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Laing with Pheasants, Comox 1924

(Photo: Courtesy of Provincial Archives of British Columbia)

HAMILTON MACK LAING: Canadian Naturalist

Editor's Message

This issue of *Picoides* continues our tradition of featuring a historical figure in Canadian Ornithology. Richard Mackie has extracted pieces from his excellent book "Hamilton Mack Laing: Hunter - Naturalist" (1985 Sono Nis Press, 1745 Blanshard St., Victoria B.C. \$19.95) to provide a taste of the life of Mack Laing. Museum people, in natural history subjects, can't help but admire aspects of Mack Laing's personality. Museums value good collectors and good collectors are hunters--only the motivation differs.

The book provides a fascinating account of the battles between the Practical Conservationists, such as Laing, Allan Brooks and Jack Miner, who waged war on most predators and the more modern

conservationists such as Percy Taverner.

One communality among many early naturalists in Canada was their prolific and highly entertaining letter writing. Laing, Brooks and Taverner corresponded constantly. These letters, far more than the publications, reveal the personalities of the authors. For instance, shortly after Taverner was married, Laing wrote, "... of course your ornithological career is ruined..." Taverner responded, "Dear Laing. Your facetious and utterly inconsequential letter received and promptly consigned to the waste basket where it belongs. If you think or thought that because I am bald-headed and a grey-beard and

altogether a has-been that I am quite out of the running, you had or have another think coming..." Pretty foreign prose in the world of FAXed memos!

Look for Richard Mackie's book.

Once again our Society has benefited from the fine work of students from Grant MacEwan Community College in Edmonton. I would like to thank Mary Ann Tilma, Michelle Ernst, Trevor Beck and Brian McKibbin for their work in producing *Picoides* and initiating a successful advertising plan.

W. Bruce McGillivray

Does the SCO help the Birders?

In the latest issue of *Nature Canada* (Fall, 1988), there is an article by Fergus Cronin entitled "Do birders help the birds?" In it, Cronin presents the argument that birders by virtue of their numbers, curiosity and competitiveness, are reducing the survival of the same birds they are trying so hard to see. On the other hand, Cronin points out the benefits of birding and the many environmental causes birders have supported.

As a professional ornithologist, I've encountered many birders who were competent, trained observers with an awareness of their responsibilities towards birds. I've also known others I would consider menaces. It's somewhat ironic that the criticisms being levelled at birders are often the same ones aimed at professional ornithologists -- by birders.

Both targets - the amateurs and the professionals don't deserve the abuse. Part of our humanity is to focus on the fate of individuals and

overlook the problems of populations, species or communities. For every owl harassed by birders there are thousand killed in collisions with cars. Do drivers need hunting licenses? For every bird acquired by museum or university researchers, there are thousands killed by office or TV tower 'collectors'. Scientific collectors and birders must observe ethical (and legal) guidelines in their activities but their impact on birds should be gauged against those of everyone else who affects birds simply by demanding a high standard of living. Sure, birders and banders have caused the deaths of individual birds, but to suggest that these deaths outweigh the enormous contributions amateurs have made towards the protection of bird populations, species and habitats is ludicrous.

My concern is not that a few birders have harmed birds, it's that the voice of birders and ornithologists for environmental or political action in this country will

be discredited.

The SCO has not as a whole represented its members in issues such as this or on questions of environmental or political concern. This role is part of our mandate, however, and all members are encouraged to bring issues they would like considered to our President's attention.

CONTENTS

Editor's Message	2
Does the SCO Help Birders?.....	2
President's Report.....	3
Baillie Fund Grants.....	3
The Speirs Award.....	4
SCO Taverner Award	5
News Shorts.....	5
Hamilton Mack Laing.....	6
In the Press.....	9
Canadian Ornithologists.....	13
Membership information.....	15
SCO Officers and Councillors.....	15

President's Report 1987-88

A lot of things happened this year to solidify our status as a national ornithological group and to set our directions over the next few years.

Council adopted a policy statement only slightly modified from the draft that appeared in *Picoides* No. 1. The newsletter poll on that draft statement drew a fine level of response, showing general agreement of the aims and goals of the Society. We are already developing into a unique organization, thanks largely to the new look of *Picoides*, and our policy statement is flexible enough to allow program development in a lot of areas.

Having at last received charitable registration, we are in a better position to build endowment to support our programs. An endowment policy was adopted that can be modified by Council, but which currently protects capital, allows annual spending of most interest, and returns a percentage of interest each year back into capital.

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award for Contributions to Canadian Ornithology was awarded in 1988 to Al Hochbaum. Council voted to use Mrs. Speirs' second capital donation to fund annual research awards (we can currently

offer \$350). The first award will be made in early 1989.

The SCO is beginning to be widely recognized as representing Canadian Ornithologists. We have agreed to appoint a representative to ICBP Canada, to become co-sponsor of the Northwest Territories Breeding Bird Atlas (along with the Canadian Nature Federation), and to be sponsor of the 1991 American Ornithologists' Union meeting in Montreal.

Council and members agreed that preparation of a National Plan for Ornithology would be an excellent next step for the SCO, to define further our own role, the strengths and weaknesses of Canadian ornithology, and to help ornithologists set research priorities. Henri Ouellet is chairing a committee that will begin work on this project.

In elections held this year, Gary Bortolotti, André Cyr, Julie Porter, Nico Verbeek and Steve Wendt were elected to two-year terms as Councillors.

Early in 1989 we will be electing Officers and Councillors for the 1989-1991 term of office, which begins following the 1989 Annual Meeting.

Nominations are sought for these openings:

President Elect
Recording Secretary
Five Councillors

Nominations in writing are invited for any or all of the above, to be mailed before 15 January 1989 to:

J.C. Barlow,
Society of Canadian Ornithologists,
President Elect,
Department of Ornithology,
Royal Ontario Museum,
100 Queen's Park Crescent,
Toronto, Ontario,
M5C 2R1

For your candidate(s), please include the address of your nominee(s) and the office they have been nominated for, so that I can confirm with that person(s) their willingness to stand for election.

We would also be pleased to know if you would be willing now or in the future to serve on the Executive or undertake committee work on behalf of the Society. The tenure of all these positions on the Executive would be from 1989-1991.

The great strides we made this year are due to hard work by a lot of people, and thank all Officers, Councillors, members, and those on committees who took time to help us out this year.

- Erica H. Dunn ~~

Baillie Fund Grants Available for 1989

The Trustees of the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation welcome applications for grants for research in 1989. Projects involving research and/or conservation of birds in Canada will be considered, with a strong preference for applications from amateurs and others not eligible for grants from major academic funding sources. Graduate research studies are rarely supported, and only if they involve a major contribution by volunteer naturalists. Grants do not normally

exceed \$1000.00. Applications for non-atlas research grants must be made on forms available from the Secretary, who must receive the completed application and supporting letters of recommendation by 31 December 1988. Applicants are advised to obtain the forms and guidelines well in advance. Because of the growing number of breeding bird atlas projects in Canada, the Trustees have decided to establish a special category for remote travel grants for participants in such atlas projects.

Potential applicants should enquire as to whether the atlas of their interest is participating.

Application forms and guidelines are available from:

Martin K. McNicholl, Secretary,
J.L. Baillie Memorial Fund,
c/o Long Point Bird
Observatory,
Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario
N0E 1M0.

Tax-deductible contributions to the Fund are always welcome, and should be directed to the same address. ~~

1988 Doris Huestis Speirs Award for Contributions to Canadian Ornithology to:

H. Albert Hochbaum (1911-1988)

The SCO presented the Doris Huestis Speirs Award for 1988 to H. Albert Hochbaum. Mr. Hochbaum had a long and distinguished career as a waterfowl biologist, conservationist, educator and artist [for a detailed biography, see *Picoides* 2(1), 1988]. The award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to Canadian ornithology, was presented during the annual meeting of the SCO held in August in conjunction with the meetings of the AOU in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Dr. C Stuart Houston, longtime friend and collaborator with Al Hochbaum was kind enough to share the following memories:

"Al Hochbaum loomed large in my life. He was unbelievably kind to me when, as a 16-year-old lad banding ducks with Ducks Unlimited, I visited the Delta Waterfowl Research Station for several days in 1944. He treated me as though I were a fellow biologist! All his life, he befriended amateur ornithologists and hunters, being more tolerant of their foibles and shortcomings than those of some professionals and certain wildlife organizations. He called a spade a spade, and when he let swing his axe, let the chips fall where they may!

Over the years he was one of a very few people who would take the trouble to write an unsolicited letter of praise for some of my historical articles. Usually he offered positive suggestions for future projects -- and this reminds me that he wanted me to complete my paper on the spread of the Gray Partridge across Western Canada.

After a third of a century as director of the Delta Waterfowl Research Institute, Al took early retirement. His second career as a professional artist was every bit as successful, and probably more lucrative, than his career as a wildlife biologist. He was the force behind a fine CBC production of Ernest Thompson Seton's *Manitoba*. He took a special interest in the north and made 27 field trips to the Canadian Arctic; one of his last was with Peter Newman. He helped Newman to place the history of the Hudson's Bay Company in perspective, but cannot be held responsible for Newman's rather numerous historical misrepresentations.

For many summers, Al would spend a few weeks as the naturalist in residence at Glenn and Trish Warner's Naturalists Lodge at Bathurst Inlet. He organized the first of many 'Following Franklin' expeditions, based at the lodge, in 1979 and persuaded Mary and me to join the group. We were in Bathurst Inlet for the same ten days as Franklin and Richardson; the calendar was identical with that of their visit in 1821; even the weather was similar. Al took great interest in identifying the exact sites where Franklin and Richardson camped. At 68 he was an unusually vigorous man; I remember on one occasion when we landed after a few hours on the Arctic Ocean, the rest of us were stiff and blue with cold, taking some time to disencumber ourselves of extra layers before taking a hike on land. When we were ready, we looked up to see Al



waving down from a hill about two hundred feet above us. He'd wasted no time and had clambered up at once.

I am proud to say that the first item to be noticed by a visitor to our home is Al's fine painting of Mallards over a prairie marsh, centred over the mantelpiece. And in the hall is his original sketch of the Yellow-billed Loon, and the cover sketch from *Arctic Ordeal*¹.

Al will be missed by all of us."

C. Stuart Houston

University of Saskatchewan

¹ Houston, C.S (ed.) 1984. *Arctic Ordeal: the journal of John Richardson, Surgeon - naturalist with Franklin, 1820-1822*. Illus. by H. Albert Hochbaum. McGill-Queen's University Press. ~~

SCO Taverner Award: Application Deadline Jan. 15, 1989

Purpose of the Award

To promote the study of birds in Canada by helping support a specific project on birds. This award honors Percy A. Taverner's accomplishments in furthering knowledge of Canada's birds through research, conservation and public education.

Eligibility

The award is intended to help support someone who does not have ready access to major funding regardless of their professional status.

Frequency and Amount

An annual award of approximately \$350 will be made from interest accrued on a capital grant initially provided by Mrs. Doris Speirs. This amount may vary depending on interest rates or further additions to the capital fund.

Application

Notice of the award will be made in the summer or fall of each year in *Picoides* and other suitable publications. Applicants must submit a resumé, two letters of reference from persons qualified to assess the candidate, and a research proposal (maximum three pages) which should include the purpose of the study, methods to be used, and a budget outlining total costs and other sources of funding received or applied for. Deadline for receipt of applications by the committee will be January 15th and the award decision made by March 15. The successful applicant will submit a brief progress report for possible publication in the *Picoides* by the following February. Announcement of the award will be made at the Annual Meeting and in *Picoides*.

Selection

A recipient will be selected by a three member committee designated by the President of the SCO. Members of the committee will receive copies of all applications. Selection will be based on the excellence and background of the candidate and the merit of the proposed project with regard to promoting the study of birds in Canada. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by mail at the same time as the winner

Send your application to :

Dr. Lynn Oliphant

Dept. of Veterinary Anatomy
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 0W0 ~~

NEWS SHORTS

Wanted: dead birds. The Royal Ontario Museum is currently building a new bird gallery. A number of species for which the ROM could use good quality mounts are listed as rare and endangered. Although these species are protected, many die through natural causes each year. If through your work or by accident you obtain a specimen of an endangered species (e.g., Burrowing Owl or Ferruginous Hawk) which could be donated to the ROM, please contact Jim Dick, Ornithology Department, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6.

Jean Francois Giroux has joined the faculty of the Département des Sciences Biologiques, Université du Québec à Montréal, C.P. 8888, Succ. A., Montréal, Québec H3C 3P8.

Cormorant - fish update
For those who have followed the cormorant vs commercial fishing industry debate from 1915 (Taverner, P.A. 1915 Can. Dept. Mines Geol. Surv. Mus. Bull. No. 13.

Biol. Serv. No. 5) up to the article mentioned in *Picoides* 2(1), Raymond McNeil suggested an examination of: Pilon et al 1983. Summer food of the Great and Double-crested Cormorant on the Magdalen Islands, Quebec. Can. J. Zool. 61: 2733-2739. The impact of cormorants on commercial fish stocks appears minimal.

Project Feederwatch is a continent-wide survey of bird feeders begun last year by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Long Point Bird Observatory. Last winter over 4000 participants from Alaska to Florida showed that the Dark-eyed Junco was the most widespread species at the feeders. Pine Siskins were common throughout the continent. Anyone who can identify the birds at their feeder may join Project Feederwatch. Counts are made on one or two days every second week from November to April, and recorded on computer-ready forms. Feeder watchers pay \$9.00 annually to support the project and in return receive four newsletters, including

a full report on results which is mailed a few months after the end of the winter season. Send to: Project Feederwatch, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0.

Erica Nol Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7B8, could use some freshly acquired shorebirds to assist her neuroallometry studies. If possible, preserve fresh immediately in Bouin's solution or formalin. If preserved in Bouin's transfer after three days to 95 per cent alcohol. If preserved in formalin, transfer after 3 days to 75 per cent alcohol.

Wanted: Black-backed Woodpecker. The Society's logo is a Black-backed Woodpecker, because it was the best example of a bird we could find which is wide-spread in Canada and does not occur much elsewhere, and doesn't migrate out of Canada for most of the year. Unfortunately, it is also rather uncommon, and it turns out that there are very few high-quality photographs of this species. We are
continued on page 12

HAMILTON MACK LAING: Canadian Naturalist

1883-1982

Mack Laing (as he was known to friends) is perhaps something of an oddity in the history of Canadian ornithology. He was more than an amateur and less than a professional. By training a teacher, artist, popular writer, and journalist, he never held a permanent job with a Canadian university or museum; he had no formal or academic training in ornithology and his published scientific contribution was slender.

Yet his name appears frequently in the ornithological literature and he counted among his friends many leading ornithologists of his day. His importance lies in the strength of the friendships made over his long life, in his collections of birds, mammals, and plants housed in Canadian and American museums and universities; in his influential nature stories published in newspapers and outdoor magazines, his attitude to nature and to predatory animals that he learned as a boy on a farm in Manitoba, which he never lost, and which he disseminated through his writing.

Born in 1883 in Huron County, Ontario, Mack Laing was brought up at his parents' dairy farm at Clearsprings, near Steinbach, Manitoba. His father, William Laing, was an educated Scot from Stirlingshire with an interest in natural history and his mother, Rachel Mack, was a strong-willed Ontarian of Irish descent. As a small boy, Mack was appointed "pest warden" on the family farm; he used traps, snares, slingshots and finally shotguns and rifles to exterminate the mice, voles, squirrels, gophers, coyotes, wolves, hawks, crows and owls that preyed on the farm's crops and livestock.

Simultaneously, he learned a love and appreciation of natural history. At the age of three or four he identified a flock of Wilson's Phalaropes in the coulee of the Clearsprings farm. Later he hunted grouse, geese, and rabbits for the kitchen table, and at the age of ten he traded his own mink, weasel, and muskrat skins for school supplies. Thus he learned the aesthetic and economic value of wild birds and mammals at first hand, and at a very early age.

Educated locally, he moved to the Winnipeg Normal School in 1898 and in 1900, he qualified as a rural school teacher at the age of seventeen. A gifted teacher, he taught his students nature study, helped introduce the Scouting movement to Manitoba, and in 1908 was made principal of Oakwood High School at Oak Lake, where he remained until 1911.



Laing as a gunnery instructor, 1918
(Courtesy of Provincial Archives of B.C.)

Mack's interests in those early years were natural history, writing, drawing and painting. In 1903 he joined the conservationist group the League of American Sportsmen, and in the same year he bought what he termed his "ornithological bible", Frank Chapman's *Color Key to North American Birds*. He taught himself taxidermy but abandoned the habit half-heartedly after a housecat savaged his mounts. As a student and school teacher, he was influenced by George Atkinson's

Manitoba Birds of Prey and the Small Mammals Destroyed by Them (1988), and by fellow Manitoban Ernest Thompson Seton's *Mammals of Manitoba* (1886) and *Birds of Manitoba* (1891). Mack modelled his early career on Seton's; both men found ways of combining popular nature writing with serious scientific pursuits.

In 1905 Mack received a diploma in story writing from the National Press Association of the United States, and in 1907 he published his first story "The End of the Trail" in the *New York Tribune*.



Laing and Emperor Geese, 1924
(Photo: Courtesy of National Museums of Canada)

Like his model Seton, Mack wanted to be an "artist-naturalist" so that he could illustrate his stories with his own drawings. In 1911 he quit his promising career in education and enrolled into the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. From his New York base between 1911 and 1917, Mack fulfilled his ambition by writing prolifically about the Canadian outdoors for such American periodicals as *Outing*, *Recreation*, *Harpers*, *Field and Stream*, and *Country Life in America*. His first book, *Out with the Birds* (1913), concerned the bird-life of Manitoba. In the spring of 1915 he met ornithologist Francis Harper at the Brooklyn Museum; Harper promised to take him on the Smithsonian Institution's expedition to Lake Athabasca planned for the end of the war.

The First World War changed Mack's life. He returned to Canada in 1917, joined the Royal Flying Corps, and spent the last years of the war as

a gunnery instructor at Camp Beamsville, Ontario. He came in contact with three of Canada's leading ornithologists based in Toronto and Ottawa, namely Percy Taverner (1875-1947), Hoyes Lloyd (1888-1978), and J.H. Fleming (1872-1947). These men recognized Mack's abilities, welcomed him back to Canada and found work for him as a newspaper columnist and museum collector.

In 1920 Mack finally joined the Smithsonian's expedition to Lake Athabasca, led by Francis Harper and the prolific American collector J. Alden Loring. Between 1921 and 1940, Mack worked for Taverner and his National Museum colleague, mammalogist Rudolph M. Anderson, on collecting expeditions in much of Western Canada, British Columbia, Alaska and the North Pacific.

Mack then established a work pattern that suited him well. He collected in the summer and in the winter turned his field observations into prose. Through Fleming's influence he wrote a weekly nature column for the *Toronto Globe* from 1919-1921, and later for the *Manitoba Free Press* from 1921-1930 and for the *Vancouver Province* from 1922-1933. Between the wars he wrote birding and hunting stories for *The Illustrated Canadian Forest and Outdoors*, *Canadian Magazine*, and for the *Canadian Field Naturalist*. He also wrote for British and American periodicals ranging from *Field*, to *Field and Stream*, to *Scientific American*.

In 1922 he fell in love with British Columbia during a summer spent there with Percy Taverner, wildlife artist Allan Brooks, and a National Museum field party. In that year he settled on the Vancouver Island waterfront at Comox, where he set about clearing the land and building a house. In 1927 he married Ethel Hart of Portland, Oregon, at about the time as those other die-hard bachelor ornithologists Percy Taverner and Allan Brooks also got married.



Laing with poached sheep in Ashnola, B.C.
(Photo: Courtesy of National Museum of Canada)

Some of Mack's attitude to the natural world changed during his sixty years at Comox (1922-1982), and others did not. He never lost his hatred of pests and predators which he viewed as evil competitors; he divided birds, mammals, and even insects into those with "good" and those with "bad" habits and personalities. He advertised his hatred of bad animals through his writing, long after the scientific community had abandoned such notions, which Mack had learned on his family's frontier farm in Manitoba.

What did change was his attitude to collecting. In the first two decades of the century Mack embraced the early conservation movement; he sought to photograph, draw, and describe animals in their natural habitat rather than shoot first and ask questions later. After 1920, however, (influenced by Taverner, Anderson, and Brooks) he concluded that science could best be advanced by collecting complete series of birds and mammals which could be made available for serious taxonomic and descriptive study. He characterized the early twentieth century as an "age of discovery" in Canadian science, and his collecting had its rewards: his "children" included a Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris laingi*), from Lake Athabasca, a Chitina Valley (Alaska) plant (*Antennaria laingi*) and three new subspecies of mice (*Perognathus parvus laingi*, *Phenacomys intermedius laingi*, and *Microtus townsendi laingi*) from British Columbia.

During the Depression, when museum work was scarce, Mack became a freelance collector, providing institutions and individuals around the world with specimens of British

Columbia birds. His major clients included J.H. Fleming of Toronto, J.B. Semple and G.M. Sutton of the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, H.B. Conover of Chicago, and Louis B. Bishop of Berkeley, California.

Through his field work he came in contact with a rising generation of ornithologists. Cyril Harrold, Charles Guiguet, George Holland, Kenneth Racey, and Ian McTaggart Cowan all worked with him in the field. Before and after his retirement in 1940, Mack corresponded with many naturalists and ornithologists including A.C. Bent, J.A. Munro, David Hatch, Albert Hochbaum, Earl Godfrey, Bristol Foster, Clarence Tillenius, Yorke Edwards, Harold Hosford, and Fenwick Lansdowne. Many of these people made pilgrimages to Mack's Comox homes "Baybrooke" and "Shakesides". Mack Laing's long life effectively spanned the half of the century between the amateur profession of "natural history" of the late nineteenth century and the narrow academic specialization of the mid twentieth century.

The greatest disappointment of Mack's life was that only two of his fourteen books were ever published. With Ethel's help, he wrote accounts of his 1920 expedition to Lake Athabasca, of his 1922 travels in British Columbia, of a motorcycle trip across the United States in 1915, and several meditative and autobiographical studies of the wildlife of the Comox waterfront. Ethel's premature death in 1944 was a tragic blow from which he never recovered.

Mack Laing's last book, a biography of Allan Brooks, was

published by the British Columbia Provincial Museum in 1979, sixty-six years after the publication of *Out with the Birds*. He died at Comox in 1982 at the age of ninety-nine. His early nature diaries (1901-1910) were deposited at the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature; the rest of his enormous collection of nature diaries, correspondence, manuscripts, and photographs have been housed at the Provincial Archives of British Columbia since 1983, and should be of interest to every serious student of twentieth century Canadian ornithology.

Apart from the thousands of specimens housed in Canadian museums, Mack Laing's most lasting contribution could, ironically, be the one that might appear the least permanent and tangible. First and always a teacher, Mack's thousands of newspaper and magazine articles - now largely forgotten- made him a household name in much of Canada, and through them he extended his knowledge and appreciation of Canadian birdlife to a large reading audience.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Richard Mackie was born in Edmonton in 1957. He is currently completing a Ph.D in fur trade history at the University of British Columbia. This article is based on his first book, *Hamilton Mack Laing: Hunter-Naturalist* published by Sono Nis Press of Victoria, B.C. in 1985. He has recently been commissioned to write a biography of one of the directors of the Geological Survey of Canada, Dr. R.W. Brock, who was also one of the founders of the University of British Columbia.

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In the Press

Current and In Press Articles in Canadian Ornithology

Archbold Biological Station

- Curry, R.L. 1988. Influence of kinship on helping behavior in Galpápagos mockingbirds. *Behav. Ecol. Sociobiol.* 22: 141-152.
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- Curry, R.L. and S.H. Stoleson. 1988. New bird records for the Galpápagos associated with the El Niño-Southern Oscillation. *Condor* 90: 505-507.
- Curry, R. L. and D.J. Anderson. 1987. Inter-island variation in blood drinking by Galpápagos mockingbirds. *Auk*. 104: 517-521.

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Queen's University

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Cooke, F. In press. Genetic studies of birds - The goose with blue genes. *Proc. XIX Int. Ornithol. Congress.*

Cooke, F., D.T. Parkin and R.F. Rockwell. 1988. Evidence of former allopatry of the two color phases of Lesser Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens caerulescens*). *Auk*. 105: 467-479.

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Lank, D.B., P. Mineau, R.F. Rockwell and F. Cooke. In press. Intraspecific nest parasitism and extra-pair copulation in Lesser

Snow Geese, *Chen caerulescens caerulescens*: the success of alternative reproductive tactics. *Animal Behaviour*.

Montgomerie, R.D., R. Thornhill. 1989. Fertility advertisement by female birds: a means of inciting male-male competition. *Ethology* (in press).

Quinn, T.W., J.C. Davies, F. Cooke and B.N. White. In press. RFLP analysis of offspring of a female-female pair in the Lesser Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens caerulescens*). *Auk*.

Ratcliffe, L., R.F. Rockwell and F. Cooke. 1988. Recruitment and maternal age in Lesser Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens caerulescens*). *J. Anim. Ecol.* 57: 553-563.

Ratcliffe, L. & R. Weismen. Representation of conspecific song by chickadees: comparisons among embedded 'Fee Bees'. *Behavioral Process*: in press.

Reynolds, J.D. and F. Cooke. In press. The influence of mating systems on philopatry: a test with polyandrous Red-necked Phalaropes. *Animal Behaviour*.

Rockwell, R.F. In press. Reproductive fitness in snow geese (*Chen caerulescens caerulescens*): proximate and ultimate measures. *Proc. XIX Intern. Ornithol. Congr.*

McGill University

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NEWS SHORTS

continued from page 5

searching for one, that is suitable for enlargement and framing, for presentation with our annual Doris Huestis Speirs Award for Contributions to Canadian Ornithology.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of a good photo -- or of a nest come springtime -- please get in touch with Ross James, Dept. Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park Crescent,, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6. We already have offers by photographers to take photos for us, as long as we can locate an accessible nest.

SCO Seeks ICBP Representative Our society has accepted an invitation to appoint a representative to the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP Canada), and we are now seeking volunteers for this position. As

members come from all across the country, most work is done by mail. There is an annual meeting in late October or early November in Kingston Ontario, but the SCO representative would not be required to attend.

If you are particularly interested in bird conservation issues in Canada and would like to represent us on this committee, please get in touch with Erica Dunn (30 Davidson Road, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 2B1).

Position Available:
Executive Director, Long Point Bird Observatory

Duties: The successful candidate would be responsible for running Long Point Bird Observatory. He/she will be required to supervise personnel, day-to-day operations and administration; will be responsible for program planning, fund-raising and budget control. Will participate in, and foster

scientific research. Promote continued volunteer involvement. Will exercise professional and good judgement in execution of duties.

Qualifications: Post-graduate degree or equivalent experience in the biological sciences (preferably ornithologist). Demonstrated skills in fund-raising, administration and communication are a must for this position. Personal qualities should include leadership ability, enthusiasm, concern for quality and good interpersonal skills.

Salary Range: \$26,00 to \$31,000 per annum

Closing Date: 30 November 1988 (maybe extended if no qualified candidates come forward)

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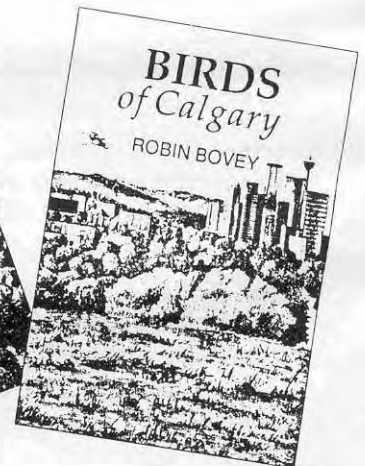
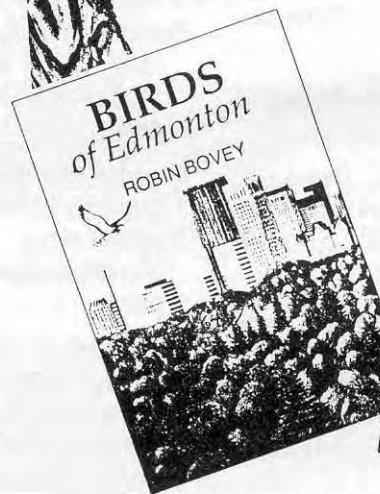
Birds of Edmonton and *Birds of Calgary* by Robin Bovey, formerly with the Nature Conservancy Council in the United Kingdom, are guides which identify common and rare birds found in Alberta's two major cities. Fascinating details about the habits and habitats of urban birds, and their methods of adaptation, are included.

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Redpolls were color banded in the Canadian arctic during the summer of 1988. Each bird has an individual combination of three plastic color bands plus a standard FWS metal band. If you want to know where the color banded birds you see were breeding or were born, please report the exact band combination (note light or dark blue) to Gilles Seutin, Dept. of Biology, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 3N6, Canada. [Electronic mail (bitnet): SEUTING@QUCDN].

Paul Handford, University of Western Ontario, is looking for Ph.D. level students for further

studies on the dialect biology of the Rufous-collared Sparrow in Argentina, beginning fall 1989.

Fred Cooke, Queen's University indicated he would have two to four field positions available for work on Snow Geese at the Queen's University Tundra Biology Station, LaPérouse Bay, Churchill, Manitoba. Volunteer positions two to three weeks in duration are also available.

SCO Members Honored

George Peck and Ross James received a Federation of Ontario Naturalists Certificate of Achievement for work and

publications contributing to conservation of Ontario bird life.

Todd W. Arnold received a student paper award, American Ornithologists' Union 106th stated meeting, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Peter W. Hicklin received the Edwards Prize, awarded by the Wilson Ornithological Society for the best paper published in *Wilson Bulletin*, 1987.

David M. Bird received the 1987 Snowy Owl Conservation Award from the Quebec Ministry of Leisure, Fish and Game, and the Quebec Zoological Gardens for his contribution to the conservation of birds.

Canadian Ornithologists and their Research.

University of Guelph

Dr. E.D. Bailey, Avian communication: Bobwhites.

Dr. A.L.A. Middleton, Avian ecology, population dynamics of American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird.

Dr. T.D. Nudds, Avian energetics and ecology: ptarmigan and geese.

Dr. J.C. George, Avian physiology: currently winding down his lab.

Trent University

Dr. Erica Nol, Evolution of incubation periods in birds: neuroallometry of embryonic shorebirds.

Dr. Denis Boire (post-doctoral researcher), Neuroallometry of seabirds and shorebirds.

Andres Legris (M.Sc. student), Ecology of northern breeding Dark-eyed Juncos.

Fred Helleiner, Breeding bird atlas of the Northwest Territories.

Allison Rippin (honors student), Ecology of Semipalmated Plovers.

University of Toronto and Royal Ontario Museum

Dr. Ross James, Habitat selection by birds in boreal Jack Pine forests.

Jim Dick, Nest-box use by cavity nesting ducks in the Parry Sound region.

Dr. Jon C. Barlow, Species limits in populations of Warbling and Solitary Vireos, Brewer's Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks and White-breasted Nuthatches. Genetic and cultural change in northward expanding portions of the North American *Passer montanus* population.

Dr. James F. Bendell, Intraspecific spacing behavior and population regulation in Spruce Grouse.

Dr. Jerry Hogan, Causal analysis of behavioral systems, including the gain control of the behavior.

Anthony L. Lang (student of J.C. Barlow), The assessment of cultural evolution and meme flow in the expanding North American population of the European Tree Sparrow.

Vincent L. St. Louis (student of J.C. Barlow), The effects of lake acidification and cadmium on the reproductive success of birds.

Michael Dennison (student of A.J. Baker), Morphological and ecological evolution in Atlantic Island Chaffinches.

Alejandro Lynch (student of A.J. Baker), Cultural transmissions and evolution and meme flow in Atlantic Island and introduced New Zealand Chaffinches.

John Nagy (student of J. Bendell). Dispersal and population dynamics of Spruce Grouse in the Boreal forest.

Brian J. Naylor (student of J. Bendell). Adaptive significance of spring territories of female Spruce Grouse (*Dendragapus canadensis*).

Stéphan G. Reebs (student of Nicolas Mrosovsky). Biological rhythms and sleep in birds.

Kandyd J. Szuba, (student of J. Bendell). Comparative population dynamics of J. Bendell). Comparative population dynamics of Hudsonian Spruce Grouse in Ontario.

Dr. David Sherry. The organization of memory in food-storing birds, the memory and hippocampus in food-storing birds, and the comparative neuroanatomy of the avian hippocampus.

Christine Hitchcock (student of D. Sherry). The duration of memory in food-storing birds and food-storing and social organization in birds.

Rachel Herz (student of D. Sherry). The use of landmarks and spatial organization in food-storing birds.

Canadian Wildlife Service, Burlington, Ontario.

Dr. D.V. Weseloh. Distribution of contaminants in colonial waterbirds on the Great Lakes.

McGill University

Dr. David Bird. Physiological, behavioral and ecological studies on Kestrels and other raptors.

Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Florida

Dr. Robert L. Curry. Ecological aspects of social organization in the cooperative-breeding Florida Scrub Jay.

University of Western Ontario

Dr. C. Davison Ankey. Breeding bioenergetics of Gadwalls and Ruddy Ducks (with R.T. Alisauskas), nutrient reserve dynamics of molting American Coots, effects of dietary fibre on digestive organ size in dabbling ducks (with F.P. Kehoe and T.W. Arnold).

Todd W. Arnold. Clutch size and hatching asynchrony in American Coots, sexual segregation of wintering American Kestrels (with P.A. Martin).

Kevin Dufour. The effect of condition, age, and sex on vulnerability to hunting Mallards.

Scott Gilliland. Common Eider -- Great Black-backed Gull interactions and populations.

Dr. Paul Handford. Significance of vocal dialects, ecomorphology, study of avian adaptive radiations.

Peter W. Hicklin. The migration of Semipalmated Sandpipers in North and South America, breeding bioenergetics of Double-crested Cormorants (with F.P. Kehoe and C.D. Ankney), bioenergetics and feeding ecology of Common Eiders.

Jim Leafloor. Wing molt of adult female Mallards in relation to reproduction.

Steven Lougheed. Patterns of morphological and biochemical variation in the Rufous-collared Sparrow in relation to vocal dialects and habitat.

Dr. David M. Scott. Population studies of the Northern Cardinal.

Andy Young. Nutritional ecology and behavior of prairie dabbling ducks

Queen's University

Dr. H. Lisle Gibbs. Parentage analysis in wild bird populations using DNA probes. Systematics of emberizine finches using DNA probes.

Dr. Jim Quinn. Social mating systems and parentage in Florida Scrub Jays, Guira Cuckoos, Caspian Terns and Black Skimmers.

Dr. Fred Cooke. Population studies of Lesser Snow Geese.

Dr. David Lank. Behavioral Dimorphism in Ruffs.

Evan Cooch. Snow Geese: population studies.

Constance Smith. Ruffs

Claudia Schubert. Snow Geese.

Michael Clinchy. Snow Geese: foraging.

Dr. Tom Quinn. Snow Geese: population genetics.

Kelly Brock: Puerto Rican Parrot: population genetics.

Dr. Laurene M. Ratcliffe. Breeding ecology and vocal behavior: Chickadees, Snow Geese, and Galapagos Finches.

C. Susan Lenpiere (M.Sc. student). Avian communication.

Gilles Seutin (Ph.D. student). Species recognition in Redpolls. ~~

Membership Information

If you would like to be a member of the Society Of Canadian Ornithologists, please send your name, address, phone number and a cheque or money order for \$10.00 to:

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