

PICOIDES

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Long-tailed Ducks on Lake Ontario in the fall. Photo by Yousif Attia.

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Editor's Message

Rob Warnock and Barbara Bleho

Welcome to the third and final issue of *Picoides* in 2013. We hope everyone had a great summer and start to fall this year.

As always, we begin this issue with the bilingual President's message. We are also pleased to feature five new thesis abstracts in Canadian Ornithology and three profiles of the four 2013 winners of SCO-SOC Student Research Awards: David Toews, UBC (Taverner); Adrianna Bruni, University of Windsor (Baillie); and Rachael Derbyshire, University of Guelph (Taverner). Laure Cauchard's profile was featured in the last issue. In addition, there is a review of the book, *Bird Conservation*, which summarizes studies of over 300 human intervention methods to help wild birds.

In other ornithological news, the SCO-SOC's flagship journal *Avian Conversation and Ecology* has recently published a special issue on the estimates of human-caused bird mortality. Check it out. We have a number of other short avian news items ranging from the extinction of the Eskimo Curlew to thousands of bird deaths at a gas plant in Saint John, New Brunswick. We encourage SCO-SOC members to participate in FeederWatch, the NWT Nunavut Checklist program and the Birds and Windows Project.

After three years, Marcel Gahbauer has stepped down as co-editor of *Picoides* and Barbara Bleho of Calgary has joined the *Picoides* team as co-editor responsible for layout, beginning with this issue. Rob Warnock will continue to solicit and edit submissions. Thank you Marcel for your dedication and service as co-editor and welcome aboard Barbara! We also thank Junior Tremblay for providing the French content for *Picoides*, which we hope to expand in future issues.

Your feedback and suggestions for *Picoides* are always welcome – we receive very little input from our readers, and would love to get more. As always, we encourage submissions from SCO-SOC members, especially from students and ornithology labs – *Picoides* does not exist without your contributions of articles and photos. The next submission deadline is February 15, 2014. Until then, safely enjoy the rest of fall and the coming holiday season!



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

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

New Co-Editor of *Picoides* Barbara Bleho

Hello Everybody! I'm excited to join the *Picoides* team. I thank former co-editor Marcel Gahbauer and the members of council for the opportunity to contribute to SCO-SOC in a meaningful way. I've been interested in birds since an early age, when I fed birds in my yard and noted which species came to my feeders, which evolved into an interest in identifying birds elsewhere and keeping a "life list." I consider myself a birder, though I know many of you have skills much better than mine. I studied grassland songbirds during my graduate research and have maintained a strong interest in rangeland ecology and management. I also enjoy writing and editing, both of which I have done professionally. This role is a perfect fit!

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.

President's Message

Joe Nocera

The second issue of volume 8 of *Avian Ecology and Conservation* contains a collection of articles that estimate the direct and indirect mortality of birds from anthropogenic sources in Canada. The numbers are startling. Summing the most conservative mortality estimates from these papers yields a minimum of 144,172,673 birds killed by human-related causes each year in Canada. The vast majority of these deaths are attributable to house cats (>100,000,000), window strikes (>25,000,000), and collisions with vehicles (>13,000,000). To put this number into perspective, let's assume all these birds were small – say on the order of three inches in length. If you were to lay each dead 3" bird end-to-end on the Earth's surface, the line of dead birds would stretch longer than the distance from Halifax to Tokyo.

Shortly after these papers were posted on ACE's website, the Canadian public learned that 7,500 migrating birds had been killed by a flare at the Canapost LNG plant in New Brunswick. This news created a noticeable public outrage. Yet, despite the fact that this flare contributed a mere 0.00005% to the annual anthropogenic mortality rate for birds in Canada, we hear little backlash from the public about the 2,500,000 birds that annually "clothesline" themselves on transmission wires, or about the 2,209,400 birds that get mowed over in hayfields. The next discussion we may need to have is how to get the public to react to these much larger numbers when the mode of mortality may not be as viscerally offensive as burning in a gas flare, but no less real.

None of this should really be news to SCO members. There was a symposium on incidental take at the SCO meeting in Moncton in 2011 where many of these numbers were presented. This year's SCO meeting in Winnipeg focussed on Endangered Species vs. Endangered Spaces, a topic still germane to incidental take, that addressed some of the challenges we face in trying to conserve species. The meeting was well-attended: 3 keynote lectures were delivered, 32 oral presentations, and 8 posters. Topics ranged from genetic differentiation in sapsuckers to reviews of citizen science programs. Dr. Nicola Koper and her team did an excellent job in hosting this year's meeting, and the SCO extends to them our sincerest thanks.

Our next meeting will be September 24-27 in Estes Park, Colorado, where we will meet jointly with the Cooper

Message du président

Joe Nocera

Le deuxième numéro du volume 8 d'*Écologie et conservation des oiseaux* contient une série d'articles estimant la mortalité directe et indirecte des oiseaux due aux activités humaines au Canada. Les nombres sont effarants. Si on additionne les estimés les plus conservateurs de tous ces articles, on obtient un minimum de 144 172 673 oiseaux tués annuellement en raison d'activités humaines, au Canada seulement. La majorité de cette mortalité est attribuable au chat domestique (>100 000 000), aux collisions avec des fenêtres (>25 000 000) et aux collisions avec des véhicules (>13 000 000). Afin de mettre ce chiffre total en perspective, présumons que tous ces oiseaux étaient de petite taille – disons, de l'ordre de 7 à 8 cm de longueur. Si vous placiez tous ces oiseaux l'un contre l'autre dans le sens de la longueur, la ligne résultante couvrirait la distance de Halifax à Tokyo.

Peu de temps après que ces articles ont été mis en ligne sur le site d'*ÉCO*, le public Canadien a appris que 7500 oiseaux migrateurs sont morts brûlés par une haute flamme à l'usine Canapost LNG, au Nouveau-Brunswick. Cette nouvelle a cause une onde de choc chez le public. Pourtant, en dépit du fait que cet événement représente 0.00005% de la mortalité annuelle d'oiseaux au Canada, nous n'entendons pas de réactions semblables du public au sujet des 2 500 000 oiseaux qui se tuent annuellement en frappant des lignes de transmission, ou encore au sujet des 2 209 400 oiseaux qui se font faucher dans les champs de foin. La prochaine discussion que nous devrions avoir pourrait porter sur le fait que le public doit réagir devant ces nombres nettement plus grands, en dépit du fait que les causes de mortalité impliquées sont peut-être moins frappantes pour l'imagination mais non moins réelles.

Rien de ceci ne doit être nouveau pour les membres de la SOC. Un colloque sur les prises accessoires a eu lieu au congrès de la SOC tenu à Moncton en 2011, durant lequel plusieurs de ces chiffres furent présentés. Le congrès de la SOC s'est tenu cette année à Winnipeg et a porté sur les espèces menacés et les espaces menacés, un thème tout à fait pertinent pour les prises accessoires. Ce thème s'attaquait à certains des défis auxquels nous faisons face afin de conserver les espèces. Le congrès a accueilli de nombreux participants, dont 3 conférenciers invités. De plus, nous avons assisté à 32 communications orales et 8 par affiche. Les thèmes allaient de la différenciation génétique chez le Pic maculé à l'évaluation de programmes de science citoyenne. La professeure Nicola Koper et son équipe ont fait de l'excellent travail à titre d'hôtes du congrès et la SOC les remercie cordialement.

Ornithological Society and the American Ornithologists' Union. For this meeting, each society will contribute one plenary speaker, and I am happy to report that Dr. Grant Gilchrist has accepted our invitation to provide a plenary for the SCO at the 2014 joint meeting.

Between now and the next *Picoides*, the holidays will befall us. I wish you joy in the seasons and hope you contribute to some Christmas Bird Counts. I look forward to writing my next President's message at the top end of 2014, and I want the above to give you something to think about in the meantime.

Notre prochain congrès aura lieu à Estes Park, Colorado, du 24 au 27 septembre 2014, alors que nous nous rencontrerons conjointement avec la Cooper Ornithological Society et l'American Ornithologists' Union. Pour ce congrès, chaque société devait nommer un conférencier invité et je suis content de vous dire que le professeur Grant Gilchrist a accepté notre invitation.

Puisque les vacances de Noël surviendront d'ici au prochain numéro de *Picoides*, je vous souhaite mes meilleurs vœux et j'espère que vous contribuerez au recensement des oiseaux de Noël! J'ai hâte d'écrire mon prochain message du président au début de 2014 et j'espère que les pensées ci-haut vous feront réfléchir d'ici là!



Canada Geese in migration. Bon voyage! Photo by Barbara Bleho

President's Report 2013

Joe Nocera

This is my first President's Report since assuming the position in 2013. Below, I provide a short breakdown of the major issues and events dealt with by the SCO-SOC in that time. My Presidency will cease in September of 2014, at which point our Vice-President (President-Elect) Greg Robertson will assume the role.

Finances

As per the Treasurer's Report, we realized a large return on our investment in the NAOC-V with the receipt of \$15,160.11. A portion of this money will be re-invested to continue growing our base assets (which are quite healthy). The remainder will be used to offset any costs from the 2013 meeting and to establish new awards (see below) or increase the value of existing awards.

Awards

Due to an absence of nominations, there was no recipient of the 2013 Doris H. Speirs Award, which is a first in the 27 years since this award was established. To help rectify this, a more vigorous advertising campaign has been engaged for the 2014 award, as well as a lengthening of the submission deadline.

The Student Affairs Committee has proposed the initiation of Travel Awards for students, and the SCO-SOC Executive has approved this proposal. Thus, we will be offering Travel Awards in 2014 for which details will be posted in an upcoming issue of *Picoïdes*.

Publications

As of the 2013 AGM, the co-editor of *Picoïdes*, Marcel Gahbauer, has stepped down from the position. We thank Marcel for his diligent and enthusiastic work with the newsletter, and we welcome his replacement, Barbara Bleho. Some may have noticed that we had problems with the website over the summer, which I am happy to report are now rectified. We apologize that the last issue of *Picoïdes* had to be sent to members directly by email. *Picoïdes* is now indexed by EBSCO Publishing Inc., and will be searchable on several of its information services products.

Avian Conservation and Ecology (ACE) continues as our flagship journal, and its latest issue has numerous papers focussing on "incidental take" (or, rather, direct and indirect anthropogenic mortality). All the articles, especially the article by Peter Blancher on domestic cats, raised a fair amount of media attention.

The furor over the "mega-society" proposal of 2012 (to merge all North American ornithological societies) has diminished, largely

Rapport du président 2013

Joe Nocera

Voici mon premier rapport de président depuis ma prise de position. Je présente ci-dessous une courte description des principaux enjeux et événements traités à ce jour par la SCO-SOC. Ma présidence cessera en septembre 2014, moment où notre vice-président (président élu) Greg Robertson assumera le rôle.

Finances

Selon le rapport du trésorier, nous avons réalisé un grand retour sur notre investissement dans la NAOC-V avec la réception de 15 160,11 \$. Une partie de cet argent sera réinvesti pour poursuivre la croissance de nos actifs de base (qui sont en bonne santé). Le reste sera utilisé pour compenser des coûts de la réunion 2013 et pour établir de nouveaux prix (voir ci-dessous) ou pour augmenter la valeur des attributions existantes.

Prix

En raison de l'absence de candidature, il n'y pas eu de récipiendaire du prix 2013 Doris H. Speirs, ce qui est une première depuis que ce prix a été créé (27 ans). Pour aider à remédier à cette situation, une campagne de publicité plus dynamique a été engagée pour le prix 2014 ainsi qu'un allongement de la date limite de soumission.

Le Comité des affaires étudiantes a proposé l'ouverture de bourses de voyage pour les étudiants et la direction de la SCO-SOC a approuvé cette proposition. Ainsi, nous offrirons des bourses de voyage en 2014 et les détails seront publiés dans un prochain numéro de *Picoïdes*.

Publications

Le co-rédacteur en chef de *Picoïdes*, Marcel Gahbauer, a démissionné de ce poste. Nous remercions Marcel pour son travail assidu et enthousiaste avec le bulletin d'information et nous accueillons sa remplaçante, Barbara Bleho. Certains ont peut-être remarqué que nous avons approuvé des problèmes avec notre site Web durant l'été; je suis heureux d'annoncer qu'ils sont maintenant corrigés. Nous sommes désolés que le dernier numéro de *Picoïdes* ait été envoyé aux membres directement par courriel. *Picoïdes* est désormais indexé par EBSCO Publishing Inc. et sera accessible via plusieurs services d'information.

Conservation des oiseaux et de l'écologie (ACE) continue d'être notre revue phare et sa dernière édition présente de nombreux articles axés sur les «prises accessoires» (ou, plutôt, sur la mortalité anthropique directe et indirecte). Tous les articles,

because most societies decided not to merge or adopted a “benign neglect” approach of wait-and-see. As a result, the proposal has now largely been pared down to merging only the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) and the Cooper Ornithological Society (COS). In doing so, they have revamped their publishing model and the *Auk* and the *Condor* have changed their mandates. The *Auk* (retitled “*Auk: Ornithological Advances*”) will now only be publishing manuscripts describing fundamental research on birds. The *Condor* (retitled “*Condor: Ornithological Applications*”) will now only publish manuscripts on avian conservation. As such, there is now less overlap between *ACE* and the *Auk* than there has been in the past. However, the *Condor* and *ACE* are now poised to overlap substantially – and it will be an ongoing task to ensure (or refine) the niches of these journals.

Meetings

The 2013 SCO-SOC meeting in Winnipeg saw 3 keynote lectures delivered, 32 oral presentations, and 8 posters. The SCO-SOC sincerely thanks Nicky Koper and her team for their efforts in hosting this year’s meeting.

The 2014 meeting will be held in Estes Park, Colorado jointly with the Cooper Ornithological Society and the American Ornithologists’ Union. The SCO-SOC Executive has approved the venue and format of the 2015 meeting, which will be held at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia jointly with the Wilson Ornithological Society.

The next NAOC meeting (2016) will be held in Washington, D.C. Greg Robertson, who will be finishing his term as President at that meeting, has joined the NAOC steering committee as the SCO-SOC representative.

notamment l'article de Peter Blancher sur les chats domestiques, ont soulevé une bonne quantité d'attention médiatiques.

La fureur sur la proposition de «méga-société» de 2012 (pour fusionner toutes les sociétés ornithologiques nord-américaines) a diminuée, en grande partie parce que la plupart des sociétés ont décidé de ne pas fusionner ou ont adopté une approche de «négligence bénigne», soit d’attendre et de voir les suites. En conséquence, la proposition a été modifiée et atténué à fusionner que *American Ornithologists’ Union* (AOU) et *Cooper Ornithological Society* (COS). Ce faisant, ils ont revu leur modèle de publication et les revues *The Auk* et *The Condor* ont changé leurs mandats. *The Auk* (rebaptisé «*Auk : Advances ornithologiques*») publiera désormais uniquement des manuscrits décrivant la recherche fondamentale sur les oiseaux. *The Condor* (rebaptisé «*Condor: Applications ornithologiques*») publiera désormais que des manuscrits sur la conservation des oiseaux. En soi, cela fait maintenant moins de chevauchement entre *ACE* et *The Auk* que par le passé. Toutefois, *The Condor* et *ACE* présentent actuellement un chevauchement important - et ce sera une tâche permanente d’assurer (ou de raffiner) les niches de ces revues.

Réunions

La réunion de la SCO-SOC 2013 à Winnipeg a présenté trois conférences plénières, 32 présentations orales et huit affiches. La SCO-SOC remercie sincèrement Nick Koppers et son équipe pour leurs efforts en accueillant la réunion de cette année.

La réunion 2014 aura lieu à Estes Park, Colorado, conjointement avec le Cooper Ornithological Society et American Ornithologists’ Union. L’exécutif de SCO-SOC a approuvé le lieu et le format de la réunion à 2015, qui se tiendra à l’Université Acadie à Wolf ville, en Nouvelle-Écosse, conjointement avec le Wilson Ornithological Society.

La prochaine réunion de la NAOC (2016) se tiendra à Washington, D.C. Greg Robertson, qui terminera son mandat de président lors de cette réunion, a joint le comité de direction de la NAOC en tant que représentant de la SCO-SOC.



Snow Geese. Photo by Yousif Attia.

2013 SCO-SOC Student Award Recipients

In the last issue of *Picoides*, we profiled the biography and thesis work of Laure Cauchard, the recipient of the Fred Cooke Award. This issue profiles the other three recipients of the 2013 SCO-SOC Student Awards. Congratulations to all four individuals for their achievements!

Taverner Awards

David Toews, University of British Columbia

Thesis: Hybridization and Introgression in the Yellow-rumped Warbler Species Complex

Biography: For most of my research projects, I have used genetic tools to understand evolutionary and ecological questions. I did my undergraduate degree on the east coast at Acadia University, in beautiful Wolfville, Nova Scotia, which also happens to be my home town. There I worked on a variety of projects, but my honours thesis involved studying genetic connectivity among populations of the endangered Blanding's turtle with Tom Herman. My love of birds "evolved" on the west coast, where I did my Master's (and subsequently now my PhD) with Darren Irwin at the University of British Columbia. I have primarily been focused on studying interactions in temperate contact zones among divergent lineages, first with wrens and now with warblers. I am fortunate that my work has taken me to some wonderful corners of this world. I will always enjoy mist-netting feisty songbirds on cold, crisp mornings.



David holding male and female Audubon's Warblers in Utah. Photo by Jill Jankowski.

Project summary: I am currently studying variation in the migratory traits of the Yellow-rumped Warbler species complex. This has involved the study of populations that differ in their migratory tendency (i.e., residents versus migrants) and direction (i.e., orientation on fall migration). I am currently working to better understand how genetic variation is distributed within and among different populations of this diverse taxon. With a number of international collaborators, we now have excellent genetic sampling of Yellow-rumped Warblers from Guatemala and Mexico to British Columbia to Maine. With new high resolution genomic data we are currently analyzing, we are particularly interested in understanding cases where previous genetic and phenotypic studies produced surprising and discordant patterns. More generally, we are interested in retracing the complex evolution of this species group. With years of leg work now combined with lots of lab work, we are excited about the potential of these new data.

Rachael Derbyshire, University of Guelph

Thesis: Examining the hoard-rot hypothesis in a boreal songbird: an experimental test of the food limitation assumption

Biography: Since I was a young child, I have had an interest in both avian and insect natural history. This interest led me to pursue a B.Sc. in Wildlife Biology at the University of Guelph. For this degree, I completed an undergraduate thesis investigating the navigational mechanisms of the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) by performing a translocation experiment using flight simulators. I then went on to work as a field assistant for a project on tall grass prairie community ecology, before starting my M.Sc. degree at the University of Guelph. I am currently working towards this degree with Dr. Ryan Norris, a behavioural and population ecologist with a primary focus in avian ecology. My main research interests currently include avian population ecology in the context of conservation, and behavioural ecology.

Project Summary: Food availability can have an important influence on reproductive success in birds, especially in species with altricial young. For my M.Sc. thesis, I am examining whether winter food limitation may be the cause of reduced reproductive success in a declining population of Gray Jays (*Perisoreus canadensis*) on the southern edge of their range. Gray Jays rely on cached food for both



Rachael taking a blood sample from a nestling Gray Jay.
Photo by Janet Foster.

survival and reproduction, which occurs in the late winter (as early as late February), and some evidence suggests that cache rot may be influencing the amount of food available for reproduction. I am directly examining whether the reproduction of Gray Jays is food-limited by performing a food supplementation experiment. If reproductive success is limited by winter food availability in this population, then females that are provided with supplemental food in the pre-breeding season (early winter) will have higher reproductive success than controls (not food supplemented). In addition, I am examining whether Gray Jays provide their nestlings food that was cached in the pre-breeding season, by supplementing females with food that is spiked with heavy nitrogen (15N). Subsequent analysis of nestling feather and blood samples will indicate whether Gray Jays have retrieved previously cached food items to provide as food for their nestlings during this time of low natural food availability.

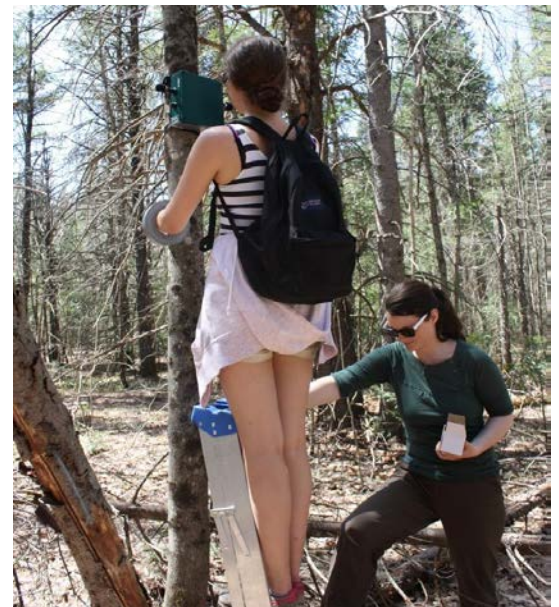
James Baillie Award

Adriana Bruni, University of Windsor

Thesis: The influence of weather, eye size, and ambient light on dawn chorus singing behaviour in a Canadian bird community

Biography: Being raised in Sault Ste. Marie allowed me to acquire a deep appreciation for the natural beauty of northern Ontario. I stayed in Sault Ste. Marie to complete an undergraduate degree in biology at Algoma University, where I developed a keen interest in birds by working with Dr. Jenn Foote studying Eastern Phoebes. This research inspired me to continue studying birds at a graduate level. I recently completed my Master's degree at the University of Windsor under the supervision of both Dr. Foote and Dr. Dan Mennill. In August, I began studying at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine in Thunder Bay, Ontario, where I continue to enjoy the outdoors and spend my free time watching birds.

Project Summary: Recently, the influence of anthropogenic elements on avian singing behaviour has become an important area of research. As urbanization increases at a global scale, birds living in previously-undisturbed habitats are being exposed to sensory disturbances such as artificial noise and light. Noise pollution is present throughout the day and may alter many vocal behaviours. However, light pollution likely primarily influences night singing and the dawn chorus. Altering dawn chorus characteristics of songbirds can have important evolutionary implications. Challenges with past studies have included an inability to distinguish between the effects of noise pollution and light pollution, and limited ability to compare the singing of birds in different areas. With funding from SCO, we were able to manipulate lighting along a cross-country ski trail near Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, to determine whether changes in light exposure could alter dawn chorus start times for four species of temperate songbirds. This research represents the first time that light exposure has been experimentally manipulated in the field, and the results will present important conservation implications.



Adrianna (left) sets up a recorder to capture dawn chorusing behaviour with help from Mandy Ehnes. Photo by Dr. Jennifer Foote.

Récipiendaires des bourses étudiantes 2013 SCO-SOC

Dans le dernier numéro de *Picoides*, nous avons présenté la biographie et les travaux de thèse de Laure Cauchard, récipienddaire de la bourse Fred Cooke. Dans le présent numéro, nous vous présentons les trois autres récipiendaires des bourses étudiantes 2013 SCO-SOC. Félicitations à ces trois personnes pour leurs réalisations !

Bourse Taverner

David Toews, Université de la Colombie-Britannique

Thèse: Hybridation et introgression chez le complexe d'espèces de la paruline à croupion jaune

Biographie: Dans mon projet de recherche, j'ai utilisé des outils génétiques pour comprendre des questions évolutives et écologiques. J'ai fait mes études de premier cycle sur la côte Est à l'Université Acadia, dans la jolie ville de Wolfville, Nouvelle-Écosse, laquelle est également ma ville natale. J'y ai travaillé sur une multitude de projets et ma thèse de premier cycle touchait la connectivité génétique entre les populations menacées de la tortue mouchetée avec Tom Herman. Mon amour des oiseaux a "émergé" sur la côte Ouest, où j'ai fait ma maîtrise (et subséquemment mon doctorat) avec Darren Irwin à l'Université de la Colombie-Britannique. Je me suis intéressé à l'étude des interactions de divergentes lignées dans les zones de contact tempérées, d'abord avec les troglodytes et maintenant avec les parulines. Je suis heureux que mon travail m'ait amené dans certains coins merveilleux du monde. J'apprécierai toujours de capturer des oiseaux fougueux aux filets japonais aux froids matins.

Sommaire de mon projet: J'étudie actuellement les variations des traits migrateurs du complexe d'espèces de la paruline à croupion jaune, ce qui implique l'étude des populations qui diffèrent par leur tendance migratoire (i.e résidents par rapport aux migrants) et la direction (i.e. orientation pendant la migration d'automne). Je travaille actuellement à mieux comprendre comment la variation génétique est distribuée au sein et entre les différentes populations de ce taxon diversifié. Avec un certain nombre de collaborateurs internationaux, nous avons maintenant un excellent échantillonnage génétique des parulines à croupion jaune, provenant du Guatemala et du Mexique jusqu'à la Colombie-Britannique et le Maine. Avec les nouvelles données génomiques à haute résolution que nous analysons actuellement, nous sommes particulièrement intéressés à comprendre les cas où les études génétiques et phénotypiques antérieures ont produit des patrons surprenants et discordants. Plus généralement, nous sommes intéressés à retracer l'évolution du complexe de ce groupe d'espèces. Avec des années de travail désormais combinées par beaucoup de travail en laboratoire, nous sommes encouragés par le potentiel de ces nouvelles données.

Rachael Derbyshire, Université de Guelph

Thèse: Examiner l'hypothèse de pourriture dans les caches de nourriture chez les oiseaux chanteurs boréaux: un test expérimental de la limitation de la nourriture

Biographie: Depuis que je suis jeune, j'ai un intérêt pour l'histoire naturelle des oiseaux et des insectes. Cet intérêt m'a conduit à poursuivre un baccalauréat en biologie de la faune à l'Université de Guelph. Pour ce diplôme, j'ai complété une thèse de premier cycle qui portait sur l'étude des mécanismes de navigation du papillon monarque (*Danaus plexippus*) en effectuant une expérience de translocation avec l'aide de simulateurs de vol. Avant le début de ma maîtrise à l'Université de Guelph, j'ai travaillé comme assistante de terrain pour un projet sur l'écologie des communautés de la prairie à hautes herbes. J'effectue actuellement ma maîtrise avec le Dr Ryan Norris, un écologiste travaillant sur le comportement et les populations avec une attention particulière à l'écologie aviaire. Mes principaux intérêts de recherche sont l'écologie des populations d'oiseaux dans un contexte de conservation et d'écologie comportementale.

Sommaire de mon projet: La disponibilité alimentaire peut avoir une influence importante sur le succès de reproduction des oiseaux, en particulier chez les espèces altriciales. Dans ma maîtrise, j'évalue si une limitation de la nourriture en hiver peut causer une réduction du

succès de la reproduction dans une population en déclin de mésangeais du Canada (*Perisoreus canadensis*) à la limite sud de leur aire de répartition. À la fin de l'hiver et ce, dès la fin février, les mésangeais se fient à des caches de nourriture pour leur survie et leur reproduction et certaines données suggèrent que la pourriture dans la nourriture peut influencer la quantité de nourriture disponible pour la reproduction. J'évalue si la reproduction des mésangeais est limitée par la nourriture en effectuant un essai de supplémentation alimentaire. Si le succès de reproduction est limité par la disponibilité de nourriture en hiver dans cette population, alors les femelles qui ont accès à un supplément de nourriture durant la saison avant la reproduction (début de l'hiver) auront un succès de reproduction plus élevé que chez les témoins (sans supplément de nourriture). Également, j'examine si les mésangeais fournissent à leurs oisillons la nourriture qui était mis en cache durant la saison hivernale en supplémentant les femelles avec de la nourriture comportant de l'azote lourd (15N). Une analyse ultérieure d'échantillons de sang et de plumes des oisillons pourra indiquer si les mésangeais ont nourrit leurs oisillons avec la nourriture mise en cache précédemment pendant la période de faible disponibilité de nourriture naturelle.

Bourse James Baillie

Adriana Bruni, Université de Windsor

Thèse: L'influence de la météo, de la taille de l'œil et de la lumière ambiante sur le comportement de chant à l'aube dans une communauté d'oiseaux du Canada.

Biographie: Grandir à Sault Ste. Marie m'a permis d'acquérir une profonde appréciation pour la beauté naturelle du nord de l'Ontario. J'ai complété un baccalauréat en biologie à l'Université Algoma de Sault Ste. Marie, où j'ai développé un vif intérêt pour les oiseaux en étudiant le moucheur phébi avec le Dr. Jenn Foote. Cette recherche m'a inspiré à poursuivre des études graduées sur les oiseaux. Je viens de terminer mes études de maîtrise à l'Université de Windsor sous la supervision de Dr. Foote et De Dr Dan Mennill. Depuis le mois d'août dernier, j'étudie à l'École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario, à Thunder Bay, en Ontario, où je continue à profiter du plein air et passer mon temps libre à regarder les oiseaux.

Sommaire de mon projet: Récemment, l'influence des éléments anthropiques sur le comportement de chant des oiseaux est devenue un domaine de recherche important. Avec l'augmentation de l'urbanisation à l'échelle mondiale, les oiseaux vivant dans des habitats précédemment non perturbés sont exposés à des troubles sensoriels tels que le bruit et la lumière artificielle. La pollution sonore est présente toute la journée et peut modifier de nombreux comportements vocaux. Cependant, la pollution lumineuse influence probablement surtout le chant de la nuit et de l'aube. L'altération des caractéristiques de chants de l'aube des oiseaux peut avoir des conséquences évolutives importantes. Les défis avec les études antérieures incluaient l'incapacité de distinguer entre les effets de la pollution par le bruit et la pollution lumineuse et la capacité limitée de comparer le chant des oiseaux dans différents secteurs. Grâce au financement de SOC, nous avons été en mesure de manipuler l'éclairage le long d'une piste de ski de fond près de Sault Ste. Marie, en Ontario, afin de déterminer si des changements dans l'exposition de la lumière pourraient modifier les heures de début de chants de l'aube pour quatre espèces d'oiseaux tempérées. Cette recherche représente une première où l'exposition de la lumière a été manipulée expérimentalement sur le terrain et les résultats présenteront d'importantes implications pour la conservation.



Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Société des ornithologistes du Canada



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

Student Research Awards

TAVERNER AWARDS

Taverner Awards are offered by the Society to increase the knowledge of Canadian birds through research, conservation, and public education. The awards are aimed at people with limited or no access to major funding, regardless of professional status, who are undertaking ornithological work in Canada.

Two awards of up to \$2,000 each are made annually.

JAMES L. BAILLIE AWARD

The James L. Baillie Student Research Award is open to any student at a Canadian university conducting ornithological research involving Canadian species. The award supports: studies of birds in their natural environment; projects which contribute to the preservation of birds; and/or projects which disseminate knowledge of birds. This award is funded by Long Point Bird Observatory/Bird Studies Canada.

One award of up to \$1000 is made annually.

FRED COOKE AWARD

The Fred Cooke Student Award is offered jointly by the SCO-SOC and Bird Studies Canada to honour the contributions of Professor Fred Cooke to Canadian ornithology. The award is open to any student conducting ornithological research at a Canadian university (previous recipients of the award are not eligible). The award supports travel to ornithological conferences at which the student will make an oral or poster presentation, or for research in any aspect of ornithology anywhere in the world.

One award of up to \$1000 is made annually

FULL DESCRIPTIONS/APPLICATION FORM AT:

<http://www.sco-soc.ca/studentawards.htm>

- Applicants must be **members** of the SCO-SOC to be eligible (\$10/year for students)
- **A single application** can be made to apply for all three types of awards.

For further information, or to submit an application (**e-mail only**), contact:

Karen Wiebe Chair, SCO-SOC Student Awards Committee, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK

e-mail: karen.wiebe@usask.ca

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 15 FEBRUARY 2014



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

Bourses de recherche pour  tudiants

BOURSE TAVERNER

Les bourses Taverner sont offertes par la soci t  afin d'accro tre les connaissances des oiseaux canadiens gr ce   la recherche, la conservation et l' ducation du public. Les bourses sont destin es aux personnes qui n'ont aucun acc s ou un acc s limit  aux subventions majeures, ind pendamment de leur statut professionnel et qui entreprennent des travaux ornithologiques au Canada.

Deux bourses d'une valeur atteignant 2000 \$ chacune sont d cern es annuellement.

BOURSE JAMES L. BAILLIE

La bourse de recherche pour  tudiant(e)s James L. Baillie est ouverte   tout(e)  tudiant(e) qui entreprend une recherche ornithologique   une universit  canadienne. Ces objectifs sont de supporter financ rement les  tudes d'oiseaux canadiens dans leurs milieux naturels, les projets contribuant   la sauvegarde d'oiseaux et les projets visant   diffuser les connaissances ornithologiques. La bourse de recherche  tudiante James L. Baillie est subventionn e par le Long Point Bird Observatory d' tudes d'oiseaux Canada

Une bourse atteignant 1000.00\$ est pr sent e annuellement.

BOURSE FRED COOKE

La bourse de recherche pour  tudiant(e)s Fred Cooke est offerte conjointement par la SCO-SOC et  tudes d'oiseaux Canada afin d'honorer les contributions   l'ornithologie canadienne par le professeur Fred Cooke. . La bourse est ouverte   n'importe quel(le) ornithologue poursuivant sa recherche dans une universit  canadienne, sauf les gagnant(e)s pr c dent(e)s de la bourse. La bourse doit  tre utilis e pour le voyage aux conf rences ornithologiques auxquelles l' tudiant(e) donne une pr sentation orale ou une affiche (poster), ou pour la recherche ornithologique n'importe o    travers le monde.

Une seule bourse atteignant 1000.00\$ est pr sent e annuellement.

DESCRIPTIONS COMPL TES/FORMULAIRE D'APPLICATION   :

http://www.sco-soc.ca/studentawards_fr.htm

- Les candidats doivent  tre membres de la SCO-SOC pour  tre  ligible (10 \$ par ann e pour les  tudiants)
- **Une seule demande par candidat** pour les trois types de bourses.

Pour de plus amples renseignements ou pour soumettre une candidature (courriel seulement), veuillez communiquer avec:

Karen Wiebe, Pr sidente des bourses  tudiantes, Universit  de la Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK

Courriel: karen.wiebe@usask.ca

DATE LIMITE D'INSCRIPTION: 15 FEBRUARY 2014

Canadian Ornithological News

Unprecedented Emergency Protection Order for the Greater Sage-Grouse

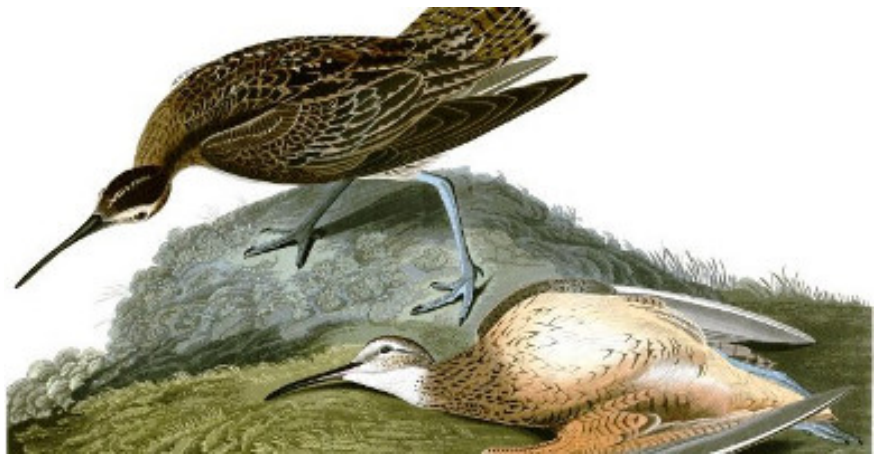
In a recent [media release](#), the Government of Canada announced that it plans to introduce an Emergency Protection Order for the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat on provincial and federal crown lands in Alberta and Saskatchewan. It is not yet clear what the impact of this order may be, as details are unknown at this time and the Order will not apply to private lands. The Greater Sage-Grouse is Canada's rarest endangered bird; fewer than 150 birds remain in the mixed-grass prairie of southeastern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan. An Emergency Order under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) can be used when a species faces imminent threats to its survival, and current protection measures are deemed inadequate. This would be the first time since the Act's inception that this mechanism would be invoked.

Canadian Scientists Publish Estimates of Human-Related Bird Mortality

Over the last four years, 20 Environment Canada scientists conducted extensive analyses to produce the first-ever estimates of annual direct bird mortality from human-related sources. Their findings were published in a special issue of *Avian Conservation and Ecology* earlier this fall. The results indicate that human-related activities destroy roughly 269 million birds and 2 million bird nests in Canada each year, and most human-related bird deaths are caused by feral and pet cats, and collisions with transmission lines, buildings, and vehicles. Cats appear to kill as many birds as all other sources combined – more than 100 million birds annually in Canada. Explore the special issue at <http://www.ace-eco.org/issues/view.php?sf=4>.

Sad Day for the Eskimo Curlew

September 4 marked the 50th anniversary of the last confirmed sighting of a live Eskimo Curlew (shortly before it was shot in Barbados on September 4, 1963). The most recent Canadian sighting of this shorebird occurred in 1932, in Labrador. Once widespread across most of Canada, the species was unable to withstand overhunting, habitat degradation and lost food supply. As time since the last confirmed sighting lapses, it seems increasingly likely that the Eskimo Curlew will be the first bird species since the Passenger Pigeon (in 1914) to be formally declared extinct in Canada.



Artwork by John James Audubon

MyAvibase Launched

A new tool for birdwatchers and eBird users, MyAvibase, was launched this summer. MyAvibase (<http://avibase.birdscanada.org/myavibase.jsp>) allows birdwatchers to maintain their life lists and generate additional reports. For example, using maps and graphs, users can quickly see how many species can be found in a given region and at various times of year. eBird users can easily import their life lists into Avibase, then view how many new species they could add on a trip (aiding birding trip planning), and generate custom printable checklists highlighting target species. MyAvibase offers many additional features and is available for free. Learn more about this tool at <http://ebird.org/content/canada/news/240/>.

New Canadian Trends Website for Breeding Bird Survey

This summer, Environment Canada launched a new website that provides detailed population trend information for about 300 Canadian bird species based on data collected on Canadian routes of the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). Visit the **Canadian BBS trends website** at <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ron-bbs/> to explore results by species or region.

Feature Article

To Bee or Not to Bee; Neonicotinoids and Biodiversity

Glen A. Fox, M.Sc.

Discussions and concerns about neonicotinoid insecticides should be about far more than honey bees and pollinators; these compounds are toxic to ALL insects, be they pest or beneficial, abundant, rare or endangered. They are also highly toxic to birds. Neonicotinoids are water soluble and are readily absorbed by plants via their roots or leaves and are transported to all tissues and in all fluids of the plant, rendering them toxic to any insect that consumes them! These insecticides are currently applied as seed dressings, in irrigation water, soil drenches, as foliar sprays, as baits, and as granules. They are injected into trees and applied topically to pets. They are licensed in more than 120 countries and have a global market value approaching \$3 billion. Neonicotinoids have overtaken all other classes of insecticides world-wide, both in volume applied and variety of uses.

The ecological costs of the prophylactic use of neonicotinoids are widespread soils, surface waters, and plant tissues (including leaves, stems and roots, sap, nectar and pollen) which are either acutely or chronically toxic to a wide range of non-target insects and vertebrates that consume them. At most risk are soil-dwelling insects, aquatic insects and life-stages, pollinators, nectar-feeding and herbivorous insects, amphibians, insect- and seed-eating birds, insectivorous bats, and small herbivorous mammals. This is a huge slice of the local biodiversity of any region. Because of their widespread use, it means that migratory birds, bats and butterflies are exposed throughout their migrations. Large decreases in insect biomass mean large decreases in available protein and lipids essential for the growth of young birds, and less food for their parents.



Field of canola in Saskatchewan. Photo by Barbara Bleho.

While there is abundant evidence indicating that neonicotinoids provide effective control for a broad range of insect pests, there is little evidence to suggest that they have contributed to increased yields, or that they are more cost-effective than traditional Integrated Pest Management systems and the targeted use of synthetic pyrethroid sprays when and where necessary. Clearly their appeal is one of convenience!

By foregoing this convenience and ceasing to use neonicotinoids as seed dressings and for other prophylactic uses, we could

eliminate their contribution to honey bee mortalities, and to declining populations of insectivorous and seed-eating birds, insectivorous bats and Monarch butterflies. That would be the ecologically sound, sustainable, and just thing to do my friends. It would be a win-win for the birds and the bees.

Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency recently announced that it "has determined that current agricultural practices related to the use of neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seed are affecting the environment due to impacts on bees and other pollinators" (based on findings in Ontario and Quebec). They are applied as seed dressings on wheat and canola on the prairies. PMRA is providing an opportunity for public comment. Urge PMRA to conduct a serious, more comprehensive review of the environmental impact of neonicotinoids in Canada and take the following actions:

1. Ban the use of neonicotinoids as seed treatments.
2. Expand its review of neonicotinoids beyond bees and pollinators to include birds, aquatic invertebrates, and other wildlife.
3. Reconsider the ecological soundness and sustainability of prophylactic use of systemic insecticides.

Address to which you need to submit comments:

The e-mail link for the Pest Management Regulatory Agency is pmra.publications@hc-sc.gc.ca. You must provide your name (and organization), phone number, and mailing or e-mail address along with your comments. Comments must be submitted by 12 December 2013 if they are to be considered.

Glen A. Fox, M.Sc

Retired Wildlife Toxicologist



Male Northern Cardinal in perfect camouflage in autumn Virginia creeper. Photo by Barbara Bleho.

Student Research

Bird Window Collisions

Justine Kummer, MSc Student, University of Alberta

Birds face many threats when they come into contact with urban populations. One of the leading causes of avian mortality in cities is window collisions. In Canada it is estimated 25 million birds are killed each year as a result of bird window collisions (Machtans et al. 2013).

For my master's thesis I have developed the **University of Alberta Birds and Windows Project** to use citizen science and active participation to continue to identify the factors that affect collision risk at residential homes. Additionally, a more accurate estimate of



Two birds killed by window collision.
Photo by Justine Kummer.

bird window collision mortality is needed to help determine if the number of birds killed from window collisions is linked to regional and national population declines. It currently remains unknown whether mortality from birds colliding with windows is ecologically significant (Machtans et al. 2013).

In late September, Environment Canada released a report on the leading causes of bird deaths, with collisions with houses or buildings tied for second spot with power lines, collisions and electrocutions, behind domestic and feral cats (Calvert et al. 2013). Previous studies on window collisions have focused on tall skyscrapers but based on the sheer number of houses compared to other size classes, houses represent 90% of the mortality. More work is needed; only four studies have focused on bird window collision mortality at houses.

To better understand what can be done to reduce bird window collisions at your home, the University of Alberta has developed this project to actively involve YOU in data collection. We are asking you to think about bird window collisions you have observed in the past and would like you to regularly search around your residence for evidence of bird window collisions in the future.

This project is the first citizen science program on bird window collisions that actively involves the public in data collection. Previous studies have relied on memory and only used dead birds as evidence of a collision when

it has been shown that only 38% of window collisions result in mortality (Bayne et al. 2012). By actively looking around your home for all forms of collision evidence it is predicted the majority of collisions will not result in a dead bird and that all collisions will be reported.

The Birds and Windows Project was launched in September 2013 and will run for at least one full year. To get involved, visit: www.birdswindows.biology.ualberta.ca/.

Literature Cited

Bayne, E.M., C.A. Scobie, and M. Rawson-Clark. 2012. Factors influencing the annual risk of bird-window collisions at residential structures in Alberta, Canada. *Wildlife Research* 39:583-592.

Calvert, A. M., C. A. Bishop, R. D. Elliot, E. A. Krebs, T. M. Kydd, C. S. Machtans, and G. J. Robertson. 2013. A synthesis of human-related avian mortality in Canada. *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 8: 11.

Machtans, C. S., C. H. R. Wedeles, and E. M. Bayne. 2013. A first estimate for Canada of the number of birds killed by colliding with building windows. *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 8: 6.

Recent Canadian Ornithology Theses

Elly C. Knight. 2013. Impacts of Habitat Fragmentation by Agriculture on Breeding Songbirds in the Okanagan Sagebrush Shrubsteppe. M.Sc. Thesis. Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

The sagebrush shrubsteppe of western North America has been extensively fragmented by agriculture. I examined the impact of habitat fragmentation on songbirds by comparing community assemblage and nesting in sagebrush habitat near agriculture to habitat away from orchards or vineyards in the Okanagan region. The songbird community in edge habitat differed from the community in interior habitat primarily due to an abundance of generalist species in edge habitat. Local vegetation characteristics, landscape composition and the predator community all contributed to observed community variation. Abundance of grassland and sagebrush specialist songbirds in edge and interior habitat varied with species, but overall there were fewer nesting attempts initiated per capita in edge habitat. Nest predation rates were higher in orchard edge habitat than vineyard edge or interior habitat due to shorter grass at the nest site and higher shrub cover. These results provide additional evidence that sagebrush fragmentation is contributing to observed population declines of grassland and sagebrush songbirds in the Okanagan region.



Fragmented shrubsteppe habitat in the Okanagan region of British Columbia. Photo by Elly Knight.

Andrew T.M. Chin. 2013. Bird-based indices of biotic integrity in Great Lakes coastal wetlands. M.Sc. Thesis. York University, Toronto, ON.

Indices of biotic integrity (IBIs) are designed to determine the health of ecosystems using communities of species as indicators. I investigated the performance of three bird-based IBIs, the Index of Marsh Bird Community Integrity (IMBCI), the Index of Ecological Condition (IEC), and the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI), for ranking the health of Great Lakes coastal wetlands.

First, I assessed the effect of changes in Great Lakes water levels on the IMBCI. IMBCI scores for coastal wetlands in Lake Erie and Lake Ontario tightly tracked changing water levels of their associated lakes. IMBCI scores were higher during high water due to the presence of marsh-dependent species and lower during low water due to the absence of these species. Changes in ranks of wetland health due to changes in water levels were most pronounced (≤ 6 positions out of 30 wetlands) for mid-ranked sites and sites in Lake Erie, where water level changes were relatively large; changes in ranks were small and much less important (≤ 3 positions out of 30 wetlands) for the healthiest and unhealthiest wetlands and for sites in Lake Ontario, where water level changes were relatively small. Thus, despite

variation in scores of mid-ranked wetlands due to changing water levels, the IMBCI remained effective for identifying the most impaired and unimpaired wetlands.



A male Least Bittern in a stand of Phragmites. Photo by Andrew Chin.

Second, I assessed variation in IBI scores of Great Lakes coastal wetland health depending on the choice of two different landscape disturbance gradients and three different bird-based IBIs. The IEC and the IBI required a landscape disturbance gradient to be defined a priori, whereas the IMBCI did not. I found that the rank sum and Cenv methods of determining the landscape disturbance gradient resulted in different scores and associated ranks of wetland health. Scores of IBIs agreed on the trend as to which sites were healthy or unhealthy (all $r_s \leq 0.671$). Instead, scores of wetland health were highly dependent on the index chosen. However, scores from all three of the IBIs were correlated with at least one of the environmental disturbance gradients. Thus, despite the lack of agreement among the IBIs, each of them appeared to be capturing useful albeit different information about wetland health.

I recommend that Great Lakes water levels, the landscape gradient chosen to calculate IBIs, and the index itself be taken into consideration when interpreting scores of bird-based IBIs of Great Lakes coastal wetlands.

Chinthaka D. Kaluthota. 2013. The organization and variability of song in northern House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon parkmanii*). M.Sc. Thesis. Department of Psychology, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge AB.

Hypothesized functions of complex song in birds include a role in mate attraction and territory defense and, through regional dialects, in genetic substructuring of populations and speciation. The necessary first step in testing such functions is a detailed characterization of song organization and variability. This is provided for the Northern House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), a species noted for complex song, but lacking detailed descriptions. The species was studied at two sites in Alberta with a sample of 15,000 songs from 15 males. Males sang in long bouts, each song composed of multiple syllable types and repeated many times before switching. The population repertoire of 27 syllables was almost entirely shared, but used to construct novel repertoires of up to 200 different song types for individual males without evidence of a ceiling. Additional flexibility and constraints in song construction are discussed in view of the above noted functions of song complexity.



House Wren. Photo by Chinthaka Kaluthota.

Catherine Craig. 2013. Multi-scale habitat selection and fledgling success of Black-backed and American Three-toed Woodpeckers in managed forest landscapes. M.Sc. Thesis. Acadia University, Wolfville, NS.



A colour-banded Black-backed Woodpecker on a stump in New Brunswick in 2011. Photo by Catherine Craig.

Timber harvesting alters the distribution of habitat types across a landscape, typically replacing old forest stands with younger ones and reducing amounts of dead wood. In northern New Brunswick, Black-backed and American Three-toed Woodpeckers are expected to be especially sensitive to forest management due to their dependence on dead wood. For this study, I (1) quantified the characteristics of habitat selected by these woodpeckers during the breeding season; (2) related nest success of these species to those habitat characteristics; and (3) investigated differences in habitat selection and nest success between the two species. Results suggest that these two woodpecker species select recent cut at finer scales and mature forest at broader scales, and that the selection of this habitat leads to greater nest survival. I recommend the retention of potential nest substrates within cutblocks and emphasize the importance of maintaining the larger blocks of older forest required as foraging habitat.

Devin Michael Ernest Turner. 2013. Habitat Selection and Life-History Traits of Breeding Birds in the Boreal-Tundra Ecotone, with Special Attention to the American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). MSc. Thesis. Trent University, Peterborough, ON.



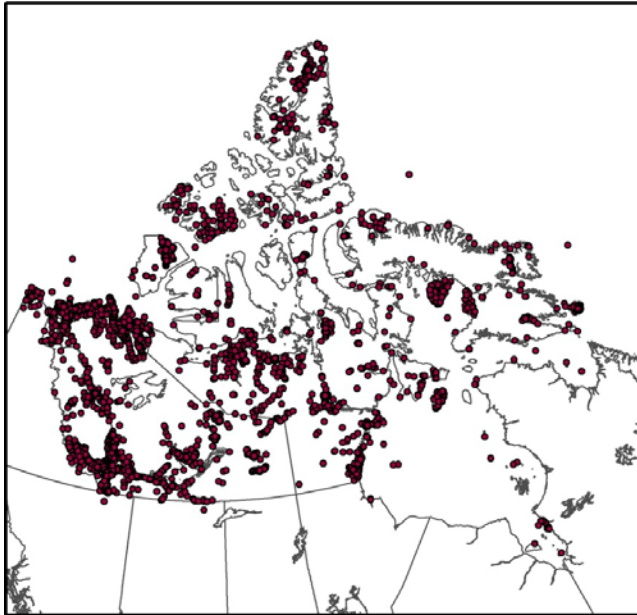
Male American Robin in Ivavik National Park, Yukon Territory, Canada. Photo by Devin Turner.

I investigated biodiversity of birds and vegetation associations along the boreal-tundra ecotone in Ivavik National Park, Yukon Territory, and breeding adaptations used by American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) at high latitudes. Twenty bird species were detected over three years using point-count surveys. Densities of American Robin, Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*), and Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) had positive relationships with tree and shrub density, whereas density of White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) was negatively related to tree density. American Robins at this latitude raised only one brood, but females laid slightly larger clutches, the young fledged earlier, and pairs experienced higher nest-success than American Robins at more southerly latitudes. American Robins selected nest sites with high vegetation volume, at both the nest-site, and the nest-patch. This study is important for the first description of the bird community at this high latitude location, and describing how a species at the northern limit of the boreal forest has adapted to living with short-breeding seasons.

Announcements

Wanted: Information on Birds in the North

There is an on-going need for information on the geographic distribution, abundance, and breeding status of birds in the north. Observations on northern resident and breeding birds are inconsistent throughout the region because of the large size of these territories and the sparseness of the human population. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) of Environment Canada needs the help of anyone that can correctly identify birds to help advance our understanding of birds in the north.



Distribution of observations collected through the NWT/Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey program.

The NWT/Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey was initiated in 1995 by CWS in response to needs identified in the Canadian Landbird Monitoring Strategy for better monitoring of arctic breeding birds and birds with primarily northern ranges. In 2012, the NWT-Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey was integrated into eBird Canada (<http://ebird.org/content/canada/>). eBird is an on-line, real time checklist program for birds seen anywhere in the world. All historical data collected by the NWT/Nunavut Bird Checklist Program has been uploaded and any future data will be inputted directly into the eBird database. By integrating the checklist program into eBird, the data entry process is streamlined, more observers are able to submit and track their data, and everyone has access to the observations.

The data collected through the NWT-Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey/eBird are being used as baseline information for further studies, environmental assessments and updating species distribution maps. In 2008, these data were used by CWS to complete an occupancy analysis for birds within Bird Conservation Region (BCR) 3, which detected changes for multiple species. Limited data prevented similar analyses for the other BCRs in the territories but the results thus far provide important insight into some of the changes

in species spatial occurrence over time. It is hoped that the database could be used to detect major bird population changes in all regions of the north through increased participation in the program.

We need your help!

As of September 2013, 1263 checklists have been submitted to eBird for all of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. This is an increase from the 873 checklists submitted in 2012 and the year isn't finished yet! We are gaining valuable knowledge on northern species abundance and distribution but we need more help! There are large expanses of the territories for which we have no data or (especially) have collected only infrequent data (Figure 1); the data we get are concentrated in a few particular locations (such as Yellowknife). Scientists working in the north for their 2014 field programs can help dramatically diversify the coverage of the data by completing checklists.

If you or someone you know will be visiting the north please submit your bird sighting to eBird or fill out a checklist sheet (<http://ec.gc.ca/reom-mbs/default.asp?lang=En&n=D19D8726-1>) and send it via email, fax, or mail to the addresses below. We will also gladly accept spreadsheets or field notes if the collection methodology conforms to eBird methodology.

NWT Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey
Canadian Wildlife Service
Box 2310, 4th Floor, 5109-52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT, Canada, X1A 2P7

Tel: (867) 669-4734, Fax: (867) 873-8185, Email: NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca

Announcements

Project FeederWatch looking for winter 2013-2014 participants

The 27th season of Project FeederWatch began on November 9. It is not too late to join the thousands of volunteers across North America who have turned their bird feeding hobby into research for bird conservation. Anyone with an interest in birds and nature is invited to join Project FeederWatch and become a Citizen Scientist. Participants are asked to select a two-day count period once every two weeks and

count birds for at least 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or both days. It is a great way to connect with nature, have fun, and help birds, and there is no need to be an expert. To learn more or to sign up, visit the Bird Studies Canada Project FeederWatch website at www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/pfw or contact Project FeederWatch Coordinator Kerrie Wilcox at kwilcox@birdscanada.org, 519-586-3531 (ext. 134), or 1-888-448-2473.



Project FeederWatch
Embrace the winter. Count feeder birds for science!

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology



- CALL FOR PAPERS-

Abstract deadline extended, enquire below

Raptors of the Northwest Symposium

"Linking Conservation, Communication, Research and Management"

February 5-7, 2014; Pasco, WA

The **Raptors of the Northwest Symposium** (RNWS) will be part of a Joint Meeting with several other meetings and symposia, including the annual meeting of the TWS Washington Chapter and the **4th International Burrowing Owl Symposium** (BUOWC). The specific dates for the Raptor Symposium are February 5-7, 2014; other meetings/symposia will overlap and/or extend past these dates. The venue will be the Red Lion, in Pasco, WA, which is ¼ mile from the Pasco Airport.

The geographic areas to be focused on during the raptor symposium are the NW U.S. states, including Alaska, and the Western Canadian Provinces. Both diurnal and nocturnal raptors will be addressed. The theme is "**Linking Raptor Research to Critical Conservation and Management Needs.**"

We want there to be widespread and diverse geographical and organizational involvement and support from as many agency, academic, NGO, and other land management stakeholder groups as possible, so if you have suggested contacts, we would welcome them.

For more information on the Joint Meeting, or to submit an abstract (for all meetings), visit <http://wildlife.org/washington/meetings>. Please specify that you are interested in the RNWS.

Jeffrey L. Lincer, Organizer, Raptors of the Northwest Symposium
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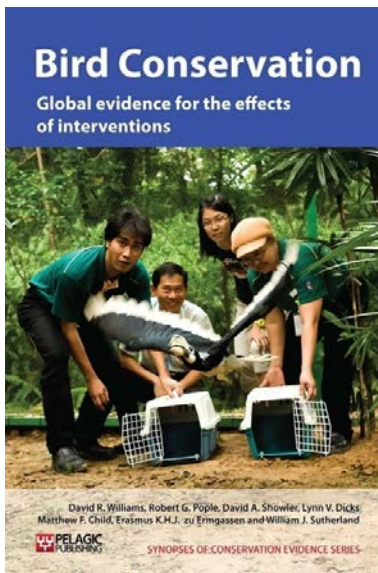
Book Review

Bird Conservation: Global Evidence for the Effects of Interventions.

By David R. Williams, Robert G. Pople, David A. Showler, Lynn V. Dicks, Matthew F. Child, Erasmus K.J.H. zu Ermgassen and William J. Sutherland.

Published in January 2013 by Pelagic Publishing, Exeter, UK. 575 pages.

This large volume reviews the literature for quantifiable, statistically significant and biologically meaningful effects of 322 human interventions on bird conservation. Therefore, what you have thought of most likely have been tried somewhere else before. This is the



second volume in the Synopses of Conservation Evidence Series examining the effectiveness of conservation approaches for a variety of taxa across the globe. The authors worked with an extensive international group of bird experts to compile this very large list of human interventions. The authors literally scanned thousands articles in the literature up to and including 2010 from mostly ornithological, conservation and wildlife management journals written in English. However, this volume does not mention every published English language bird conservation article. For example, I am aware that there are many more Burrowing Owl conservation articles than were cited in this book. I also noticed that voluntary habitat stewardship approaches were missing from the volume. However, I am pleased that the authors have developed a website (www.conservationevidence.com) where information can be easily updated and shared.

Readers should read the About this Book chapter carefully as it explains the content and organization of the book, as well as how to get the most out of this book. The book is divided into 15 chapters: habitat protection; education and raising awareness; residential and commercial development; agriculture; energy production and mining; transportation and service corridors; biological resource use; human intrusions and disturbance; natural system modification; habitat restoration and creation; invasive alien and other problematic species; pollution; climate change and geologic events; general responses to small or declining populations; and captive breeding/rearing and releases. This wide-ranging set of topics should easily meet most readers' needs. Chapters are further subdivided from two to 49 sections. The larger subsections are further subdivided by bird families.

The only serious flaw in this book is that it is so densely packed with information that it is difficult to follow. Clearly, it is aimed at professional conservationists, land managers and ornithologists familiar with the scientific literature. However, there are brief background information and "key messages" highlighting the most important points to remember from the reviewed literature at the beginning of each chapter and major chapter sections. At the end of each section there is a literature cited section ordered by the same citation number in the text. Standardized full citations are used so it should be easy for readers to track down articles of interest.

Although this book has some limitations, I do recommend it to anyone working in the field of bird conservation.

Reviewed by Rob Warnock, e-mail: warnockr@accesscomm.ca

Do You Have a Book Review You Would Like to Share?

If so, we would love to hear from you! Some recent and upcoming releases in ornithological literature include *Ten Thousand Birds: Ornithology since Darwin* by Tim Birkhead, Jo Wimpenny and Bob Montgomerie; *Facing Extinction: The World's Rarest Birds and the Race to Save Them* by Paul Donald, Nigel Collar and Stuart Marsden; *Birds & People* by Mark Cocker; and *The Double-Crested Cormorant: Plight of a Feathered Pariah* by Linda Wires.

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

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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 Hazel Wheeler at hazel.wheeler@gmail.com.

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:

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