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P.A. TAVERNER

Dominion Ornithologist 1911-1942

Editors Message

With the appearance of Vol. 2, No. 1, we've proven that *Picoides* is more than a one-shot effort. Volume 2 was never really in doubt, but stranger things have happened. Vol. 1 contained many errors some of which are corrected in the Corrigenda. I appreciate the advice and comments from colleagues who took the time to write and point out these flaws. As the positive comments I received far out-numbered the negative, I'm confident the SCO is moving in the right direction.

The feature article in Vol. 2 is a fresh look at the life and career of Percy Taverner. Jack Cranmer-Byng has produced a piece that complements the profile of Taverner recently written by Henri Ouellet (*American Birds* 41: 20-26, 1987).

Questionnaire Overview

A gratifyingly large part of the membership responded to our questionnaire in the previous issue of *Picoides*, on the directions the SCO should or should not take in the future. Here is an overview of the opinions received.

Most of us agreed the core purpose of the Society should be bird study, and that the SCO should be open to anyone interested. Very few felt the Society should be exclusively professional, and most thought special efforts should be made to include amateurs. Opinion was split, however, as to whether there should be a professional slant within the Society, even if it is open to all.

Program ideas that were supported included the Speirs Award, offering of research grants, initiation and participation in cooperative

The time and effort Jack contributed to preparation of this article are greatly appreciated. Thanks also are due to Dan Welsh for his report on Atlas projects in Canada and to those eastern ornithologists who responded to my request for information.

I recently came across one piece of Taverner trivia not mentioned by either Henri or Jack. It's in this quote from an article by Frederick C. Lincoln, entitled *Bird Banding* published in the 50th Anniversary issue of the *Auk* in 1933... 'The seed was planted and in the *Michigan*

'I'm confident the SCO is now moving in the right direction'

Bulletin, for June 1904, P.A. Taverner, then of Detroit, Mich., announced that he had had a few bands made and was using them to mark such birds as he could obtain. Incidentally Taverner appears to have been the first to consider trapping adult birds for banding pur-

research on problems of national significance, preparation of a National Plan for Ornithology, and conservation programs (making available our opinions and data relevant to Canadian bird conservation.

'Very few felt the society should be exclusively professional, and most thought special efforts should be made to include amateurs.'

There was no general opposition to any program idea, but opinions were widely spread on offering travel grants, preparing a Handbook of Canadian birds, and developing educational materials for school or home use.

Opinion was also split on whether all members' meetings should be in Canada. Those opposed often commented

poses. His bands were stamped *Notify the Auk, N.Y.*, thus, from the first definitely associating the American Ornithologists' Union with bird banding in America. Some of these bands were actually attached to birds, J.H. Fleming, of Toronto, Ont., placing Number 1 on a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), on September 24, 1905.

Later, in the *Wilson Bulletin* (March 1906), Taverner recorded the first return record from one of his banded birds. A half-grown Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), marked with band No. 123, at Keota, Keokuk County, Iowa, on May 29, 1905, by Charles Kirkpatrick, was shot at Many, Sabine Parish, La., on Christmas Day, 1905. Fragments of this bird are still preserved in the National Museum of Canada at Ottawa, Ont.'

I for one look forward to the publication of Jack's book on the life of Percy Taverner.

Bruce McGillivray
Provincial Museum of Alberta

that although it would be nice, having to always meet in Canada would be impractical.

Lastly, there was moderate support for the SCO sponsoring an AOU meeting, although many thought this meant taking on a big responsibility. In fact, David Bird has made an offer to the AOU as an individual to organize the 1991 AOU meeting in Montreal. The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds wants to be a sponsor, and the SCO Council is considering the same. Our role would mainly be to lend our name, and to ask our members to cooperate with David as far as possible if he calls on us for help before or during the meetings.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to send us their opinions. They will be most useful to us as we set the Society's priorities.

Erica Dunn
President SCO

HANS ALBERT HOCHBAUM

1911 - 1988

Wednesday, March 2, 1988 at the Portage Hospital, Dr. Hans Albert Hochbaum, late of Delta, passed away.

Dr. Hochbaum was born in Greeley, Colorado, February 9, 1911 and became a Canadian Citizen and was of resident of Canada since 1938. He studied at Cornell University and received a B.Sc. Zoology under A.A. Allen in 1931 and entered the University of Wisconsin and received his Master of Science in Wildlife Management under Aldo Leopold in 1941. Dr. Hochbaum studied Fine Arts at Cornell and Wisconsin and at the University of Manitoba he received his L.L.D. (honourary) in 1962.

He was a Wildlife Technician with the U.S. National Park Service from 1934 to 1937 and the Director of Delta Waterfowl Research Station, Delta, Man., from 1958 to 1970 and has been a freelance writer and artist since 1970.

Mr. Hochbaum was a member of the American Ornithologists' Union (Fellow), the Wildlife Society Arctic Institute of North America, the Zoological Society of Manitoba, The Wildfowl Foundation (Trustee), Manitoba Naturalist's Society (Honourary Member), Nature Conservancy (Director 1969-1975), Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation (Director 1970-1976) and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists.

He authored 'The Canvasback On A Prairie Marsh' in 1944, 'Travels and Traditions of Waterfowl' in 1956, 'To Ride The Wind' in 1973 and many scientific papers and popular articles on waterfowl, conservation and the Canadian Arctic; He wrote scripts and provided technical guidance for Canadian Broadcasting Corporation television programs and many lectures and seminars on waterfowl, wilderness conservation, art and writing.

He has been exhibiting paintings,

'Watercolors, Egg Tempra and Oil' since 1933; 12 one-man shows since 1964. He has paintings in many private, corporate and museum collections in Canada, United States and overseas. Hochbaum was commissioned by the city of Portage la Prairie to paint a picture for presentation to Queen Elizabeth in 1970 and has illustrated five books.

Mr. Hochbaum received the 'Brewster Medal' of the A.O.U. in 1945, the 'Literary Award' of the Wildlife Society in 1945 and 1956, The Portage la Prairie Community Service Award in 1952, the CBC 'Wilderness Medal' in 1970, The Manitoba Centennial Medal of Honor in 1970, The Crandall Conservation Award in 1975, John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in 1961, The Canadian Council Explorations Fellowship in 1975 (Member), 'The Order of Canada Award' in 1979, The 1986 Conservation Achievement, The 'Distinguished Naturalist Award' in 1986 and the Professional Wildlife Conservation Award in 1987.

He was a specialist in Canadian Prairie and Arctic ecology and conservation. His major work at Delta was with University Graduate Research. Ninety-five graduate students from 38 universities conducted their Master of Science or Ph.D. thesis research at the Delta Waterfowl Research Station during his years as a Director.

If friends so desire, contributions may be made to the Delta Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Station Library, R.R.1, Box 27, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, R1N 3A1.

Help Us Help You Find Field Supplies

Most of us know where we can go to buy a camera or binoculars, but many of us don't know who sells mist nets in Canada, whether there is a Canadian supplier of Pesola scales, or whether anyone in this country makes colored leg bands. And, if they're not available here, where should we look?

As a service to our members, we would like to compile a list of sources of laboratory and field equipment commonly used in the study of birds. We are especially interested in Canadian suppliers, but would like to add foreign companies to the list when they are the only sources of specialized equipment. If

we can get a good list compiled, we will make it available to all members.

Please help us by writing down the name and address of the companies you deal with in purchasing equipment. Let us know what they supply, and your opinion on their service, cost competitiveness, speed, or anything else you feel is relevant. Return your list to:

Dr. Bruce McGillivray
Editor, 'Picoides'
Provincial Museum of Alberta
12845 - 102 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5N 0M6

*From the Winnipeg Free Press
4th March, 1988*

BIRD ATLASES OF CANADA: Provincially Unique

Since the publication of the first breeding bird atlases scarcely over 10 years ago (Sharrock 1976, Yeatman 1976, Dybbro 1976) the production of atlases has become the single most popular activity for 'birders' in much of the world. The popularity of the activity can be seen in the now well-established lexicon that has developed; those who work on atlases are atlassers and atlassing is the verb to describe collecting data on bird distribution. In Canada when one claims to be 'going atlassing' for the weekend there is an aura of respectability and scientific purpose over what used to be considered 'goofing off'. Now if we could only agree on how many 's's' to put in atlases, atlassing and atlassers....!

History will undoubtedly show that the past two and the next decade were major years of progress in bird conservation because of two major aspects of atlases. First, we are experiencing a dramatic increase in the systematic collection of information on avian distributions. Second, and more importantly, most of the information is being collected by volunteers. As a result of atlases in many jurisdictions, there is a well-organized network of people with both an interest in birds and extensive data bases.

There are several characteristics of Canada which to some extent affect all of our bird atlases. The first is that we have a very large country - 9,911,023 square kilometres. With 26.5 million and perhaps 5,000 - 10,000 extant and potential atlassers, there is a lot of land for each to cover. Second, most Canadians live along the southern edge of the country and access becomes increasingly difficult away from population centres. We still have lots of wilderness.

Most Canadian Bird Atlases are modelled after the British Atlas system. For overview, I have distinguished between systematically gathered grid-based mapping work called atlases and mapping based on existing information which I have called distribution studies. Initially, I will provide an overview of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas as it is the only one completed to date and is also the one I'm most familiar with. Then I will summarize the atlas and distribution efforts in the other provinces and territories with an emphasis on aspects that make them unique.



Photos courtesy W. Bruce McGillivray

ONTARIO

After two years of planning, five years of field work and two years of write-up, this volunteer-based project has just been completed. The project was sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Long Point Bird Observatory and supported by more than 20 organizations including private foundations, industry and the Federal and Provincial governments.

ADMINISTRATION

The project had a permanent Management Committee and a permanent Technical Committee to oversee and direct activities. Other committees such as Data Review, Publication, and Data Management were struck as required and reported to one of the governing committees. The project had a full time co-ordinator, frequently an assistant co-ordinator, and in latter years a database manager and several editorial assistants.

GRID SYSTEM

Data collection units were based on the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) system. Accordingly they are the same size and shape everywhere, except at zone lines. The province was divided into two sectors; a more heavily populated southern sector and the less densely populated northern sector. In the

south 1824 grid 'squares' of 10 km X 10 km were completely surveyed while in the north all major habitats in 96 blocks of 100 km X 100 km were atlassed.

COVERAGE

Initially, a minimum goal of 16 hours field work per square was established. After the first 2 years, generalized species richness maps

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NEWS SHORTS

Honourary D.Sc. degrees awarded by Memorial University of Newfoundland in October 1987 to:

H.S. Peters, co-author (with T.D. Burleigh) of *Birds of Newfoundland*, 1951.

R.T. Peterson, artist of the plates for *Birds of Newfoundland*.

Congrès Québécois des Ornithologies amateurs du 13 au 15 Mai 1988 à Sherbrooke, vos hôtes: la Société de loisir ornithologique de l'Estrie et l'Association des groupes d'Ornithologies. Pour informations

générales: Téléphonez à (819) 569-0374 ou écrivez à:
S.L.O.E. (Congrès 88)
C.P. 2363
Succ. Jacques Cartier
Sherbrooke, P.Q.
J1J 3Y3

11th North American Bluebird Society July 7-10, 1988 in Laval, Quebec with Société des amis du Merle-bleu de l'est de l'Amérique. Write to:
SAMBEA
2 rue Sauvé
St. Placide, Québec
J0V 2B0

ICBP UPDATE

COSEWIC

Activities in 1987 include adding the Mountain Plover to the Endangered list, and moving the American White Pelican down from Threatened to Rare. Golden Eagle and Gyrfalcon were reviewed but not placed in a risk category. Reports are in preparation for the Least Bittern, Harlequin Duck, Greater Prairie Chicken, Baird's Sparrow and Hooded Warbler. One on the Flammulated Owl is under revision and reports on the status of the Long-billed Curlew and the *tundrus* race of the Peregrine Falcon are being considered.

PESTICIDES

Diazinon, a common garden insecticide has been banned for use on golf courses and sod farms by the EPA following the death of 500 Brant on one New York golf course. In Canada ...?

CITES

All hummingbirds (*Trochilidae*) are now listed on Appendix II meaning that export permits from the country of origin are required before hummingbirds can be transported across international boundaries.

WETLANDS

Micheal Keating (Can. Geogr. 197: 42-51, 1987) reports Environment Canada statistics suggesting over 50% of Canadian wetlands gone including 65% in the Atlantic provinces, 70% in southern Quebec and Ontario, up to 71% in the prairies and 80% in the Fraser River delta.

MISCELLANEOUS

The PEI government is considering a cull of Double-crested Cormorants to reduce impact of the birds on local fisheries. This despite a lack of evidence and opposition from the Canadian Nature Federation, Colonial Waterbird Society, ICBP-Canada, Canadian Wildlife Federation and PEI Natural History Society. Our sense of déjà vu should be heightened by the subject of our feature article, Percy Taverner, [cf. Taverner, P.A. 1915. The Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) and its relation to the salmon industries on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada. Geol. Surv. Mus. Bull. No. 13.]

Modified from information provided by Martin K. McNicholl.

Project Feeder Watch: Continent Wide

For the past 12 winters, over 500 people in Ontario have contributed bi-weekly observations of birds at their feeders to the Ontario Bird Feeder Survey. This project, run by the Long Point Bird Observatory, provided the first evidence that feeder observations might prove useful in monitoring population size, as well as documenting winter range and intra-seasonal movement. (See American Birds: 40:61-66 for further details.)

In 1987, the survey was expanded continent wide under the new name 'Project FeederWatch', with sponsorship from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. All observations are recorded on special forms that can be read by an optical scanner directly into the computer, so results are immediately available for compilation and analysis. Participants pay \$9.00 annually to help cover the costs of the project, and receive several newsletters and an annual report. Over 4,000 people signed up in 1987-88, from every state and across Canada, and over 10,000 are expected next winter.

The data stored at Cornell University are available to anyone for appropriate research purposes. If you would like further information on the recording forms, use of the data set, any other aspect of the project, or if you would like to take part, write to:

Project Feeder Watch
Long Point Bird Observatory
P.O. Box 160
Port Rowan, Ontario
L4G 2B1

P.A. TAVERNER:

Dominion Ornithologist, 1911-1942

With the opening of the Victoria Memorial Museum in Ottawa in 1911, Canada possessed a national museum. With the appointment of P. A. Taverner as ornithologist in that year, a new era in ornithological work in Canada commenced. When Taverner died in 1947 his name was known country wide and his book, *Birds of Canada* (Taverner, 1934) was the acknowledged reference to Canadian birds. Now, forty years or more after his death, little is known about Taverner's career except for his obituary in *The Auk* (McAtee, 1948). Yet Taverner was at the centre of ornithology in Canada for thirty-one years until his retirement in 1942, and his influence continued longer. This article aims to provide an appreciation of Taverner's career as doyen of Canadian ornithologists in the first half of the twentieth century.

Percy Taverner was born in Guelph, Ontario, in 1875. His early life was very unsettled. His parents parted when he was two years old; his mother joining a theatrical company in Toronto. She soon married an actor-manager, Albert Tavernier, whose family name Percy was given. With his mother and stepfather he travelled on circuit with the Tavernier Company through Eastern Canada and part of the northern United States. As a result, he had no permanent home for the first ten years of his life which may account for the stammer that afflicted him for as long as he could remember.

Percy Taverner attended private schools in Port Huron and Ann Arbor High School in Michigan. It was in Ann Arbor that a chance meeting with the taxidermist of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology turned him into a keen student of birds. At the museum, he learned the rudiments of taxidermy and ornithology in his spare time, and began his own study collection of

skins. On leaving high school he supported himself by freelance photography and taxidermy, but some artistic sense and ability to draw turned him toward the profession of draftsman. He took a correspondence course in architecture while working for an architect in Port Huron for a few years.

His prospects improved when he became a draftsman in Detroit in 1904 where he lived with his mother and half sister. Here Taverner spent all his spare time studying birds in the field, keeping a journal and collecting skins. He joined the American Ornithologists' Union and read *The Auk* regularly.

He was also an active member of the Michigan Ornithological Club and of the Great Lakes Ornithological Club (G.L.O.C.) which brought him into regular contact with a number of amateur ornithologists such as J.H. Fleming (Toronto), W.E. Saunders (London), and B.H. Swales (Detroit). In 1905, members of the G.L.O.C. started visiting Point Pelee where they camped during holidays and occasionally on weekends while recording the birds present. These data were summarized by Taverner and Swales in a series of articles for the *Wilson Bulletin* (Taverner and Swales, 1907-08). Also at this time Taverner experimented with bird banding after making aluminum bands and issuing them to his friends.

Early in 1911, the position of ornithologist at the new museum in Ottawa was advertised. Among other duties the applicant would be required to design and construct natural history exhibits. Taverner applied for the post with strong letters of recommendation from Fleming, Saunders and another Canadian naturalist - Ernest Thompson Seton. Although Taverner had no post-secondary education he had con-

siderable experience as a draftsman, in taxidermy and in photography, all qualifications valuable in arranging public exhibits of animals in their habitats. He was appointed and started work in May 1911.

A museum is based on collections. For Taverner the reason for his work was to build up a collection of specimens; birds mounted for display and skins arranged in drawers for research. He inherited a collection of about 5000 specimens which had been collected by John and James Macoun of the Geological Survey of Canada, and their assistant William Spreadborough. Taverner carried out seventeen field expeditions himself including those to the St. Lawrence estuary, the prairie provinces and British Columbia. Taverner also employed younger men such as Dewey Soper and Mack Laing to undertake collecting expeditions for the Museum. One trip in 1929 resulted in the discovery, by Soper, of the nesting grounds of the Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*), on Baffin Island. When Taverner retired in 1942 the collection numbered 35,000 specimens including many series showing specific variations and geographic ranges of Canadian birds. It was this collection which served as the basis for Taverner's books and many articles, and the range maps which Taverner devised where his skill as a draftsman was seen to advantage.

A major contribution to Canadian ornithology was his method for showing the distribution of birds in Canada. Large topographical maps where bird records were plotted were kept in a binder on a table. The information from each was recorded on cards arranged by species and filed in adjacent cabinets. This system is still maintained, and the information amassed in Taverner's time is frequently consulted.



Photo: Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto.

*Taverner introduced a new era
in Canadian ornithology*

Taverner also made an important contribution to the conservation of wildlife and its habitat through his involvement in the struggle to protect migratory birds in North America. In 1915, he presented recommendations to the federal Commission of Conservation for the creation of a national park at Point Pelee and at Percé Rock and Bonaventure Island off the Gaspé Peninsula (Taverner, 1915a). In support of the recommendations, he made a study of the stomach contents of the Double-crested Cor-

morants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) nesting on Perce (Taverner, 1915b). He also made a study of the Gannets (*Sula bassanus*) nesting on Bonaventure which was published in the *Ottawa Naturalist* (Taverner, 1918). This contained a strong plea that the island should be preserved permanently as a national resource.

When Hoyes Lloyd was hired by the Parks Branch to administer the regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act of 1917, Taverner worked closely with him. Because of his stammer

Taverner was unable to take a prominent part on committees or at conferences. But he played a valuable role in wildlife protection through his close contacts with federal Migratory Bird officers such as Robie Tufts (Maritimes), Harrison Lewis (Québec and Ontario) and James Munro (Western Provinces) as well as provincial game wardens. These men could rely on Taverner for ornithological information and for support in enforcing the regulations. He, in turn, could rely on them for help with his work as Dominion Ornithologist.

Taverner's most far-reaching contribution was as an educator of public opinion in a series of handbooks beginning with *Birds of Eastern Canada* (Taverner, 1919). Here he was ahead of his time in using 'field marks' as an aid to separating one species from another in the field. His aim was to help the public appreciate birds in the wild rather than as specimens in the museum. Taverner had the ability to combine scientific information with an understanding of birds in their many plumages and habitats.

In brief word portraits he was able to convey the characteristics, as he saw them, of even common birds such as chickadees and catbirds. In doing so he hoped to develop in the reader an ability to recognize birds, and a wish to learn more about them.

Birds of Eastern Canada was so successful that Taverner was asked to produce a companion volume *Birds of Western Canada* (Taverner 1926). Later he amalgamated the material in the two books and produced *Birds of Canada* (Taverner 1934) which was the standard work on Canadian birds until superseded by *The Birds of Canada* (Godfrey 1966). *Birds of Eastern and Western Canada* were reprinted with an introduction by Dr. Godfrey (Taverner 1974). Two pocket field guides *Canadian Land Birds* and *Canadian Water Birds* (Taverner 1974) served their purpose until the printing of a revised edition of *A Field Guide to the Birds* (Peterson 1947).

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A fair amount of Taverner's time was given to identifying specimens collected for the museum by himself and others as well as specimens sent to him for determination by private individuals. Throughout his life he maintained a coolly critical attitude to the naming of subspecies based on minor variations among populations; he personally was not convinced of their validity. In his *Birds of Eastern Canada* he innovated by giving a vernacular name to the species as a whole rather than treating each subspecies separately with a name that often obscured species relationships. This was a departure from the standard nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union's *Check-list of North American Birds* which was regarded by some as heresy but by



Taverner skinning a specimen at Pt. Pelee.

Photo courtesy John L. Cranmer Byng.

others as common sense. In the 1957 edition of the Check-List the practice of giving one vernacular name for the species as a whole, and no vernacular names for subspecies, was adopted - ten years after Taverner's death. Four papers by Taverner can serve as examples of his taxonomic research namely on Red-tailed Hawks (Taverner 1927, 1936), Canada Geese (1929) and the Canadian races of the Great Horned Owls (1942).

Another way in which Taverner influenced ornithology during his own era, though less obviously, was through the massive correspondence with a network of friends and contacts which he con-

tinued for forty years. Much of it was ornithological talk, but there is enough human interest to make it worth reading provided that one can forgive the erratic spelling, skimpy punctuation and uncorrected typing errors. Taverner wrote in a relaxed style, flavoured with slang phrases, and salted with humour which tended to bring out a similar response in his friends. Only in official letters was the wording formal, but this was not Taverner's natural style. He regarded it as part of his duty to be in touch with as many ornithologists as possible, exchanging bird news and stimulating others in their ornithological work. William Rowan was one of these, and wrote from Edmonton 'Your letters are one of the big treats here in this isolated corner' (Rowan to Taverner, 2 July 1923). Taverner's correspondence in the National Museum in Ottawa and the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto contain extremely interesting letters exchanged with ornithologists as different as Arthur Bent, Allan Brooks, Mack Laing, Dewey Soper, William Rowan and, near the end of his life, Louise de Kiriline Lawrence.

Taverner's family life, like his personality, was a little unusual. He lived with his mother and half sister, in the Ottawa house which he had designed, until his mother's death in 1924. In 1930, at the age of 55, Percy married Martha Wiest, a widow who was a long-time friend of the family from their Detroit years. This opened wider horizons in his life. Since Martha was a trained pianist and Percy was fond of music, the Taverners often held musical evenings at their home. They also bought a car and travelled. Percy was a man of exceptional manual skill combined with artistic feeling which showed clearly in his recreations: book binding, photography and gardening. He also built a cottage at Blue Sea Lake in Québec to an original design of his own.

Taverner's close friends enjoyed his company for his keen sense of humour and, despite his stammer, for his conversation. He had a modest personality and lifestyle without a trace of self-importance.

He could be very stubborn when supporting a cause which he believed to be right, and his strong views sometimes embarrassed his friends. Taverner was not the kind to attract honours, but he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1935.

As a museum builder he was way ahead of the facilities available to him, and as a popularizer of ornithological knowledge he was in the very first rank.

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John Cranmer-Byng

University of Toronto

Professor Cranmer-Byng is currently writing a book on the career of Percy Taverner.

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were developed for the province that allowed an estimate of the number of species expected in each square. Adequate coverage then was established as 75 per cent of the estimated number of breeding species with no less than 16 hours field work. For the north a minimum of 50 hours atlassing per block was established with coverage needed in all major habitat types.

REGIONS

For organizational purposes the province was divided into 46 regions, each of which had a Regional Co-ordinator. The volunteer Regional Co-ordinators had extensive responsibilities which included assigning squares, collecting and checking data, maintaining master data records for all squares, acquiring and screening unusual species report forms, and reporting to both the atlas office and atlassers on progress. They were in many ways the vital link in the success of the project.

METHODS

The standardized procedures followed the Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland (Sharrock 1976). All participants were given a Guide for Participants (Eagles and Cadman 1981) and received a regular newsletter. Data were recorded on cards supplemented with special forms for unusual species. Sixteen breeding codes were grouped into three levels of evidence; possible, probable and confirmed. An additional column on the data card was reserved for abundance estimates using a log scale.

DATA PROCESSING AND VERIFICATION

Atlassers sent data cards to Regional Co-ordinators who checked for missing, incorrect and problematical data. Cards were then forwarded to Atlas Headquarters for key punching and entry into the computer. All records were subject to elaborate error checking and verification. Each year a new 'roll-up' file was created summarizing the highest level of breeding evidence

for each square. Over 400,000 records were received and compiled for the 100,000 distribution records of 292 species that make up the final atlas. Nearly 5,000 or one per cent of the records required an Unusual Species Report Form (USRF) and adjudication by the Data Review Committee.

FUNDING

In the eight years of the project \$670,000 worth of funds, equipment, and direct contributions were raised. As well, gifts-in-kind such as air-time and lodging made substantial contributions to the success of the project.



WRITE UP AND PUBLICATION

The Atlas publication had three principal editors and contains the work of 90 experts who wrote species accounts and other special sections. The final large format hard-covered book of 640 pages was published in September 1987. All species breeding in Southern Ontario have a full page written account plus a map and figure page. Species occurring only in the north have a shorter one-page account including a map and description.

The 1,351 volunteers reported 123,879 hours of atlassing. Many of them had assistants and undoubtedly spent travel time as well so it is likely that 2,000 people spent 180,000 hours in the field on the project. Breeding evidence was found for 292 species, two hybrids and six species new to Ontario.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Over the past five years, a special effort has been made to run Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) with the same few exceptionally competent observers. These surveys provide a degree block map of species distribution. As well, all historical records are now being computerized. The historical and Breeding Bird Survey data are being combined for a planned book on the Diversity, Distribution, and Abundance of the Birds of Newfoundland.

MARITIMES

(Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island). These three eastern provinces have combined efforts to initiate the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas modelled after the Ontario project. The project is to begin the third of a five year field season. There were 452 active contributors in the first year and the project is well underway. It is unique because their computer base mapping system was in place when the project started.

QUEBEC

The atlas for the province of Quebec is conceptually similar to the Ontario model. The project is in its last year (1984 - 1988). After some consideration of the problem of handling 15,800 squares of 10 km X 10 km, they have decided to concentrate efforts on 'Quebec meridional', the area of greatest activity from the U.S. border to 50 degrees 30'N. latitude. It contains 5,225 squares that can be segregated into three categories: 1,500 wilderness squares with difficult access, 1,850 accessible squares, and 1,850 remote squares. Emphasis is now placed on getting volunteers to complete the 'accessible squares' and trained paid assistants to atlas the 'remote squares'. The combined effort will provide coverage of the majority of 'Quebec meridional'. To date the Quebec Atlas has collected over 100,000 records and now has more than 800 volunteer participants.

continued p. 10

MANITOBA

A major effort began in 1985 to compile existing records with a view to publication of a new 'Birds of Manitoba' about 1991. Records will be mapped on the NTS map sheet basis in the north and a township basis in the south. In the Canadian 1/50,000 National Topographic System (NTS), each map sheet is 30' longitude by 15' latitude or 1/8 of a degree block. Some new distribution work is being conducted, particularly in the northwest.

SASKATCHEWAN

The Saskatchewan Bird Atlas began in 1983 to determine the historical and current year-round distribution of birds. The grid basis is again 1/50,000 NTS mapsheets of which there are 740 for the province. Records have been collected in three groupings, pre-1966, 1966-1982, and annually since then. They will be separated as historical 'before 1966' and current 'since 1966'. All records are coded by season and summer records are additionally coded by one of 16 standard levels of breeding evidence. Additional records are kept of unusual species including colonial, rare and endangered, and uncommon birds and also of unusual habitats including areas of exceptional avian diversity.

ALBERTA

The newest active Canadian atlas project got underway in Alberta in 1986. The Alberta Bird Atlas project which plans to cover all seasons began a Breeding Bird Atlas this summer. Mapping is based on the UTM grid using a 10 km by 10 km scale. At present in populated areas one 10 km by 10 km square out of each 20 km by 20 km block is designated a priority square and should be completed first. In difficult-to-access areas one 10 km by 10 km square out of a 100 km by 100 km block is designated as the 'priority square.' The hope is to survey the majority of 10 km by 10 km squares with a minimum coverage of every priority square. The project is highly organized with a planned 'Annual Atlas Day', An-

nual meeting and a newsletter. It looks like a winner!

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Efforts of birders in British Columbia to bring together all existing data on British Columbia birds have resulted in the successful compilation of 100,000 specimen records, 8,000 papers and reports, 1 million documented observations and 110,000 nest records. Distributional maps on a NTS grid (1/8 degree block) have been prepared showing seasonal patterns and complete accounts including documented breeding ('nest or flightless young') have been prepared for most species. The birds of British Columbia will be published in two volumes: Non-passerines and Passerines. Volume 1 will be published likely in 1988 and Volume 2 in 1990 or 1991.

YUKON

There is some interest in conducting an Atlas in the Yukon but with only 24,000 people in 482,515 sq. km and little road access it will be a daunting task. Recently, there has been an effort to increase Breeding Bird Survey activity and some consolidation of historical records.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

A proposal has been developed to conduct a breeding bird atlas of the 3,426,320 square km of the Northwest Territories at a grid scale of 100 km by 100 km over a 15-year period. Attempts are now being made to secure funds and support and several planning meetings have been held.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many people have provided information and assistance in the preparation of this overview. I would like to thank: K. Adams, M. Cadman, J. Clements, N. Dawe, K. de Smet, D. Fillman, J. Gautier, B. Gollop, J. Hawkings, J. Kennedy, W.A. Montevecchi, P. Payzant.

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Sharrock, J.T.R. ed. 1976 *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland*. British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts. England 477 p. 218 p. maps.

Yeatman, L. ed. 1976. *Atlas des Oiseaux Nicheurs de France*. Soc. Ornithol. de France, 55 rue de Buffon, 75005 Paris. 282 p. 289 maps.

Dan Welsh

Canadian Wildlife Service

Adapted from a talk presented at 10th International Conference on Bird Census Work - Helsinki, Finland, 24-28 August, 1987.

Members Meeting

A meeting open to anyone with an interest in our Society will be held in conjunction with the August American Ornithologists' Union meeting at Fayetteville, Arkansas. We will meet during the lunch hour on Wednesday, August 17. (Further details will appear in the AOU program.) If you need information about the AOU meeting, please write to:

Dr. Douglas James
Department of Zoology
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Corrigenda

- The ISN is of course the ISSN
- Volume 1, Edition 1 should read volume 1, Number 1
- Publication Date is November, 1987
- The biography of Graham Cooch was written by Jon C. Barlow, Royal Ontario Museum
- On page 6, centre column, the sentence 'Rowan joined this select group soon after graduating' should read 'Rowan joined this select group at Blakeney Point while still an undergraduate'
- On page 7, left column for 'J.R. Hickey' read 'J.J. Hickey'

In The Press

Current and In Press Articles in Canadian Ornithology

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE Atlantic Region

- Birkhead, T.R., and D.N. Nettleship. Breeding performance of Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*) at a small, expanding colony in Labrador. *Can. Field-Nat.*
- Brown, R.G.B. The wing-moult of fulmars and shearwaters (*Procellariidae*) in Canadian Atlantic waters. *Can. Field-Nat.*
- Brown R.G.B. The influence of small and medium-scale physical oceanographic anomalies on the distribution of storm-petrels (*Hydrobatidae*) in Nova Scotia waters. *Colonial Waterbirds.*
- Elliot R.D., P.C. Ryan, and W.W. Lidster. The winter diet of Thick-billed Murres (*Uria lomvia*) in coastal Newfoundland waters. *Pacific Seabird Symposium - in Studies in Avian Biology*
- Erskine, A.J. The changing patterns of Brant migration in eastern North America. *Journal of Field Ornithology.*
- Gaston A.J., and R.D. Elliot. Murres. CWS *Hinterland Who's Who.*
- Goudie, R.I. The Common Eider. CWS *Hinterland Who's Who.*
- Kress, S.W., and D.N. Nettleship. Re-establishment of Atlantic Puffins (*Fregata aeterea*) at a former breeding site in the Gulf of Maine. *J. Field Orn.*

Lock, A.R. Recent increases in the breeding population of Ring-billed Gulls in the Atlantic Provinces of Canada. *Can. Field Nat.*

Nettleship, D.N., and G. Chapdelaine. Population size and status of the Northern Gannet (*Sula bassanus*) in North America, 1984. *J. Field Orn.*

Nettleship, D.N., G. Chapdelaine, and M.A. Haynes. 1988. Death of a Dovekie: winter storm and predation. *Nova Scotia Birds*, 30:59.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Montevecchi, W.A. and L.M. Tuck. 1987. Newfoundland Birds: Exploitation, Study, Conservation. Nuttall Ornithological Club, Cambridge, Mass.

Montevecchi, W.A., V.L. Birt and D.K. Cairns. Migration of post-smolt Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) off northeastern Newfoundland, as inferred from tag recoveries in a seabird colony. *Journal of Aquatic and Fisheries Science.* (In Press)

Montevecchi, W.A., R. Barrett, F. Rikardeen and K. B. Strann. The status of Northern Gannets in Norway. *Fauna Norvegica Series C Cinclus.* (In Press)

Montevecchi, W.A., V.L. Birt and D.K. Cairns.

Dietary changes of seabirds associated with local fisheries failures. *Biological Oceanography* 5. (In Press).

Montevecchi, W.A., J.F. Piatt. Dehydration effects on the energy determinations of seabird prey. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 65. (In Press).

Porter, J.M. Prerequisites for recruitment of Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*). *Ibis* 130. (In Press)

Schneider, D.C., D.C. Duffy, G.L. Hunt. Cross-shelf gradients in the abundance of pelagic birds. *Proceedings XIX International Ornithological Congress.* (In Press).

Storey, A.E., W.A. Montevecchi, H.F. Andrews, N. Sims. Nest-site selection patterns of four sympatric ground-nesting birds in the salt marsh. *Journal of Comparative Psychology.* (In Press).

UNIVERSITÉ DE SHERBROOKE

Dion, A., André Cyr. 1988. Aménagement paysager avec en prime les oiseaux. Québec agenda éd., Beauceville, P.Q. (English version expected).

Cyr, A. 1988 Aim oriented backyard landscaping: first step toward improved environment. *Landscape Ecology and Management* (H.R. Moss and L.S. Davis, eds.) Guelph, Ontario. (In Press).

Canadian Ornithologists and Their Research

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE Atlantic Region

- Myrtle Bateman. Waterfowl population monitoring and banding. (Martimes)
- R.G.B. (Dick) Brown. Pelagic ecology and distribution of seabirds.
- Dan Busby. Wildlife toxicology, especially forest sprays on birds.
- John Chardine. Computerized registry of seabird colonies.
- Richard Elliot. Management of Nfld. murre hunt and other man-caused drains on seabird numbers.
- Goudie, I. Waterfowl monitoring and conservation. (Nfld), esp. Common Eider and Harlequin Duck.
- Peter Hicklin. Population ecology of migrant shorebirds and of eiders.
- Bruce Johnson. Endangered species, including Peregrine Falcon and Piping Plover.

A.R. (Tony) Lock. Monitoring and conservation of gulls and terns.

David Nettleship. Breeding and feeding ecology of colonial seabirds.

Gerry Parker. Reproduction and mortality of inland waterfowl.

Peter Pearce. Wildlife toxicology, including forest, agricultural, and industrial chemicals acting on birds.

A.D. (Al) Smith. Migratory bird habitat management, including use of habitat by birds; also Martimes Nest Records.

A.J. (Tony) Erskine. Supervision of above (except Busby, Johnson, Pearce, Smith); involved in various bird atlas projects within Maritimes.

NEWFOUNDLAND INSTITUTE FOR COLD OCEAN SCIENCE

Dr. David C. Schneider (also Biology, Psychology). Investigation of the distribu-

tion of marine birds and capelin schools in relation to coastal upwelling along the Avalon Peninsula.

Dr. Julie M. Porter (also Psychology). Investigating recruitment to the breeding group and the formation of new colonies in the Black-legged Kittiwake. Areas of study include southeastern Newfoundland and Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, using a combination of behavioural, ecological and genetic techniques.

Dr. W. (Bill) Threlfall. Continuing studies on ecto- and endo- parasites of seabirds. Undertaking work on the breeding biology, movements and distribution of gulls. Analysing research on habitat selection by Leach's Storm-Petrels.

Dr. W.A. (Bill) Montevecchi (also NICOS). The study of seabirds as energy consumers and as natural monitors of prey stocks and of oceanographic conditions in marine ecosystems. Radioisotopically

labelled water is being used to directly measure the energy expenditure of free-ranging seabirds that cover the full spectrum of body sizes in the northwest Atlantic (storm-petrels, murres, gannets) and that interact at different levels of marine food webs. Foraging behaviour patterns and prey harvests are the objectives of ongoing studies with Leach's Storm-Petrels and Northern Gannets.

Vicki L. Birt (also Biology, NICOS). Differences in genomic DNA, mitochondrial DNA and proteins of murres and gannets from different colonies are being examined. Data will be used to quantify both the genetic heterogeneity of colonies and the movements of breeding birds between colonies. Molecular markers are also being sought to identify the breeding colonies of murres hunted on their wintering grounds.

Shelly L. Bryant (Biopsychology). Research-

ing the activity patterns of Leach's Storm-Petrels for Masters thesis. A comparison between two colonies is being made, with the principle difference being the presence or absence of breeding gulls at the colony. Activity measures will be carried out through the night and include visual counts of the birds in the air, vocalization counts, mistnetting and the monitoring of individually latticed burrows. Preliminary data suggests Leach's Storm-Petrels at the colony with gulls arrive later than those at the colony without gulls, particularly on bright moonlit nights.

Dr. Anne Storey. Documented the first colony of Manx Shearwaters in North America and have examined the establishment of new colonies. Studied communication and its role in mate attraction in Manx Shearwaters. Investigation of Atlantic Puffins to examine sex-related

differences in activity budgets and opportunities for extra pair copulation.

UNIVERSITE DE SHERBROOKE

Richard Brunet. Influence of circadian endogenous rhythms on dominance and hierarchy.

André Cyr. Frugivory as an alternative strategy for birds.

Marc Gauthier. Energetics of the Cliff Swallow.

Serge Gauthier. Circadian rhythms and social entrainment.

Diane Lacombe: sterilization with LHRH hormones in the Red-winged Blackbird.

TERRA NOVA NATIONAL PARK, GLOVERTOWN, NF.

K.H. Deichmann: Winter ecology of Ruffed and Spruce Grouse and Willow and Rock Ptarmigan.

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