



NEWSLETTER/NOUVELLES

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SCO NEWS

OFFICERS of the SCO for 1986 and 1987 are listed at the end of the newsletter. Elected councillors include C. Stuart Houston, David N. Nettleship, and Nicholas A.M. Verbeek (to retire at the end of 1986); Marianne G. Ainley, David M. Bird, Andre Cyr, Richard D. Elliot, and William A. Montevecchi (retiring 1987); C. Davison Ankney, David A. Boag, Raleigh J. Robertson, Edward H. Miller, and Lynn M. Oliphant (retiring 1988).

THE SCO will hold its annual council meeting and a meeting of the general membership in 1986 during the IOC in Ottawa in June. The council meeting is planned for Tuesday 22 June, from 1230 to 1400 h. The general membership meeting is scheduled for Friday 27 June at 1230 h. The meeting rooms and their whereabouts in the Congress Centre will be announced in the daily newsletter of the Congress and information on this and other Society matters will be available at the booth we plan to operate during the meeting.

PRESIDENTS' REPORT--This is my first report as President of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the commitment and dedication that Ross Lein, past President, and the other Officers and Councillors showed toward our Society during its formative years. I welcome now, after the Society's first general election, several new faces to the executive, and look forward to working with you toward the upcoming IOC, and perhaps more importantly, as we look beyond the Congress and examine our role in Canadian Ornithology during the "post-IOC" years.

The long-awaited 19th IOC is drawing near rapidly, and this will be the last Newsletter before this important event is held in Ottawa in late June. As a Society we have a responsibility to represent Canadian ornithology and ornithologists at the Congress. A good start has been made on this front. Ross Lein, in his last "President's Message," outlined some of our activities that are related to the IOC. Our compilation of Canadian ornithological "resources" has reached all potential IOC delegates, and the list of housing for foreign guests travelling in Canada before and/or after the Congress has been mailed to several interested parties. The "Checklist of the Birds of Canada" is being printed, and will be distributed to all registered Congress delegates. We will sell the surplus checklists during and after the Congress.

The SCO will be operating a publicity and information booth during certain hours most days of the Congress. In addition to providing information concerning SCO activities, memberships, and so on, we will assist people who are planning to visit research sites, field stations, etc., and generally provide news of people. Tony Erskine has agreed to oversee the preparation of backup material for the booth, and I urge you to send him your suggestions and ideas, and to volunteer to serve an hour or two at the booth. Hopefully the booth will be a focal point for SCO members and other delegates where we can meet and interact.

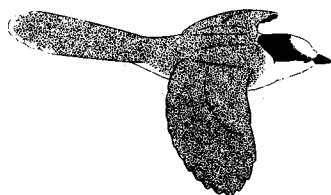
The Committee overseeing the "Doris Huestis Speirs Award for Contributions to Canadian Ornithology" has submitted its 1986 nomination for ratification by the SCO Executive Council. We will announce and present this award at our general membership meeting on Friday, June 27. This year will be the first year that the SCO council and general meetings will be held in Canada. Our meetings up to now have been held at AOU meetings somewhere in the United States. This brings me to an important question. Should the SCO start holding its own meetings? Opinions of several members in the early days of our Society were that our country is too big, and our ornithological population too widely placed, to make the organization of and travel to our own meetings realistic. However, one or two members have asked me recently about the possibility of holding our meeting somewhere in Canada, perhaps every second year. There are obvious logistical problems involved, but many benefits, too. Our meetings to date have necessarily excluded the attendance by amateur ornithologists. This might change if we held our own meetings in Canada. Please let me know what you think about this or any other matter. If there seems to be interest in holding our own meetings in the future, I will look into it further. I look forward to seeing you in Ottawa.--Spencer G. Sealy.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM is attached. Please attend to it now before you forget if you have not already renewed for 1986.

Ottawa, Canada, 22-29. VI. 1986

XIX CONGRESSUS INTERNATIONALIS ORNITHOLOGICUS

Secretary General's Report



The Congress is only about two months away now and I am very pleased to report that the planning is on target and that through the assistance of a large number of people in Ottawa and elsewhere in the country we should have an excellent Congress.

To date, there are over 1,000 registered members and it appears that the membership may reach 1,400, somewhat less than our earlier estimates but much more manageable. It appears that a sizeable number of persons will register during the next few weeks or when they arrive in Ottawa. Over 80 countries will be represented.

The pre and post-congress excursions are well subscribed to and thanks to the efforts particularly of Phil Stepney and Raleigh Robertson and all the leaders, well organized. The participants should have an exciting time and see a lot of birds. Only three had to be cancelled for various reasons.

The early morning bird walks have been reduced from five to three each morning, for five mornings, and can accommodate up to 700 observers during the five mornings on which they are offered. A participant could still visit five different habitats if one decides to go out each day. More guides are needed. If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible.

The activities scheduled for the "day off," 26 June, are also quite popular and nearly all those which were offered will take place. Of particular interest is "Bird watching for fanatics" which in spite of its early departure has attracted a large number of interested people. All the social events (reception, outdoor dinner party, banquet) proved to date to be very popular as well. Tickets are still available and if you plan to attend any of these, please let me know before the Congress starts; it helps with the planning.

There will be as planned, 50 symposia with 5 papers each, an introduction and a conclusion, in addition to the five plenary lectures and the presidential address, all of which (I have read the text) are excellent and provide an excellent overview of the field. A total of 150 spoken papers have been retained from the contributed papers and the other 373 will be presented as posters. Forty-four round table discussions have been accepted and some are likely to stimulate good animated discussions.

The film program although not finalized at this date, will be excellent and very extensive with sessions in the morning, afternoon and evening. I am told that several films will be shown in public for the first time.

Our fund raising efforts (Allen Keast and I) have produced modest results and indicate the difficult times in which we are living. In any case, it will be possible to provide some assistance for a number of our colleagues who could not obtain support in their own country. The colleagues who receive this assistance are coming primarily from Africa, Asia, South America, and the East Block. In total, some 90 colleagues will receive some assistance.

I have recently seen the four stamps to be released by Post Canada and I am very pleased with them. The reproduction of the original art work and the design are very good.

During the Congress a number of activities will be offered to delegates, among those: the National Carillonneur will be offering one or two short concerts during the lunch break at the Peace Tower Carillon. The Currency Museum (Bank of Canada) will have an interesting display of coins and bank notes on which birds are represented. The National Museum of Natural Sciences will have a small display on P.A. Taverner and his work, another on Canadian bird artists and illustrators, and a bird photography display resulting from a contest held a few months ago. There will be other activities as well but they remain to be confirmed.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the numerous colleagues who chair or are members of various committees. Without their support and generous assistance, it would have been impossible to even think about hosting the Congress. The Society of Canadian Ornithologists deserves also many thanks for providing the brochure on ornithological resources in Ontario and a check-list to be included in the delegate kit.

In closing, I welcome you all to the Congress and plan to provide you with a brief report in the next newsletter. See you in June.--Henri Ouellet--86.04.17.

MEETINGS

NORTHERN FOREST OWLS SYMPOSIUM, 3-7 February 1987. Speakers from around the world will present the results of original research on such topics as: influence of prey population fluctuations on reproduction, annual and seasonal movements, dispersion and dispersal, influence of forest alteration, population dynamics, energetics. Refereed papers are to be published in a symposium proceedings. If you are interested in participating please send an abstract to Dr. S.G. Sealy, Dept. of Zool., U. of Manitoba, Winnipeg R3T 2N2, by 15 May 1986.

A SYMPOSIUM on the ecology and management of breeding waterfowl will be held 19-22 August 1987 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg, Canada. It is being organized by the Delta Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Station on the occasion of their 50th anniversary of operation. The scientific program will consist of three segments: (1) a series of invited papers; (2) contributions resulting from an open call-for-papers; and (3) contributed poster papers. Program details will be available by September 1986. Further information and additions to the mailing list can be obtained from: Bruce D.J. Batt, Program Chairman, Breeding Waterfowl Symposium, Delta Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Station, R.R. 1, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, Canada R1N 3A1.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION will hold its XIX World Conference at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, 15-21 June. Program and registration forms have been sent to members. If you have not received these and would like to attend the conference, write to ICBP, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, England. Interested ornithologists/conservationists are urged to attend these special symposia: Wintering habitats and migratory birds in the Western Hemisphere; Birds as a socio-economic resource; Conservation of birds in steppe and steppe-like habitats; Disease management of threatened bird populations.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

R. Charles Long, long-time Research Associate of the Royal Ontario Museum, died rather unexpectedly on 1 April 1986 following a cancer related illness.

Current Research involving birds in the Zoology Department, University of Alberta:

David Boag	Behaviour and population ecology of grouse, waterfowl, raptors and passerines.
Mark Degner	Racial differences in male Blue Grouse songs and sound producing structures.
Andre Desrochers	Ecological significance of dominance in the Black-capped Chickadee.
Peter Dunn	Monogamy in Black-billed Magpies and Tree Swallows.
Gary Gregoire	Dominance relationships and agonistic behaviour in Canada Geese.
Susan Hannon	Population and behavioural ecology of Willow Ptarmigan and Black-capped Chickadees.
Petr Komers	Influence of dominance on mate choice in Black-billed Magpies.
Andy Murphy	Role of food intake in western Canada Goose reproduction.
Cynthia Paszkowski	Foraging behaviour of passerines.
Richard Pattenden	Dominance in Mallards and its influence on body condition.
Kim Poole	Feeding ecology of Gyrfalcons in the central arctic, Northwest Territories.
Jim Schieck	Territorial acquisition in Willow Ptarmigan.
Fred Zwickel	Population ecology of Blue Grouse.

PUBLICATIONS

Mansell, W.C. 1985. Birds of the Cottage Country. Kitchener, McBain. (70 Otonabee Dr. N2C 1L6) \$7.95.-Species recorded in Ontario's cottage country with anecdotal comments for the most common.

A WORKSHOP on Endangered Species in the Prairie Provinces was held at the Provincial Museum of Alberta in Edmonton, 24-26 January 1986. This workshop, the first of its kind in the Canadian Prairies attracted 410 delegates from Canada and the U.S.A. Status reports and management possibilities were presented for a number of prairie birds including: Whooping Crane, White Pelican, Trumpeter Swan, Burrowing Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk,

Greater Prairie Chicken, Piping Plover, Mountain Plover, and Baird's Sparrow. The proceedings from the workshop will be published this spring in the Occasional Papers Series of the Provincial Museum of Alberta. Requests for reprints should be sent to: Publications Secretary, Natural History Section, Provincial Museum of Alberta, 12845-102 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 0M6.

Briskie, J.V. 1985. Growth and parental feeding of Least Flycatchers in relation to brood size, hatching order and prey availability. M.Sc. thesis, Univ. Manitoba. 115 pp.

Chilton, G. 1985. Foraging ecology and patterns of distribution of gulls in a coastal marine environment. M.Sc. thesis, Univ. Manitoba. 135 pp.

Forbes, L.S. 1985. The feeding ecology of Western Grebes breeding at Duck Lake, British Columbia. M.Sc. thesis, Univ. Manitoba. 72 pp.

Guinan, D.M. 1985. The diet and foraging behaviour of House Wrens (Troglodytes aedon) and the abundance of invertebrate prey. M.Sc. thesis, Univ. Manitoba. 84 pp.

REQUESTS/POSITIONS

RESEARCH ON VOCAL DIALECTS IN ARGENTINA: I am looking for a Ph.D. level student to carry out a project concerning: morphological and allozymic variation with respect to vocal dialects and habitat characteristics in populations of the Rufous-collared sparrow, Zonotrichia capensis, in northwestern Argentina. NSERC has approved funding for a two-season study; ideally, the student would enroll Sept. 1986 and begin field work in mid-1987. The project involves independent work under occasionally adverse, and often capricious, conditions. Functional Spanish an advantage. For further details write: Dr. Paul Handford, Zoology Dept., Univ. Western Ontario, London, Ontario N6A 5B7, or call: (519) 679-2542 or 679-3155.

RENT-FREE LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS are available to some graduate students interested in field studies on waterfowl behaviour, particularly the mechanisms mediating attachments in Mallards and in the Giant Canada Goose, with L. James Shapiro, Director of the Avian Behaviour Laboratory, Department of Psychology, Univ. of Manitoba. Students must be accepted into the Graduate Programme in Psychology at the University, but acceptance into the program does not guarantee living accommodations, which are at the field station 12 mi S of campus. Students will look after/supervise the field station and participate in research being conducted there. For more information contact Dr. Shapiro. To apply to the graduate program, write to Dr. ROBERT W. TAIT, Associate Head, Graduate Programme, Dept. of Psychology, Univ. of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2 and ask for information and application forms.

FERRUGINOUS and SWAINSON'S HAWKS have been colour banded in an effort to estimate survival and to study philopatry. Since 1984, 378 Ferruginous and 515 Swainson's hawks have been equipped with a red or blue band on the right and a FWS band on the left leg. Engraved on each band are 3 sets of 2 white letters/numbers. The two horizontally placed letters/numbers are read from bottom to top by tilting one's head to the left. The species, band colour, and letter/number combination identify each hawk individually. Anyone who

encounters one of these hawks, please write to JOSEF K. SCHMUTZ, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, S7N 0W0, Canada.

RESEARCH INFORMATION NEEDED. As the newly-elected Inland Regional Representative for the Pacific Seabird Group, I am responsible for providing an annual report of research activities for publication in the PSG Bulletin. I would therefore appreciate hearing from SCO members, or their colleagues, regarding such activities. For the present, the following taxa and areas are of particular interest: pelicans, cormorants, loons, grebes, gulls, terns, and seaducks in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. Contact Paul C. James, Verterinary Anatomy Department, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0W0 before June 1.

AS PART OF MY RESEARCH on Black Ducks molting in Labrador, I have marked males with orange nasal saddles to obtain supplemental information on migration patterns and breeding areas. Nasal saddles are marked with an X on each side. I would appreciate reports of sightings of Black Ducks so marked. Information needed is the date and location of sighting, and (if possible) whether paired with a hen. TIMOTHY BOWMAN, 240 Nutting Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469.

THE MARITIMES BREEDING BIRD ATLAS offers birders a great opportunity for discovery in little-known areas. Salt marshes, boreal forest, coastal islands, arctic-alpine highlands and sandy beaches are among the diverse habitats in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The 1986-1990 breeding seasons are your chance to locate nesting species such as Arctic Terns, Northern Hawk-Owls, Piping Plovers, and Common Eiders. Why not spend North American Atlas Day (21 June 1986) in the Maritimes? For more information contact JUDITH KENNEDY, Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas, c/o Nova Scotia Museum, Natural History Section, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3A6 (902-429-4610).

FESTIVAL OF SWALLOWS AND WILDLIFE ART SHOW August 7-10, 1986, Pembroke, Ontario. Last summer 8,300 visitors were entertained in the evenings by thousands of swallows flying to their roost near the Pembroke Marina. The Canadian Wildlife Service estimated the flock at 175,000 on the 8th of August, 1985. About 10,000 swallows are expected at the roost during the 1986 International Ornithological Congress. Pembroke is a two hour drive from Ottawa. Brenda Carter and some 40 talented bird and wildlife artists will be showing their works during the festival. Information (613) 735-0366.

COSEWIC at its annual meeting in April 1985, assigned status to five birds species. The Spotted Owl (Strix occidentalis) was classified as endangered; a very rare bird occupying a habitat threatened by logging and development. The Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus) was considered threatened because of a continuing population decline. The Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) is now a very rare bird in Canada, but there is some evidence that a population decline has stopped. It was thus considered threatened only, but populations must be monitored carefully. The Sharp-shinned Hawk (Accipiter striatus) and Eastern Screech-Owl (Otus asio) were both considered to have sufficient populations to be considered "not in any category."

THE JAMES L. BAILLIE Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation were pleased to support six projects in 1986, for a total of \$2,800.00. Grants were awarded to the Willow Beach Field Naturalists for a bluebird project, to the Saskatchewan Bird Atlas, to Kenneth W. Dance for a study on the status of the Pileated Woodpecker in Ontario 1886-1986, to the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory for a study on staging of Common Loons in the northern Great Lakes, to C.A. Campbell and A.P. Sandilands for the second year of a study of Northern Harriers in Ontario's Luther Marsh, and to the Toronto Ornithological Club for a report on birds in the Toronto area in 1985. The Trustees also decided to provide an additional \$500.00 to the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas to help with part-time employment in winding up the project, with additional support to be considered in the fall. A grant of \$150.00 was awarded to the Ottawa Banding Group to help fund a breakfast for visiting ornithologists during the International Ornithological Congress meeting there in June, with a matching contribution expected from the Long Point Bird Observatory.

Applications are welcome for funding in 1987. All projects must be conducted in Canada, and although all types of bird research are eligible for consideration, preference will be given to projects conducted by amateur researchers and to those by professionals who use a high level of amateur participation. Thesis projects and others likely to receive support from other agencies are less likely to receive support than similar quality projects with little or no access to other funding.

All applications must be submitted on forms available from the Secretary, and should be postmarked by 31 December 1986 to be guaranteed consideration by the Trustees.

The current board of Trustees consists of Fred Bodsworth (Chairman), Robert Curry, Clive E. Goodwin, Dr. David J.T. Hussell, Dr. David M. Scott, Dr. J. Murray Speirs, and James Woodford. The chief source of funding is the Jim Baillie Birdathon conducted annually by the Long Point Bird Observatory, but direct donations are welcome and tax deductible. A receipt will be issued. Application forms, instructions and further information can be obtained from Dr. Martin K. McNicholl, Secretary, c/o Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0. Donations should be sent to the same address.

Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des Ornithologistes du Canada
c/o National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa,
Ontario, Canada K1A 0M8.

President: Spencer G. Sealy, Dept. of Zoology, University of Manitoba,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2.

Past President: M. Ross Lein Membership/treasurer: W. Bruce McGillivray

Vice President: Erica H. Dunn Newsletter Editor: Ross D. James

Recording Secretary: Philip H.R. Stepney

The NEXT NEWSLETTER is planned for November 1986. Send items for inclusion to the editor Ross D. James, Dept. of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6 by 15 October 1986

MEMBERSHIP

SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS/SOCIÉTÉ DES ORNITHOLOGISTS DU CANADA

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FEE ENCLOSED/COTISATION ANNUELLE CI-JOINTE: \$5.00

Renewal

New

Please complete and return with cheque or money order to:
S.V.P. remplir et retourner cette formule, avec un chèque ou mandat-poste à:

Dr. W. Bruce McGillivray, Dept. of Ornithology, Alberta Provincial Museum,
12845-120 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta T5N 0M6