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Editorial Policy

Ontario Birds is the journal of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Its aim is to provide a vehicle for the documentation of the birds of Ontario. We encourage the submission of full length articles or short notes on the status of bird species in Ontario, significant provincial or county distributional records, tips on bird identification, behavioural observations of birds in Ontario, location guides to significant birdwatching areas in Ontario, book reviews and similar

material of interest on Ontario birds. We do not accept submissions dealing with "listing" and we discourage Seasonal Reports of bird sightings as these are covered by *Bird Finding in Canada* and *American Birds*, respectively. Distributional records of species for which the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) requires documentation must be accepted by them before they can be published in *Ontario Birds*.

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Letters to the Editor

More on *Birds of Ontario*

As an author of four books I can imagine the suppressed indignation of Dr. J. Murray Speirs on reading the reviews of his *Birds of Ontario* (*Ontario Birds* 4:73-79). His comments on these reviews, as expressed in the December, 1986 issue of *Ontario Birds* (Vol. 4:82-84) show great restraint.

However, while the geographical separation of author and printer was considerable, I consider that a small handicap. He should have received two sets of galleys, a "virginal" one followed by a corrected one. The two-volume set entitled *Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of the World* was the result of two authors, one stationed in the United States, the other in South Africa. The two books were printed in England, the result being an unblemished one.

Regarding Dr. Speirs' comments on blank pages rather than photographs, he should examine *Every Australian Bird Illustrated*, which is just that. The vast bulk of illustrations are things of beauty but where, apparently, a satisfactory photograph was unobtainable, coloured art was substituted. If readers are now invited to supply and insert photographs of their own choosing, considerable misunderstanding could have been avoided had the jacket of Dr. Speirs' book contained a slash boldly printed: "ILLUSTRATED. U-PICK."

William C. Mansell
Mississauga, Ontario

Killing of birds denounced

The note entitled "Solitary Sandpiper Breeding Records in Northwestern Ontario" (*Ontario Birds* 4:118-119) has left me with a vague sense of unease.

I am unable to reconcile the study of birds with the actual killing of the birds to be studied. Surely with modern technology, actual gonadal study should not be necessary? It is probably more time consuming to actually seek out nesting sites and determine actual breeding attempts by a clutch of eggs. The authors themselves admit to providing "some data to substantiate Peck and James' . . . assertion." Not a very scientific result to justify the killing of ten birds, especially of a species which is not the most plentiful of sandpipers at the best of times.

No laurels either to the Canadian Wildlife Service for issuing "permits" to foreign nationals to blast away in our Northland, as if we didn't suffer from enough hunting in the first place.

I understand the aim of *Ontario Birds* is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and knowledge and indeed you do. However, I question the need for our journal to promote the killing of Canadian avifauna for no discernible gain in knowledge.

Jim Coey
Mississauga, Ontario