

NORTHERN NEWS

NWT/Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey

Since 1995, hundreds of volunteers have participated in the NWT/Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey. Administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service in cooperation with the territorial governments and Parks Canada, the survey is part of a national effort to collect scientific data on the distribution, abundance, and breeding status of birds. The data provided by observers are used by government and non-government organizations in the conservation and management of birds north of 60°. Many researchers or tourists who are interested in birds (and who isn't?) will be heading north this summer. We encourage them to visit the survey website (www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/checklist) to learn more about the program and download the checklist forms.

AINA NEWS

New AINA Board Member

In addition to the six new board members welcomed at the January 2008 meeting of the AINA Board of Directors, another new member, Leon Sorenson, was on hand for the May 2008 board meeting. Mr. Sorenson is currently Vice-President, Arctic Islands, for Petro-Canada. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. He began work with Petro-Canada as a student in their field operations, and was hired immediately after graduating. Since then he has held several managerial roles in various aspects of the North American Natural Gas (NANG) division and was also recently Vice-President of Canadian Operations, NANG.

ASTIS News

The coverage of AINA's Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS) continues to improve on many fronts. Links to the following databases are available on the ASTIS page of the AINA website (arctic.ualgary.ca, and then click on ASTIS in the third column).

- The main ASTIS database now describes 64,200 publications and research projects about northern Canada, and provides URL or DOI links to more than 10,000 online publications.
- The Canadian IPY Publications Database, which was created with seed funding from EnCana Corporation, now also receives major funding from the Government of Canada Program for International Polar Year. The database, which is a subset of the international IPY Publications Database, describes more than 420 Canadian IPY publications.
- Funding for the Circumpolar Health Bibliographic Database has been increased by 50% for fiscal year 2008–09. The database, which currently describes

4000 publications, is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Team in Circumpolar Chronic Disease Prevention.

- The Kluane Lake Research Station Bibliography now describes 750 of the more than 1000 publications that have resulted from research conducted from AINA's Yukon field station. Coverage of biology and high-altitude physiology publications is now more than 90% complete, but coverage of earth science publications is less than 50% complete.
- Foothills Pipe Lines has renewed its support for the Yukon Biodiversity Database for 2008–09. The database, which ASTIS maintains for the Yukon Biodiversity Working Group, contains descriptions of more than 5600 publications and research projects about the biology of the Yukon and the Beaufort Sea.

Annual Report Online

The Arctic Institute's 2007 Annual Report has been released and is available online in PDF format. To view the report, visit http://www.arctic.ualgary.ca/index.php?page=annual_reports.

Arctic Institute in the News

The Arctic continues to hold the attention of national and international news media, and Arctic Institute representatives and research associates are frequently called on for their expert opinions. In the last few months, Benoît Beauchamp, our executive director, has been interviewed by journalists representing the *Calgary Herald*, the *Daily Oil Bulletin*, and the *Petroleum Review*.

Institute Research Associates have been interviewed for Bavarian Radio in Germany, CBC Radio, and the *Globe and Mail*. For a complete list of media appearances, visit the AINA website at http://www.arctic.ualgary.ca/index.php?page=aina_in_the_news.

IPY Book Released

The Arctic Institute has released an updated version of a classic monograph. First published in 1985, *The Expeditions of the First International Polar Year 1882–83*, by AINA research associate Bill Barr, focuses on the 14 expeditions that made up the first International Polar Year (IPY). The new version includes an additional map, an expanded conclusion, a comprehensive index, and a foreword by David Hik, executive director of the Canadian IPY Secretariat.

"We felt the time was right to issue an updated version of this excellent book," says Benoît Beauchamp, the institute's executive director. "Not only is this an International Polar Year, but we are also seeing increased public attention to all things Arctic."

The book is available from the Arctic Institute for \$28.95 plus shipping and handling. To order a copy, down-

load and fill out the order form from the AINA website and mail or fax it to the Arctic Institute.

2008 Scholarship Winners

Marianne Marcoux, a PhD student in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences at McGill University, is the winner of the 2008 Lorraine Allison Scholarship. Marianne is investigating the social organization and communication of narwhals in Milne Inlet, Nunavut. She is also studying the impact of shipping traffic on narwhals.

Joan Bunbury, a PhD student in the Department of Geography at the University of Ottawa, is the 2008 recipient of the Jennifer Robinson Scholarship. Joan's primary objective in her work is to identify the impact of ash deposition from a volcanic event that took place more than 1000 years ago on aquatic ecosystems in southwest Yukon. A second objective is to investigate how aquatic ecosystems of this region have responded to climate change over the past 2000 years.