

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:
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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/>

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED FOR COS-AOU-SCO 2010 MEETING 7-11 FEBRUARY!!! The student committees are in great need of donations for the silent auction! The funds from the auction will be used in funding student activities and participation in future joint ornithological society meetings. Examples of things to donate include, but are not limited to: books (new, used, vintage, out of print, hard to find, and autographed), field guides, educational materials, binoculars, optics, tripods, services (e.g., bird identification or help with statistics), transmitters/receivers, blankets, jewelry, art, photos, DVDs, prints, decorations... your imagination is the limit! This is the perfect opportunity to support students and recycle those unused, but valuable, items sitting in your labs and offices! If you have suitable items to donate, or any questions, please contact STEPHANIE WRIGHT (EM: stephanie.wright@villanova.edu). Alternatively, you may drop off donations at the silent auction table at the 2010 COS-AOU-SCO meeting.

MESSAGE TO OUR REVIEWERS FROM THE EDITOR OF *THE AUK*—Thank you for your help and participation in the online review process. Without your volunteer efforts we would not be able to produce a journal, and on behalf of the readers of *The Auk*, we appreciate the time and effort you put into preparing your reviews. We now need your help to improve the review process. The associate editors examine manuscripts and attempt to identify appropriate reviewers for each. Personal knowledge of the specialties of colleagues helps in the process, but inevitably all associate editors need to use key words to search through our system to identify potential reviewers. Unfortunately not all reviewers have entered keywords into their accounts and as a result many searches for even common topics come back with few names, certainly smaller than the number of reviewers one would expect. This has several negative consequences, including the fact that we overuse certain people, delay the publication process, and potentially obtain inferior reviews because we lack information on your particular strengths. To remedy this situation we are asking everyone to please update their account with a keyword list. You can also email the managing editor, Mark Penrose (EM: managingeditor@aou.org), your list and he will update your account for you. For those who are interested in updating their accounts on their own, after you log in (URL: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ucpress-auk>), click on the link "edit account" in the top right corner of the screen. The link will take you to your account. Go to the third page (User ID & Password), where you

can enter your keywords. You will need to click on the button "Finish" at the bottom of the page to save your changes.—Michael Murphy (EM: murphym@pdx.edu), Editor, *The Auk*.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RAPTOR WORKSHOP: Accredited through University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. Two 5-day workshops 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. Session #1: **7-11 Jun 2010** and session #2: **21-25 Jun 2010**. Receive first hand experience working with: live raptors, capturing, handling, banding techniques, broadcast call surveys, tree climbing and rappelling, blood 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>)

CALL FOR PAPERS: THE SWAN SPECIALIST GROUP of Wetlands International is currently accepting abstracts for papers and posters to be presented at the 2010 International Swan Symposium hosted by the Universidad Austral de Chile in **Valdivia, Chile, 1-5 Nov 2010**. Presentations may reflect original research, or synthesize or summarize existing information on any aspect of swan ecology, biology or behavior. Abstracts should identify study objectives, describe study methods and data analyses, discuss the significance of the research to swan ecology or conservation. Papers will be peer-reviewed and published. Please submit abstracts electronically by **1 Mar 2010** to DR. ROBERTO SCHLATTER (EM: rschlatt@uach.cl), DR. JOHN O. ALBERTSON (EM: swanspecialistgroup@gmail.com), or CARL D. MITCHELL (EM: carl_mitchell@fws.gov), specifying whether you wish to present a paper or display a poster. Authors/posters will be notified of acceptance and receive further information by 1 April 2010. For additional information about the 2010 meeting, please visit the Swan Specialist Group Website (URL: <http://www.wetlands.org/Aboutus/Specialistgroups/SwanSpecialistGroup/tabid/198/Default.aspx>).

NYSOA LAUNCHES SEARCHABLE ORNITHOLOGICAL DATA BASE-- The New York State Ornithological Association has announced completion of an online archive of its quarterly journal, *The Kingbird*. This unique research and educational resource incorporating 57 years (229 issues) of the journal, clearly demonstrates NYSOA's commitment to its mission to "further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof." According to NYSOA president Carena Pooth, the Association expects that the data base will not only serve as a rich source of information for studies already underway but also stimulate new work on the birds of New York State. Being able to find specific information quickly with a computer will save researchers the countless hours of work that were previously necessary when sifting through hundreds of paper issues of *The Kingbird*. The archive, which can be found online at (URL: <http://www.nybirds.org/KBsearch.htm>), represents a \$15,000 investment by NYSOA in the future of New York State's birds. NYSOA volunteers spent well over 100 hours working on the project. The searchable database currently contains about 8 million words on nearly 16,000 pages comprising more than 5,200 files. In addition, there is an online library of 229 full issues and 4 ten-year indices available for download or online browsing. Four issues of *The Kingbird* will be added to the archive each year. With deep gratitude to past members who made bequests to NYSOA for educational purposes, and to all those who have contributed writings and observations to *The Kingbird* over the years, NYSOA encourages all birders and ornithologists to explore, utilize, and enjoy the archive – and to spread word of it to others who share their passion for birds.

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

FAMED HOG ISLAND AUDUBON CAMP REOPENS—The National Audubon Society will reopen its legendary Hog Island camp for 4 adult ornithology sessions and one teen bird studies session during the summer of 2010. Dr. Steve Kress, Audubon's VP for Bird Conservation, will direct the sessions. He will be joined by some of the country's well-known ornithologists who will serve as instructors, including Kenn Kaufman, Pete Dunne, and Scott Weidensaul. Additionally, there will be two new sessions offered in association with Exploritas (formerly Elder Hostel—URL: http://www.exploritas.org/Programs/search_res.asp?Type=A&StateCode=ME) where June participants will assist Project Puffin biologists to census gulls, eiders and cormorants at several nearby seabird nesting islands. Participants in the September session will learn about land and seabirds through bird banding and presentations and assist with a habitat management project for endangered terns and storm-petrels at Eastern Egg Rock. They will also assist a Saw Whet Owl banding project. Known to thousands as the Audubon Camp in Maine, Hog Island was closed during the summer of 2009 to permit planning for the future. This process led to Project Puffin bringing back the popular ornithology programs for adults and teens. The adult programs are for both beginning and avid birders who would like to learn more about Maine birdlife and the biology of birds. The teen session is for 14-17 year olds with a keen interest in birds. (This session is co-sponsored by the American Birding Association.) Due to its varied habitats, Hog Island and vicinity are an ideal setting for the program, as more than 300 species frequent the area. Participants live in authentic, turn of the century housing on the 330 acre spruce-covered island. Here, they will enjoy three superb home-cooked meals by renowned chef Janii Laberge. The meals are served in an historic island farmhouse that overlooks Muscongus Bay. During the five-day sessions, small field groups will go on a variety of trips and boat cruises, and attend presentations on topics ranging from migration, and the identification of warblers, to the restoration of Atlantic Puffins and three species of terns on nearby Eastern Egg Rock. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about bird banding, sound recording, and bird photography from leaders in their fields. The Hog Island camp first opened in 1936, with Roger Tory Peterson as its first bird instructor. It is well known in America's environmental community as a distinguished and beautiful place of learning and enjoyment. For more info visit (URL: <http://www.projectpuffin.org>) for dates, sessions, instructors, and registration. To read testimonials and see photos from previous Hog Island programs, visit (URL: <http://www.naturecompass.org/fohi>).

NEWS FROM THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Provided by 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 OSA societies (on paper or online at <http://www.osnabirds.org/>), or via paypal on the BIRDNET homepage at (URL: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET>). Thank you for helping the Ornithological Council in its efforts to keep the world safe for ornithology!

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL THANKS FOUNDER AND LONGTIME CHAIR DAVID BLOCKSTEIN—In 1991, David E. Blockstein, Ph.D joined a small group of visionaries who formed an ad hoc committee that urged the formation of an Ornithological Council "to provide scientific information about birds and their habitats when and where it would improve decisions that affect bird populations or that affect the scientific investigation of birds." When the Ornithological Council was formed a year later, the American Ornithologists' Union appointed David to the board of directors as one of its two representatives. At the same time, he also became the chairman of the board of directors, serving as a volunteer as an adjunct to his full-time job at the National Council for Science and the Environment. He continued in both posts until 2009, when he announced his intent to step down as chair. The ornithological community is indebted to David

for his commitment to ornithology and the integrity of science and the Ornithological Council is grateful to him for his careful guidance of our organization for these many years. To have had someone so highly regarded in the scientific community and the policy world helping to give voice to ornithology has been an incalculable benefit to the societies that comprise the Ornithological Council. Fortunately, because he will remain on the board, we are expressing our gratitude but we are not saying farewell. Eighteen years of dedication to ornithology deserves far more than mere thanks, so we'll be in the field, looking for a new species to name in his honor!

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ISSUES BIOPROSPECTING POLICY—Every biologist knows that *Thermus aquaticus*, the thermophilic bacterium first found in one of the Yellowstone National Park hot springs yielded the restriction enzymes that facilitate the polymerase chain reaction. What they may not know is that the commercial product known as Taq generated patents that Hoffmann LaRoche bought for \$330 million and that have generated \$2 billion in royalties by 2006. The National Park Service received nothing. No wonder, then, that Tom Olliff, chief of the Yellowstone Resource Center told the New York Times that, "In bio-prospecting circles, it's called the great Taq rip-off." Determined to assure that it not happen again, the National Park Service in 1997 entered into its first benefits-sharing agreement with the Diversa Corporation, a San Diego company interested in bioprospecting in Yellowstone. Litigation opposing bioprospecting in the national parks forced the National Park Service to undertake an environmental impact analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft Environmental Impact Statement was issued in 2006 and public comments were accepted until Jan 2007. On 23 Nov 2009, the National Park Service issued its Final Environmental Impact Statement and announced that it would go forward with benefits-sharing agreements. From the effective date of 23 Dec 2009, scientists who obtain permits to conduct research in the National Parks will be required to sign benefits-sharing agreements if they wish to commercialize their research results. The NPS benefits-sharing proposal would apply to research projects involving research specimens collected from units of the National Park System that subsequently resulted in useful discoveries or inventions with some valuable commercial application. A benefits-sharing agreement would provide the terms and conditions for the further development and use of such valuable discoveries, inventions, or other research results. All such researchers would be required to enter into a benefits-sharing agreement with the NPS before using their research results for any commercial purpose. Consistent with the terms of their research permits, researchers would be responsible for initiating benefits-sharing negotiations with the NPS. The Ornithological Council was among several scientific organizations that filed comments expressing concern about the impact on scientific research in the parks. Experience has shown that the Access and Benefits Sharing regime created pursuant to the Convention on Biological Diversity has been detrimental to scientific research and we remain concerned that the NPS benefits-sharing policy will also have negative impacts. The final Environmental Impact Statement can be found here:

(URL: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=442&projectId=12515&documentID=30297>).

NEW WHITE HOUSE OPENNESS DIRECTIVE FALLS SHORT—The Obama Administration has now issued a directive (URL: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_2010/m10-06.pdf) outlining specific measures agencies must take to achieve the goals set out in the openness memo. Much of this directive stems from Obama's first-day-in-office memorandum to the heads of the executive departments and agencies calling for an "unprecedented level of openness in Government." This directive resulted, in part, from the successful efforts of the scientific community, and particularly the Union of Concerned Scientists, to call attention to the anti-science policies of the prior administration, including the suppression and distortion of scientific information. The openness mandates are primarily procedural. Specifically, the Administration has not addressed, much less repealed or modified, some of the worst anti-science policies established by the Bush Administration. Specifically, it does nothing to address the data quality (aka information quality) guidance, the peer review policy, or the practices of agencies to muzzle scientists (such as media approval requirements). Numerous organizations, including the Union of Concerned Scientists, have expressed disappointment with the open

government directive: URL: http://www.ucsva.org/news/press_release/white-house-transparency-memo-0318.html). The Ornithological Council was very active in addressing these problematic policies when they were first developed and implemented, and it is very disappointing to see that they remain intact. We intend to continue to work with our colleagues in the scientific community to encourage the Obama administration to take additional measures to restore and protect the integrity of science and its use in policy-making.

WHITE HOUSE CONSIDERS GOVERNMENT-WIDE OPEN ACCESS POLICY—To date, only NIH has required that all papers presenting research conducted with federal funding be made open access via mandatory deposit into the NIH open access database. When this issue first came up, a number of years ago, the Ornithological Council was the only non-biomed organization participating in the debate. Even though few ornithologists receive funding from NIH (more than you might think!) it was clear that other agencies would eventually follow the NIH model. Therefore, the Ornithological Council felt it important that we participate and speak on behalf of the small, nonprofit scientific societies. We also became active participants in the DC Principles for Free Access (URL: <http://www.dcpinciples.org/>), a coalition of nonprofit scientific societies, which promotes the idea that although free access is a valuable goal, the one-size-fits-all model espoused (with enormous zeal) by open access advocates, has the potential to cause significant damage to some nonprofit scientific societies. The Obama administration has now asked for comment on how open access should be handled across all agencies. See (URL: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-29322.htm>). The Ornithological Council is preparing comments consistent with its longstanding position that the open access policy should be flexible and designed to assure that it does not cause such a reduction in journal revenue as to jeopardize the continued existence of the society and its journal.

FOREST SERVICE TO TRY AGAIN ON "PLANNING RULE"—On 17 December 2009 Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the USDA Forest Service is beginning an open, collaborative process to create and implement a modern planning rule to address current and future needs of the National Forest System, including restoring forests, protecting watersheds, addressing climate change, sustaining local economies, improving collaboration, and working across landscapes. The Forest Service published a notice of intent (NOI) in the Federal Register tomorrow, December 18, to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to develop a new planning rule that will provide a framework for management of national forests and grasslands. The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires the Forest Service to write management plans that outline how that particular forest will be managed in terms of the multiple Congressional mandates for forest use (timber, recreation, watershed protection, biodiversity conservation, and more). However, this statute, like most, is lacking in details. Congress ordinarily leaves the "how" to the agencies, as they are considered to have the expertise needed to put Congressional mandate into practice. The Forest Service issued a planning rule in 1982, but it was largely procedural (a checklist approach). In 1989 the Forest Service initiated a comprehensive review of its land management planning process. Results were published in May 1990, in a critique that documented lessons learned since passage of NFMA and described recommendations to address the planning and management challenges of the future. That critique led to the 1991 publication of an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The comments received were used in the development of a proposed rule that was proposed in 1995 and subsequently withdrawn as a result of the public comment. In 1997 the Secretary of Agriculture convened a 13-member Committee of Scientists to review the Forest Service planning process and offer recommendations for improvements. In 1999, the report of the Committee of Scientists and the new proposed rule were published. The Forest Service held 23 national public meetings to discuss the proposed rule and also considered the more than 10,000 public comments on proposed rule. The final rule was published in November 2009 and immediately scrapped by the newly elected Bush Administration, which published its own proposed rule in 2002 and its final rule in 2004. Litigation ensued. In 2009 the US District Court for the District of Northern California overturned the 2008 NFMA Planning Rule (Decision) As an interim measure, Forest Service returns to the transition provisions of the 2000 (Clinton administration) rule which allow continued use of 1982 rule procedures for revisions and amendments.

A NEW CHAIR FOR THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL—For 2010, Bob Curry will serve as chair. He has served as the vice chair for the past year, and has been on the board of directors since 1997, representing the Wilson Ornithological Society.

HISTORIC BANDING RECORDS TO GO DIGITAL IN 2010 - For years, there has been discussion about whether it would be worthwhile to get the data from the paper banding records entered into the database. Whatever the merits, there was a lack of funding and it apparently seemed unlikely that there would ever be enough volunteers to make it happen. The Bird Banding Lab Federal Advisory Committee decided that getting the data entered into a database was not high priority, but that physical preservation of the paper records was a priority, so as to preserve the option. Over the years, the paper records have been moved several times, apparently never to locations with fire and flood protection. They were never fumigated and sealed, so they were also vulnerable to rodent and insect infestation. Concerned about this situation, which apparently stemmed from lack of funding, the Ornithological Council expressed concern to the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Geological Survey; the response suggested that funding would eventually be forthcoming. The Ornithological Council has now learned that the Banding Lab is hiring temps to ready the old paper banding records for scanning. Bruce Peterjohn, the BBL Chief, also informed the Ornithological Council that, "The contracts have already been awarded and all of the documentation for encounter records (1300+ reels of microfilm and 700+ boxes of paper) should be converted to digital files before the end of 2010." Kudos to the USGS and the Bird Banding Lab for taking measures to preserve the data and convert it to a digital format. And now you know ... how the stimulus funds benefitted ornithological science!

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).

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>, 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>

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

FEATHERS ON THE WATER, by Milton W. Weller, published by createspace.com, a self-publishing arm of amazon.com, is a new book on wetland birds. It is based on a series of essays supported by 37 collages of 240 color images, and deals with bird habitats, bird behavior, and conservation issues in diverse wetlands around the world. Paperback, color, 162 pp, \$32.50. Available directly from the safe and dedicated E-Store (URL: <http://wwwcreatespace.com/3381390>) or from <http://www.amazon.com/books>. Discount codes for bulk orders and academic bookstores are available from the author at (EM: m1wd2w@kfc.com).

THE TRAVAILS OF TWO WOODPECKERS: Ivory-bills and Imperials, Noel F. R. Snyder, David E. Brown, and Kevin B. Clark, 2009. University of New Mexico Press. 6 x 9, 184 pages 27 color photographs, 21 halftones, 2 maps. ISBN: 978-0-8263-4664-3 (hardcover, \$27.95). The probable extinction of two of North America's largest and most charismatic birds has much to teach us regarding conservation efforts, especially as many other species face similar problems. In closely examining the history of the decline and causes of extinction of the Ivory-billed and Imperial Woodpeckers, the authors offer explanations for the birds' demise and strategies for future conservation and research efforts that focus mainly on the deadly, though largely understated, role of human depredations. *The Travails of Two Woodpeckers* is available at bookstores or directly from the University of New Mexico Press. To order, call (PH: 800-249-7737) or visit URL: <http://www.unmpress.com>.

PERSONAL EXCHANGES

FOR SALE. Custom-built, stainless steel colony room cages (six total). Features: nest box attachments for bird removal (wooden nestboxes included) and easy clean-up draw. Price negotiable. For more information, please contact JORDAN COMINS (EM: jcomins@gmail.com).

FOR-SALE: *The Auk*. Complete run (52 years) 1958-2008, plus 41 miscellaneous issues (1915-1950). Make an offer or an inquiry to Peter (EM: pwpost@nyc.rr.com, PH: 212-787-6025).

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

JOINT MEETING OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, AND THE SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS will take place **7-11 Feb 2010** in San Diego, California. The meeting will be held at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, conveniently located near many San Diego attractions and birding sites. Local Hosts for the meeting are Dr. Barbara E. Kus and Dr. Kevin J. Burns, and chair of the Scientific Program Committee is Dr. John T. Rotenberry. The conference will feature four days of contributed scientific papers, posters, invited speakers, symposia, and special activities for students. In addition, field trips will take advantage of the abundant and diverse bird life of San Diego. Deadline for early registration, abstract submission, and student award applications is **6 Nov 2009**. For additional information about the conference, including registration details, please visit the conference web site (URL: <http://www.birdmeetings.org/cosausco2010/>).

37TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP, 17-20 Feb 2010, Long Beach, California. For information contact JENNIFER BOYCE, NOAA Restoration Center, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4470, Long Beach, CA 90802 (PH: 562-980-4086; EM: Jennifer.Boyce@noaa.gov) or NINA KARNOVSKY, 175 W. Sixth Street, Claremont, CA 91711 (PH: 909-607-9794; EM: nina.karnovsky@pomona.edu). For information on the scientific program, contact TOM GOOD, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, 2725 Montage Boulevard East, Seattle, WA 98112 (PH: 206-860-3469; EM: Tom.Good@noaa.gov).

*SOUTHEAST PARTNERS IN FLIGHT ANNUAL MEETING, **9-11 Mar 2010**, Gainesville, FL. We are encouraging researchers, agency personnel, and especially graduate students in natural resources, ecology, and biology curricula to make oral and poster presentations that summarize research, monitoring, or management projects addressing any aspect of bird conservation. This will be a joint meeting with the Adaptive Management Conference Series. The deadline for early registration and submission of abstracts is **Monday, 15 Feb 2010**. Additional information is available online (URL: <http://sepif.org/content/view/46/1/>)

THE 91ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, **20 - 23 May 2010**, Geneva, NY, will be hosted by, and held at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. The deadline for Student Travel Awards applications is **Friday, 26 Feb 2010**. Early registration and abstracts are due by **27 Mar 2010**. Dormitory rooms and an optional meal plan on campus will be available at low cost; additional accommodations will be available at the Geneva Lakefront Ramada. The local host, MARK DEUTSCHLANDER, may be reached at the Department of Biology, 300 Pultney St., Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY 14456 (PH: 315-781-3921; EM: deutschlande@hws.edu). Additional information will be available online (URL: <http://www.wilsonociety.org/wos2010/>) as it becomes available.

THE ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING, Ogden, Utah, **12 - 14 Aug 2010**. The meeting will be hosted by Weber State University, which is situated between the spectacular Wasatch Range of the Rocky Mountains to the east and the Great Salt Lake to the west. The conference will feature two days of contributed scientific papers, posters, and symposia. Field trips will take place before and after the meetings showcasing western specialties from alpine tundra to desert canyons. Birding in northern Utah this time of year will be impressive. In fact, Great Salt Lake was listed by Audubon Magazine as one of six "Best Fall Migration Hotspots"! Fall shorebird migration will be well underway during the meeting. The AFO encourages ornithologists to use this meeting as a jumping off point to explore the American West. Utah boasts five national parks, more than any other state in the lower 48, as well as eight national monuments and 48 state parks. In addition, Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks are just a (gorgeous) day's drive away. Participants, their families and guests will find a community teeming with fun activities, beautiful mountain vistas and sites of both biological and historical significance. Ogden was listed by Sunset Magazine as the city with the "Best Access to the Outdoors." The landscape is spectacular and provides plenty of activities for the extreme enthusiast or someone just looking for a nice walk. This meeting also promises to be one of the most affordable ornithological meetings in years. Salt Lake City is just 30 miles away, and is a major hub for Delta Airlines resulting in relatively low airfare. Low-cost dorm rooms will be also available. For further information, visit the conference website (URL: <http://conferences.weber.edu/AFO2010/>) or contact the Local Committee Chair, JOHN CAVITT (EM: jcavitt@weber.edu).

25TH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS 2010 (22-28 Aug 2010) Campos do Jordão, Brazil. We hope that you will circle these dates on your calendar and plan to attend! For further information, please visit our web page (URL: <http://www.i-o-c.org> or <http://www.acquaviva.com.br/sisconev/index.asp?Codigo=26>), or contact PROF. DR. CRISTINA YUMI MIYAKI, Secretary-General of the 25th IOC (EM: ioc2010@ib.usp.br).

2010 RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION CONFERENCE, Fort Collins, Colorado, **22-26 Sep 2010**. The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, a nonprofit organization that provides raptor rehabilitation and environmental education, will co-host the conference with EDM International, Inc., leaders in avian-related issues. The conference will be highlighted by symposia on Raptor-Human Conflicts, Raptors and Energy Development, Raptor Diseases, Raptor Banding and Research, and Raptors in Education. The conference will be held at the Fort Collins Marriott Hotel with room rates at \$102/night. Set against the backdrop of 14,000-foot peaks, Fort Collins is the gateway to the Rocky Mountains. A variety of ecosystems from short-grass prairie to high mountain ranges are within an hour's drive, offering several exciting field

trip opportunities for attendees. Fort Collins is known for its diverse scientific community and has a national reputation for offering a high quality of life. It offers many amenities for outdoor enthusiasts, including miles of bike/running trails, a bike library for those who wish to explore the area by bicycle, several fitness and climbing centers that offer day passes, fishing on the scenic Poudre River, to name a few. Fort Collins also has a reputation for the number of world-renowned microbreweries, including New Belgium Brewing Company. For more information, contact JUDY SCHERPELZ, (PH: 970-484-7756 or EM: judy@rmp.org). Watch for additional information on the conference at the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program website: (URL: <http://www.rmp.org>).

*THE SWAN SPECIALIST GROUP of WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL will hold its 5th International Swan Symposium at Universidad Austral de Chile, **Valdivia, Chile, 1-5 Nov 2010**. The meeting, co-hosted by Universidad Austral de Chile will take place on the University campus. Dr. Roberto Schlatter, Universidad Austral, is the Chair of the Committee on Local Arrangements and the Local Host. The symposium will feature four days of contributed scientific papers, posters, invited speakers, and symposia and workshops; evening events; and field trips during and after the symposium, showcasing the Rio Cruces region and its Black-necked Swans and other wetland avifauna. Papers will cover all aspects of swan ecology, including current distribution, population trends, behavior, migration, breeding and reproduction, foraging ecology, genetics, physiology and anatomy, diseases and toxicology. Special symposia are planned on updating the status and distribution of all the world's swan species and their major populations, and the environmental changes at the Rio Cruces Ramsar site. In addition, workshops will be held on avian influenza and other contagious diseases and their impact on swan ecology and management; management of special swan preserves and supplemental feeding; managing introduced swan populations; hybridization in wild swan populations; hunting swans; restoration of swans to former habitats; habitat requirements for captive swans; and physical marking and radio-tagging swans. Accommodations in Valdivia will include hotels near the Universidad Austral de Chile campus. Rooms will cost \$62 to \$122 USD. Meetings will take place on the Universidad Austral de Chile campus. The meeting's location will provide easy access to the historical and cultural attractions of Valdivia. For additional information, contact: DR. ROBERTO SCHLATTER (EM: rschlatt@uach.cl, PH: 56 63 221408), DR. JOHN O. ALBERTSON (EM: swanspecialistgroup@gmail.com), or CARL D. MITCHELL (EM: carl_mitchell@fws.gov, PH: 0 11 208 574 2755). You may also visit the conference web site at <http://www.wetlands.org/Aboutus/Specialistgroups/SwanSpecialistGroup/tabid/198/Default.aspx>.

*GYRFALCONS AND PTARMIGAN IN A CHANGING WORLD, an international conference convened by The Peregrine Fund, Boise State University, and the U.S. Geological Survey from **1-3 Feb 2011**, in Boise, Idaho, U.S.A. We invite scientists, land managers, policy analysts, and other conservationists from around the world to explore evidence for a range of environmental changes (climate, contaminants, disease, development) in arctic ecosystems with a focus on the Gyrfalcon and its principal prey, ptarmigan, as models of predator-prey relationships. The conference aims to predict effects and outcomes of global climate change on arctic predators and prey, identify areas of uncertainty, and develop global strategies for measuring and mitigating them. The proceedings will be published in what we expect will be a landmark publication of information, ideas, and strategies. For details please visit (URL: http://www.peregrinefund.org/gyr_conference/ or contact us at tpf@peregrinefund.org).

NEWS OF MEMBERS

PHILIP S HUMPHREY died 13 Nov 2009 at age 83. Philip was a Life Member of the AOU who joined the AOU in 1947, became an in 1958 and was elected Fellow in 1962. Philip served in the US Army Air Corps in WWII, attended Amherst and received the MA and PhD degrees from U Michigan. His career took him to Yale, The Smithsonian, and eventually the University of Kansas. In 1960-61 he was a Guggenheim Fellow in Argentina.

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, 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).

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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 AT andrews.edu), **by 1 Mar 2010**. Submission by email (in the body of the email message--not an attached file) or on diskette (PC format: Word-Perfect 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.