

# Ornithological Newsletter

American Ornithologists' Union  
Cooper Ornithological Society  
Waterbird Society

Association of Field Ornithologists  
Raptor Research Foundation  
Wilson Ornithological Society

Cheryl L. Trine, Editor

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## ORGANIZATION NEWS

THE *ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER ON-LINE* can be found at <http://www.osnabirds.org/on>. Also, visit OSNA - <http://www.osnabirds.org>  
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RRF - <http://raptorresearchfoundation.org>  
WOS - <http://www.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/birds/wos.html>  
BIRDNET - <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/>

**32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WATERBIRD SOCIETY MEETING REPORT**—The meeting was held on South Padre Island (SPI), Texas, 4-7 Nov 2008 and was attended by 175 registered participants. There were 147 abstracts submitted for the conference, 39 of which were posters and 108 which were oral presentation; 46 (31.3%) of the abstracts were submitted by students. The meeting venue was the SPI Convention Centre and the La Quinta motel, a late substitution for the Sheridan Hotel which had been damaged by Hurricane Dolly. There were two Plenary Presentations: "How Climate Change Might Impact Arctic-breeding Shorebirds: Evidence from Short and Long-term Studies" by Dr. Erica Nol and "Wild Whooping Cranes: Current and Emerging Conservation Issues" by Dr. Felipe Chavez-Ramirez. The Best Student Paper was awarded to Sean Murphy (U.S.) for "Investigating the Demographics of a Shorebird Near the Northern Limit of its Range". There were three Noteworthy Student Papers: Paul Smith (Canada) for "Predator Abundance and Incubation Behavior Explain Interannual and Interspecific Patterns of Nest Success for Arctic Breeding Shorebirds", Melissa Pink (Canada) for "The Role of Changing Aquatic Ecosystems on Avian Predators: Do Forster's Terns Respond to the Aquatic Environment As Well As to Changes in Prey Abundance?" and Elizabeth Bates (U.S.) for "Genetic Diversity and Population Structure of Reddish Egrets in Texas". The Best Student Poster was awarded to Rafael Ordonez (U.S.) for "Simple and Inexpensive Devices to Measure Heart Rate of Incubating Birds". The Noteworthy Student Poster was awarded to Jeff R. Troy (U.S.) for "Reduction in the Breeding Range of Newell's Shearwaters, *Puffinus newelli*, on Kauai, Hawaii: Evidence and Insights from Field Surveys and GIS Modelling". There were daily field trips in the area as well as a Saturday evening banquet and Silent Auction featuring a variety of unique ornithological items. Next year's conference is scheduled for Cape May, New Jersey, on **4-7 Nov 2009** (see details elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter).

**NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP CLASSES OF FELLOW AND ELECTIVE MEMBER** of the AOU must be received **by 15 Mar 2009**. Fellows and Elective Members are encouraged to submit nominations of deserving colleagues. Consult the AOU website (URL: <http://www.aou.org/members/nominations/index.php3>) or *Ornithological Newsletter 186*, Oct 2008 (URL: <http://www.osnabirds.org/on/186.htm>) or contact Secretary SARA R. MORRIS (EM: [aousecretary@aou.org](mailto:aousecretary@aou.org)) for more information.

**STUDENTS - FREE MEMBERSHIP!** The Cooper Ornithological Society is always interested in getting more graduate students involved and provides free student memberships each year. These student awards cover costs of membership for two years and carry full membership benefits including online access to the *Condor*, providing an important launch into ornithological careers at an early stage. To apply, simply send a CV of the student and a cover letter from the major professor that describes why the student deserves the award. Deadline for receipt of applications is **15 Mar 2009**. Send application materials by e-mail or post to: SHELDON J. COOPER, Department of Biology & Microbiology, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, 800 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh, WI 54901-8640 (EM: [cooper@uwosh.edu](mailto:cooper@uwosh.edu)).

**NOMINATIONS FOR AOU OFFICERS AND ELECTIVE COUNCILORS** must be received by the Secretary four months before the Stated Meeting, i.e., **by 12 Apr 2009** (four months prior to the Stated Meeting). Consult the AOU website (URL: <http://www.aou.org/members/nominations/index.php3>) or *Ornithological Newsletter 186*, Oct 2008 (URL: <http://www.osnabirds.org/on/186.htm>) or contact Secretary SARA R. MORRIS (EM: [aousecretary@aou.org](mailto:aousecretary@aou.org)) for more information.

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NEW CHIEF FOR THE BIRD BANDING LABORATORY** – Bruce Peterjohn arrived as the new chief of the BBL on 14 Oct 2008. His Federal service began in Mar 1991 as Coordinator of the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. He remained in that position through 1998, making the transition with the BBS to the U.S. Geological Survey. He subsequently served as a Wildlife Biologist at Patuxent working on a variety of bird population monitoring activities for passerines, marsh birds, shorebirds, and other taxa. He brings additional experience from his involvement in developing data management systems for Breeding Bird Atlases, point counts, and secretive marsh bird surveys. Trained as a hummingbird bander in 2006, he brings a banding perspective to this position while his ornithological publications attest to his general interest and knowledge of birds. He is pleased to join the BBL and looks forward to working with the banding community to meet the lab's future challenges.

**CALIFORNIA CONDOR MILESTONE REACHED**—For the first time since the beginning of the condor recovery program, there are more condors flying free than there are in captivity. Nine wild-hatched California Condor chicks fledged from their nests this fall. This brings the world's population of California Condors now flying in the wild to 169 – 67 in Arizona, 83 in California, and 19 in Mexico. The condor recovery plan calls for at least 150 members in each of three populations, including at least 15 breeding pairs. Nine wild chicks have hatched in the Grand Canyon since 2003, eight are of which are still alive. The most serious challenge to recovery is lead poisoning from uncollected carcasses of animals shot with lead ammunition. In the vicinity of the Grand Canyon, an awareness campaign by researchers, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and local hunting groups has encouraged more hunters to voluntarily switch to copper bullets or other non-lead alternatives when hunting in condor country, with a corresponding drop in condor deaths due to lead poisoning. "We are grateful to all the hunters who are valued partners in restoring California Condors to their historic range," Bill Heinrich of The Peregrine Fund said. Still, every condor has to be captured twice a year and tested for lead poisoning. Bill warned that "Until we significantly reduce the amount of lead they are exposed to, we will never have a self-sustaining population of condors."

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**POSTMASTER:** Send address change to ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER, 5400 Bosque Blvd., Suite 680, Waco, TX 76710.

SOCORRO DOVE CONSERVATION--Partners of the Socorro Dove Project are pleased to announce the arrival of captive-bred Socorro Doves at the Albuquerque Zoo, an important step toward their eventual reintroduction to the wild. The Socorro Dove Project is an international endeavor of more than 25 institutions in twelve countries whose common objective is to return the rare Socorro Dove, which is now extinct in the wild, to its ancestral home on Socorro Island in the Revillagigedo Archipelago, México. The Socorro Dove Project began 20 years ago. This species was saved from extinction thanks to individuals brought to California by a California Academy of Science's Expedition from the Revillagigedo Islands in the 1920s. Their offspring were later shared with private aviculturists in both the United States and Europe. The European Endangered Species Program (EEP) of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) today manages the only population with a genetic make up consistent with pure Socorro Doves. Steps are being taken for the dove's repatriation in Mexico. The Mexican Navy, the Island Endemics Foundation and Endemicos Insulares have built a state-of-the-art breeding station on Socorro Island. The breeding program on the island will be coordinated by Island Endemics/Endemicos Insulares in close co-operation with the EEP and the support of curators and breeders from several partner institutions of the Socorro Dove Project around the globe. The Socorro island breeding program will begin when the basic habitat requirements for the species are achieved. In 1994 the Revillagigedo Archipelago was declared a biosphere reserve, and work to improve the natural habitats should benefit other endangered Socorro species as well.

**RAPTOR WORKSHOP:** Accredited through University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. A 5-day workshop entitled "Introduction to Raptor Field Techniques" will be held in Stevens Point, WI by Eugene Jacobs of the Linwood Springs Research Station and Loren Ayers of the Wis. Dept. of Natural Resources. It's scheduled to **begin on Monday afternoon 8 Jun and continue through Friday, 12 Jun 2009**. Receive first hand experience working with live raptors while you develop skills with: capturing, handling, banding techniques, tree climbing and rappelling, blood extractions, habitat sampling and more. Cost is \$425 and space is limited, so register early. For more information and a registration form visit (URL: <http://www.RaptorResearch.com>).

#### NEWS FROM THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Provided by DAVID E. BLOCKSTEIN, Chair (EM: [oc@cnie.org](mailto:oc@cnie.org)), and ELLEN PAUL, Executive Director (EM: [ellen.paul@verizon.net](mailto:ellen.paul@verizon.net)), the Ornithological Council. Major funding for the Ornithological Council is provided by its eleven member societies: American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, CIPAMEX, Cooper Ornithological Society, Neotropical Ornithological Society, Pacific Seabird Group, Raptor Research Foundation, Society of Canadian Ornithologists, Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, Waterbird Society, and Wilson Ornithological Society. We also appreciate the support of individual ornithologists; contributions can be made when you renew your membership in any of the OSNA societies (on paper or online at <http://www.osnabirds.org/>). Those who are not members of one of the six societies that send a membership renewal notice through OSNA (American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society, Raptor Research Foundation, Waterbird Society, and Wilson Ornithological Society), can contribute directly through PayPal (URL: [https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_sxclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=750884](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_sxclick&hosted_button_id=750884)) using your free PayPal account or a credit card or by check (payable to the Ornithological Council and mailed to 8722 Preston Place, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, USA). Thank you for helping the Ornithological Council in its efforts to keep the world safe for ornithology!

**NEW INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO PROTECT WATERBIRDS** - At the Oct 2008 meet of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (URL: <http://www.ramsar.org>), participating countries approved a resolution vowing to co-operate to protect migratory waterbirds and their habitats. "Waterbird populations around the world are continuing to decline as a result of the loss and degradation of wetland habitats and their unsustainable exploitation," said BirdLife's head of conservation, Richard Grimmett. "This resolution recognizes the crucial fact that

conserving the world's waterbirds is an international challenge. Only by working together along flyways can we effectively conserve our precious migratory birds." The Ramsar Resolution on Flyways, as the new agreement has been named, agreed to protect the habitats like tidal flats where the birds come to winter or spend the summer, and to monitor the state of different populations.

**ARE YOU PLANNING TO ATTEND THE AFO/WOS MEETING IN PITTSBURGH (Apr 2009)?** Be sure to plan your travel to arrive in time to attend a special workshop on Thursday, 9 Apr 2009 (1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.). At the request of AFO and WOS leadership, the OC has organized this workshop on the animal welfare laws in the United States and the way those laws impact ornithological research. Speakers will include Darrel Styles, DVM and Jodie Kulpa-Eddy, DVM, both of the Animal Care program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Eileen Morgan of the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare of the National Institutes of Health. Morgan will give an overview and discuss the revision of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the "ILAR Guide"), a key publication from the National Research Council of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. She will also discuss the involvement of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees in occupational safety and health issues. Styles will speak about the pending revision of the AWA guidelines with regard to rats, mice, and birds and Kulpa-Eddy will talk about the "3Rs" principles of animal welfare in research - replacement (with non-animal models), reduction (in the number of animals studied), and refinement (of methods)—particularly the refinement (of methods). Todd Katzner of the National Aviary will represent the views and experiences of the research community. This workshop will give everyone a chance to ask questions and share concerns with the decision-makers, who rarely have an opportunity to meet with scientists who study wildlife. Please be sure to plan your travel so you can participate in this workshop.

**IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND THE AOU MEETING IN Aug 2009** - (in Philadelphia - see <http://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/default.htm>), please be sure to plan to arrive early enough (on Wednesday morning) so you can attend a really great workshop organized by the Ornithological Council on data archiving. Many scientific societies and other organizations have already established data archives, and in the near future, data archiving likely will become routine, so this is a good time to learn all about it. Ornithology is rich in data that are underutilized because they are not accessible. Ornithologists conduct research projects, collect data, analyze data, and publish papers. The data then go silent, vanquished to the attic in boxes full of note cards and field notebooks, cabinets full of punch cards, old magnetic tape, floppy disks (in one of 22 formats and three sizes), CDs, and USB storage devices. Most is never to be seen again. Decades of data are disappearing rapidly and irretrievably because the scientists who collected the data had no opportunity to archive it in a physical or electronic form. Whether on paper or in some kind of electronic medium, datasets collected over the past century could contribute greatly to our knowledge of avian biology. These data can, if liberated from their unmarked graves in their data cemeteries, answer many more questions, especially in conjunction with other datasets. Many other scientific disciplines, realizing the value of the data generated today and yesterday, have already established data archives. Ornithology benefits from their trail-blazing and lessons-learned, in that we now have a body of experience to draw upon in creating an ornithological data archive. We plan to discuss three fundamental topics: a) An overview of data sharing and archiving - the value (and limitations) of shared data, technical details of archiving and data sharing; b) Metadata - a critically necessary exercise; and c) Technical methods and practices to balance the interests and rights of researchers with the value of shared data. Invited speakers include the leading lights of data archiving: Town Peterson, University of Kansas (Ornis), Steve Kelling, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (Avian Knowledge Network), Bill Michener, University of New Mexico (LTER, NCEAS/ESA, and Dryad), Falk Huettmann, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska (OBIS-Seamap), Vivian Hutchison (USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure), Matt Jones, NCEAS Knowledge Network for Biodiversity (Ecological Metadata Language), and Anne Barrett Clark (SUNY Binghamton (EthoData and ABOCore).

PETITION ON OPEN ACCESS - The Ornithological Council is a long-time member and strong supporter of the DC Principles Coalition. This coalition of not-for-profit scientific society publishers is concerned about the impact of legally mandated open access requirements. Like the DC Principles, the Ornithological Council supports the concept of open access to scientific literature but is concerned that each society be given the opportunity to make its journals available in a way that does not jeopardize revenue. Many ornithological societies already make most of their back issues available for free and are exploring ways to continue doing so. A federal law that requires them to make the literature available for free immediately upon publication or within a few months may cause such a significant loss of revenue that the existence of the society is jeopardized. Therefore, we encourage ornithologists to sign this online petition (URL: [http://www.dcpinciples.org/DCPS\\_PETITION/DCPS\\_PETITION/Petition.aspx](http://www.dcpinciples.org/DCPS_PETITION/DCPS_PETITION/Petition.aspx)): We, the undersigned, believe that our society supports the broad and timely dissemination of research findings through their journals while providing the financial resources needed to support the training and development of the next generation of scientists. As a member of the DC Principles Coalition for Free Access to Science, my society is committed to innovative and independent publishing practices and to promoting the wide dissemination of information in our journals to the scholarly community and the public. My society works in partnership with scholarly communities to ensure that these communities are sustained and extended, science is advanced, research meets the highest standards, and patient care is enhanced with accurate and timely information. My society reinvests the revenue from their journals in the support of science worldwide, including scholarships, scientific meetings, grants, educational outreach, advocacy for research funding, free dissemination of information for the public, and improvements in scientific publishing. These revenues are also invested in the professional and academic development of the next generation of scientists, through awards and fellowships to junior faculty, postdoctoral fellows and graduate and undergraduate students. For these reasons, we the undersigned do not support Congressional efforts to mandate when journal access must be provided and thus undermine my society's efforts to promote the development of the next generation of scientists and sustain innovative publishing.

WE DID OUR BEST - In its waning days, the Bush Administration issued the regulation that all but eliminates the requirement that federal agencies must consult with the USFWS Division of Endangered Species to determine the potential impact of their proposed activities on endangered and threatened species. The Ornithological Council, together with the Wildlife Society and the Society for Conservation Biology, filed extensive comments opposing this regulatory change, which would leave the determination to agencies that have little or no scientific capacity. The American Ornithologists' Union also submitted comments objecting to the change. We had hoped that the Administration would decide against finalizing this regulation, as there had been signs in the past two weeks that they were giving up on other controversial proposals. This ESA proposal, which was badly flawed from a legal point of view, including the failure to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, seemed a likely candidate for the chopping block. Sadly, that was not to be. Lawsuits have already been filed, and federal district court likely will issue an injunction against implementation of the new regulation, most likely on the basis that no EIS was prepared. The Obama Administration is unlikely to appeal that court order, so this new rule will die a hasty death.

USFWS TO RESTRICT CONTROL ACTIVITIES FOR RUSTY BLACKBIRDS, TAMAULIPAS CROW - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently released a Proposed Rule to remove two species, the Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) and the Mexican (Tamaulipas) Crow (*Corvus imparatus*) from the list of species that may be controlled under the depredation order for blackbirds, cowbirds, grackles, crows, and magpies. Currently, this regulation allows control of yellow-headed, red-winged, rusty, and Brewer's blackbirds, cowbirds, all grackles, crows, and magpies, without a permit, "when found committing or about to commit depredations upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock, or wildlife, or when concentrated in such numbers and manner as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance." The proposed rule would now require a separate depredation permit to conduct control actions to take either of these species. "In keeping with our responsibilities to ensure the stability of migratory bird populations, we have determined that these two species warrant more careful

management than we can accomplish under the existing depredation order," said Service Director H. Dale Hall. "We're undertaking this regulations change to require more careful control actions by individuals and agencies." In the regulations change, the Service also proposes to require the use of nontoxic shot or bullets when a firearm is used to control any species listed under the depredation order, and to require reporting on control actions taken under the order.

## REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

RUSTY BLACKBIRD BLITZ – Volunteers are being sought to help locate wintering concentrations of Rusty Blackbirds in order to hopefully get more accurate population numbers. The intent is to have an all out "blitz" to locate Rusty Blackbirds in order to create a map of wintering Rusty Blackbird "hot spots" that will help focus future research, monitoring, and conservation attention. During **7 - 15 Feb 2009**, volunteers are being asked to search in any locations and habitats deemed as potentially suitable for wintering Rusty Blackbirds, particularly for sizable flocks or concentrations of birds (i.e., dozens or even hundreds of birds). Areas of note will be revisited in the future to determine if they are indeed Rusty Blackbird hot spots. Search efforts will be concentrated in the east-central United States, from eastern Nebraska to eastern Texas, and from southern New Jersey to Florida. The search effort is being led by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center along with assistance from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, all of which will be using eBird as the vehicle for data collection. Instructions and information on the identification, habitat preferences, range map, and general protocols for the Rusty Blackbird count can be found on-line (URL: [http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Research/Rusty\\_Blackbird/blitz.cfm](http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Research/Rusty_Blackbird/blitz.cfm) and <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/bird-watchers-urgently-needed-to-track-rusty>).

## POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

The Positions and Opportunities section is available only in the on-line edition. This information can be accessed from the Ornithological Newsletter Home Page <<http://www.osnabirds.org/on>>, or directly at <<http://www.osnabirds.org/on/ornjobs.htm>>. Submissions can be made any time, and are posted free of charge. Please send submissions to Ornithological Newsletter Editor, Cheryl Trine, (EM: [ctrine@andrews.edu](mailto:ctrine@andrews.edu)).

AN E-LIST SERVICE is available. Subscribers to this list will receive the same new announcements that appear on-line. E-list members often receive these announcements before they are posted on-line. To subscribe, send the following message to: <[lyris@cornell.edu](mailto:lyris@cornell.edu)>, in the body of the message type: join Birdjobs-L "your name". The subject line should be blank. **Please use the "plain text only" e-mail format option, include your own name in the message, and put quotation marks around your name.**

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

FOR INFORMATION ON CONTINUING GRANTS PROGRAMS relevant to ornithological research, visit: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/grants/index.html>

THE RECIPIENT OF THE BRUCE NAYLOR AWARD for 2008 is DR. JON C. BARLOW, a respected scientist who devoted his career to the study of bird evolution. This national award, presented by the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada (ANHMC), recognizes exceptional contributions to the study of museum-based natural history in Canada. Dr. Barlow is best known in museum circles as the Curator of Ornithology at Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) - a position he held for 35 years until 2001. He also led the University of Toronto's Museum Studies Program, inspiring numerous students to pursue careers in natural sciences and museum administration. His unique combination of talents – researcher, collector, curator, educator, mentor, editor, administrator and larger-than-life personality – transformed the

ornithology program into a flagship department at the ROM. His research focused on avian vocalization, specializing in the study of vireos. Over the course of his career, Barlow personally contributed more than 6,000 specimens to the provincial bird collection, building it into one of the largest in the world. "Jon's contributions as an ornithologist alone qualify him for recognition, but it is his leadership of the Museum Studies Program at the University of Toronto, his roles with the Ontario Museum Association and Metro Toronto Zoo, and his training of a future generation of museum workers that single him out as an exceptional award recipient," says Dr. Bruce McGillivray, current Director of the Royal Alberta Museum, former undergraduate student of Barlow's and long-time research collaborator.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE D.H. SPEIRS AWARD**—The Doris Huestis Speirs Award, the most prestigious award given by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions to Canadian ornithology. Past awardees include professionals who work at museums, government agencies, private companies and universities, as well as amateur ornithologists. To nominate a candidate for the Speirs award please provide the Chair of the award committee with the name of the nominee and supporting information that describes the nature and scope of the nominee's contributions and impact in Canadian ornithology. This could include their efforts to advance conservation, science, public education, or some combination of these or other contribution(s). Membership in the SCO is not required for either nominators or nominees. Nominations for the 2009 award may be sent to: DR. MARTY LEONARD, Department of Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4J1 (PH: 902-494-3540; FX: 902-494-1123, EM: mleonard@dal.ca). Nominations will be accepted until **1 Jun 2009**. For more information on the award and previous award winners go to the website (URL: [http://www.sco-soc.ca/speirs\\_award.htm](http://www.sco-soc.ca/speirs_award.htm)).

#### PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

**ERRATA:** In the December issue, the first announcement for Publications Available has an incorrect phone number – the area code should be area code **617** not 607. The correct phone number of the Bird Department, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University is 617-495-2471

**MOLT AND AGING CRITERIA FOR FOUR NORTH AMERICAN GRASSLAND PASSERINES.**, USFWS report by Pyle, P., S.L. Jones, and J. M. Ruth. 2008. U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological Technical Publication, FWS/BTP-R6011-2008, Washington, D.C. The species that are covered with detailed accounts are: Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*), Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus saviannarum*), Baird's Sparrow (*A. bairdii*), Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*). Paper copies are available from STEPHANIE JONES (EM: stephanie\_jones@fws.gov) or from the primary author (EM: ppyle@birdpop.org). Please remember to include your postal address! Web copies will be available at a later date, at the FWS library below. FWS has published a number of Biological Technical publications recently, and the list of these is on the web (URL: <http://library.fws.gov/BTP/index.htm>). Paper copies of most of these are still available from Stephanie Jones.

**RARE BIRDS YEARBOOK 2009**, Erik Hirschfeld, ed., 2008. MagDig Media, Shropshire, England. 276 pp. Softcover, ISBN: 978-0-9552607-5-9. Produced in close association with BirdLife International, the *Rare Birds Yearbook 2009* covers all 190 Critically Endangered species of the world, according to the latest IUCN Redlist. In this revised edition more than 130 photos, taken by both amateur and professional photographers, have been replaced since last year, and the species texts themselves have been fully updated in the majority of cases and are accompanied by distribution maps. The threats to each species are graphically presented in a new, easy layout. New features this year include varied topics such as the reintroduction of the California Condor, bamboo specialists, philosophical conservation issues, and more. The good news—six species have been downlisted since last year. The bad news—eight new species have been upgraded to Critically Endangered. For orders, please see the website or phone (URL: <http://www.rarebirdsyearbook.com>, PH: +46 703 97 09 94).

**CARIBBEAN BIRD SONG: Puerto Rico south to Grenada, with the Bahamas, Caymans & San Andrés**, by: Mark Oberle, 2008. 3-disk audio CD. Cornell Lab of Ornithology. 283 species are included. This audio guide offers residents, visitors, and ornithologists a survey of bird sounds from Puerto Rico south through the Lesser Antilles to Grenada, as well as the Bahamas, Turks & Caicos, Caymans and San Andrés. URL: <http://www.onlinenaturemail.com/Products2/clo79.html>

**A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY**, Mark W. Lockwood, William B. McKinney, James N. Paton, and Barry R. Zimmer, 2008. American Birding Association, Inc. 328 pp., softcover. ISBN: 1-878788-49-3 (\$23.95). The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of this Rio Grande Valley birder's guide has been thoroughly revised. It will help you locate both the specialty birds—those not occurring elsewhere in North America—and the more common birds of the region. Routes are described to help you make the most of your visit at any time of year. The guide deviates from "the Valley" to cover the Edwards Plateau, the Davis Mountains, the Pecos Valley, and Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Special attention is given to the world-renowned regional hotspots. In addition to descriptions of more than 230 birding sites, the authors—all of them long-time Texas birders—have completely updated the Annotated Checklist, covering more than 500 species. Website (URL: <http://www.abasales.com/>)

**A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO ALASKA**, George C. West, 2008. American Birding Association, Inc. 662 pp., more than 120 maps. This long-awaited 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition gives you the detailed information you need to find Alaska's birds. More than 60 locations are covered in this updated edition, including the state's entire road system. Special attention is given to providing birding information for the larger communities and popular tourist destinations: The status of more than 500 species of birds in Alaska—and dozens of field-identifiable subspecies—is treated in the Annotated List. Website (URL: <http://www.abasales.com/>)

#### PERSONAL EXCHANGES

**FOR SALE**—Stoddard's monumental *Bobwhite Quail: Its habits, preservation, and increase* (1932). \$100.00. Palmer's *Handbook of North American Birds*, 5 volumes. \$90.00. All in excellent condition. Buyer pays shipping cost. DAVID W. JOHNSTON (EM: [fordeboids@verizon.net](mailto:fordeboids@verizon.net)).

#### MEETINGS

A 'permanent' meeting list is maintained on BIRDNET (URL: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/ornith/birdmeet.html>) showing the planned sites and dates of ornithological meetings as far into the future as possible.

**LOOKING FOR THE WEB SITE** of an ornithological meeting or conference? Visit <http://www.birdmeetings.org> to find links and to post a link to your meeting.

\* in this section indicates new or revised entry

**36<sup>th</sup> PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP MEETING, 22-25 Feb 2009** at the Hakodate Kokusai Hotel, Hokkaido Hakodate, Japan. For details, visit the PSG website (URL: <http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org/>).

**BIRD EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE**—The Council for Environmental Education (CEE), Flying WILD, and the Bird Education Network (BEN) will host *Bird Conservation through Education: A National Gathering* in Jekyll Island, Georgia, (**22 – 26 Feb 2009**) at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel along the Colonial Coast Birding Trail in Georgia. For more information visit URL: <http://www.birdeducation.org/jekyllisland.htm> or contact the Council for Environmental Education (PH: 713-520-1936, EM: [info@councilforee.org](mailto:info@councilforee.org)).

**5<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL HORNBILL CONFERENCE, 22–25 Mar 2009**, Singapore Botanic Gardens. Sponsored by the National Parks Board Singapore, and Hornbill Research Foundation, the theme of the conference is 'Hornbills and the Challenges of the Future'. More information is available at <http://www.nparks.gov.sg/hornbillconference/>

2<sup>ND</sup> PAN-EUROPEAN DUCK SYMPOSIUM to be held in Arles, Camargue (Southern France), **23-26 Mar 2009**, sponsored by The French National Game and Wildlife Agency (Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage). To join the mailing list, or for any further information, please contact us (EM: matthieu.guillemain@oncfs.gouv.fr). Conference web page (URL: <http://www.oncfs.gouv.fr/evenements/duckssymposium.php>).

SEABIRD GROUP 10<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE will be held in Bruges (Brugge), Belgium, on **27-30 Mar 2009**. Papers on all aspects of seabird research and conservation will be welcomed; in addition to keynote presentations, there will be a special session on 'Seabird Success Stories'. The Chairpersons of the Organizing Committee are ERIC STIENEN (Research Institute for Nature and Forest: INBO) and JAN SAYS (Flanders Marine Institute: VLIZ). Address general queries, abstracts and registrations to the Conference Secretariat EM: seabirdconf2009@vliz.be). Additional information is on the websites (URL: <http://www.seabirdgroup.org.uk> and <http://www.vliz.be/conferences/seabirdconference2009.be>).

\*AFO – WOS JOINT MEETING IN 2009: The Wilson Ornithological Society and the Association of Field Ornithologists will hold their annual meetings jointly from **9-12 Apr 2009** in Pittsburgh, PA. The meeting will be hosted by the National Aviary and the Powdermill Nature Reserve of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Information regarding the meeting venue, hotel, places to visit, and call for papers is available at (URL: <http://www.wosafo2009.org/jointConf.php>). Abstracts **due 28 Feb 2009**. Registration begins in Jan 2009. Plan to join us. April is an ideal time to see early spring migrants in western Pennsylvania. There will be many fascinating presentations and posters featuring the latest ornithological research and opportunities to interact with other ornithologists. For additional information, contact: TODD KATZNER, Chair Local Committee (EM: todd.katzner AT aviary.org), ANDREW FARNSWORTH, AFO Scientific Committee, (EM: af27 AT cornell.edu), BOB BEASON, WOS Scientific Committee (EM: rbeason AT verizon.net).

\*79<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY will be held in Tucson, Arizona on **16-18 Apr** at the Tucson Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park. All information about the meeting, including registration and abstract submission, can be found at the meeting website (URL: <http://www.birdmeetings.org/cos2009>). To save paper and costs, the Circular of Information will be mailed only to members who do not use e-mail. Dr. Joseph Fontaine (EM: fontaine.joseph AT gmail.com) is chair of the local committee. Dr. Alexander Badyaev has agreed to give what is sure to be an exciting Plenary Address on the opening morning (17th). An opening reception will start the meeting on the evening of Thursday, 16 Apr 2009, and scientific sessions will take place on Friday and Saturday (17-18 Apr). Workshops and student activities will be held on Thursday, 16 Apr. Lunch will be provided on-site and is included in the registration costs both days (Friday and Saturday) of the scientific sessions. On Saturday, this on-site lunch will be a way to increase student interactions with professionals. The deadline for abstract submissions is **30 Jan 2009**. Tucson is a beautiful location for ornithologists in April and the Tucson Audubon Society is arranging field trips and bird walks. Schneider Group is in charge of meeting arrangements and can be contacted at (EM: cos2009 AT sgmeet.com, PH: 1-254-776-3550).

46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SOCIETY, **22-26 Jun 2009**. Pirenópolis, Brazil. For the first time in its history of annual meetings, the Animal Behavior Society will hold its conference outside of North America. The meeting in Brazil provides a gateway to the most active research centers both within the country as well as in neighboring South American countries. We expect to have a large number of researchers from North, Central and South America attending the meeting, forging new collaborations and exchanging cultural experiences. The meeting venue will be the Pousada dos Pireneus (URL: <http://www.pousadadospireneus.com.br>), located near the town's historical center. Plenary Speakers: Richard Dawkins, Oxford University; Dan Rubenstein, Princeton University; and Marlene Zuk, University of California at Riverside. For additional information, see: (URL: <http://www.animalbehavior.org>). Contact: REGINA MACEDO (EM: rhmacedo@unb.br).

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS, Urban Wildlife Ecology and Management: An International Symposium on Urban Wildlife and the Environment, University of Massachusetts, Amherst **21-24 Jul 2009**. Potential topics for presentations and symposia may include ecology of wildlife in urban areas, management of human-urban wildlife conflicts, improved conservation of urban wildlife through urban planning, landscape architecture, and wildlife-friendly development, and international urban wildlife ecology and management. More information is available at (URL: [http://www.people.umass.edu/sdestef/urban\\_conference.html](http://www.people.umass.edu/sdestef/urban_conference.html)).

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION will hold its 127th Stated Meeting in Philadelphia, **12-15 Aug 2009**. The meeting, co-hosted by Villanova University and the University of Pennsylvania, will take place on the UPenn campus. Dr. Robert Curry, Villanova University, is the Chair of the Committee on Local Arrangements; Dr. David White, UPenn, is the Local Host. The conference will feature three days of contributed scientific papers, posters, invited speakers, and symposia; evening events hosted by the Philadelphia Zoo and the Academy of Natural Sciences; special activities for students; and field trips before and after the conference, showcasing especially the peak of Delaware Bay shorebird migration. Accommodations at UPenn will include suite-style dormitory rooms and hotels adjacent to campus. The meeting's location will provide easy access to the many historical and cultural attractions of Philadelphia—the "birthplace of American ornithology." Deadline for presentation abstracts will be **1 May 2009**; the application deadline for student travel and presentation awards will be **1 Apr 2009**. For additional information, visit the conference web site (URL: <http://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/>); information about costs and registration will be available there soon.

RRF 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - SCOTLAND. For the first time in the society's history, the annual conference (2009) will be held outside of the Americas, to reflect the global interests of the membership. This historic six-day event will be held in Pitlochry, Scotland from **29 Sep - 4 Oct 2009**, hosted by the Scottish Raptor Study Group. Social events include an exclusive evening party at a magnificent Scottish castle and there are 11 field trip options to some of the country's premiere wildlife sites, including the Isle of Mull and Speyside/Cairngorm Mountains. Numbers are limited to 300 delegates so early booking is advisable. Tickets are selling fast and, to date, delegates from 23 countries have already registered. Please visit the conference website to find out how you can register.

\*The 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WATERBIRD SOCIETY—Notice of Meeting and Call for Symposia. The meeting will be held **4-7 Nov 2009** at Cape May, New Jersey, and will be hosted by the New Jersey Audubon Society. This is the first time the meeting has been held on the northeast coast since 2000 and we are expecting a large turnout of long-time members and students. The Local Organizing Committee is co-chaired by David Mizrahi (EM: david.mizrahi@njaudubon.org) and Nellie Tsipoura (EM: nellie.tsipoura@njaudubon.org). This is the first call for Symposium topics and we are excited to announce that the following topics have already been suggested: 1. Citizen Science Projects, led by Nellie Tsipoura, 2. Biology of the Great Egret, led by John Brzorad (EM: brzoradj@lrc.edu) and Alan Maccarone (EM: AlanM@friends.edu), 3. Waterbirds as indicators of environmental health, led by David Evers (EM: david.evers@briloon.org) and 4. Waterbirds and offshore wind turbines, co-led by Christina Kisiel (EM: ckisiel@hughes.net). Additional suggestions (and leaders) for other Symposia are being solicited at this time. Please send suggestions to the Chair of the Scientific Program (EM: chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca). The Society would like to make a sincere invitation to European ornithologists to consider attending this meeting. The major New York area airports (JFK and LaGuardia airports in New York City; and airports at Newark, New Jersey and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) are conveniently accessed from Europe and the Cape May venue is within easy driving distance from those airports or from the regional airport at Atlantic City, New Jersey. A symposium on waterbird species common to North America and Europe might be an interesting one to pursue. An array of exciting field trips is planned for the Cape May area. There will be both pre- and post-meeting field trip opportunities, so plan on spending a couple extra days in the area. For more information, please see our Society web page (URL: <http://www.waterbirds.org/>). Also, please visit the New Jersey Audubon Society web page (URL: <http://njaudubon.org>). Details on accommodation and registration are not yet available but check the above web pages periodically.

25<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS 2010 Call for Symposia Proposals (**22-28 Aug 2010**) Campos do Jordão, Brazil. The Scientific Program Committee has been formed and a web page is in place (<http://www.i-o-c.org> or <http://www.ib.usp.br/25ioc>). We hope that you will circle these dates on your calendar and plan to attend! For further information, please contact PROF. DR. CRISTINA YUMI MIYAKI, Secretary-General of the 25<sup>th</sup> IOC (EM: [ioc2010@ib.usp.br](mailto:ioc2010@ib.usp.br)).

#### NEWS OF MEMBERS

BILL BROCKNER, a Life Member of the AOU since 1952 passed way at age 93 on 19 Nov 2008 in Evergreen, OR. Bill was born in Buffalo, NY, but lived for many years in Colorado where he was active in numerous birding and conservation organizations, wrote columns for *The Dipper* and the *Canyon Courier*. He was President of the Buffalo Ornithological Society, and the Conservation Forum of Western New York, and a welcome participant in many other service organizations.

JOHN HAGAN is now President of Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences as of 1 Oct 2008. Dr. Hagan, who has been with Manomet for more than 20 years, most recently as Director of Natural Capital, steps into the role of President as Manomet enters its third institutional phase. As the result of a 2006 institutional strategic plan, Manomet will maintain its mission of "conserving natural resources for the benefit of wildlife and human populations," while building new programs to create sustainable, integrated ecological, economic and social systems. Dr. Hagan succeeds Linda Leddy, who is retiring as President after 25 years. During her tenure, Manomet evolved from a respected regional bird observatory to a nationally recognized center for conservation sciences. Ms. Leddy is joining the Board of Trustees as Vice-Chair for Institutional Advancement.

MARK HAUBER has moved from New Zealand to New York City to take up a job as Associate Professor in the Animal Behavior and Conservation program at the Department of Psychology, Hunter College, CUNY. His new email is (EM: [mark.hauber@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:mark.hauber@hunter.cuny.edu)).

KATHLEEN KLIMKIEWICZ member of the AOU since 1972 and Elective Member since 1985, passed away on 6 Nov 2008 at the age of 63 in Laurel, Maryland. Kathy joined the Bird Banding Lab in Apr 1973. A Master bander since 1966, she used her extensive knowledge of bird banding to advance the goals of the BBL for more than 30 years. She went out of her way to help foster an interest in birds within a number of young people in the DC area who later went on to successful careers or avocations in ornithology.

#### THE FLOCK - SPECIAL SECTION

To correct your address in the membership database please send the new information to the OSNA Business Office, 5400 Bosque Blvd., Suite 680, Waco, TX 76710 (EM: [business@osnabirds.org](mailto:business@osnabirds.org), PH: 254-399-9636, FX: 254-776-3767) or change it yourself online (URL: <http://www.osnabirds.org>). To alert your colleagues of new address information, contact the *Ornithological Newsletter* Editor, CHERYL L. TRINE (EM: [ctrine@andrews.edu](mailto:ctrine@andrews.edu)).

#### ADDRESS CHANGES:

HAUBER, MARK. EM: [mark.hauber@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:mark.hauber@hunter.cuny.edu)

JEHL, JOSEPH R. EM: [grebe5k@verizon.net](mailto:grebe5k@verizon.net)

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THE MOST RECENT NUMBERS of the Society journals and the month of mailing are: *Auk*, 2008, Vol. 125, #4 (Nov); *Condor*, 2008, Vol. 110, #4 (Jan); *J. Field Ornith.*, 2008, Vol. 79, #4 (Dec); *Raptor Res.*, 2008, Vol. 42, #4 (Dec); *Waterbirds*, 2008, Vol. 31, #4 (Jan); *Wilson J. Ornith.*, 2008, Vol. 120, #4 (Dec). Numbers follow at about 3-month intervals. If you are missing an issue, please contact OSNA. New members receive the first issue of the volume year. Please check your address label to confirm membership information and address.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be issued in April. Items you wish to have included must reach the Editor, CHERYL L. TRINE, 3889 E. Valley View, Berrien Springs, MI 49103 (PH: 269-471-7886; EM: [ctrine@andrews.edu](mailto:ctrine@andrews.edu)), **by 1 March 2009**. Submission by email (in the body of the email message--not an attached file) or on diskette (PC format: WordPerfect or ASCII) with hard copy; e-mail preferred. Items sent to the OSNA office may not reach the Editor in time. Items with deadline dates should be submitted at least four months in advance of that date to allow time for response.