

PICOIDES

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White-crowned Sparrow

Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des Ornithologistes du Canada

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2002 Joint Meeting of American Ornithologists' Union
and Society of Canadian Ornithologists

This will be held in conjunction with the 3rd North American Ornithological Council
(NAOC)

NEW ORLEANS

SEPT 24-30, 2002

****NEW** SCO list-server**

The SCO representatives to the Ornithological Council would like to solicit your ideas and feedback on issues of importance to Canadian Ornithology. A new SCO list server has been created for this purpose. Note that this list server is a secure server that can only receive emails from its members, and is thus safe from spam. The list server will be maintained by Lesley Evans Ogden, but it will not be a monitored list server, so please use it only for the discussion of Ornithological / SCO issues. SCO members can join the list by sending email to maillist@sfu.ca with "subscribe sco-members" in the subject or body of the message. Only SCO members who choose to join will be added to the list. Once your name has been added to the list, you may send to all members of the list by emailing: sco-members@sfu.ca

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS IN 2002

Applications are invited for two Taverner Awards (up to \$500 each) and one Baillie Award (\$1,000) for 2002. Taverner Awards are offered by the SCO/SOC to honour Percy A. Taverner and to further his accomplishments in increasing knowledge of Canadian birds through research, conservation and public education. The awards are to help people with limited or no access to major funding, regardless of professional status, who are undertaking ornithological work in Canada.

The James L. Ballie Student Research Award is open to any student conducting ornithological research at a Canadian university. Honouring the memory of James L. Baillie, it supports field research on Canadian birds. This award is funded by Bird Studies Canada and Long Point Bird Observatory from proceeds from the annual Baillie Birdathon. It is administered by the SCO/SOC.

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 given only once for the same project; Baillie Awards only once to the same person. Past winners of either award may apply for the other. Funds are not awarded for stipends. The application form can be obtained from Dr. Kevin Teather, Chair, SCO/SOC Research Awards Committee, Dept. of Biology, UPEI, Charlottetown, PE. C1A 4P3. or kteather@upei.ca.

The completed application must reach the above person **before 15 January, 2002.**

The announcement of awards will be made by April 2002.



Kathy Martin, kmartin@interchg.ubc.ca

After the ornithological high of the Millennial Birds 2000 meeting, the first year in the third millennium has been one of consolidation and linkages for the Society of Canadian Ornithologists. Much of the executive council's efforts in the past year were devoted to consolidating SCO committees and enhancing linkages with the other ornithological societies in North America.

Our new *Picoides* Editor is Dorothy McFarlane from New Brunswick. She is a recently fledged MSc student from UNB (with Tony Diamond). Dorothy has plans for major changes in the look and content of our bulletin. I urge you to send articles and news items to Dorothy to assist her in ramping up *Picoides* as the primary Canadian Ornithological voice. Our committee chairs have been hard at work. Despite increased applications, the research and student presentations awards have run smoothly. Thanks to Kevin Teather (PEI) and Greg Robertson (NFLD) for running the awards show. Erica Nol, the new committee chair for the Doris Huestis Speirs award, appointed committee members, Susan Hannon and Marc Andre Villard to choose the D.H. Speirs recipient(s) for 2001.

Continuing with the consolidation theme, councillors now take office at the date of the annual meeting rather than January 1. To achieve this transition, all council members agreed to extend their terms by 8 months. Regarding annual meeting venues, we established a meeting schedule until 2004. We adopted a flexible plan where we meet with other ornithological societies and also hold meetings alone or smaller groups. We can look forward to these SCO annual meetings:

2002 with NAOC (with 5+ other ornithological societies in North America - too good to resist!!),
2003 - Saskatoon, Cheri Gratto-Trevor will organize - so put the Prairies on your 2003 travel list.
2004 - Quebec City, with the AOU, but on our home turf with Andre Desrochers at the helm!

On to linkages... In the past year, SCO has established itself as a significant player on the North American ornithological scene. Our already strong links with the AOU have been strengthened with coast to coast joint annual meetings, starting off with the Millennial Birds 2000 meeting in Newfoundland and Birds 2001 in Seattle. In 2002, SCO is invited to have its annual meet

ing with the 3rd North American Ornithological Council

(NAOC) meeting in New Orleans in September 24-30, 2002. As it currently stands, the NAOC hosts are AOU, SCO, Cooper Ornithological Society and the Raptor Research Foundation; other societies have been invited. To increase the Canadian representation to the IOC, Fred Cooke has nominated 7 prominent Canadian Ornithologists and SCO members to become members on the International Ornithological Committee.

Finally, Council members Fred Cooke and Tony Diamond have been in discussion with Bird Studies Canada (BSC) regarding the formulation of a joint SCO/BSC Journal. A joint committee with representatives from SCO and BSC has been proposed to explore the scientific niche, potential name, financial and scientific support and overall feasibility for such a journal.

I characterize the state of SCO in 2001 as healthy but we need further growth. Our membership increased by 8% in the past year, but we need to continue increasing with some urgency and to increase student memberships. In my last year of office, I plan to put a priority on implementing programs to increase membership so that SCO is able to better represent Canadian ornithologists.

EDITOR'S THANKS

This bulletin is evidence of the cooperation of people working to bring together bird researchers and their work under the SCO/SOC umbrella. The people whose names you see here are tremendously busy with their careers, but feel that the time they invest in this organization is worthwhile. Thank you to all those who contributed to this, my first bulletin, especially to Tony Erskine for the well-organized files and notes he passed on to me, and to Kathy Martin and members of the Publications Committee who agreed to give me (a newcomer) this chance to contribute to the SCO. Thanks are also due to my son, Matthew, who helped with the layout and graphics you see here. Please send me your opinions about the changes, and your ideas for more.

Keep those articles, abstracts, announcements, requests, and memberships rolling in. Support this effort to maintain **communication** across the country between all of us who are working towards a better understanding of birds, and their conservation.

- Dorothy.

AVIAN ECTOPARASITES: AN UNDEREXPLOITED OPPORTUNITY



TREE SWALLOW ON NEST BOX

Glen Chilton, glen.chilton@stmc.ab.ca

Ornithologists are developing a much greater appreciation for the impact of ectoparasites on their avian hosts. We are seeing an increasing number of papers that consider factors such as feather damage, nestling tissue damage and blood loss, and the transmission of disease, factors that sometimes lead to decreased productivity and survival of the host. We seem to be moving toward the point where we can make general statements about the severity of infestation by one ectoparasitic group or another.

However, our progress is being hampered by the lack of basic information concerning hosts and their parasites. Most species accounts in the *Birds of North America*

series make no mention of ectoparasites. Wheeler and Threlfall's synopsis of the ectoparasites of birds in Canada describes only one louse species from Western Bluebirds and only a single species of mite from Mountain Bluebirds, even though individuals maintaining bluebird trails in the west know nests in many regions to be infested with fleas.

Understandably, the ectoparasite relationships of game birds have received far greater attention than those of non-game birds. In Canada, information is particularly lacking for loons, grebes, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, wrens, sparrows, warblers, and finches. This gap in our understanding may be, in part, the result of inadequate communication between ornithologists and entomologists.

Many ornithologists are engaged in activities that could provide valuable information with little extra effort, no new permits, and no additional negative impact on the birds. Examples include studies utilizing banding stations, examining mortality at towers, or sampling nests.

If you desire help in designing studies or in identifying ectoparasites, contact Glen Chilton, Department of Biology, St. Mary's College, 14500 Bannister Road, S.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2X 1Z4 (glen.chilton@stmc.ab.ca) or Terry Galloway, Department of Entomology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N2 (terry_galloway@umanitoba.ca)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON INLAND SIGHTINGS OF LONG-BILLED AND MARBLED MURRELETS

Falk Huettmann, huettman@sfu.ca (note the one "n")

In recent years there have been many sightings of the Asian (West Pacific) Long-Billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) (Gaston and Jones 1998) reported inland and across North America (Sealy et al. 1982, 1991, Mlodinow 1997; see Moore 1995 and Hundon 1996 for Alberta, Sibley 1993 for Ontario, and Hoffman and Wolfenden 1988 for Florida), and even Europe (Maumary and Knaus 2000 for Switzerland). Murrelets on both sides of the Pacific look very similar. Until recently, Marbled Murrelets in the Pacific were believed

to be one species, but they were eventually split up into two species (Zink et al. 1995, Friesen et al. 1996, but see Congdon et al. 2000 and Pitocchelli et al. 1995 for variation even within Northwest Pacific). From a distance, even the North American Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) is not easy to detect when sitting on a lake, the location for most of these inland sightings. Nevertheless, the fact that there have been inland sightings of Long-Billed Murrelets, far away from the ocean is very surprising. We suspect there may be

inland records for both species, which have been overlooked. It seems unclear why such a long-distance inland dispersal would be observed at a higher frequency in Long-billed Murrelets than in Marbled Murrelets.

In order to further investigate these inland migrations we would greatly appreciate reports of any sightings or knowledge of such sightings to us, including any related information (e.g. age, moulting stage, drawings and photos taken, date, time, and descriptions of circumstance of the sightings) (see contact address below). If we are able to provide new information on the topic of murrelet dispersal and inland distribution, we plan to publish our findings.

Regarding identification:

In general, when compared with Marbled Murrelets, the Long-Billed Murrelets have a slightly longer and larger bill and a relatively prominent white eye-ring; in the basic (winter) plumage they show an entirely dark hind-neck (lack of nuchal collar). Further details on murrelet identification in the field, plumages and other identifiers can be found in Carter and Stein (1995), Konyukhov and Kitaysky (1995), Erickson et al. (1995), Mlodinow (1997), Gaston and Jones (1997), Strong (1998) and others. We would be happy to provide access to some of these references, if needed.

We expect most Long-Billed Murrelet sightings will be at inland lakes, but there is evidence that both species of Murrelets can potentially be encountered in most parts of North America, and certainly in the northern Pacific (Gaston and Jones 1998, Arthukin et al. 1999). If you have questions please contact the authors.

Contact address for reporting sightings and inland records of Murrelets:

Falk Huettmann and Russell Bradley
Centre for Wildlife Ecology
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References (appended list)

Arthukin, Y.B, V.N. Burkanov and P.S. Vyatkin. 1999. Incidental mortality of seabirds in the driftnet salmon fishery by Japanese vessels within the Russian Exclusive

Economic Zone, 1993 - 1998. In The biology and conservation of the birds of Kamchatka. Russian Academy of Science, Far Eastern Branch, Kamchatka Institute of Ecology. Issue 1. Moscow. pp. 93-108.

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Congdon, B. C., J. F Piatt, K. Martin and V. L. Friesen. 2000. Mechanisms of population differentiation in Marbled Murrelets: historical versus contemporary processes. *Evolution* 54:974-986.

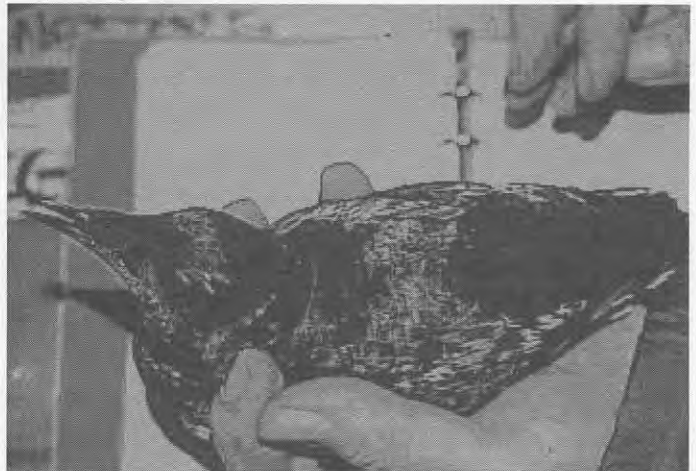
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Friesen, V.L., Piatt J. F. and A. J. Baker. 1996. Evidence from cytochrome B sequences and alyozymes for a 'new' species of alcid: the Long-Billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*). *Condor* 98:681- 690.

Gaston, A.J., and I. Jones. 1998. The Auks. In *Bird Families of the World*. Oxford University Press Inc. NY

Hoffman, W. and G. E. Wolfenden. 1988. A specimen of the Asiatic Marbled Murrelet from Florida. *Florida Field Naturalist* 16:37-38.

The rest of reference list may be obtained from authors.



MARBLED MURRELET



LANDBIRD ACTIVITIES OF THE CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

Erica Dunn, Erica.Dunn@ec.gc.ca

CWS plays many roles in research, monitoring and conservation of landbirds (here defined as raptors, passerines and near-passerines). Here is a brief overview of some landbird-related activities from the past year that may be of interest to SCO members.

CWS is heavily involved in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), which aims to coordinate the efforts of North America-wide conservation initiatives on landbirds, seabirds, shorebirds, waterfowl and other fresh-water birds into all-bird conservation strategies. (For further information on NABCI and CWS' role in it, see www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/birds/eng/index_e.cfm)

Partners in Flight (PIF), the umbrella group of partners focused on landbird conservation, has begun to develop action plans for specific regions in British Columbia and the Prairie Provinces, and other regions are making moves in the same direction. (Go to the site above and click on "Landbirds" to learn more about PIF.)

CWS researchers have been involved in dozens of studies on landbirds across the country, many in partnership with universities, resource industries or non-government organizations. General topics addressed by CWS research in the past year include effects on landbirds of silvicultural practices, housing development, forest burning (or lack thereof) and agriculture (particularly toxic chemicals), and research on species at risk. Other work involves studies of birds in regionally threatened habitats

such as Garry Oak, alpine areas, native grassland and riparian habitat.

Population monitoring is another area in which CWS is very active. It runs the operations of the Breeding Bird Survey in Canada, where there was a record high of 455 routes run in 2001. BBS is working to develop better training materials, support for regional coordinators, and improved access to results on BBS websites (see instructions for PIF website for Canadian BBS results). CWS contributes to various breeding bird atlases, including loaning Mike Cadman to the second Ontario atlas (20 years after he directed the first one). Also underway is a "Birds of Newfoundland and Labrador" project. CWS will co-sponsor a small workshop in November to develop recommendations on what can and cannot be done in the way of statistically sound population monitoring at small geographic scales (woodlot to national park size).

CWS is responsible for Canadian operations of the Bird Banding Office, and contributes to the work of the North American Banding Council. Training manuals are now available (a trainer's guide for passerine banders, and banding manuals for passerines, raptors and hummingbirds). Training and certification workshops are ongoing. (See <http://www.nabanding.net/nabanding/> to obtain manuals and training schedule).

Selected recent publications on landbirds from CWS:
Blais, J., J.-P.L. Savard and J. Gauthier (in press). The impact of January 1998 ice storm in eastern North America on resident bird populations: how extreme

weather events can affect birds' demography. *Forestry Chronicle*.

Clergeau, P., J. Jokimaki, and J.-P. L. Savard. (in press). Are bird communities influenced by the bird diversity of adjacent landscapes? *Journal of Applied Ecology*.

Dunn, E. H. 2001. Mass change during migration stopover: a comparison of species groups and sites. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 72:419-432.

Dunn, E.H., J. Larivée and A. Cyr. 2001. Site-specific observation in the breeding season improves the ability of checklist data to track population trends. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 72:547-555.

Dunn, E.H. 2001. Causes of decline in band encounter rates for small landbirds. *North American Bird Bander* 26:9-15.

Martin, K. 2001. Wildlife in alpine and subalpine habitats. In: Johnson, D.H. and T.A. O'Neil. 2001. Wildlife-habitat relationships in Oregon and Washington. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis. pp. 239-260, Ch 9.

Nappi, A., P. Drapeau, J.-F. Giroux and J.-P. L. Savard. (In press). Snag use by foraging Black-backed Woodpeckers in a recently-burned eastern boreal forest. *Condor*.

Rompré, G., Y. Aubry, V. Connolly, J.-P. L. Savard et G. Seutin. (in press). Répartition, abondance et préférences écologiques de la Grive de Bicknell (*Catharus bicknelli*) au Québec. Technical Report Series, Canadian Wildlife Service, Quebec region.

Savard, J.-P.L. and J. B. Falls. 2001. Survey techniques and habitat relationships of breeding birds in residential areas of Toronto, Canada. p. 543-570, In J. M. Marzluff, R. Bowman and R. Donnelly (eds.), *Avian Ecology and Conservation in an Urbanizing World*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Norwell, Massachusetts.

Takats, D. Lisa, C. M. Francis, G. L. Holroyd, J. R. Duncan, K. M. Mazur, R. J. Cannings, W. Harris, and D. Holt. 2001. Guidelines for North American Nocturnal Owl Monitoring - A Recommended Standard Protocol. Beaverhill Bird Observatory and Bird Studies Canada, 21pp - order from BBO, Box 1418, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2N5.

CANADIAN BIRD-RELATED THESES ABSTRACTS

This is a new section for *Picoides*. We will no longer print abstracts from conference presentations, but will accept Canadian masters and doctoral theses on bird-related topics, especially those which are not published elsewhere.

ABSTRACTS

Melles, S. M. 2000. Effects of landscape and local habitat features on bird communities: A study of an urban gradient in Greater Vancouver. MSc. Thesis. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC.

Bird species diversity and abundance trends in urban areas can provide evidence to predict the relative importance of local bird habitat under different landscape contexts. I examined the hypothesis that selected species and nesting guilds should be more closely associated with landscape level features, such as proximity to large forested areas (< 100 ha), than with local scale habitat measures (< 1 ha). I collected avian community data during surveys completed over a two year period at 285 point count stations along four linear road transects located in Vancouver and Burnaby, British Columbia.

Stations were located along transects bisecting three large parks (>324 ha) and proceeding away from these parks along residential streets into highly urban and suburban areas. A total of 49 breeding bird species were observed including 36 common species and 13 species that were sighted only once.

Canonical correspondence analysis was used to view the main associations between measured habitat variables and species distributions. Species richness declined with increasing urbanization and the gradient (CCA axis one site scores) was dominated by landscape level habitat measures. Park area-by-distance metrics, developed using G.I.S., had the highest correlation with CCA axis one indicating the importance of park area in the vicinity for many species of birds breeding in marginal residential areas. Different land use zones did not neatly separate the urbanization gradient into simple bird habitat categories. Habitat models were created for five nesting guilds and three selected species (Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia*, Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus*, and American Robin,

Turdus migratorus) with sequential block addition of landscape and local variables.

Local variables significantly improved predictability of landscape-variable only models, but the difference was slight. Landscape variables alone were often good predictors of presence or absence of most groups of species (guilds), but were less sensitive than local variables at predicting individual species' presence. Incidence (percent stations occupied) of several bird species increased with park area in the vicinity as an inverse function of distance.

The results of this study suggest that matrix areas surrounding parks and reserves should be integrated into urban planning and development designs.



AMERICAN ROBIN

Smith, C. M. 2000. Survival and recruitment of juvenile Harlequin Ducks. MSc. Thesis. Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC. 83 pages.

cyndi_smith@pch.gc.ca

Population demography involves intrinsic factors that contribute to a population's growth or decline: births, deaths, immigration and emigration. For a population to remain stable, breeding adults must produce enough offspring that survive to breeding age to replace those adults that die (recruitment). I studied Harlequin Ducks *Histrionicus histrionicus* (tribe Mergini) to understand the

role of juvenile survival in recruitment, and to assess recruitment at the wintering area.

Duckling survival varied significantly among the eight time intervals from hatching to migration from the breeding stream. Survival rate declined with age, particularly in the first two weeks and immediately postfledging. Prefledging survival was estimated as 0.268, postfledging survival as 0.429, and overall survival from hatching to migration was estimated as 0.115 in the two years of the study.

None of the radio-marked females abandoned their broods on the breeding stream; as long as a female was alive she migrated with her brood, whether there was one surviving duckling or six. I discuss a number of life-history traits and ecological factors peculiar to Harlequin Ducks that may account for this strategy. My observations suggest that females lead their broods to the wintering area and the family separates shortly thereafter.

At the wintering area, I observed Harlequin Ducks that were banded as ducklings and showed that males are distinguishable in the autumn of the hatch year. This separation of age-classes by plumage allows the proportion of immature males in the autumn and winter populations to be used as an index of recruitment.

Between 1994 and 1999, the proportion of male Harlequin Ducks that were immatures was 0.068 at the wintering area. If this ratio is an accurate measure of recruitment, it does not compensate for annual adult mortality, thus, the population of Harlequin Ducks wintering in the Strait of Georgia may be declining.

However, if immature males are not distributed randomly among the population then our assessment may underestimate proportions. With delayed breeding, immature birds face several additional seasons of possible mortality prior to breeding, and thus the actual recruitment rate of young Harlequin Ducks into the breeding population would be lower than the annual proportions presented here.

Carignan, V. and M-A. Villard. 2001. Selection and monitoring of potential indicators of ecological integrity in bogs and forests of the Greater Kouchibouguac Ecosystem. MSc. Thesis. Université de Moncton. Moncton, NB. E1A 3E9

Vincent_Carignan@hotmail.com

As part of a broader program to assess and monitor the ecological integrity of the GKE (New Brunswick, Canada), we censused the avifauna associated with four community types (bog, deciduous forest, coniferous forest, and open-canopy forest) to identify potential indicators of ecological integrity. Point count stations (n= 259) were equally distributed between a relatively undisturbed area (Kouchibouguac National Park) and an adjacent area disturbed by forestry and human settlement.

Using ecological specialization as a selection criterion (i.e. the species occupied one or two of the four community types), an assemblage of 16 potential indicator species was identified. This criterion reflects the greater susceptibility of specialists towards environmental changes.

The proposed indicator species are associated with different habitat and microhabitat features and present various levels of sensitivity to disturbance. We propose using population trends from these species as a tool to help determine if the degree of ecological integrity of the region is improving or deteriorating as the result of natural resources management. Combined with the monitoring of other taxa and of indicators at higher levels (e.g. landscapes), the long-term information obtained from population trend analyses should allow the identification of specific sources of stress affecting ecological integrity and targeting components of the ecosystem that need specific management intervention.

Lawrance, P. S. 2001 Use of riparian buffer strips by breeding songbirds in the Fundy Model Forest, New Brunswick. Senior Essay, MSc. University of British Columbia. Copies can be obtained from Dr. Kathy Martin.

Peter Lawrance, pslawrance@yahoo.com

Riparian buffers are designed to protect watercourse integrity after forest harvesting, but they may also serve as habitat for forest dwelling birds. Riparian buffers might mitigate habitat loss and fragmentation which threaten

forest songbirds. I examined riparian buffers that were 30 m and 60 m in width, and 'Best management' combinations of clear-cutting and selection-cutting, to measure annual changes in bird communities before harvesting and post-harvest responses compared to unharvested controls. I also examined the adjacent uncut, clear-cut, or select-cut upland portions of the plot to see what effect different types of forest harvesting had on forest bird communities.

Bird communities were surveyed for two years pre-harvest and two years post-harvest. I compared species richness, relative abundance, diversity, community evenness and similarity, and rates of colonization, disappearance, and overall turnover.

Richness, relative abundance and diversity increased or remained unchanged in riparian buffers after harvesting. In addition colonization rates were high and disappearance of species was low. This suggests a species-packing effect occurred in the buffers, immediately post-harvest. White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco and Common Yellowthroat colonized and became more abundant in



COMMON YELLOWTHROAT

buffers and upland areas, than they were pre-harvest. Very few species that were common pre-harvest declined post-harvest. In the uplands, control (uncut) areas predictably showed the least amount of change. Clear-cuts decreased in diversity and evenness post-harvest. Both 30 m and 60 m buffers retained much of the pre-harvest bird community assemblage, however it seems likely that species-packing was occurring. Forest harvesting had some impact on bird community turnover rates and relative abundance but a majority of the common forest species persisted in the buffers. A longer-term study, that included demographic data, especially productivity, would be needed to determine the full impacts of forest harvesting on forest bird communities in Acadian forests.



IN FUTURE ISSUES
OF PICOIDES

DARK-EYED JUNCO

Dorothy McFarlane, mandd@nbnet.nb.ca

Picoides will now come to members 3 times a year, probably in October, February, and June. Increased costs of another issue per year will be reduced by making a few changes. There will be less adjusting of the manuscript by the printing company because the entire thing including scanned photos will be handed to the printer on a zip disk.

Printing costs (and particularly the taxes) will be reduced by using University of New Brunswick printers and through a university account. Mailing costs have been covered by CWS-Atlantic for many years, and next year will be paid by CWS-BC, however one way to reduce the mailing cost by half is to send the bulletin as a publication mailing, with the address right on the cover. We will try

this method and see if it arrives reasonably clean and dry. Please let me know. We will save also on brown envelopes, which added a full 17% to the weight of the bulletin. The inside pages of *Picoides* will be slightly cheaper because they are not glossy. However they are of archival quality, and all the paper used is recycled paper.

Other changes you will see are: More pictures - please send slides or photos with articles and abstracts- they will be returned; Canadian master's and doctoral theses abstracts, not abstracts from meetings; an article each issue by a SCO/SOC councillor; and articles and abstracts in French.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS JAN 1, 2002

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE DORIS HUESTIS SPEIRS AWARD



The Speirs award is our Society's most prestigious honour, presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions in Canadian ornithology. Awardees have included those who worked at museums, government agencies, private agencies, universities, or as volunteers. The most recent winners are Dr. David Hussell, of Bird Studies Canada, and Dr. Erica Dunn, of the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada, whose contributions are highlighted in this issue of *Picoides*. If you wish to suggest a candidate, with or without supporting data, please contact the committee chair for this Award:

Dr. Marc-André Villard, Département de biologie, Université de Moncton, NB. E1A 3E9.
Tél: 506-858-4334 (direct 4292); Fax: 506-858-4541 Email: villarm@umoncton.ca

UPDATE ON RESEARCH AT THE CENTRE FOR WILDLIFE ECOLOGY SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY, BURNABY, BC

Connie Smith, Centre for Wildlife Ecology, SFU

The NSERC/CWS Research Wildlife Ecology Research Chair at Simon Fraser University (now renamed the Centre for Wildlife Ecology) was established to foster high quality, graduate level research in the field of wildlife ecology, with specialisations in behavioural, population and physiological ecology. From the formation of the Chair in 1993 through to 2001 Dr. Fred Cooke was leader of the group. Upon Fred's retirement in August 2001, Dr. Ron Ydenberg assumed directorship. One of the mandates of the CWE is to work with managers to conserve and protect wildlife and habitat by providing scientific advice based on an understanding of population dynamics and ecosystem functioning.

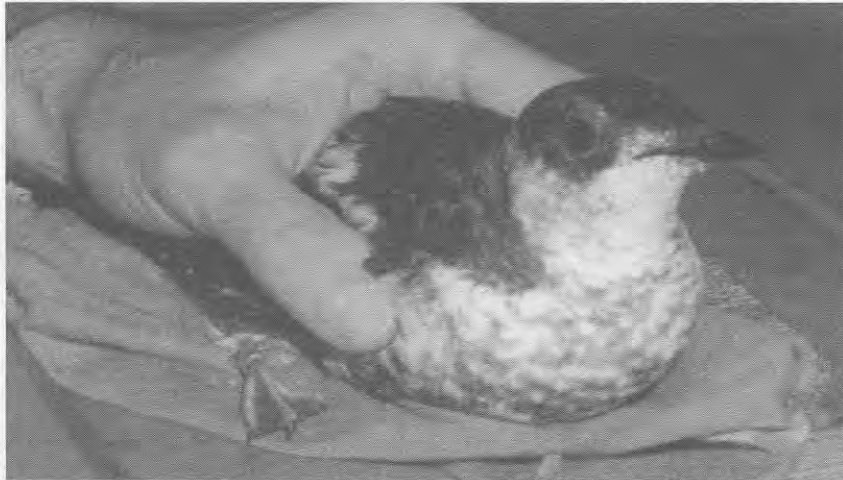
To fulfill this mandate, the CWE established several long-term research projects, including the Triangle Island Seabird Research Station off the northern-most tip of Vancouver Island; the Western Sandpiper Research Project, with researchers working in Alaska, Boundary Bay, California, México and

Panama; the Marbled Murrelet Research Project, which has studied populations in Desolation Sound, near Powell River, BC, and in Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island; and the Riske Creek Waterbird Research Station in interior BC near Williams Lake. In addition, we have several other projects mostly based in the Strait of Georgia area. A brief summary of these projects follows:

The Triangle Island ecological reserve on the outermost of the Scott Islands chain was established in 1994. Triangle Island is home to BC's largest seabird colonies. Data have been collected on the demography, physiology and behaviour of Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, Tufted Puffins, and Common Murres, all of which breed on the island in large numbers. We have formed strong linkages with DFO fisheries scientists and oceanographers to

understand how climate-induced changes in the marine prey base affect upper trophic level predators, and are collaborating with researchers in California, Washington and Alaska. Doug Bertram was Scientific Director of the project from 1996 to 2000; Mark Hipfner assumed this post in 2001. John Ryder has been station manager since 1997. Hugh Knechtel, Louise Blight and Carina Gjerdrum have completed MSc theses on work at the station (see references).

The research network on Western Sandpipers (WESA), under the coordination of Dr. Dov Lank, has conducted research since 1994 at field sites from Cape Espenberg, Alaska to Chitré, Panama. Guillermo Fernández is looking at Western Sandpipers wintering at Bahia Santa



MARbled MURRELET, L. TRANQUILLA

Maria on the Sinaloa coast of Mexico. This is one of the most extensive wintering areas for this and other species of birds in the whole of North and Central America, and is under threat from commercial exploitation. Guillermo is also involved in conservation attempts. Silke Nebel visited the area

for part of her PhD work under the direction of Ron Ydenberg, and followed this up with a field season in the Bay area of California. Pat O'Hara is now writing up his Ph.D. work which focuses on differences in migration strategies with respect to wing wear for WESA wintering in Panama, Mexico, and Ecuador. Other researchers who have been involved in the Western Sandpiper Group include: Bob Elner and Rob Butler of CWS, Ron Ydenberg and his students James Burns and Nick Wolf, at SFU, Colin Clark of UBC, and Tony Williams and his graduate students Will Stein and Dana Seaman, who are examining the migratory physiology of WESA.

The CWE has conducted research on the threatened Marbled Murrelet since 1994. Together with the Canadian Wildlife Service and BC Forest Service we are

coordinating studies of population demography and genetics, reproductive physiology and marine and nesting habitat use. For the first 5 years, we worked in Desolation Sound on the BC coast near Powell River, in an area which has been quite heavily logged. In 2000 we started a study in Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island, which is a more suitable site to test nesting habitat preferences in an area where much old-growth forest still exists. Graduate students Russell Bradley and Laura Tranquilla are both writing up their MSc projects in 2001; Russ's on nest site selection, and Laura's on physiological aspects of the breeding cycle. Falk Huettmann coordinated work designed to define the habitat requirements of this species at the landscape level. In 1997 we began using radio transmitters on birds, tracking them by helicopter back to their nest sites. In total, we have located 155 nests by this method.

The Riske Creek Project is a collaboration between Kathy Martin (CWS and UBC), Sean Boyd (CWS), and the CWE, coordinated by Dov Lank, and largely funded by Forest Renewal BC. The project relies on a mix of community, population and behavioural ecology to understand the long-term population dynamics of several bird species in the face of environmental changes brought about by changing land-use practices, particularly those resulting from the effects of logging and grazing on riparian habitats. Kathy Martin's research focuses on interrelationships among all cavity nesting species of birds and mammals. The focus of CWE and Sean Boyd is on waterbirds. PhD student Brent Gurd is currently writing up his thesis on the effects of changing water regimes and riparian habitats on waterfowl communities in the area. This summer Matt Evans completed field work on cavity nesting ducks for his doctoral thesis.

Through the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative (GBEI), we have identified several bird populations for special study. These include Harlequin Ducks, Brant, Scoters, Western, Red-necked and Horned Grebes, Great Blue Herons, Dunlin, and Dippers.

The Harlequin Duck population project has been running since 1993, initially under the direction of Ian Goudie of CWS, but more recently under the aegis of CWE. The aim is to provide the most detailed analysis yet of the life history and population structure of a sea duck, and is possible because this species is relatively accessible at all stages of the life cycle. With a demographic focus, the study allows population trends to be assessed, and means and variances of most of the major

components of the life history measured, with the long-term goal of relating population trends to environmental change. In coordination with members of the Harlequin Duck Conservation Society, we hope to make this one of the most detailed population studies of a sea duck ever carried out. Cyndi Smith's MSc project, completed in March 2000, on the breeding population of Harlequin Ducks at the Banff National Park provides information on the breeding and post-breeding stage of the life-cycle. Greg Robertson's winter study, completed in 1997, is now being extended by Mike Rodway and Heidi Regehr, who are concentrating on the moulting and wintering populations at Hornby Island and Boundary Bay. Brian Arquilla and Byron Andres continued observations on the moulting and pairing behaviour of Harlequin Ducks at Boundary Bay throughout the year.

A study of wintering and migrant Brant geese is underway by Kate Hagmeier, an MSc student of Sean Boyd's, in Boundary Bay and eastern Vancouver Island. An exciting finding is that the rare high western Arctic subspecies *Branta bernicla hrota*, is increasingly wintering in the Vancouver area. This population comprises fewer than 8000 birds and has been declining in recent years. Its main wintering area is Padilla Bay in Washington State. This rare population is receiving increasing attention from conservationists and wildlife managers.

Two studies of Scoters are now under way. Debbie LaCroix has completed her field work on the feeding ecology of Surf Scoters; she is currently writing up her work. Sam Iverson is investigating the possibility of using number of Surf Scoters in immature plumage to estimate annual productivity of the species. Sam had good success at catching and marking Scoters this past winter (2000-2001).

Breeding and wintering behaviour of Horned and Red-necked Grebes is the topic of Bonnie Stout's PhD study. She is collaborating with Jim Hines from the CWS office in NWT on a study of breeding grebes near Yellowknife, NWT, and during the non-breeding season is concentrating on the Boundary Bay and Sunshine Coast populations.

Ross Vennesland completed his study of the nesting ecology of Great Blue Herons under the direction of Rob Butler. His work focussed on the potentially adverse effects of Bald Eagles on the breeding population of herons in the Lower Mainland.

The importance of coastal agriculture to the over-wintering survivorship of Dunlin has been investigated for several years by Pippa Shepherd and Leslie Evans Ogden. They have examined the potential effects of changes in farming practices, including a shift from open field agriculture to greenhouse development, on the large population of Dunlin which overwinter in the Fraser River delta.

Christy (Peterson) Morrisey has started a population study of the American Dipper in the Georgia Basin, under the supervision of Leah Bendell-Young at SFU and John Elliott of CWS, with particular emphasis on wintering ecology.

To learn more about work being conducted by the Centre, please visit our new and improved website: <http://www.sfu.ca/biology/wildberg>.

Some Recent Publications of the Centre for Wildlife Ecology:

Hull, C.L., G.W. Kaiser, C. Loughheed, L. Loughheed, W.S. Boyd and F. Cooke. In press. Intra-specific variation in commuting distance of Marbled Murrelets *Brachyramphus marmoratus*: ecological and energetic consequences of nesting further inland. *Auk*.

Hull, C.L., B.A. Vanderkist, L.W. Loughheed, G. Kaiser and F. Cooke. In press. Morphometric variation in Marbled Murrelets, *Brachyramphus marmoratus*, in British Columbia, Canada. *Northwestern Naturalist*.

Lanctot, R.B., B.K. Sandercock and B. Kempenaers. In press. Effects of mate and site fidelity on breeding behaviour in the Western Sandpiper. *Condor*.

Regehr, H.M., C.M. Smith, B. Arquilla and F. Cooke. 2001. Post-fledging broods of migratory Harlequin Ducks accompany females to wintering areas. *Condor* 103:408-412.

Shepherd, P.C.F., D.B. Lank, B.D. Smith, N.D. Warnock, G.W. Kaiser and T.D. Williams. 2001. Sex ratios and sex determination of Dunlin wintering at two latitudes on the Pacific coast. *Condor* 103:352-360.

Smith, C.M., R.I. Goudie and F. Cooke. 2001. Winter age ratios and the assessment of recruitment of Harlequin Ducks. *Waterbirds* 24:39-44.

Bertram, D.F., I.L. Jones, E.G. Cooch, H.A. Knechtel and F. Cooke. 2000. Survival rates for Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets at Triangle Island, British Columbia. *Condor* 102:155-162.

Cooke, F., G.J. Robertson, C.M. Smith, R.I. Goudie and W.S. Boyd. 2000. Survival, emigration and winter population structure of Harlequin Ducks. *Condor* 102:137-144.

Drever, M.C., L.K. Blight, K.A. Hobson and D.F. Bertram. 2000. Predation on seabird eggs by Keen's mice (*Peromyscus keeni*): using stable isotopes to decipher the diet of a terrestrial omnivore on a remote offshore island. *Can. J. Zool.* 78:2010-2018.

Egeler, O. and T.D. Williams. 2000. Seasonal, age and sex-related variation in fatty-acid composition of depot fat in relation to migration in the Western Sandpiper. *Auk* 117:110-119.

Egeler, O., T.D. Williams and C.G. Guglielmo. 2000. Modulation of lipogenic enzymes, fatty acid synthase and D9-desaturase, in relation to migration in the Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*). *Journal of Comparative Physiology B* 170:169-174.

Robertson, G.J., F. Cooke, R.I. Goudie and W.S. Boyd. 2000. Spacing patterns, mating systems, and winter philopatry in Harlequin Ducks. *Auk* 117:299-307.

Sandercock, B.K., D.B. Lank, R.B. Lanctot, B. Kempenaers and F. Cooke. 2000. Ecological correlates of mate fidelity in two arctic-breeding sandpipers. *Can. J. Zool.* 78:1948-1958.

Smith, C.M., F. Cooke, G.J. Robertson, R.I. Goudie and W.S. Boyd. 2000. Long-term pair bonds in Harlequin Ducks. *Condor* 102:201-205.

Sutherland, T., P.C.F. Shepherd and R.W. Elner. 2000. Predation on meiofaunal and macrofaunal invertebrates by Western Sandpipers (*Calidris mauri*): evidence for selection and dual feeding modes. *Marine Biol.* 137:983-993.

Vanderkist, B.A., T.D. Williams, D.F. Bertram, L. Loughheed and J.P. Ryder. 2000. Indirect, physiological assessment of reproductive state and breeding chronology

in free-living birds: an example in the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). *Funct. Ecol.* 14:758-765.

Van der Wetering, D. and F. Cooke. 2000. Body weight and feather growth of male Barrow's Goldeneye during wing molt. *Condor* 102:228-231.

Theses

Burns, J. 2001. The ecological consequences of fuel storage in migrating *Calidris* sandpipers. MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Gjerdrum, C. 2001. Nestling growth and parental provisioning of Tufted Puffins (*Fratercula cirrhala*) on Triangle Island, British Columbia. MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

LaCroix, D. 2001. Foraging impacts and patterns of wintering Surf Scoters feeding on bay mussels in coastal Strait of Georgia, BC. MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Shepherd, P.C.F. 2001. Space use, habitat preferences, and time activity budgets of Dunlin (*Calidris alpina pacifica*) in the Fraser River Delta, BC. PhD, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Bennett, K.E. 2000. Assessing the health of juvenile Mallards in situ on an industrially-based wetland using physiological endpoints: implications for populations. MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Blight, L.K. 2000. Egg neglect and its implications for egg predation in Rhinoceros Auklet. MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Christians, J. 2000. The physiological basis of intraspecific variation in egg size, quality and number in birds. PhD, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Salvante, K.G. 2000. Variation and regulation of plasma levels of the egg yolk precursors: vitellogenin and very-low density lipoprotein. MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Schamel, D.L. 2000. Female and male reproductive strategies in the red-necked phalarope, a polyandrous shorebird. Ph.D., Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Smith, C.M. 2000. Survival and recruitment of juvenile Harlequin Ducks. MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Vennesland, R.G. 2000. The effects of disturbance from humans and predators on the breeding decisions and productivity of the Great Blue Heron in south-coastal British Columbia. MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Guglielmo, C.G. 1999. Physiological and biochemical modulation for long-distance migration: the functional significance of intra-specific variation in the Western Sandpiper. PhD, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Hazlitt, S.L. 1999. Territory quality and parental behaviour of the Black Oystercatcher in the Strait of Georgia, BC. MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Lougheed, C. 1999. Breeding chronology, breeding success, distribution and movements of Marbled Murrelets (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) in Desolation Sound, British Columbia. MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Manley, I.A. 1999. Behaviour and habitat selection of Marbled Murrelets nesting on the Sunshine Coast. MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Vanderkist, B.A. 1999. Sex ratio and physiological indicators of reproduction in the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Cullen, S.A. 1998. Population biology of Eared Grebes in naturally fragmented habitat. MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Egeler, O. 1998. Aspects of fatty acid synthesis and composition in relation to migration in the Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*). MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

Knechtel, H. 1998. Effects of age, gender and condition on the reproductive effort of Cassin's Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) on Triangle Island, BC. MSc, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

2001 DORIS HUESTIS SPEIRS AWARD TO DRs. ERICA DUNN AND DAVID HUSSELL



Susan Hannon, sue.hannon@ualberta.ca

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award for outstanding lifetime contributions to Canadian Ornithology, is awarded this year to two people, a pair that have worked tirelessly both separately and together to advance the science of ornithology in its pure and applied forms. This year's award is presented to Drs. Erica H. Dunn and David J. T. Hussell. Both began their academic careers in ornithology at the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor. Ricky, as Erica is known to all, as a graduate student studying avian physiological ecology, and David, studying clutch size determinants in arctic passerines, work that has continued to fascinate and engage them.

In the mid-1970's they began their permanent stay in Canada, when David became the first director of the Long Point Bird Observatory. At this oldest bird observatory in North America, David and Ricky began the tradition of "birdathons", fun and highly competitive events that turn bird listing into hard-sought funds for non-government organizations. These events have also become critical in supporting and promoting the institutions that support bird research throughout North America. At Long Point, in particular, Ricky and Dave put together a scheme that proved of benefit to both the bird observatory and amateur ornithologists, as some of the funds, under the name of the James L. Baillie Memorial Trust, were distributed to worthy amateur projects that greatly enhanced bird conservation and public awareness of birds throughout Canada. At that time David, with an endless stream of volunteers, also began a detailed study of the Tree Swallow, a study that has become one of the longest running in North America, and is currently providing useful information on the influence of climate change on the breeding phenology of birds. Both Ricky and Dave were also instrumental in helping to organize the first Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, an important and significant source of baseline information about Ontario bird populations. Ricky and Dave published on a variety of species during this period, using data from birds breeding and migrating through Long Point.

In 1978 Dave and Ricky left Long Point to live, first in Aurora, Ontario, where both worked for the Ministry of Natural Resources, fulfilling a mandate to find ways to assess Ontario passerine populations. In that work, Dave

and Ricky continued to draw heavily on data coming from the migration monitoring station at Long Point, using the records to assess long-term population changes of dozens of species. During this time Ricky continued to coordinate the winter bird feeder surveys, that she had begun at Long Point, and, as a result of that survey, the North American survey of wintering bird populations began, which Ricky coordinated for a short time at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. This work resulted in the well-received popular book published in 2000 on birds at your feeder. The two of them also initiated a province wide survey of Great Blue Heron colonies, work that continues to be useful in ascertaining the status of this species. David, in addition to analysing the Long Point passerine data, also analysed hawk migration data applying similar techniques to determine whether these data were useful in assessing population changes.

In the mid-80's, Dave and Ricky moved to Ottawa, where Ricky took on a job as a research scientist with the Canadian Wildlife Service. There, Ricky and Dave introduced the concept of 'responsibility codes' to bird conservationists. This concept, published in a 1999 issue of *Conservation Biology*, stated that a species was important, not only if it was rare or endangered, but also if the range where it was most abundant (breeding, wintering or migratory) was within a single or a small number of political jurisdictions, making it particularly vulnerable to unwise land-use decisions. Warblers breeding in the eastern boreal forests of Ontario and Quebec are excellent examples of widespread though vulnerable species, due to heavy exploitation of boreal forests. The identification of these codes and the introduction of this concept has already led to greater cooperation between neighboring jurisdictions sharing high responsibilities for particular species.

Ricky and Dave have been firm believers in the value of data gathered by volunteers. As a result of this conviction, their work has led to the establishment of numerous banding stations across Canada, where data on species from every biome can be analysed for population trends.

Ricky and Dave have greatly stimulated interest in population trends. With the Canadian publication, *Bird Trends*, edited by Ricky, they have provided Canadian ornithologists with easy to access information on a large

range of species. Ricky was also involved with the publication, in 2000, of the comprehensive Canadian atlas of bird banding, detailing the recoveries of most of Canada's banded birds.

Both Ricky and Dave have been involved in the organization and establishment of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists. Ricky has also been very active in the organization of the AOU, and both have attended over 25 meetings of this society with the meetings being highlights of their summer. During this time they have also acted as mentors to dozens of students of ornithology,

often who have worked first as volunteers at the Long Point Bird Observatory (now called Bird Studies Canada).

Their past and present contributions to ornithology, only some of which I have touched on here, are greatly appreciated by all. We wait with anticipation for more creative approaches to ornithology from these two exceptional scientists.

Congratulations Ricky and Dave.

REPORT ON SCO/SOC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2001 (CONDENSED)



Nancy Flood, nflood@cariboo.bc.ca

There are 312 members in the SCO/SOC (an 8% increase). Affiliations break down as follows: no affiliation 35, university 140, CWS 53, other federal depts. 11, museum 12, non-gov. agencies 18, provincial gov. 9, clubs and societies 10, private consultants 17, libraries 7.

Most new members join at the annual meeting, but the SCO webpage encouraged 25 people to join since its inception. Roughly 50% of the membership renews for more than a year at a time. The webpage is in need of some interesting additions.

The geographic breakdown of members is as follows: NF 10, NS 12, NB 20, PEI 1, QC 33, ON 82, MB 13, SK 18, AB 23, BC 66, YT 3, Nunavut 1, US 23, UK and Europe 5.

Numbers of Regular members (\$15) = 228, Sustaining members (\$30) = 15, Student members (\$10) = 66, and complimentary members = 3.

2001 WINNERS OF THE SCO BAILLIE AND TAVERNER AWARDS



Kevin Teather, Dept. of Biology, UPEI

The Research Awards Committee received a total of 17 applications from individuals across Canada. I've attached a list of the applicants, along with the title of their project on the following page. Proposals were evaluated by Dr. Cheri Gratto-Tevor (Canadian Wildlife Service, Saskatoon), Dr. David Schutler (Department of Biology, Acadia University), and myself. Applicants were notified of the decision on 5 April, 2001.

The successful applicants were:

Dan Strickland, Dwight, Ontario - Taverner Award (\$500)

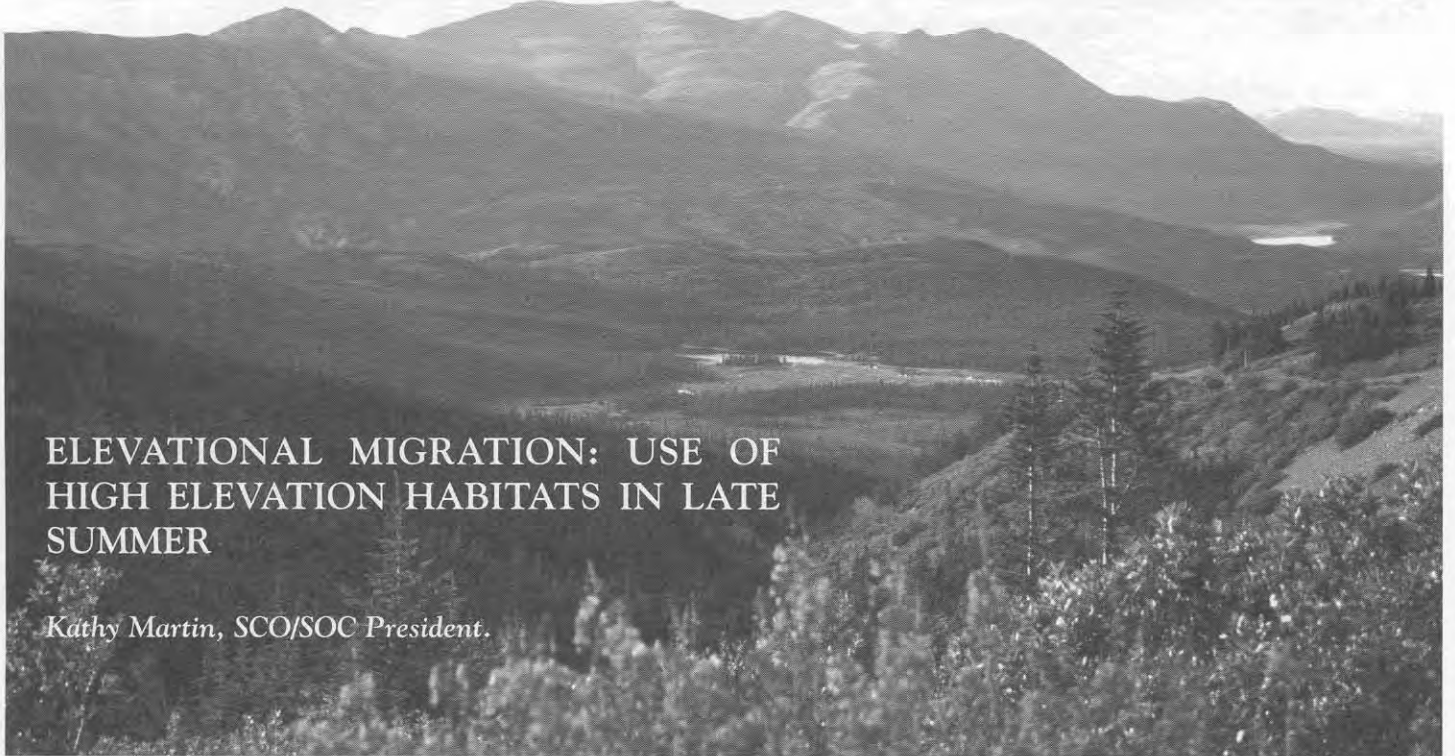
"Does allofeeding occur in the nestling period of Gray Jays on Anticosti Island in the absence of Red Squirrels?"

Michael Kasumovic, Queen's University - Taverner Award (\$500)

"Settlement patterns and the fitness consequences associated with territory position within a least flycatcher cluster"

Mary Stapleton, Queen's University - Baillie Award (\$1000)

"Why do females engage in extra-pair mating? Testing the role of the major histocompatibility complex"



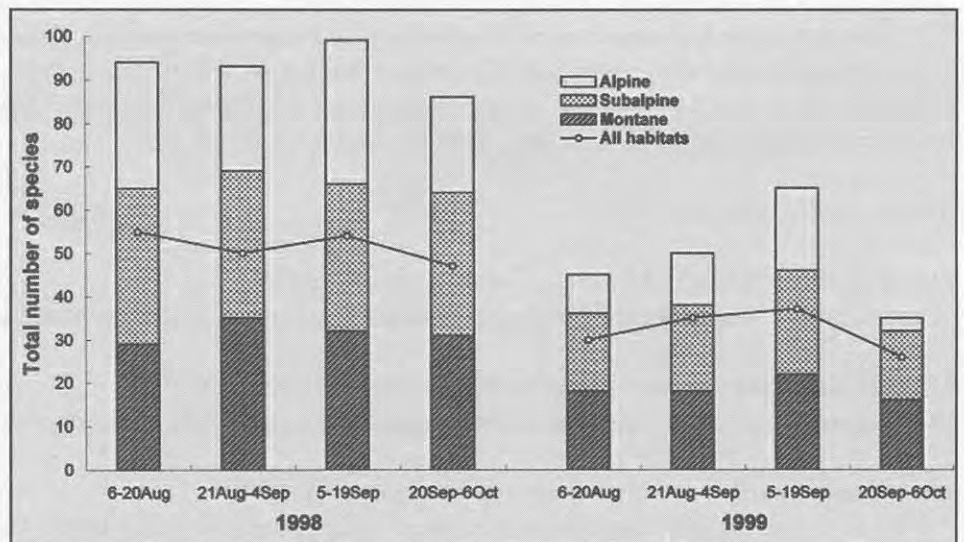
MONTANA MOUNTAIN, YUKON

ELEVATIONAL MIGRATION: USE OF HIGH ELEVATION HABITATS IN LATE SUMMER

Kathy Martin, SCO/SOC President.

Studies in British Columbia suggest that alpine areas support a high diversity and abundance of birds and mammals during late summer and fall. Since 1996, information was collected on temporal and spatial patterns of use of high elevation habitats by wildlife, especially migrating birds, on Vancouver Island and mainland British Columbia (K. Martin, University of British Columbia and Environment Canada). In 1996 and 1997, we collected data opportunistically on species use while censusing ptarmigan on 25 mountains across Vancouver Island, including relatively contiguous alpine in the central Island and more fragmented alpine habitats to the north and south. During this time, we observed 53 avian species with peak migration in these coastal alpine and sub-alpine habitats starting in late August and remaining high through September (Data summaries available on Centre for Alpine Studies web site: <http://www.forestry.ubc.ca/alpine/index.htm>). Only 11 (21%) of these species regularly breed in high elevation habitats (Campbell et al. 1990, 1996; Taylor 1994).

In 1998 and 1999, we surveyed alpine, sub-alpine and montane parkland habitats in mainland British Columbia ranging from 58° N latitude to the Washington border. We recorded a total of 107 species and 8969 detections, using line transect sampling, over a total of 82 km (51 mi) in alpine habitat, 69 km (43 mi) in sub-alpine, and 52 km (32.3 mi) in montane parkland (approximately 270 survey hours on 62 days, years pooled). Species richness was similar in all three habitats in 1998, a warm and relatively



dry summer (Figure 6). Species richness was much reduced in 1999, a cold, wet summer with greatly delayed snow-melt and early onset of winter conditions. Except during peak migration (5-19 September), proportionately fewer species used alpine habitats than either the sub-alpine or montane in 1999 (Figure 6). In 1999, one interior site that was snow-free by late June had the greatest number of species (9 more species than in 1998). One coastal site, where the snow-line extended down to 1100 m (3610 ft.) in late August, had only 26 detections/km surveyed in 1999, compared to 93 detections/km in 1998.

Overall, during a 10 week period in late summer, 113 species of migrants from a diverse array of avian families

used coastal and interior high elevation habitats on Vancouver Island and the central and southern mainland British Columbia. Data summaries are available on Centre for Alpine Studies web site.

From: Martin, K. M. 2001. Wildlife Communities in Alpine and Subalpine Habitats. Chapter 9, pp. 285-310. In: D.H. Johnson and T. A. O'Neil (Managr. Dirs.), Wildlife-Habitat Relationships in Oregon and Washington. Oregon State University Press.

SURVEY OF BIRD LIFE IN THE MUSQUASH ESTUARY, BAY OF FUNDY, NB.

Henrik Deichman, hjdeich@nb.sympatico.ca

This survey was done to support the first proposed Coastal Marine Protected Area in NB. It is available from the University of NB library, and the Conservation Council of NB, Fredericton. The document has 70 pages, including 63 habitat photos, and includes surveys of flora (by Hal Hinds) and local history (by David Thompson). The following is a summary of the bird life associated with Musquash Estuary.

The author carried out an avifaunal survey from April 1999 to September 2000. The estuary, of about 25 km² in size, is strongly tidal and silt-laden. The borderlands are natural or somewhat altered salt marsh dominated by *Spartina alternifolia* or cordgrass. Three Ducks Unlimited impoundments are fresh marsh, mostly vegetated with *Typha* (cattail). The outer estuary has an extensive mud flat, Hepburn Basin, and there are two islands, Musquash and Gooseberry. Land on either side of the estuary is Musquash Head, dominated by black spruce, and Gooseberry Cove, a mixed-wood forest.

In all, 150 bird species were found, 84 of which were confirmed as nesting. Gooseberry Is. had at least 25 Common Eider nests, and a pair of Bald Eagles (confirmed nesting in 2001.)

Hepburn Basin attracted three species of shorebirds in both years: Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, and Semipalmated Sandpiper. The latter were seen in numbers totalling 300, but counts were considerably below those found on a 1986 survey. The estuary appears to be an important wintering area for Bufflehead,

Common Goldeneye and Red-breasted Mergansers. Significant numbers of Surf Scoters summered in the outer Estuary.

During spring migration, peaking in the third week of April, several thousand scoter species (Black, Surf, and White-winged) pass by the estuary. Point Lepreau Bird Observatory, 15 km to the west, has been monitoring scoter species numbers in spring for years. Other common species in the estuary are Common Eider, Common Loon, and Red-throated Loon.

Some land birds associated with the estuary are Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, Gray Jay, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Tree Swallow, Great Blue Heron, and Marsh Hawk.



GREAT BLUE HERON

STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS



Greg Robertson, greg.robertson@ec.gc.ca , Chair of student presentation awards.

I am pleased to announce the two winners of the SCO-SOC best student presentation awards at the recent AOU/SCO-SOC meeting in Seattle. There were 23 applicants (15 talks and 8 posters) representing 9 different institutions, our highest participation in the competition to date. Cheri Gratto-Trevor, Kathy Martin, Jean-Pierre Savard and the AOU student presentation award committee all helped out with judging. Awards were judged on originality, scientific merit and quality of the presentation.

Winners were:

Philippa (Pippa) Shepherd, Simon Fraser University, for her talk "The influences of predators and prey on space use patterns and time-activity budgets of individual Dunlin wintering at the edge of their range."

Joël Bêty, Université Laval, for his co-authored talk

"Shared predators and indirect trophic interactions: lemming cycles and arctic-nesting geese."

Each award winner received 5 ornithological books and a meeting T-shirt. I would like to thank Yale University Press, Princeton University Press, Oxford University Press, and Ross Lein for donating books for the prizes.

As a reminder for next year, students need only be members of the SCO-SOC to be eligible (i.e. they need not be Canadian), and unlike the AOU, talks may be co-authored, as long as the student makes the presentation (obviously) and is first author.

Next year will be a little different as we are part of the larger joint meeting of the 3rd NAOC. It is likely that all societies will pool their student presentation awards together. So be sure to check out the details before applying next spring.

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all the students who participated.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE: THE APPLICATION OF ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH TO CONSERVATION: EAST MEETS WEST

Summarized by editor.

This conference was organised by the Chair of Wildlife Ecology at Simon Fraser University, and Environment Canada, and was held August 19-22, 2001 at Simon Fraser University, BC. Approximately 150 people attended. International and national university researchers, and scientists from Environment Canada spoke during the scientific sessions on a variety of topics with a focus on the interface between research and conservation. They included both successful and failed examples, providing an assessment of the value of research to conservation and the needs of conservation from research activities. Graduate students contributed through a poster session, and by chairing sessions of the conference.

Current chairs of successful wildlife research networks (CWE - Dr. Fred Cooke, and ACWERN - Dr. Tony Diamond) started the conference with a review of their work. Scientific speakers, including those from UK, USA, Africa, and Germany, spoke on the topics of landscape ecology and forestry, seabirds and marine systems, long-term population studies, behavioural ecology and conservation, modeling and monitoring, ecophysiology and ecotoxicology, and management perspectives. The conference ended with a workshop on the management perspective, involving Environment Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources, entitled Translating our Experience into Renewed University-Government Partnerships. After hearing from speakers from universities across the country and from CWS, afternoon break-out sessions were held on the questions: How do we build on the strengths of these arrangements, and what makes our research partnerships work? It is hoped that this conference will generate more university-government collaboration in all regions of Canada.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCO/SOC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (SEATTLE AND BURNABY)



Kathy Martin, kmartin@interchange.ubc.ca

There was a flurry of SCO/SOC activity immediately following the AGM in Seattle and we also held an additional special meeting at the East Meets West Conference at SFU in Burnaby. Since a different set of councillors were at each of these meetings and some were absent from both, I am outlining a report of recent developments in SCO so that all councillors and executive members are on the same page. Some of these changes or developments were initiated during or shortly after the 2001 AGM in Seattle.

1. Replacements and Succession in SCO/SOC council:
Vice President: David Bird resigned from his post and J. P. Savard has agreed to replace him immediately. Bird will complete his term with SCO as a councillor at the 2002 New Orleans meeting.

Membership Secretary: Nancy Flood has performed this task competently for two terms. Since she is now in her third term, we need to formally extend/renew her term.

Treasurer: Same Deal. We need to formally extend Tom Dickinson's appointment as treasurer for a third term.

Recording Secretary: Blancher was replaced by Greg Robertson, with J. P. Savard acting in an interim capacity at this year's annual meeting. Greg will assume his formal duties at the 2002 AGM.

Future Presidents: J.P. Savard as Vice President-Elect will assume the Presidency of SCO/SOC at the New Orleans Meeting in late September 2002. We also have had three expressions of interest to run for Vice President/President in the future, so it is edifying to have some options for leadership in the immediate future!

2. 2002 Election for new Councillors: Bird has agreed to work with Savard to run the next election for councillors and executive positions. Please send your suggestions to them. The election will be held late in 2001, with council members assuming their positions at the New Orleans Meeting in 2002.

3. SCO/SOC Council Student Membership: At the AGM, council voted to initiate a SCO/SOC Student Membership award that matched the AOU Student membership. The student membership is currently \$15.00. Council voted to allocate \$1000 of the profits from the Newfoundland conference to this fund, and several councillors also made donations. The basic rules are that students who obtain an AOU student membership award (grants are given for three years of free student membership in the AOU) can write to the SCO/SOC membership secretary and obtain a matching three-year free membership. Students benefit from being able to claim this as an award which makes them eligible to apply for our student awards and other benefits. Nancy Flood was asked to strike a committee and develop the specific wording and conditions for this membership award. She is still getting up to speed on what she needs to do to install this award!

Councillors, please note that you too can make a tax-deductible donation to this student membership fund.

The Fred Cooke Student Award: This award started off as an acknowledgement of Fred Cooke's retirement and in recognition of his contributions to ornithology in Canada and his support of students in ornithological research. Donations rapidly pored in such that the award total is now over \$5000. Fred requested that SCO/SOC consider making the award a joint SCO/BSC award similar to the Baillie and Taverner research awards. This allows for the possibility of significantly greater levels of endowment which ultimately mean that more students can be supported. It has not been determined which SCO council member will be most involved in the administration of this award. I have been involved in the initial discussions with Fred Cooke and Michael Bradstreet from Bird Studies Canada, and Tom Dickinson will be involved with the financial details. When the award conditions have been established, I guess the award will be included with the Baillie and Taverner Awards and thus Kevin Teather will likely run the first award. It is not clear whether we will have the award in place for the New Orleans meeting or Quebec in 2003.

Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des Ornithologistes du Canada

Standing Committees and Work Groups

See inside front cover for contact information for those with # beside name.



Doris Huestis Speirs Award Committee (annual award for excellence in Canadian Ornithology)

Marc-André Villard, Chair, Département de biologie, Université de Moncton, Moncton, NB. E1A 3E9.
Tél: 506-858-4334 (direct: 4292); Fax: 506-858-4541; Email: villarm@umoncton.ca

Research Awards Committee (mandate: annual selection of research candidates, fall call for applications, selection and announcement by April of following year, members appointed and rotated.

Three awards: James L. Baillie 1K\$, Taverner (2 awards) 0.5K\$. (Another award to be announced soon)
Kevin Teather (chair)#

Meetings Committee

Kathy Martin (chair)#, Jean-Pierre Savard #, Greg Robertson #, Cheri Gratto-Trevor #, Fred Cooke (AOU liaison, ex officio)#

Picoides and Joint SCO/SOC/BSC Journal Committee

Erica Nol (chair)#, Dorothy McFarlane #, Karen Weibe #, Tony Diamond #
Spencer G. Sealy, Voice: 204-474-9459; Fax: 204-275-6352; Email: sgsealy@cc.umanitoba.ca

Finance and Investment Committee

Tom E. Dickinson #

Bird Studies Canada Representatives

Jean-Pierre Savard #
Tony Diamond #

Ornithological Council Representatives

Tony Diamond #, Lesley Evans Ogden, Voice: 606-291-5618; Fax: 604-291-3496; Email: ljevanso@sfu.ca

North American Banding Council Representative

Brenda Dale, Voice: 403-951-8686; Fax: 403-495-2615; Email: brenda.dale@ec.gc.ca

Student Presentations Committee

Greg Robertson #

POETRY CORNER:

The Oven Bird by Robert Frost

There is a singer everyone has heard,
Loud, a mid-summer and a mid-wood bird,
Who makes the solid tree trunks sound again.
He says that leaves are old and that for flowers
Mid-summer is to spring as one to ten.
He says the early petal-fall is past
When pear and cherry bloom went down in showers

On sunny days a moment overcast;
And comes that other fall we name the fall.
He says the highway dust is over all.
The bird would cease and be as other birds
But that he knows in singing not to sing.
The question that he frames in all but words
Is what to make of a diminishing thing.

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Membership Information

Memberships: Reg. \$15.00,
Student \$10.00, Sustaining
\$30.00



RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

Membership in SCO/SOC is open to anyone. Please send your name, address, phone number, and email with a cheque or money order payable to SCO/SOC Membership Secretary, Dr. Nancy Flood. (Address on front cover.) Si vous désirez devenir membre de la Société des ornithologues du Canada, faites parvenir vos coordonnées ainsi qu'un chèque ou mandat-poste (à SOC) à Dr. Nancy Flood.

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