

Society of Canadian Ornithologists Société des ornithologistes du Canada

NEWSLETTER / NOUVELLES

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SCO NEWS

At a meeting of Canadian ornithologists present in Chicago for the 1982 AOU meeting, the Society of Canadian Ornithologists was formally brought into being with the election of officers and councillors. A draft constitution has been prepared and should soon be ready to submit to a lawyer to see that it conforms to the requirements for registration as a society. Once the constitution has been finalized a committee of the council will take the necessary steps to register the society in the province of Ontario. Through the courtesy of Henri Ouellet, the National Museums have offered to let us use them as a permanent address for the society.

The full council of the SCO includes:

Officers elected for 2 year terms

President - M. Ross Lein, University of Calgary

Vice-president (President Elect) - Spencer G. Sealy, University of Manitoba

Recording Secretary - Erica Dunn, Long Point Bird Observatory, Port Rowan

Membership Secretary - Ralph D. Morris, Brock University, St. Catherines

Treasurer - W. John Richardson, LGL Limited, Toronto

Newsletter Editor - Ross D. James, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto

Councillors elected for 3 year terms

Jon C. Barlow, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto

Jean Bédard, Université Laval, Sainte-Foy

Antony J. Erskine, Canadian Wildlife Service, Sackville

Glen A. Fox, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa

William W.H. Gunn, c/o LGL Limited, Toronto

C. Stuart Houston, Saskatoon

David N. Nettleship, Canadian Wildlife Service, Dartmouth

John P. Ryder, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay

Nicholas A.M. Verbeek, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby

The council is presently making final changes to the constitution and establishing membership fees. Anyone wishing to comment on these should contact one of the council members immediately. A formal call for membership will be mailed once a fee structure has been established.

XIX CONGRESSUS
INTERNATIONALIS
ORNITHOLOGICUS

2.

Des progrès majeurs ont été accomplis au cours des dernières semaines concernant l'organisation générale du COI. Deux comités importants ont été mis sur pied et l'un d'eux est déjà à l'oeuvre tandis que l'autre se réunira sous peu. Les autres verront le jour au cours des prochaines semaines et vous en serez informés par l'intermédiaire du bulletin.

Significant progress has taken place in recent weeks relative to the general organization of IOC. Two major committees have been set up and one of them is already hard at work whereas the other will meet in the near future. Others will be formed during the next few weeks and I will keep you informed in the forthcoming newsletter.

Les comités qui existent actuellement sont les suivants:

The existing committees are the following:

A. Excursions sur le terrain - Field Excursions Committee

Co-présidents - Co-chairmen:
Raleigh Robertson, Phil Stepney

Toutes suggestions ou idées concernant les excursions qui précèdent ou qui suivent le congrès pourront m'être envoyées directement ou à l'un ou l'autre des co-présidents avant la fin de février.

Any suggestion or idea concerning pre and post congress field excursions could be sent to me directly or to any of the co-chairmen of this committee before the end of February.

B. Comité national d'organisation-National Organization Committee

Président/Chairman: Henri Ouellet
Co-président/Co-chairman: Allen Keast
Membres/Members: Tony Erskine
John Ryder
Ross Lein
David Boag
Graham Cooch
Spencer Sealy

La construction du Centre Rideau à Ottawa où se tiendront les assises du COI progresse comme prévue et l'inauguration aura lieu en janvier 1984. D'autre part, d'autres projets reliés aux activités qui se tiendront en association avec le congrès sont présentement en phase exploratoire et je vous communiquerai les résultats au cours des prochains mois. Toute idée dont vous voudrez bien me faire part sera reçue avec enthousiasme.

The construction of the Rideau Center in Ottawa where the Congress will be held progresses according to schedule and the center will open in January 1984. Other plans related to activities associated with IOC are being made and explored. Results will be announced in the next issues of the newsletter. Any idea regarding IOC which you may want to forward to me will be welcome.

Henri Ouellet

RESEARCH NEWS

BEHAVIOURAL/ECOLOGICAL studies of some passerines were started this year at Algonquin Provincial Park and at Short Hills Park near St. Catherines by Richard Knapton of Brock University, and Ed Basalyga, Laurianne Carlson, Cecily Fleming and Joanne Siderius. Eastern Meadowlarks were investigated to determine criteria used by females in choosing mates and to assess the contribution by the male to young of primary, secondary and tertiary females. Hermit Thrushes were looked at to determine song organization and repertoire in relation to territory size and nesting success. Nashville Warblers were studied to determine the contribution by the male to raising young in a monomorphic, monogamous passerine. This work will continue in 1983 and beyond to assess long term trends, especially the influence of age (R.W. Knapton).

BEHAVIOURAL/ECOLOGICAL studies of colonial nesting seabirds continued this summer at colony locations near Port Colborne, Ontario. The field team included Ralph Morris, David Wiggins and Miriam Richards of Brock, Virginia Wai-Ping of York and John Chardine of Durham. Three observation blinds were used in the Common Tern and Herring Gull colonies to obtain information on courtship feeding rates by males and on incubation and chick feeding effort by partners in marked pairs. Habitat selection behaviour of late-nesting Common Terns was assessed by the use of experimentally produced substrate types (R.D. Morris).

BEHAVIOURAL/ECOLOGICAL studies of Cowbird breeding systems, female territoriality in Red-winged Blackbirds, parental investment patterns in Swallows and Warblers and morphological differences among individuals in different Red-winged Blackbird populations are currently being carried out by Raleigh Robertson and his students at Queen's University (K. Teather).

MEETINGS

BALD EAGLE DAYS 1983. All those who are interested are invited to attend Bald Eagle Days 1983 to be held in Winnipeg 18-21 Aug. 1983. This annual meeting is a forum for research on the Bald Eagle, and is sponsored by the Eagle Valley Environmentalists. Activities include a field trip to the Lake of the Woods, workshops, paper sessions (including information on capture and sexing techniques, acid rain and forestry practices) and a banquet. Although the major interest is the Bald Eagle, Canadian raptor enthusiasts with interests in other species may participate in a working session if there is a demand for such. For more details contact the chairman, Jon Gerrard Box 113, R.R. #1 Headingley, Manitoba, ROH 0J0, (or for general information you may contact Gary Bortolotti, Dept. Zoology, University of Toronto, 653-1063.

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, 18-21 November, Hotel Utah, Salt Lake City. For information on registration write Stellanina Ure, c/o The Raptor Society, 19 Exchange Place, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111.

THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY will hold its 1983 annual meeting in mid-May

in Albuquerque, New Mexico. David Ligon will chair the Committee on Arrangements.

THE 64TH ANNUAL MEETING of the Wilson Ornithological Society will be held 2-5 June 1983 at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Persons desiring to organize mini-symposia or be on the scientific program should contact Clait E. Braun, Wildlife Research Center, 317 West Prospect, Fort Collins, CO 80526.

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION will celebrate its Centennial at its 101st Stated Meeting, in New York City in September, 1983.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

PETER BLANCHER, Queen's University, is currently writing his Ph.D. dissertation dealing with competition between individuals of two species of Kingbird.

JOHN CHARDINE is doing a "pre" post-doctoral year at Brock University. He is writing his Ph.D. thesis work on behavioural data collected from the warehouse Kittiwake colony, River Tyne, North Shields, while a student at Durham University.

JOANNE SIDERIUS is starting an M.Sc. program at Brock University. She will study some behavioural/ecological aspects of polygamy in the Eastern Meadowlark.

JOE SCHMUTZ recently completed his Ph.D. thesis at Queen's University on creching behaviour in Eiders. He has accepted a post-doctoral position at the University of Calgary.

DAVID WIGGINS, a graduate of the University of Oklahoma at Norman, is starting an M.Sc. program at Brock University. He will study the parental contribution of Common Tern partners in the care of eggs and chicks.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

THE MACDONALD RAPTOR RESEARCH CENTRE of McGill University is again offering 4 to 6 non-salaried student internships for the summer of 1983. Each intern gains experience in the care, handling and propagation of 400 captive birds of prey, public education, rehabilitation of sick and injured raptors, and is assigned to his or her own research project in the field or laboratory. Housing with kitchen facilities is provided by M.R.R.C. Submit at least one letter of recommendation, a resumé indicating interests and experience, and an unofficial copy of any university academic record by March 1st, 1983 to:

Macdonald Raptor Research Centre c/o Dr. D.M. Bird
21,111 Lakeshore Road,
Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec
H9X 1C0 (1-514-457-2000)

LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY requires a small number of Observatory Assistants in 1983. These are essentially volunteer positions, but living expenses and accommodation are provided at the observatory. Assistants help with the Migration Monitoring Program (banding and censusing of migrants) and associated record keeping. During the May-July period there is also work involved with ongoing studies of Tree Swallows at three nest box colonies. In addition, Assistants help with maintenance of buildings and equipment, analyze data and take part in "atlas" fieldwork. Positions are open throughout the year to persons of any age or experience who are available for at least a month. Applications due by 15 February 1983 for the 1983 field season. For further information contact: Roy B.H. Smith, LPBO, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0. (519)-586-2909.

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

BANDERS OF GULL, TERN, HERON, AND CORMORANT chicks are requested to send their yearly totals of chicks banded, past and present, by species and general location, and details of any deformities observed to Glen A. Fox, Wildlife Toxicology Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Research Centre, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E7, for use in environmental epidemiological investigations.

BURROWING OWLS were color-marked in 1982, in south-central Saskatchewan during a research program investigating movements of these owls in the breeding season. Information is requested from anyone seeing a color-marked owl, to aid in determining migration routes and wintering areas, which are presently unknown. Each owl carries a Fish and Wildlife band and 1-3 colored plastic leg jesses. Jess colors are yellow, fluorescent red, light blue, and dark green. Observers are asked to record: location, date, color and position of jess(es), leg of attachment of metal band and jess(es), and any details of the owl's situation. Please send to Bird Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E7, and to Elizabeth A. Haug, Dept. Veterinary Anatomy, Univ. of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0W0

THE ONTARIO BREEDING BIRD ATLAS has completed two of five summers of data collecting. Ornithologists who will be visiting the province in 1983 are invited to participate. Of special interest, in June and July, are flights from within northern Ontario to remote areas of boreal forest, muskeg and tundra which have been arranged free of charge for pairs of atlas volunteers. For information, write Mike Cadman, Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, FON Conservation Centre, 355 Lesmill Rd., Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2W8. Phone 416-444-8419.

WANTED. Study skins (labelled or unlabelled) needed for an undergraduate Ornithology course and for general reference. Richard Knapton, Department of Biological Sciences, Brock University, St. Catherines, Ontario L2S 3A1. (Phone 416-688-5550, ext. 394).

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALFRED B. KELLY MEMORIAL FUND of the province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds research grants worth up to \$1,000 are available for studies directly pertaining to Quebec ornithology. Applications will be accepted from any interested person(s) regardless of place of residence. For application forms, write to: Marianne G. Ainley, Chairperson, P.Q. S.P.B. Research Committee, 4828 Wilson Avenue, Montreal, Que. Canada H3X 3P2. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 31, 1983. Applicants will be notified of the committee's decision by April 30, 1983.

GROUPE DE TRAVAIL POUR LA PROTECTION DES HABITATS, Ministère du Loisir, de la Chasse et de la Pêche du Québec. Les effectifs du GTPH ont été intégrés au service des études écologiques de la Direction générale de la faune. Veuillez prendre note que depuis le 6 octobre 1982, le Service des études écologiques est localisé au 150 est boul. Saint Cyrille, 16^e étage, Québec. Le code postal est G1R 4Y1. Le numéro de téléphone reste le même, (418) 643-6397.

THE JAMES L. BAILLIE MEMORIAL FUND for Bird Research and Preservation invites applications for grants to support projects on Ontario birds in 1983. The Fund's aim is to encourage field studies by amateur naturalists and to support projects which increase or disseminate knowledge of birds in their natural environment or contribute to their preservation. Priority will be given to projects which draw on the resources of volunteer naturalists in conducting research or fieldwork and to applicants who do not have access to other sources of support.

Two types of grants will be offered in 1983: (a) Project Grants and (b) Atlas Fieldwork Grants to provide partial support for travelling expenses to remote central and northern areas for fieldwork on the Ontario Atlas of Breeding Birds. Grants do not normally exceed \$750. Applications for Project Grants are due by 31 December, 1982 and for Atlas Fieldwork Grants by 21 February, 1983. Applications should be submitted on forms obtainable from the Secretary, The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, c/o Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0

LOGO CONTEST - Win a customized SCO T-shirt. Anyone with ideas on a logo for SCO is invited to submit same to Erica Dunn, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0, by February 1, 1983. If you are artist enough to send in a drawing, so much the better, but written suggestions and rough sketches are also welcome. The logo should be small and easily reproducible in print (that is, no shading or close cross-hatching). The best ideas will be circulated to Acting Council for final choice. The person submitting the winning suggestion will receive a T-shirt with the final design printed on it (cost covered by an anonymous donor).

ANYONE MOVING - please send change of address to H. Ouellet at the National Museums of Canada.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER is planned for April. Please send items to Ross D. James, Dept. of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont., M5S 2C6, before the end of March.