

Ornithological Newsletter

American Ornithological Society
Raptor Research Foundation

Association of Field Ornithologists
Wilson Ornithological Society

Cheryl L. Trine, Editor

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ORGANIZATION NEWS

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER ON-LINE can be found on the OSNA Member Portal <https://customer265664c9b.portal.membersuite.com>. Click on the tab for Newsletters. You do not need to log in to read the Newsletters.

OSNA - <http://osnabirds.org>

AOS - <http://www.americanornithology.org>

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

RRF - <http://raptorresearchfoundation.org>

WOS - <http://www.wilsonociety.org/>

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

NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF for *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*—Scott Sillett, Research Wildlife Biologist at Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, will be the 19th Editor-in-Chief of the journal, *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*. He will take over the reins of the journal in August following a short period of overlap with retiring editor Mark Hauber. Scott intends to build on the momentum generated by Dr. Hauber's outstanding leadership over the past five years, and will introduce new features to our publications program, including data archiving. He brings vision, energy, and a global perspective to leading the journal into the future. You can read more about Scott's appointment at <https://amornithnews.org/2018/05/31/scott-sillett-named-editor-in-chief-of-the-uk-ornithological-advances-a-journal-of-the-american-ornithological-society/>

SAVE THE DATE! In 2019, the Association of Field Ornithologists and the Wilson Ornithological Society will convene a joint annual conference in Cape May, New Jersey from **27-30 October**. The meeting venue will be the oceanfront Grand Hotel (URL: www.grandcapemay.com), where reasonably priced accommodations will be available for participants. Fall migration is a spectacle in Cape May, where migrating raptors, waterbirds and songbirds can all be viewed on the NJ coast. Our local hosts will be the Director, DAVID LAPUMA, and staff members of the Cape May Bird Observatory of New Jersey Audubon. Save that date and plan on a fantastic fall meeting in 2019. More details will follow later this year. If you have questions about the meeting, please contact WOS President MARK DEUTSCHLANDER (EM: deutschlander@hws.edu) or AFO President DAN ARDIA (EM: dardia@fandm.edu).

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ERRATA – In the April 2018 issue of the *Ornithological Newsletter*, the description given for *Taking Flight: A History of Birds and People in the Heart of America* is actually for a different book, *Flock Together: A Love Affair with Extinct Birds*, B.J. Hollars. Descriptions for both books are presented in the Publications section

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POSTMASTER: Send address change to ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER, 5405 Villa View Dr., Farmington, NM 87402.

ERRATA--RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION 2018 CONFERENCE, **12-16 Nov 2018**: <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/home/293968&t=387718a8ea948ee50253dee3856e567b> The deadline for abstracts for Papers is **Tuesday, 31 July 2018**.

COULD NEW ANIMAL WELFARE POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL BURDENS BE ON THE HORIZON? USDA to move forward with bird regulations and reporting requirements for field studies – A new report from the Government Accountability Office examines animal use in federal research and, in particular, reporting and data sharing about animal use. The report points out, among other things, that APHIS's instructions have not ensured consistent and complete reporting in three areas: research with birds, activities outside the United States, and field studies outside a typical laboratory. The GAO recommended that APHIS clarify its reporting instructions and fully describe the potential limitations of the animal use data it makes available to the public. USDA stated that APHIS will take steps to implement GAO's recommendations, with the exception of clarifying reporting instructions for activities outside the United States. GAO continues to believe that APHIS needs to ensure complete reporting of such activities by federal facilities. The GAO also recommended that APHIS (1) develop a timeline for defining birds that are not bred for research and that are thus covered under the Animal Welfare Act and (2) requiring that research facilities report to APHIS their use of birds covered by the Act. In response, the APHIS Animal Care program committed to submitting a recommendation and timeline for defining birds subject to the Animal Welfare Act by 30 September 2018. Presumably, this would lead to a formal regulatory process and the opportunity for public comment. In addition, the GAO recommended that APHIS should provide research facilities with clear examples of studies that are excluded from the definition of "field study" and are thus covered by the Animal Welfare Act and that should therefore be reported to APHIS, as well as examples of studies that meet the definition of "field study" and thus should not be reported. This comes against the background of the 21st Century Cures Act which mandates the federal agencies such as APHIS and the National Institutes of Health to reduce the burden of animal welfare regulations, as well as the anti-regulatory stance of the current Administration. Background on the inclusion of birds: A major change in policy took place in 2004 when the agency decided, as a result of litigation, that it would begin to regulate rats, mice, and birds used in research (the law exempted "purpose-bred rats, mice, and birds so the agency rule would have affected other birds bred in captivity but not for the purpose of research, wild birds brought into captivity, and wild birds studied in the field). The agency began the process of developing regulatory standards by way of an advanced notice of public rulemaking, asking the stakeholders and the public for input as to what and how to regulate. Nothing more was heard until December 2011, when the agency announced that the proposed regulation was on hold pending an assessment of the agency's resources for implementing the rule. Nothing more has been heard since then. For all practical purposes, this regulation would have had little impact on those studying wild birds because it was unlikely that the agency would have attempted to oversee such research. However, it would have impacted those studying wild birds in captivity. The new, extreme anti-regulatory stance of the current Administration led the OC to surmise that this regulation was in permanent repose. In fact, the listing for this pending regulation had been dropped from the semi-annual unified regulatory agenda of all pending regulatory processes. Now, it seems to have come back to life. Background on field studies: The Animal Welfare Act regulations exempt field studies, defined as those that do not involve invasive procedures, harm to the animal, or material alteration of behavior. No further definitions have been provided. Recently, APHIS Animal Care attempted to develop guidance without any input from wildlife biologists. After strenuous objections from the Ornithological Council that process was put on hold. The Ornithological Council

developed a survey to determine how IACUCs were interpreting those criteria; as of now, we have not received a sufficient number of responses. The few we received suggest that IACUCs are actually overly inclusive and requiring reviews (and reporting) for methods that do not involve any of those three conditions. (The Ornithological Council, <http://ornithologyexchange.org/articles/community/usda-to-move-forward-with-bird-regulations-and-reporting-requirements-for-field-studies-r262>).

BLACK-CAPPED VIREO DELISTING – On 13 April, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced the successful recovery of the Black-capped Vireo, thus removing the species from Endangered Species List protection for this once-beleaguered species. Thirty years ago, the population was down to only about 350 individuals. Today, however, there are more than 14,000 birds estimated across the bird's breeding range in Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico. No longer will this species be listed among those species considered Endangered and Threatened. The vireo was Federally-listed in 1987, primarily due to the impacts of habitat loss and nest parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds. During this time-period, Texas especially had a large number of goats on the landscape, browsing on shrubs and reducing the cover that Black-capped Vireos needed for nesting. Fortunately a serious effort to eliminate cowbirds, combined with habitat restoration efforts, had beneficial consequences. Part of the vireo's recovery could also be attributed to decreasing goat densities in Texas, especially since the repeal of the National Wool Act in 1993, terminating wool price-supports by the end of 1995 and helping increase vireo numbers across much of the species' breeding range. Across Texas and Oklahoma, the USFWS worked with the U.S. Army, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture, The Nature Conservancy, the Environmental Defense Fund, and other partners to help the Black-capped Vireo recover. Conservation activities included the use of prescribed fire, arranging for conservation easements, and the control of Brown-headed Cowbirds. Using their scientifically rigorous Species Status Assessment protocol, the USFWS concluded that the primary threats to the Black-capped Vireo have been reduced or adequately managed, and vireo populations are now expected to be viable in the future. But this does not mean that a "hands-off" approach will be justified. To ensure that Black-capped Vireo populations remain healthy, the USFWS has developed a post-delisting monitoring plan in the states of Texas and Oklahoma, along with Fort Hood (Texas), Fort Sill (Oklahoma), and The Nature Conservancy of Texas. This plan outlines the methods to be used to monitor the status of the vireo and its habitat, in cooperation with partners for a 12-year period, and it also provides an approach for identifying and responding to any future population declines or habitat loss. (Excerpted from Birding Community E-bulletin, <http://myemail.constantcontact.com/Birding-Community-E-bulletin---May-2018.html?oid=1106822336233&aid=K72zeJ6IDFo>)

KIRLANDS'S WARBLER PROPOSED DELISTING – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to remove Endangered Species Act protection for the Kirtland's warbler. The proposed rule to delist the Kirtland's warbler published in the Federal Register on 12 April 2018.... When the Endangered Species Act was passed into law in 1973, the Kirtland's warbler was on the initial list of endangered and threatened species. A 1971 census indicated that there were only 203 pairs of birds. The current Kirtland's warbler population is estimated to be over 2,300 pairs – more than double the recovery goal. The Kirtland's warbler population continues to grow and has exceeded recovery goals for the past 16 years. The Kirtland's warbler population declined primarily for two reasons: loss of nesting habitat and brood parasitism caused by the spread of brown-headed cowbirds, which significantly reduced nesting success. After listing the Kirtland's warbler as endangered, a recovery team was formed that included state and federal agencies and multiple partners. The team prepared the first Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Plan, which outlined steps to increase the species' population. The U.S. Forest Service and Michigan DNR developed an intensive habitat management plan to implement the nesting habitat management phase of the recovery plan. Additional state forest and national forest lands were added through the 2000's to bring the total public land specifically managed for the Kirtland's warbler to more than 210,000 acres. Along with habitat management, a cowbird control program continues throughout the known nesting areas. Before making a final decision on the delisting proposal, the FWS must gather and

analyze public comments and any new information. Publication of the proposed rule opens a 90-day public comment period, which **closes on 11 July 2018**. To submit comments electronically visit <http://www.regulations.gov> and enter **FWS-R3-ES-2018-0005** in the search box. (Excerpted from Wildlife Management Institute, *Outdoor News Bulletin*, April 2018, Volume 72, Issue 4, <https://wildlifemanagement.institute/outdoor-news-bulletin/april-2018/songbirds-soaring-esa>)

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE WITH STUDY OF FOOD SUPPLY FOR AERIAL INSECTIVORES – Aerial insectivores (swifts, swallows and nighthawks, among others) are declining in many areas, and it has been suggested that this trend is related to declining food abundance. There is evidence that insects are declining sharply in Europe, but we don't know much about what is happening in North America. Thus, we are starting a project to look at the abundance of flying insects using a very simple technique. You simply count the number of insects killed on your windshield! So while you are driving around, you can also help us collect data to understand why these birds are declining. If you want to participate in this easy and potentially important project, please visit this site (<http://www.insectcount.dk>) to get more instructions and a datasheet. Note that zero dead insects is also useful information, so don't forget to record times when you have no dead insects on your windshield. You can also do this just driving to work every day; multiple samples along the same route will be valuable to look at seasonal changes. The instructions also ask for the numbers of aerial insectivores that you see; please substitute North American species as appropriate (purple martins instead of house martins). Also, it is probably better to record insects along relatively short routes (<20 miles) rather than long trips, so we can look for local patterns. For more information please contact ANDERS MØLLER through the web site.

POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

The OSNA Ornithological Jobs page is currently unavailable. To POST or FIND ornithological jobs, please go to the Ornithology Exchange, <http://ornithologyexchange.org/jobs/index.html>.

THE BIRDJOBS-L E-LIST will continue to be an option for receiving notices about ornithological jobs. Subscribers to this list will receive the same announcements that appear on Ornithology Exchange, in a weekly/biweekly list. 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. If you need help, contact crine@andrews.edu.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

FOR INFORMATION ON CONTINUING GRANTS PROGRAMS relevant to ornithological research, visit: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/grants/index.html>. For other grant opportunities, visit: <http://ornithologyexchange.org/forums/forum/139-grants-awards/>

PUBLICATIONS

TAKING FLIGHT: A History of Birds and People in the Heart of America, Michael Edmunds, 2018. Wisconsin Historical Society Press. 224 pages, ISBN: 978-0870208362 Taking Flight explores how and why people in the Midwest worshiped, feared, studied, hunted, ate, and protected the birds that surrounded them over the last 12,000 years. It is based on archaeological reports, missionaries' journals, travelers' letters, early scientific treatises, memoirs by American Indian elders, and the folklore of hunters, farmers, and formerly enslaved African Americans.

FLOCK TOGETHER: A Love Affair with Extinct Birds, B.J. Hollars, 2017. University of Nebraska Press. 224 pages, 9 photographs, 4 drawings. ISBN: 978-0-8032-9642-8 (Hardcover, \$24.95). After stumbling upon a book of photographs depicting extinct animals, B.J. Hollars became fascinated by the creatures that are no longer with us; specifically, extinct North American birds. How, he wondered, could we preserve so beautifully on film what we've failed to preserve in life? And so begins his yearlong journey to find out, one that leads him from bogs to art museums, from archives to Christmas Counts, until he at last comes as close to extinct birds as he ever will during a behind-the-scenes visit at the Chicago Field Museum. Heartbroken by the birds we've lost, Hollars takes refuge in those that remain. Armed with binoculars, a field guide, and knowledgeable friends, he begins his transition from budding birder to environmentally conscious citizen, a first step on a longer journey toward understanding the true tragedy of a bird's song silenced forever. Told with charm and wit, Hollars's exploration of what we can learn from extinct species will resonate in the minds of readers long beyond the final page.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORY OF AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGY, VOLUME III. William E. Davis, Jr., Walter E. Boles, and Harry F. Recher, editors. The Nuttall Ornithological Club, Memoir No. 22, Cambridge, Massachusetts. 2017. 603 pp., 96 figures, 5 tables, 2 appendices, index. ISBN 978-1-877973-52-9. \$42.50 (cloth). This volume contains chapters on the history of Tasmanian ornithology, ornithological exploration of New Guinea, avian paleontology, an autobiography of ornithologist James Allen Keast, and ornithology in the Top End of the Northern Territory. Copies of the book can be purchased from Buteo Books, 2731 Arrington Road, Arrington, VA 22922. <http://www.buteobooks.com/product/CHAO3.html>

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORY OF AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGY, VOLUME IV. William E. Davis, Jr., Walter E. Boles, and Harry F. Recher, editors. The Nuttall Ornithological Club, Memoir 23, Cambridge, Massachusetts. 2018. 598 pp., 70 figures, 5 tables, index. ISBN 978-1-877973-53-6. \$42.50 (cloth). This volume contains chapters on Australian ornithologist Gregory Mathews, the history of ornithology at the Queensland Museum, father and son Australian naturalists John and James Cockerell, ornithology at the South Australian Museum, and a history of ornithology in Western Australia. Copies of the book can be purchased from Buteo Books, 2731 Arrington Road, Arrington, VA 22922. <http://www.buteobooks.com/product/CHAO4.html>

MEETINGS

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

* in this section indicates new or revised entry

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY, **11-16 Aug 2018**. The biennial ISBE conference will be held in Minneapolis, MN, hosted by the University of Minnesota. Registration (with early-bird discount) and submission of abstracts is now open. **31 Mar 2018** –Talk Abstract submission closes & Early Bird registration ends. **20 Jul 2018**

27TH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS, **19 - 26 Aug 2018**, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada at the Vancouver Convention Centre. For general meeting information and updates, including special events, field trips, local attractions, and links to social media pages, please register on <http://www.IOCongress2018.com>. Mid-Congress Tours on Friday, 24 Aug 2018 will showcase the best of birding on the spectacular west coast of beautiful British Columbia. **Deadline 20 July** – Poster Abstract submission & online registration closes. Visit the conference website (URL: <http://z.umn.edu/ISBE2018>) for more information, meeting details, and to register. Pre- and post-Congress tours will not only include prime Canadian, including the Arctic, destinations but also Ecuadorian Cloud Forest, Amazon and Galapagos expeditions - in celebration of this being the first Congress on the Pacific Coast of the Americas.

2018 ANNUAL MEETING INTERNATIONAL WADER STUDY GROUP (IWSG), Workum, The Netherlands, **28 Sep - 1 Oct 2018**. Registration to the conference will open in April 2018. <http://www.waderstudygroup.org/conferences/2018/>

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SOCIETY. **2-6 Aug 2018**. The 55th annual conference will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, hosted by the Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. For general meeting information and updates, including plenaries and workshops, housing and local attractions, please visit the conference website (<http://www.animalbehaviorsociety.org/2018/index.php>).

*RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION 2018 CONFERENCE, **12-16 Nov 2018**, Planned for the Nombulo Mdluli Conference Centre at the Skukuza rest camp in Kruger National Park, South Africa. For information on the conference and to register, go to: <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/293968&t=387718a8ea948ee50253dee3856e567b> Call for Papers: https://www.eiseverywhere.com/file_uploads/1089560e788599d55e5b81ca3dc5f3dc_2018CallforpapersRRF_website_01032018.pdf **Deadline for abstracts** for both Symposia and Papers is **31 Jul 2018**.

*ANNUAL CONFERENCE – AFO AND WOS, Cape May, New Jersey, **27-30 Oct 2019**. The Association of Field Ornithologists and the Wilson Ornithological Society will convene a joint annual conference in Cape May, New Jersey. The meeting venue will be the oceanfront Grand Hotel (URL: www.grandcapemay.com), where reasonably priced accommodations will be available for participants. Fall migration is a spectacle in Cape May, where migrating raptors, waterbirds and songbirds can all be viewed on the NJ coast. Our local hosts will be the Director, DAVID LAPUMA, and staff members of the Cape May Bird Observatory of New Jersey Audubon. Save that date and plan on a fantastic fall meeting in 2019. More details will follow later this year. If you have questions about the meeting, please contact WOS President MARK DEUTSCHLANDER (EM: deutschlander@hws.edu) or AFO President DAN ARDIA (EM: dardia@fandm.edu).

IN MEMORIAM

PETER L. AMES passed away on the morning of 11 Mar 2018 in Coral Springs, FL. He was a member of the AOU since 1954 (Elective Member 1969), COS since 1966 and WOS since 1963.

ALEXANDER CRUZ, a member of the AOU since 1972 (Elective Member 1976, Fellow 1992), AFO since 1987, COS since 1973, and WOS since 1970, passed away on 14 May 2018 in Boulder, CO.

KIMBERLY G. SMITH, a member of the AOU since 1972 (Elective Member 1984, Fellow 1991), AFO since 1983, COS since 1974, and WOS since 1979, passed away on 9 Apr 2018 in Fayetteville, AR. He served as Editor in Chief of The Auk from 2000 to 2004. Kim, as Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences at UA-Fayetteville, pursued research in various areas of terrestrial ecology. His interests ranged widely from black bears to birds to bugs.

THE FLOCK - SPECIAL SECTION

To correct your address in the membership database please send the new information to the OSNA Membership Office, 5405 Villa View Dr., Farmington, NM 87402 (EM: OSNAmembers@gmail.com, PH: 312-883-4670) or change it yourself online in the OSNA Member Portal (URL: <https://customer265664c9b.portal.membersuite.com/Login.aspx>).

To alert your colleagues of new address information, contact the *Ornithological Newsletter* Editor, CHERYL L. TRINE (EM: ctrine@ATandrews.edu)

**ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
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Address Service Requested

THE MOST RECENT NUMBERS of the Society journals and the month of mailing are: *Auk*, 2018, Vol. 135, #2 (Apr); *Condor*, 2018, Vol. 120, #2 (May), *J. Field Ornith.*, 2018, Vol. 89, #1 (Mar), *Raptor Res.*, 2018, Vol. 52, #2 (Jun), *Wilson J. Ornith.*, 2018, Vol. 130, #1 (Mar). 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 August. 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 15 July 2018**. 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.