

Membership status (as of 3 August 1995)	Number of members
renewed for 1995 (incl. 4 complimentary)	163
paid through 1994, not yet renewed for 1995	84
paid through 1993, not yet renewed for 1994 or 1995	23
paid beyond 1995 (i.e. through 1996 or later)	5

New members often join S.C.O. for only one year. Of 78 people who joined in 1992-94, 48 have not yet renewed for 1995. Moreover, 16 of 36 "founding members" still alive had not renewed for 1995 either, and 9 founding members have let their memberships lapse (not paid since 1992 or earlier).

Donations were received with 11 membership renewals for 1995, and several other people contribute as Sustaining Members (\$25 or more).

Geographic distribution is as follows: Nfld. 5; N.S. 7; N.B. 10; Que. 37; Ont. 83; Man. 16; Sask. 22; Alta. 33; B.C. 32; N.W.T.

& Y.T. 5; U.S.A. 19; Overseas 6. total 275. [Note: All numbers are larger than in the last membership report because the latter was current only through April of that year.]

We still have no members from Prince Edward Island, despite a special letter to names from other ornithological directories.

[Another table and extensive discussion of who joins or does not join S.C.O. reinforced the previous impression {compare *Picoides* 6(2): 3-5 (1993)} that "amateur" ornithologists are scarcely represented in our Society.]

1995 DORIS HUESTIS SPEIRS AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists presents the Doris Huestis Speirs Award for 1995 to Robert W. Nero. Ethologist, naturalist, conservationist, archaeologist, writer and poet, Bob Nero's influence on Canadian ornithology has been far-reaching. In 1955, Bob received the Ph.D. degree from University of Wisconsin for a classic study of territorial and courtship behaviour of Red-winged Blackbirds. Bob then moved to Regina as Assistant Director of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. He was a strong supporter of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, and his first articles, summarizing records of

Black-throated Blue Warbler and Kangaroo Rat in Saskatchewan, were published in its journal *Blue Jay* in March 1956. His papers, on various subjects, appeared in most subsequent issues of this journal. Bob edited the *Blue Jay* in 1965-66 and continues to serve it as an Associate Editor.

During eight years at the Museum, Bob explored, with others, many little-known areas of Saskatchewan, documenting additions to known ranges of mammals and new occurrences of birds. He continued studies of bird behaviour, particularly of blackbirds and Lark Buntings. Bob encouraged amateur naturalists and bird-

watchers to record and publish their observations in the *Blue Jay*. He saw birds of prey as creatures of beauty and recognized their importance in natural ecosystems at a time when these birds were much persecuted. His efforts contributed importantly to the Saskatchewan government's enactment of legislation, in the early 1960s, that afforded birds of prey full legal protection in that province. With Bob leading local ornithologists in Regina, the Saskatchewan Natural History Society and the Museum hosted the 77th Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1959, the first time this body had met in western Canada.

In 1962, Bob accepted a position as associate professor of biology at University of Saskatchewan's Regina Campus. He continued to write about natural history, and conducted avifaunal studies of three little-known areas of Saskatchewan: the Lake Athabasca region, northeastern Saskatchewan, and the Moose Mountain region. Results of those studies appeared as *Special Publications of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society*, and they remain the definitive works on birds of those regions.

Bob spent the rest of his career in Manitoba, from 1967 at Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, and from 1972 until his recent retirement as non-game specialist with Department of Natural Resources. His experience as a scientist and naturalist was immediately recognized, and Bob became known as the Provincial Ornithologist. His colleagues, newspaper reporters, environmental groups, and members of the general public tapped his broad knowledge on natural history and conservation affairs, and his considerable writing and editorial skills. Bob supported the *Bulletin of the Manitoba Naturalists' Society* with many writings, his sometimes controversial opinions, and poems.

Soon after arriving in Manitoba, Bob became interested in the Woodcock. In searching for this species in southeastern Manitoba, he soon met the Great Gray Owl. That was it! A love affair with Great Gray Owls began and endures to this day. With Herb Copland, hundreds of sightings were made, dozens of nests were observed, over 500 owls were banded, and hundreds of photographs were taken by renowned wildlife photographer Robert R. Taylor. Bob supervised a Ph.D. study of the Great Gray Owl, and wrote many articles and two books in which he shared his experiences and the knowledge he had gained. Bob revealed in these books the artistic sensitivity with which he perceives the natural world. With his captive owl Gray'l, Bob visited school classrooms to talk about the beauty of nature, his love for it, and the importance of treating the environment with respect.

Bob compiled records of Cougar sightings in Manitoba and adjacent areas, spurred on by the shooting of a Cougar near Winnipeg in 1973. With Robert Wrigley, he published on the status of this mammal in Manitoba, and was instrumental in having it afforded protection by the Manitoba government. Bob encouraged amateur naturalists and other people around the province to report records to him. Everyone with an observation of a Cougar, Great Gray Owl, or chipmunk was important. Indeed, one of Bob's greatest contributions was his passionate encouragement of non-professionals to participate in the discovery of happenings in the bird world. In their younger days, many ornithologists now active in Canada were positively influenced by Bob Nero.

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists takes great pleasure in presenting the 1995 Speirs Award to Robert Nero for his many important contributions to ornithology in Canada.

STUDENT AWARDS/BOURSES AUX ETUDIANTS

(extracted from letter by W. Montevecchi)

The James L. Baillie Student Research Award was presented to Vincent R. Muehter, of Queen's University, for the proposal "Causes and reproductive consequences of 'coloniality' in Lazuli Buntings (*Passerina amoena*) - Implications for conservation".

Two Taverner Awards were made, to Monica Kidd, of Queen's University, for a project entitled "An intraspecific phylogenetic

analysis of the guillemots (*Cepphus* spp.): Geographic variation and modes of speciation"; and to Kevin Brown, of York University, for a proposal "An investigation into the proximate and ultimate causes of adoption in Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*)".

The Committee on Student Awards also recommended "Honourable Mention" of projects proposed by Kara Lefevre, Kimberley J. Fernie, and Russ Dawson.

EDITOR'S REPORT/RAPPORT DU EDITEUR

With two more issues of *Picoides* prepared and circulated on schedule, I'm as near to a "routine" as is likely. Vol.7, no.2 of *Picoides* was mailed in November 1994, and Vol.8, no.1 in April 1995. After consultation with members of the executive, we decided to schedule the spring 1995 issue in April rather than May, to allow notices of summer work or study opportunities to be included. No such notices were received this time, but we'll try again next year. The new schedule may put unwanted pressure on academics, with the end of the college year coming up at the same time, and these same people are the

ones most likely to need summer assistants. The obvious solution for them is to send input for the spring *Picoides* earlier, in January or February. I have a couple of items for the fall issue in hand already... And I can always use photographs, for the cover (with or without a story inside) or to accompany an article.

Thanks to everyone who contributed material, and also those who let us know they enjoyed the resulting product. Again, I will not be at the A.G.M. to report in person. Maybe next year?

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT/ RAPPORT DU COMITE SUR LES PUBLICATIONS

A Canadian ornithological publication or journal would apparently be viable, considering the high number of good manuscripts rejected, because of a lack of space, by editors of North American ornithological journals.

There are various means of starting a scientific publication, using available

technology: traditional paper publication, electronic publication, CD-ROM production. As we stand at the moment, it is difficult to select one medium over the others. Numerous factors have to be considered such as diffusion, accessibility of publication and, above all, costs. It appears that it will be difficult to obtain funding for such a project

now, in view of budget cuts at all levels. However, the committee is not giving up on this project and will continue to explore the possibilities of producing a high-quality ornithological journal in Canada, and will make sure that S.C.O. is ready to take

initiatives to achieve this goal when the economic situation improves.

(Committee members: H. Ouellet (chair), R. McNeil).

Call for Nominations

DORIS HUESTIS SPEIRS AWARD

The Speirs Award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to Canadian ornithology. If you wish to nominate someone, please contact:

Society of Canadian Ornithologists, Speirs Award,
c/o Dr. D.N. Nettleship, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Queen Square, 45 Alderney Dr., Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 2N6

Call for Applications

1996 STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

Applications are sought annually for one Baillie Award (\$1,000) and two Taverner Awards (\$500 each).

The James L. Baillie Student Research Award is open to any student conducting ornithological research at a Canadian university. It honours the memory of James L. Baillie, and supports field research on Canadian birds. The James L. Baillie Student Research Award is funded by Long Point Bird Observatory from proceeds of the Baillie Birdathon, and is administered by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists.

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

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

To apply, submit a resumé, two letters of reference and a proposal (max. 3 pp.) which should indicate the purpose of the study, methods to be used, and a budget outlining total costs and other sources of funding received or applied for. Applications should reach the following address before 15 January 1996:

Dr. M. Ross Lein,
Dept, Biological Sciences,
Univ. Calgary, Calgary, Alta.
T2N 1N4

Phone: (403)220-6549;
e-mail: mrlein@acs.ucalgary.ca.

Awards will be announced by 1 April 1996.

IN PRESS

Current and "In Press" Articles in Canadian Ornithology

Université de Montréal

McNeil, R., Diaz D, O., Liñero, I., Rodriguez S, J.R. 1995. Day and night prey availability for waterbirds in a tropical lagoon. *Can. J. Zool.* 73: 869-878.

McNeil, R., Rodriguez S, J.R. Nocturnal foraging in shorebirds. *Wader Study Group Bull.*, *in press*.

McNeil, R., Rompré, G. 1995. Day and night feeding territoriality in Willets *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* and Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* during the non-breeding season in the tropics. *Ibis* 137: 169-176.

McNeil, R., Tulio D, M., Casanova, B., Villeneuve, A. Trematode parasitism as a possible factor in over-summering of Greater Yellowlegs. *Ornitol. Neotropical*, *in press*.

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Université de Moncton

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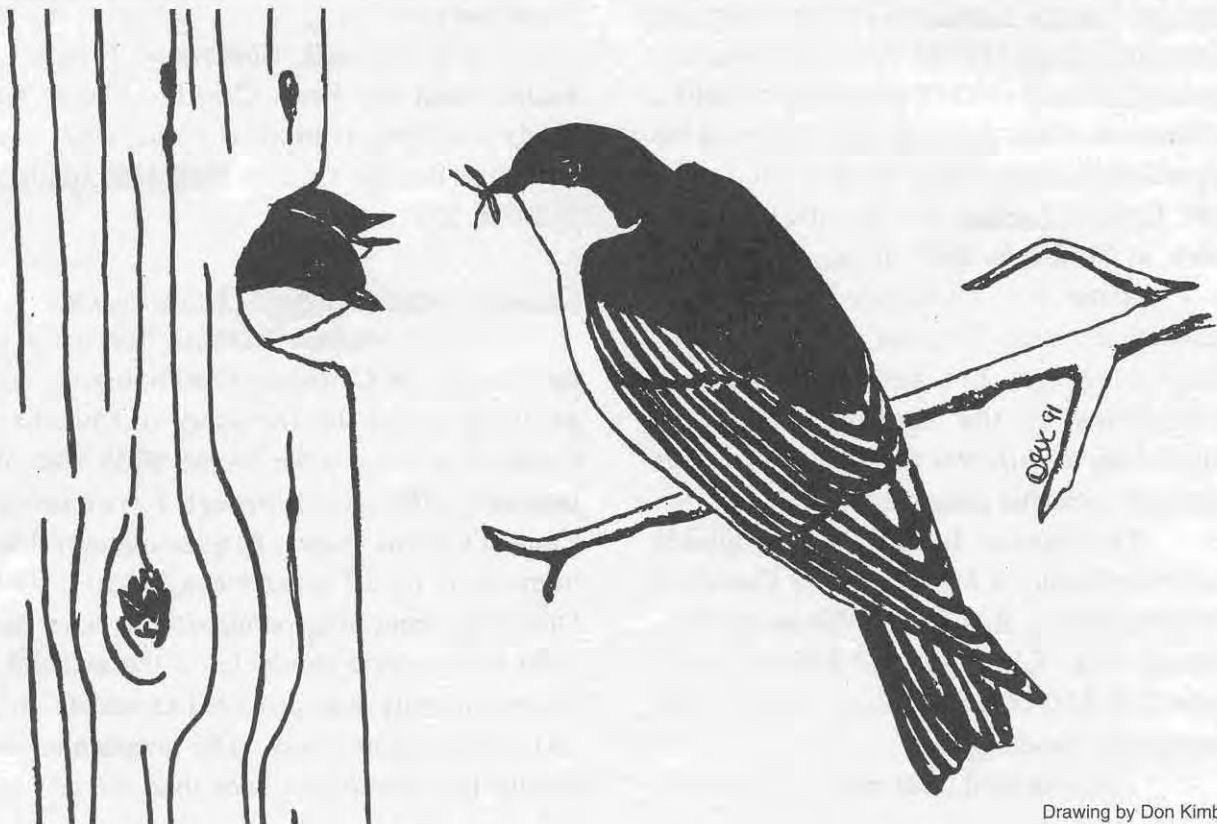
New studies begun in 1995

Atlantic Cooperative Wildlife
Research Network - U.N.B.
Fredericton

Kim Mawhinney (Ph.D. candidate). Post-hatch brood ecology of the Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) in the Bay of Fundy. - work focussed primarily on The Wolves archipelago, also Passamaquoddy Bay and Grand Manan Island.

Krista Amey (M.Sc. candidate). Seabirds as indicators of changes in food availability in the Bay of Fundy: application of an early-warning system for fisheries management. - work at Machias Seal Island.

Tony Diamond (Senior Chair). Landscape influences on songbird demographics. - in broad-leaved stands in plantation- and woodlot-dominated landscapes near Fundy National Park.



Drawing by Don Kimball

NEWS ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Forthcoming publication

A special issue of **The Canadian Field-Naturalist**, Vol. 110, No.1, Jan.-Mar. 1996, presents

A life with birds. Percy A. Taverner, Canadian Ornithologist, 1875-1947. by John Cranmer-Byng.

From 1911 to 1942 Percy Taverner was ornithologist at the National Museum of Canada. His work included building up the museum's bird collections and studying avian distribution, with help from a network of people across the country. He was a leading advocate for conservation and wild bird protection, and he played major roles in the creation of Point Pelee National Park and of the bird sanctuaries in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Taverner's most far-reaching contribution was as an educator. His books Birds of Eastern Canada (1919) and Birds of Western Canada (1926), later combined as Birds of Canada (1934), presented scientific information about the birds and conveyed his appreciation of the birds he described. [Ed. note: Birds of Canada was the first bird book I saw, at Christmas 1937; it was outstanding in its time.] Cranmer-Byng's new publication reveals Taverner's devotion to the study of birds, his achievements and difficulties at the museum, his bird expeditions to different parts of Canada, his family life, and his personality.

This Special Issue will be available from the Business Manager, The Canadian Field-Naturalist, Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, Ont. K1Z 1A2 for \$25.00 (hard-cover) or \$10.00 (soft-cover) plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

(condensed from material received)

Baillie Fund grant applications due soon

Do you have plans for an individual or club project on birds that needs some extra funding? The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund may be able to help. The Fund offers two types of grants: (1) for projects that involve research or education or that contribute to the preservation of Canadian birds: and

(2) for a limited period (1993-97) to initiate and support migration monitoring stations (bird observatories) that monitor Canadian birds during their migrations.

The Fund supports projects that involve volunteers in education, research, or data collection. Graduate student research projects are rarely supported. Next deadline for applications is **27 January 1996**.

For more information and application forms, write to:

David J.T. Hussell, Secretary, James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, Canadian Centre for Study and Preservation of Birds, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0 (phone: 519-586-3531).

Canadian Ornithologists to be on Internet

The Canadian Wildlife Service and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists are planning to put the Directory of Canadian Ornithologists onto the World Wide Web of Internet, with access through Environment Canada's home page. A questionnaire has been sent to all who were in the 1994 Directory, requesting permission to have the 1994 information available on the network. An opportunity was provided to update and add to this information. The questionnaires should be returned no later than the end of

November 1995. Anyone who was not in the 1994 Directory but would like to be included in the network edition should request a questionnaire from

Mary Wyndham, CWS-HQ, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3; phone 819-953-0294; fax 819-953-6283; e-mail wyndhamm@cpits1.am.doe.ce.

More International Contacts

Available to interested persons is material received from a Brazilian publishing firm (Editora Dalgas Ecoltec Ltda.) advertising, among other things,

- the Vth Brazilian Ornithological Congress, to be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 28 January-2 February 1996;

- many recordings of Brazilian bird songs;

- a new illustrated book (Portugese/English text in parallel) titled The Hummingbird Garden (US \$99.95 hard, \$78.00 soft), on how to create a garden (in the tropics?) to attract these birds.

{condensed from material received}

New Edition of *Last of the Curlews*

Counterpoint Books, of Washington, D.C., has published a new and very attractive edition of this classic book by Fred Bodsworth, an S.C.O. member, with new foreword and afterword by environmentalists W.S. Merwin and M. Gell-Mann, as a timely reminder of the plight of endangered birds around the earth.

(condensed from material received)

World Pheasant Association (WPA) (IUCN/ICBP specialist Group for Galliformes)

The WPA invites you to attend the Seventh International Grouse Symposium in Fort Collins, Colo., U.S.A., 20-24 August

1996. The meeting is being organized by WPA International in combination with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The overall theme of the symposium will be **Management and Conservation of Grouse**, with special topics including

- Prairie grouse and habitat fragmentation

- Managing small populations: Low density vs. declining

- Systematics and population dynamics.

These topics will be addressed through symposia, shorter oral presentations, poster papers, and workshops. Papers on any aspects of grouse biology will be most welcome. All submitted presentations may be considered as poster papers, but those accepted for publication in the proceedings may not all be presented orally. English will be the language of the meeting, and all papers must be submitted in English only. All papers will be subjected to peer review, and edited papers will be submitted for publication to an international journal.

Preliminary registrations should be completed immediately. Contributions should follow as early as possible and in any case before 30 June 1996. All correspondence concerning the conference should be sent to

Clait E. Braun, Wildlife Research Centre, 317 W. Prospect Rd., Fort Collins, Colo. 80526 U.S.A. (fax 970-490-6066).

Enquiries about program go to Clait Braun (as above) or to

Kathy Martin, Canadian Wildlife Service, 5421 Robertson Rd., R.R. 1, Delta, B.C. V4K 3N2 (fax 604-946-7022; e-mail kmartin@univg.ubc.ca).

(shortened from material received)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many thanks to all those who contributed material for this issue, with special thanks to Dave Ankney for his S.C.O. Column and to Marc-André Villard for sending "In Press" material without being prompted. I can only write so much for any issue. We're all in on this together. Keep it coming!

AND FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

I have an idea for an article on a "Publish or perish" theme, from the viewpoint of putting data into circulation. This may make an S.C.O. Column if I get it written.

There won't be photographs on cover or articles unless some are offered. There must be more good black-and-white photos "out there". Prints from colour shots are fine, if contrast is good.

The next issue will feature "In Press" items from Manitoba west. Anyone (from anywhere) who wants to ensure a forthcoming article or book is mentioned there should send it in anytime.



Drawing by Rod Cumberland

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