

# Ornithological Newsletter

American Ornithologists' Union  
Cooper Ornithological Society  
Waterbird Society

Association of Field Ornithologists  
Raptor Research Foundation  
Wilson Ornithological Society

Cheryl L. Trine, Editor

NUMBER 222

OCTOBER 2014

## ORGANIZATION NEWS

THE *ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER ON-LINE* can be found at <http://www.osnabirds.org/on>. Also, visit:

OSNA - <http://www.osnabirds.org>

AOU - <http://www.aou.org>

AFO - <http://www.afonet.org>

COS - <http://www.cooper.org>

WS - <http://www.waterbirds.org>

RRF - <http://raptorresearchfoundation.org>

WOS - <http://www.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/birds/wos.html>

BIRDNET - <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/>

RECIPIENTS OF 2014 AOU RESEARCH AWARDS – Virginia Abernathy, Australian National University, Investigating the Rate of Coevolution Between the Pacific Koel and Its Hosts; Amos Belmaker, Cornell University, Telomeres as determinants of life history and behavior variation in *Tachycineta bicolor*; Phred Benham, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, The influence of gene flow, effective population size, and history on local adaptation to saltmarshes in the Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*); Andrew Boyce, University of Montana, The Fight for Space: Exploring the Roles of Abiotic and Biotic Factors in Limiting Elevational Ranges of Tropical Birds; Clare Brown, Louisiana State University, The Evolutionary Genomics of Migration in Swallows; Laure Cauchard, University de Montréal, Does between-individual variation in cognitive performances relate to oxidative stress level in a natural passerine bird population?; Antonio Celis-Murillo, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Is cheating for everyone? Individual Quality, Extraterritorial Forays and Extra-pair Paternity in Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*); Abigail Darrah, University of Arizona, Role of competitive interactions on the winter grounds in the evolution of niche-switching in the Western Flycatcher; Shane DuBay, University of Chicago, The evolution of elevational range limits in birds: Physiological plasticity across environmental gradients; Erik Enbody, Tulane University, Adaptive significance of female ornamentation in White-shouldered Fairy-wrens; Lauren Fitzsimmons, University of Windsor, Communication breakdown: Avian communication networks along North America's busiest highway; Alex Folk, Western Illinois University, Adaptive Modulation of Virulence by Brown-headed Cowbird Nestlings; Matthew Fuxjager, University of California, Los Angeles, Avian Muscular Physiology and its contribution to physically elaborate display behavior; Sarah Guindre-Parker, Columbia University, Coping with Environmental Uncertainty using the Avian Glucocorticoid Response; Natalie Hofmeister, Columbia University, Stress Physiology and Adaptation to Environmental Unpredictability: Hormone Receptor Sequence Variation in African Starlings; Kate Johnson, University of British Columbia, Morphological change in an insular song sparrow in response to fox sparrow invasion; Kristin Jones, Oregon State University, Investigating the Effects of Intensive Forest Management on Microclimate and Reproductive Success in a Cavity-Nesting Songbird; Elizabeth Kelly, Cornell University, When Jays are

hormonal: understanding the mechanisms behind cooperative breeding; Megan Kobiela, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Mechanism for *Pitohui* batrachotoxin resistance: sodium channel evolution in birds; Caitlin Kroeger, University of California at Santa Cruz, Foraging in a dynamic ocean environment: a comparative energetics study of southern albatrosses using high-resolution GPS devices; Marisa Lim, Stony Brook University, Investigating the genetic basis of high altitude adaptation in Andean hummingbirds; Haw Lim, Smithsonian Institution, Target Enrichment Enables use of Museum Skins in Comprehensive and Comparative Population Genomic Study of Birds in Tropical Biodiversity Hotspots; Christina Masco, University of Chicago, The signal value of song overlapping in the splendid fairy-wren (*Malurus splendens*); James Mouton, University of Montana, Nest predation risk, reproductive effort, and parental investment; Lindsey Nietmann, University of Washington, Predator recognition and social learning in island and continental Rufous Fantail populations; David Ocampo, Universidad de los Andes, Evolution of eggshell structure in tropical birds; Karan Odom, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Exploring the role of female song and duets in the evolution of complex bird song; Katharina Schreier, Oklahoma State University, Defenses Against Infection: Balancing Behavioral and Immunological Strategies; Kristina Smiley, Cornell University, Uncovering the role of prolactin in parental care of a biparental songbird, the zebra finch; Samuel Socolar, Princeton University, Determinants of avian diversity and community structure in a hyper-diverse forest mosaic.

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE 2014 YELLOW RAILS AND RICE FESTIVAL on 30 Oct to 2 Nov 2014 will offer a bird banding workshop designed to improve novice and intermediate banders' knowledge of bird molt and teach skills to successfully band and age birds in the field. This unique banding experience will focus on wet grassland and marsh birds, including the secretive Yellow Rail, as well as Sora, Virginia Rail, Nelson's Sparrow, and Le Conte's Sparrow among others. The workshop is co-sponsored by Audubon Louisiana, Baton Rouge Audubon Society, and the Louisiana Bird Observatory, and proceeds will be used to support Yellow Rail research and conservation. The workshop will be based out of Jennings, LA and will be taught by Dr. Erik I. Johnson who is part of a team developing an international age coding system for birds and has authored several other papers advancing the knowledge of molt in temperate and Neotropical birds. The cost of the 3-day workshop is only \$125, but does not include lodging or meals. For more information and to register, please visit [http://www.snowyegretenterprises.com/Snowy\\_Egret\\_Enterprises/Banding\\_workshop.html](http://www.snowyegretenterprises.com/Snowy_Egret_Enterprises/Banding_workshop.html) or email Erik (EM: [ejohnson@audubon.org](mailto:ejohnson@audubon.org)).

DAVID S. LEE of Raleigh and Cooterville, North Carolina, has passed away from a fast-onset form of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) on 19 July 2014. His conservation work spanned the globe including a lifelong dedication to the preservation of Asian Turtles, South American Tortoises ([tortoisereserve.org](http://tortoisereserve.org)), and hundreds of projects for North American Fish, Salamanders, Snakes, Lizards, Turtles, Warblers, and Seabirds. He also was an important (founding?) member of the Society of Caribbean Ornithologists (now BirdsCaribbean), where Dave helped to push for work to document and protect seabird colonies and to create a database to track the populations (see: [wicbirds.net](http://wicbirds.net)), though he also contributed to projects to protect Kirtland's Warbler and other Bahamian and Caribbean animals. As Curator of Birds at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, he spent thousands of hours offshore documenting the fantastic diversity of seabirds that can be found in the waters of the state. It seemed his most proud victory was his part in the decades-long effort to prevent the exploitation of the North Carolina Outer Banks by oil drilling companies. Dave regarded oil

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER (ISSN 0274-564X) is published bimonthly by OSNA, 5400 Bosque Blvd., Suite 680, Waco, TX 76710 ([business@osnabirds.org](mailto:business@osnabirds.org)). Membership dues in any OSNA society include \$2.00 for the cost of production of the newsletter. Separate subscriptions are not available. For application to membership write the OSNA office. Periodicals postage paid at Waco, TX.

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and gas exploration as the greatest threat to pelagic ecosystems having carefully studied the potential benefits and permanent harms that drilling operations have brought to other shorelines where operations have been permitted. After the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, David volunteered many hundreds of hours as an observer on vessels documenting the damage to the Gulf of Mexico pelagic and nearshore ecosystem. He shared skepticism with other threats like Sargassum harvesting and offshore wind farming - anything that was done in ignorance or under-appreciation of the importance of wild places.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA ONLINE – Dynamic reference stays current with the latest science. Ten years have gone by since the Birds of North America went online, transforming an 18-volume, 18,000-page library reference into a dynamic, constantly updated, multimedia-enriched resource accessible to everyone. Researchers, wildlife professionals, conservationists, teachers and bird watchers use BNA Online for definitive life history information and the latest science on more than 700 bird species that breed in the United States (including Hawaii) and Canada. “One of the key advantages of BNA Online is that it grows and changes as needed,” said editor Alan Poole. “Dozens of species accounts are updated each year. You just can’t stay that up-to-date in print.” BNA Online was launched by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in September 2004 and has been growing ever since. During the past year, more than 230,000 unique visitors came to the site from 190 countries. There are currently more than 375 libraries, government agencies, and conservation related organizations subscribed. Accounts are typically written by recognized experts on the species. Aside from information on identification, habitat, distribution, breeding, and behavior, each account includes sound, images, maps, video, and a bibliography for additional reference. New features coming to BNA Online include: \*\*Expanded range maps with migratory routes and population distributions, \*\*Links to real-time bird data using the eBird online checklist program showing species ranges throughout the year, \*\*Improved display of photos and videos. Subscribers can sign up for a year or more of access or pay as little as \$5.00 to gain access for a month—great for researching school papers or for learning about a new species you’ve just seen. A year’s subscription to BNA Online is \$42.00. Cornell Lab members receive a discount. To learn more about BNA Online and to subscribe either as an institution or as an individual, visit <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/bna>.

### REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

BIRD WINDOW COLLISIONS – Birds face many threats when they come into contact with urban populations. One of the leading causes of avian mortality in cities is window collisions. In Canada it is estimated 25 million birds are killed each year as a result of bird window collisions. The Birds and Windows Project was developed to use citizen science and active participation to continue to identify the factors that affect collision risk at residential homes. Last fall Environment Canada released a report on the leading causes of human related bird deaths, with collisions with houses or buildings tied for second spot with power lines, collisions and electrocutions, behind domestic and feral cats. Most studies on window collisions have focused on tall skyscrapers but based on the sheer number of houses compared to tall skyscrapers, houses represent 90 % of the mortality. More work is needed; only four studies in the past have focused on bird window collision mortality at houses. This project was developed to better understand what can be done to reduce bird window collisions at your home and to actively involve YOU in data collection. We are asking you to think about bird window collisions you have observed in the past and would like you to regularly search around your residence for evidence of bird window collisions in the future. This project is across Canada and the United States and will be running at least until the end of 2014. To get involved in the Birds and Windows Project, visit: <http://birdswindows.biology.ualberta.ca>. You can also follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook (@birdsandwindows and Birds and Windows).

### POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

The Positions and Opportunities section is available only in the on-line edition. It can be accessed at (<http://osnabirds.org/Jobs.aspx>). Submissions can be made any time and are posted free of charge. Members may post directly to the board after logging in to OSNA using their OSNA member log in. Non-members may have announcements posted by sending them to the Ornithological Newsletter Editor, Cheryl Trine (EM: [citrine AT andrews.edu](mailto:citrine@andrews.edu)) in the body of the email message.

AN E-LIST SERVICE is available. Subscribers to this list will receive the same announcements that appear on-line in a weekly/biweekly list. 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>

### PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

*THE PASSENGER PIGEON*, by Errol Fuller, 2014. Princeton University Press. 184 pp., 7 x 9 1/2. ISBN: 9780691162959 (Hardcover, \$29.95 / £19.95); ISBN: 9781400852208 (eBook). On September 1, 1914, Martha, the last passenger pigeon died. Published in the centennial year of Martha’s death, *The Passenger Pigeon* features rare archival images. The first chapter describes the species as fully as possible. Subsequent chapters delve into ornithological, literary, and historical texts to uncover what early explorers and early American ornithologists made of this species. These early accounts quickly give way in the 1870’s to tales of overhunting and fears that the passenger pigeon was in danger of being lost forever. Fuller shows how widespread deforestation, the demand for cheap and plentiful pigeon meat, and the indiscriminate killing of Passenger Pigeons for sport led to their catastrophic decline. He provides an evocative memorial to a bird species that was once so important to the ecology of North America, and reminds us of just how fragile the natural world can be.

“JURASSIC ARCHOSAUR IS A NON-DINOSAURIAN BIRD”, by Stephen A. Czerkas and Alan Feduccia, has been published by the *Journal of Ornithology*, 2014 (DOI 10.1007/s10336-014-1098-9), and a pdf is available upon request to (EM: [feduccia@bio.unc.edu](mailto:feduccia@bio.unc.edu)). Brief summary: Re-examination utilizing Keyence 3D digital microscopy and low angled illumination of the fossil *Scansoriopteryx*, a problematic sparrow-size pre-Archaeopteryx specimen from the Jurassic Daohugou Biotas, provides new evidence which challenges the widely accepted hypothesis that birds are derived from dinosaurs in which avian flight originated from cursorial forms.

*FLYING DINOSAURS: HOW FEARSOME REPTILES BECAME BIRDS*, John Pickrell, with a foreword by Philip Currie, 2014. Columbia University Press. 240 pp., 6.25 x 9.25, 26 color illustrations. ISBN: 9780231171786 (Cloth, \$29.95), ISBN: 9780231538787 (eBook). The discovery of the first feathered dinosaur in China in 1996 sent shockwaves through the paleontological world. Were the feathers part of a complex mating ritual or a stepping stone in the evolution of flight? And just how closely related is *T. rex* to a chicken? In this volume award-winning journalist John Pickrell reveals how dinosaurs developed flight and became the birds in our backyards. He delves into the latest fossil discoveries, reinterprets dinosaur behavioral biology, and uncovers a thriving black market in fossils and infighting between dinosaur hunters, plus the controversial plan to use a chicken to bring dinosaurs back from the dead. The book includes an A-Z of feathered dinosaurs and 16 pages of exquisite color illustrations.

**ORNITOLOGIA NEOTROPICAL** Available – The Neotropical Ornithological Society is offering back copies of its journal *Ornitologia Neotropical* at a reduced price. Some complete sets may be available. Contact Jack Eitnrear (EM: jce AT cstbinc.org), NOS/SON Membership Secretary for issues available and costs.

**FLIGHT WAYS: LIFE AND LOSS AT THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION**, Thom van Dooren, 2014. Columbia University Press. 208 pp., 6 x 9, 14 b&w illustrations. ISBN: 9780231166188 (Cloth, \$30.00/£20.50), ISBN: 9780231537445 (eBook). A leading figure in the emerging field of extinction studies, Thom van Dooren puts philosophy into conversation with the natural sciences and his ethological encounters to vivify the cultural and ethical significance of modern-day extinctions. Each chapter focuses on a different species or group of birds: the plight of albatrosses in the North Pacific, the disappearance of vultures in India, an endangered colony of Little Penguins in Australia, the conservation of the iconic Whooping Cranes of North America, and the extinction of free-living Hawaiian Crows. He bolsters his studies with real-life accounts from scientists and local communities at the forefront of these developments. No longer abstract entities with Latin names, these species become fully realized characters enmeshed in complex and precarious ways of life, sparking our sense of curiosity, concern for, and accountability to others in a rapidly changing world.

## MEETINGS

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

\* in this section indicates new or revised entry

**3RD INTERNATIONAL FLAMINGO SYMPOSIUM (5-9 Oct 2014)**, hosted by SeaWorld San Diego. The symposium is an international gathering of flamingo specialists that will increase communication within the international flamingo community and support flamingo conservation and research. The Wetlands International/IUCN-SSC Flamingo Specialist Group and conference scientific committee are working together with flamingo experts in the field and zoological professionals to increase collaboration and provide high quality scientific presentations. The scientific content of the presentations will focus on all aspects of flamingo conservation including ecological studies, and conservation projects, zoological behavior, and husbandry studies. Workshops will focus on collaborations, research and conservation. The Registration fee includes 1 Thursday SeaWorld tour and 1 Thursday evening Banquet. For more information or to register, visit the website at <http://www.3rdinternationalflamingosymposium.com/> or call LAURIE CONRAD (PH: 619-225-4378).

**THE 38th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WATERBIRD SOCIETY and THE XIII CONFERENCE FOR THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF MEXICAN BIRDS ORGANIZED BY CIPAMEX** (La Sociedad para el Estudio y Conservación de las Aves en México) will be held jointly from **4-7 Nov 2014** in La PAZ, BCS, MEXICO. Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas del Noroeste (CIBNOR), as part of the 2014 Local Organizing Committee will host this joint meeting (<http://www.cibnor.mx/en>). This joint meeting will be held on the beautiful Baja California peninsula, where conference participants will be able to experience sea and shorebirds galore during the meetings and also during meeting excursions. Field trips will be held after completion of the meeting, and workshops can take place either after or before the meeting.

**SCIENCE FOR PARKS, PARKS FOR SCIENCE: THE NEXT CENTURY – A 2.5-day Summit at UC Berkeley, 25-27 Mar 2015** convening natural and social scientists, managers and practitioners -- 100 years after historic meetings at UC Berkeley helped launch the National Park Service -- to rededicate a second century of science and stewardship for national parks. This summit will feature visionary plenary lectures, strategic panel discussions on current controversies, and technical sessions of contributed paper and posters. Abstract submission deadline is **1 Nov 2014**. For information, see <http://www.xcdsystem.com/parksforscience>. Keynote Plenary Speaker: E. O. Wilson. Distinguished Plenary Speakers and Panelists: David Ackerly, Jill

Baron, Steven Beissinger, Joel Berger, Ruth DeFries, Thomas Dietz, Josh Donlan, Holly Doremus, Ernesto Enkerlin, Carolyn Finney, David Graber, Denis Galvin, Jane Lubchenco, Gary Machlis, George Miller, Hugh Possingham, Jedediah Purdy, Nina Roberts, Mark Schwartz, Daniel Simberloff, Monica Turner, & Jennifer Wolch.

**THE X<sup>TH</sup> NEOTROPICAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS (NOC)** will be held in Manaus, Brazil, in **July 2015**. It is co-organized by the Sociedade Brasileira de Ornitologia and the Neotropical Ornithological Society. Information on inscription, program, and other issues will be announced when available.

**THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY** will be held **16 to 18 July** at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. This will be a joint meeting with the Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des Ornithologistes du Canada and the Association of Field Ornithologists. The local host, DAVE SHUTLER, may be reached at the Dept. of Biology, Acadia University, Wolfville, NS, Canada B4P 2R6; (PH: 902-585-1354; EM: [dave.shutler@acadiau.ca](mailto:dave.shutler@acadiau.ca); URL: <http://www.acadiau.ca/~dshutler/homepage.htm>).

**2<sup>ND</sup> WORLD SEABIRD CONFERENCE** will be held in Capetown, South Africa at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, **26-30 October 2015**. The twenty groups forming the World Seabird Union will be sponsoring the conference. Conference registration will open in late 2014. Local Organizing Committee Chair: Ross Wanless. Scientific Programme Committee Chair: Peter Ryan. Please see the conference web site for further information: <http://www.worldseabirdconference.com>

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

**ALAN CRAWFORD, JR.**, member of the AOU since 1950 and of WOS since 1949, died peacefully at his beloved Little Brook Farm in Devon, Pennsylvania, on 23 Aug 2014. He was 88. He had been a birder for nearly 75 years, and a bander for nearly 20. He was an active civic leader, serving on many corporate and not-for-profit boards, including, among many others, The Zoological Society of Philadelphia; The Academy of Natural Sciences; the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Nature Conservancy; Chesapeake Bay Foundation; RARE Center for Tropical Conservation; Wilson Ornithological Society; and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association; and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. An avid fly-fisherman and ornithologist, he traveled all over the world pursuing both activities. He actively supported land and wildlife conservation, locally, regionally, and nationally.

## 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)).

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THE MOST RECENT NUMBERS of the Society journals and the month of mailing are: *Auk*, 2014, Vol. 131, #3 (Aug); *Condor*, 2014, Vol. 116, #3 (Aug), *J. Field Ornith.*, 2014, Vol. 85, #3 (Sep), *Raptor Res.*, 2014, Vol. 48, #3 (Sep), *Waterbirds*, 2014, Vol. 37, #2 (Jun), *Wilson J. Ornith.*, 2014, Vol. 126, #3 (Sep). 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.

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THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be issued in December. 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 November 2014**. **Please submit announcements by email** (in the body of the email message--not an attached file). 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.