

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

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AOU AND OTHER SOCIETIES TO EVOLVE INTO NEW SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY – In a unanimous vote at the July 2011 annual meeting, the AOU Council approved a motion to move forward with planning to form a new society, with ultimate hopes of uniting and strengthening Western Hemisphere ornithology. The plan could involve a merger of AOU and one or more other ornithological societies into a western hemisphere ornithological society tentatively named the Society for Ornithology. This new Society for Ornithology would result in a clean slate for designing new governance and new journals, as well as provide broad opportunities to promote the field of ornithology, ornithologists, and avian conservation. Most significantly, plans include development of four new journals housed under a single editorial office. Online journals would appear online monthly, and in paper form quarterly. Focus will vary from cutting edge basic research to descriptive ornithology and will include a new journal on avian conservation and management. This new editorial effort would result in cessation of the *Auk*, and perhaps certain journals of partner societies that join in this sweeping reform. The new society might include regional sections and topical working groups that will meet bi-annually. Meetings of the unified society could be hosted bi-annually in years opposite of section and working group meetings. Plans for further development of the Society for Ornithology involve immediate invitation to all OSNA societies and other ornithological groups interested in helping pioneer this historic change in western hemisphere ornithology. The Cooper Ornithological Society already has indicated a strong interest in the new effort, and talks are underway with the other societies. A business plan is now being developed for presentation to the AOU Council and other partner groups by early February 2012. The AOU Council and partners will meet in Dallas in February to discuss and further develop the business plan. A comment period will be provided to members of all partnering societies following development of the draft business plan. The AOU Council will vote on this final business plan (from an AOU perspective) at the NAOC in Vancouver (August 2012). Until then, comments can be posted on the Society for Ornithology forum (URL: <http://ornithologyexchange.org/forums/topic/605-comments-about-the-society-for-ornithology/>) or sent to AOU President-Elect SUSAN HAIG (EM: susan_haig@usgs.gov).

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION held its 129th Stated Meeting in Jacksonville, FL, at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, 24-29 July 2011. The meeting was co-hosted by the University of Florida and the Florida Ornithological Society. Peter Frederick of the University of Florida was the Chair of the Committee on Local Arrangements. Robert Fletcher, Douglas Levey, and Scott Robinson prepared the scientific program. There were 405 registrants, including 164 students. The program included 3 plenary lectures, 27 papers in 4 symposia, and 269 contributed papers (197 oral and 72 posters). Highlights of the meeting include the following:

**Prior to the meeting, 397 AOU members cast ballots in the election of Officers and Elected Councilors. AOU Officers re-elected were Secretary: SARA R. MORRIS and Treasurer: JAMES HERKERT. Newly-elected Councilors were IRBY J. LOVETTE, SCOTT K. ROBINSON, KENNETH V. ROSENBERG, and KEVIN WINKER.

**The William Brewster Memorial Award for 2011 was presented to SANDRA VEHRENCAMP, and the Elliott Coues Award for 2011 was presented to TIM BIRKHEAD. The 2011 Ralph W. Schreiber Conservation Award was awarded to ROBERT S. RIDGELY. ALICE BOYLE received the 2011 Ned K. Johnson Young Investigator Award. JOHN W. FITZPATRICK received the 2011 Marion Jenkinson AOU Service Award.

**The Fellows elected 5 new Honorary Fellows: HIROYOSHI HIGUCHI (Tokyo University, Japan), PETER SHARP (University of Edinburgh, Scotland), JOHN COCKREM (Massey University, New Zealand), HENRI WEIMERSKIRSCH (Chizé, France), and FUMIN LEI (Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing).

**The Fellows elected 29 new Fellows: TODD W. ARNOLD, ROBERT C. BEASON, JAMES R. BELTHOFF, MARGARET BRITTINGHAM, ROBB T. BRUMFIELD, CAROLEE CAFFREY, SCOTT R. DERRICKSON, STEPHEN J. DINSMORE, ROBERT E. GILL, JR., PAUL B. HAMEL, PATRICIA J. HEGLUND, STEVEN L. HILTY, PETER HOUDE, DOUGLAS H. JOHNSON, KEVIN P. JOHNSON, L. SCOTT JOHNSON, JEFFREY, F. KELLY, GARY L. KRAPU, STEVEN CARL LATTA, MICHAEL P. LOMBARDO, MIGUEL A. MARINI, MARTIN GEORGE RAPHAEL, JUAN CARLOS REBOREDA, AMANDA D. RODEWALD, WILLIAM JOHN SMITH, LISA G. SORENSON, PAUL W. SYKES, JR., GARY VOELKER, and TIMOTHY FRASER WRIGHT.

**Fellows and Elective Members elected 21 new Elective Members: LORI A. BLANC, GWENDA L. BREWER, PHILIP C. CHU, SHELDON J. COOPER, ROBERT H. DAY, GEORGE J. DIVOKY, JOHN HARSHMAN, DYLAN C. KESLER, CHRISTOPHER L. MERKORD, REBECCA G. PEAK, JEFFREY L. PETERS, VLADIMIR V. PRAVOSUDOV, SUSHMA REDDY, REBECCA J. SAFRAN, CAGAN H. SEKERCIOGLU, THEODORE R. SIMONS, GARTH M. SPELLMAN, KEITH ALLEN TARVIN, TODD J. UNDERWOOD, STEPHEN YEZERINAC, and BENJAMIN ZUCKERBERG.

**The Council re-elected MICHAEL MURPHY as Editor of *The Auk* and MICHAEL MORRISON as Editor of *Ornithological Monographs*.

**The Council re-elected the three incumbent Investing Trustees: EDWARD E. CRAWFORD, JOHN W. FITZPATRICK (Chair), and EDWIN H. MORGENS.

**AOU PRESENTATION awards were given at the annual banquet to four students for excellence in the rigor and quality of their scientific papers. The award for the best student conservation presentation was presented to KRISTEN DYBALA, University of California, Davis, for "Age matters: adult and juvenile survival rates will respond differently to climate change." The three general awards are unranked and were presented to ALLISON COX, University of Missouri, for "Prospecting behavior, post-fledging survival, and the influence of forest cover during natal dispersal in a resident bird;" REBECCA HEISS, University of Memphis, for "Oxidative stress and trade-offs in the cooperatively breeding Florida Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*);" and CHRISTOPHER TONRA, University of Maine, for "The role of testosterone in

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seasonal interactions: observational and experimental studies in the American Redstart."

**Travel Awards were granted to 53 students to help defray expenses for transportation to the AOU annual meeting. The Student Awards is pleased to announce the winners for 2011 were VIRGINIA ABERNATHY (Western Illinois University), PHRED BENHAM (University of New Mexico), BRIAN BIELFELT (Texas A&M University-Kingsville), BEZAWORK BOGALE (Utsunomiya University, Japan), MICHELLE BONDY (University of Western Ontario), MATT BUCKINGHAM (Stephen F. Austin State University), ALLISON BYRD (University of Maine), REBECCA COOPER (Arkansas State University), KRISTEN COVINO (University of Southern Mississippi), ALLISON COX (University of Missouri - Columbia), WILLIAM COX (University of Missouri - Columbia), LEAH CULP (University of Maine), JULIE DANNER (Virginia Tech), RAYMOND DANNER (Virginia Tech), BRIAN DAVIDSON (University of Maryland/Smithsonian Institution), SHANE DUBAY (University of New Mexico), KRISTEN DYBALA (University of California (Davis)), JEREMY EVERITTS (Arkansas State University), MOLLY GALLAGHER (The Ohio State University), JAMISON HARTLEY (University of Michigan-Dearborn), ERIN HATCHETT (Texas Christian University), REBECCA HEISS (University of Memphis), ROGER HOLT (Texas Tech University), KYLE HORTON (Canisius College), MATTHEW JONES (University of New Mexico), SARA KEEN (Columbia University), JANICE KELLY (Texas Tech University), SARAH KINGSTON (University of Maryland/Smithsonian Institution), MARY KORNGAY (North Carolina State University), LINDA LAIT (University of Lethbridge), PHILIP LAVRETSKY (Wright State University), ADRIENNE LEPPOLD (University of Maine), QENAN MAXHUNI (University of Sarajevo), MAUREEN MCCLUNG (University of Arkansas), CHRISTOPHER MCCLURE (Auburn University), MOLLY MCDERMOTT (The Ohio State University), BRYAN NUSE (University of Georgia), JOEL RALSTON (University at Albany), CATHERINE RICKETTS (University of Georgia), CAROLYN ROBBINS (University of Minnesota), ELLEN ROBERTSON (University of Maine), NATHAN SENNER (Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University), DAVID SLAGER (The Ohio State University), BRIDGET SOUSA (University of Kentucky), THOMAS STEVENS (Texas Christian University), RACHEL STURGE (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), SILU WANG (University of Toronto), ANDREANNA WELCH (University of Maryland), AMY WYNIA (Arkansas State University), and OWEN ZALME (Ramapo College of New Jersey).

**Post-doctoral Travel Awards for 2011 were granted to MARJA BAKERMANS (Indiana University of Pennsylvania), KEVIN KERR (Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History), SUSAN LONGEST (Tulane University), JENNIFER SEAVEY (University of Florida), BRYAN SIGEL (Tulane University), COLIN STUDDS (Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute), and COREY TARWATER (University of California, Berkeley).

The 130th Stated Meeting of the AOU will be held as part of the Fifth North American Ornithological Conference (NAOC-V) at the University of British Columbia, **14-18 Aug 2012.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AOU AWARDS FOR 2012: Nominations are invited for the following AOU Awards. Nominations may be submitted electronically to the Chair of the Awards Committee, Patricia Heglund (EM: Patricia_Heglund@fws.gov) **by 15 Feb 2012**.

**ELLIOTT COUES AWARD-The Elliott Coues Award recognizes extraordinary contributions to ornithological research and involves no limitation with respect to geographic area, sub-discipline(s) of ornithology, or the time course over which the work was done. Nominations should include (1) the name, institution, and contact information for the nominee, (2) a written letter that includes a description of the contributions of the nominee to ornithology, and (3) a CV of the nominee.

**WILLIAM BREWSTER MEMORIAL AWARD-The Brewster Award is given for the most meritorious body of work (book, monograph, or series of related papers) on birds of the Western Hemisphere published during the past ten years. Nominations should include (1) the name, institution, and contact information for the nominee, (2) a written letter that includes a description of the contributions of the nominee to ornithology, and (3) a CV of the nominee.

**NED K. JOHNSON YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD-The Ned K. Johnson Award recognizes outstanding and promising work by a researcher early in his/her career in any field of ornithology. Successful nominees will excel in research and show distinct promise for leadership in ornithology within and beyond North America. They must have

received their doctorate within 5 years of being nominated, must not have received the award previously, and must be a member of the AOU at the time of nomination. Nominations should be in the form of a written letter that includes (1) the name, institution, and contact information of the nominee, and (2) a written summary why the nominee should be considered for an award, including statements on his/her scientific accomplishments, the relevance of his/her research to scientific ornithology, and his/her promise as a leader in ornithology. Nominations should also include a CV of the nominee.

**RALPH W. SCHREIBER CONSERVATION AWARD-The AOU Conservation Award recognizes extraordinary scientific contributions to the conservation, restoration, or preservation of birds and/or their habitats by an individual or small team (usually less than 10 people). Contributions from throughout the world and over any time course are eligible. Appropriate activities include: - Applied research, restoration, and educational actions that conserve birds, or preserve significant bird habitats; - Scientific examination of the principles of avian conservation and application of new insights into species restoration; - Scientific evaluation, guidance, creation, and oversight of avian recovery programs or habitat reserve/restoration programs. Nominations should include (1) the name, institution, and contact information for the nominee(s), (2) a CV of the nominee(s), and (3) a written letter that summarizes why the nominee(s) should be considered for an award, including statements on scientific, educational, and conservation accomplishments, the relevance of his/her science to avian conservation, and his/her leadership in avian conservation, documentation of the conservation implications of the candidate's work, and what birds have benefitted from the science.

NOMINATIONS FOR AOU OFFICERS AND ELECTIVE COUNCILORS must be received by the Secretary four months before the Stated Meeting. Thus, this year nominations are **due 14 Apr 2012**. Officers will be elected by electronic and postal ballot prior to the meeting, and the new officers will be announced at the Business Meeting of Members. Officers to be elected will be President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Elective Councilors (three-year terms). At the conclusion of the 130th Stated Meeting, Susan M. Haig will begin her first year as President. The Bylaws of the AOU require that the Secretary and Treasurer be elected or re-elected annually. The incumbent Secretary (Sara R. Morris) and Treasurer (James Herkert) are willing to stand for re-election. Of the total of twelve Elective Councilors, four are elected annually to serve terms of approximately three years, beginning at the close of the Stated Meeting. Elective Councilors ending their terms at the conclusion of the 130th Stated Meeting in 2012 are Peter Arcese, Rebecca L. Holberton, J. Michael Reed, and Michael S. Webster. Continuing to serve in 2012-2013 will be Elective Councilors Irby J. Lovette, Ronald L. Mumme, Jennifer C. Owen, Scott K. Robinson, Kenneth V. Rosenberg, Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza, Brett K. Sandercock, and Kevin Winker. The procedure for nominating AOU officers and Elective Councilors is outlined in the Bylaws (Art IV, Sec 2). "Each Fellow and Elective Member shall be invited to nominate to the Secretary, persons for President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Elective Councilors. These nominations shall be received by the Secretary four months before the Stated Meeting. Nominations for all Officers and Elective Councilors must be accompanied by documented consent of the nominee." Nominations may be submitted in writing, or electronically to the Secretary, SARA R. MORRIS, Department of Biology, Canisius College, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14208 USA (PH: 716-888-2567, FX: 716-888-3157, EM: secretary@aou.org).

NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP CLASSES OF Fellow and Elective Member of the AOU are **due 14 Apr 2012**. Fellows and Elective Members are encouraged to submit nominations of deserving colleagues. Nominations and full supporting information are to be supplied by the nominators. Lists of current Fellows and Elective Members are available on the AOU website (URL: <http://www.aou.org/membership/special.php3>). Nominators seeking to endorse a nominee must first obtain the instructions and forms for 2012, available on the AOU web site (URL: <http://www.aou.org/nominations.php3>) or from the Secretary, SARA R. MORRIS, Department of Biology, Canisius College, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14208 USA (PH: 716 888 2567, FX: 716-888-3157, EM: secretary@aou.org). For ELECTIVE MEMBER nominations, the Secretary will compile and prepare information for electronic balloting. Current Fellows and Elective Members will be contacted in June 2012 with information about accessing the biographical information and

instructions for voting. For FELLOW nominations, the Secretary will compile and prepare packets to be sent to current Fellows in May 2012. Voting will take place at the Fellows Meeting on the first evening of the NAOC-V in August. The names of the newly-elected Elective Members and Fellows will be announced at the Business Meeting of AOU members during the NAOC-V meeting.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW BIRD SPECIES REVEALED to science after 50 years in museum drawer – A bird specimen that sat in a drawer at the Smithsonian for nearly 50 years has been revealed to be a totally new species to science, the first in the United States for 37 years. The specimen had been misidentified after it was collected on Midway Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands in 1963. Differences in measurements and physical appearance compared to other similar species were confirmed by DNA analysis, and the bird was given the name Bryan's Shearwater, *Puffinus bryani*. Researchers rarely discover new species of birds, most of the world's 9,000-plus species (including about 21 other species of shearwaters) having been described before 1900. The majority of new species described since the mid-1900s have been discovered in remote tropical rain- and cloud forests, primarily in South America and southeastern Asia. The Bryan's Shearwater is the first new species to be described from the United States and Hawaiian Islands since the Po'ouli was discovered in the forests of Maui in 1974. The Bryan's Shearwater is the smallest shearwater known to exist. It is black and white with a black or blue-gray bill and blue legs. Biologists found the species in a burrow among a colony of petrels during the Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program in 1963. Researchers do not know where Bryan's Shearwaters breed today. According to Peter Pyle, the discoverer of this specimen, shearwaters and other seabirds often visit nesting burrows on remote islands only at night, and researchers have not discovered the breeding locations of many populations. Individual seabirds from colonies also often "prospect" for new breeding locations, often far from existing colonies. Bryan's Shearwater could conceivably breed anywhere in the Pacific Ocean basin or even farther afield. Given that Bryan's shearwaters have remained undiscovered until now, they could be very rare; there is at least one more record of a bird in a burrow on Midway from 1990, and observations at sea of what could be Bryan's Shearwaters as recently as 2005. (Excerpted from Bird Conservation News Updates Sept. 2, 2011, <http://www.abcbirds.org>).

SUMMARY OF THIS YEAR'S KIRTLAND'S WARBLER CENSUS – In central Michigan there were 1,170 singing males counted, while in Michigan's Upper Peninsula there were an additional 35 birds (an all-high record for the UP). The first nests found outside of Michigan were found in 2007. This year in Wisconsin, there were 21 singing birds, and in Ontario, Canada, there were two. The total of 1,828 singing males is a record high, just eclipsing the previous high of 1,826 in 2009. This is a far cry from the first formal census of singing males started in 1971. At that time, the species was at the edge of extinction, with only 201 singing males counted, all of them in central Michigan. (Excerpted from Birding Community E-Bulletin - September 2011)

NEWS FROM THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Provided by the Ornithological Council. Major funding for the Ornithological Council is provided by its twelve member societies: American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, CIPAMEX, Cooper Ornithological Society, Neotropical Ornithological Society, North American Crane Working Group, 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/>) or via paypal on the BIRDNET homepage at <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET>.

THE ANNUAL PLEDGE BREAK: THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL! - Society membership renewal notices will soon land in your inbox.....and we hope that when you renew, you will consider contributing to the Ornithological Council. You will find a line on the printed renewal notice, at the top of the column where you will list your dues and contributions to the OSNA societies. You can also contribute via the OSNA website <www.osnabirds.org> if you renew online. The line for contributions to the OC appear at the bottom of the webpage where you enter the society membership dues and contributions. 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 the PayPal button on our homepage (URL: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/index.html>) using your free PayPal account or a credit card or by check (payable to the Ornithological Council and mailed to 5107 Sentinel Drive, Bethesda MD 20816, USA). Thank you for helping the Ornithological Council in its efforts to keep the world safe for ornithology! Many ornithologists already know that the Ornithological Council is the "go-to" source for assistance and information regarding permits, animal welfare, and other policies and procedures that they must follow in conducting their research. Among the key services provided by the OC are:

****Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research** (a peer-reviewed document, available for free, that is used by scientists, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees, and government agencies).

****Peer-reviewed guidance on the impacts of West Nile Virus and H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, and other zoonotic disease on ornithological research.**

****Comprehensive guides for obtaining permits for import of specimens and live birds, permits to work on federally managed public lands, and state permitting.**

****Representation to the U.S., Canadian, and international organizations that set animal welfare standards for scientific research.**

We've also helped many ornithologists to obtain policy information about the birds they study, and to communicate their research findings to policy makers and conservation planners and resource managers. Others know us only through the *Ornithological Newsletter* or listservs, and have not yet needed individual assistance. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the ornithologists and the ornithological community as a whole. More details about our work can be found in our annual report, which is posted here (URL: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/OC/OCnews.html>). Most of the support for the Ornithological Council is provided by our eleven member societies, which support the OC as an important benefit for their members. However, support from individual ornithologists is also an important source of funding for OC's efforts to "keep the world safe for ornithology." Thank you to all who have contributed in the past. We appreciate your support!

MAJOR CHANGES IN NSF BIO PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCEDURES: The National Science Foundation Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) has announced major changes to the process some of its divisions use to receive and review research proposals. As a result of increased workload resulting from an increase in the number of unsolicited proposals, effective immediately, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) has initiated new procedures for the submission and review of regular research proposals to the core programs within the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB), Division of Environmental Biology (DEB), and Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS). One goal of these new procedures is to reduce the burdens on the PI and reviewer communities associated with intensifying competition for limited funds. A second is to better manage proposal processing in the face of growing proposal submission numbers while maintaining the high quality of the merit review process and resulting funding selections. In response to these challenges, three BIO Divisions are revising their procedures for submission and review of research proposals. DEB and IOS will both implement an annual cycle of preliminary and full proposals beginning in January 2012. Preliminary proposals will be accepted in January. Following review by a panel of outside experts, each applicant will be notified of a binding decision to Invite or Not Invite submission of a full proposal. Each investigator is limited to submitting two preliminary proposals a year to either Division, whether as a PI, co-PI or lead senior investigator of a subaward. All proposals submitted to DEB or IOS in response to the core program solicitations, and to the

Research at Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) and Long-term Research in Environmental Biology (LTREB) solicitations, must pass the preliminary proposal stage. The only exceptions are LTREB Renewals, RAPIDs, EAGERS, conferences/workshops and supplemental funding requests will continue to be accepted at any time by IOS and DEB programs. Proposals submitted in response to special solicitations (e.g. BREAD, CAREER, CNH, EEID) will remain unaffected by these new review procedures. However, OPUS and RCN proposals will only be accepted by the core programs in DEB and IOS once a year at the August deadline for full proposals. Full details can be found in a new Program Solicitation that will be posted on each Division's website (DEB) and (IOS). A single set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about these changes also can be found at (URL: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf11079) and linked from each Division website. In addition, both IOS and DEB will be hosting webinars to provide further information, please see the Division websites for details and contact information if you have questions or concerns.

HEAD OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION DIRECTORATE for Biological Sciences – The Ornithological Council congratulates John Wingfield who has been selected to head the National Science Foundation Directorate for Biological Sciences. Wingfield, who received the Coues Award from the American Ornithologists' Union in 1987 and served as the President of the 2010 International Ornithological Congress is also a member of the Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society, and the Wilson Ornithological Society. Wingfield, an environmental endocrinologist, joined NSF as division director of Integrative Organismal Systems in September 2010 from the University of California, Davis. The Directorate for Biological Sciences provides support for research to advance understanding the underlying principles and mechanisms governing life. "Dr. Wingfield is a distinguished scientist whose research has covered a wide spectrum of topics and fields in biology," said NSF Director Subra Suresh. "He has already proven his commitment to the goals of the biological sciences here at NSF, and we look forward to great strides in the directorate under his strong leadership." Wingfield, whose research focuses on neural pathways for environmental signals affecting seasonality in birds and their mechanisms of coping with environmental stress, begins his position on 6 Sep 2011. Wingfield's research also interfaces with how animals deal with global climate change, endocrine disruption and conservation biology. "It is indeed a great honor and a challenge to be appointed assistant director for BIO," he said. "This is a transformational time for biological sciences in the post-genome era as we try to understand life on Earth from its most fundamental components at the molecular levels to functioning organisms interacting with their environment, and with each other, at ecosystem scales." Wingfield takes over the position held by Joann Roskoski, who served as acting assistant director for biological sciences since October 2009. Five office areas make up the directorate: Biological Infrastructure, Environmental Biology, Emerging Frontiers, Integrative Organismal Systems and Molecular and Cellular Biosciences. "All the BIO divisions have strong interfaces with each other as well as with the other directorates and offices across NSF," said Wingfield. "I feel it is the responsibility of the AD to pull together the incredibly diverse programs in BIO to advance our basic understanding of life that will contribute to human society in so many ways." Wingfield received his Ph.D. in Zoology and Comparative Endocrinology from University College of North Wales, U.K. in 1973.

FEDERAL AGENCIES DIRECTED TO PROPOSE BUDGET REDUCTIONS (YES, AGAIN): The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently told federal agency heads to submit fiscal year (FY) 2013 budgets to the White House that include a minimum of a five percent cut from enacted FY 2011 funding levels. OMB directed the reductions must be made through strategic cuts, not through across-the-board reductions. Agencies are also required to submit a list of additional cuts that would bring their total spending to 10 percent below FY 2011 levels. Although agency budgets would decline under the proposal, high priority programs that "enhance economic growth" could receive additional funding if agencies "eliminate low-priority and ineffective programs while consolidating duplicative ones; improve program efficiency by driving down operational and administrative costs; and support fundamental program reforms that generate the best outcomes per dollar spent." The reductions could begin to undo recent gains in federal investments in science. Most federal research programs

had sizeable budget increases in FY 2009 and FY 2010, but many agencies saw their budgets stagnant or slightly decrease this year. For instance, funding for the National Science Foundation dropped by about 1 percent between FY 2010 and FY 2011.

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 can 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: ctrine@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>, 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 WORLD OWL HALL OF FAME AWARDS – The World Owl Hall of Fame is currently seeking nomination for its 2012 awards. The awards are for people and owls who have made this world a substantially better place for owls. Three awards are given each year: The Champion of Owls Award is given to humans who have had a broad geographical impact on owls in multiple fields such as conservation, science, legislation, education, and/or rehabilitation, usually over a lifetime. The Special Achievement Award is for humans who have made a significant contribution to owls through a specific project or for efforts in a specific geographic area. The Lady Grayl Award is for an owl who has made outstanding strides toward making this world a better place for owls (usually with the assistance of some humans). Nominations are due **by 4 Nov 2012** and will be judged by a panel of five owl experts from four countries. Winners will be notified in December and awards will be presented at the International Festival of Owls on 3 March 2012 in Houston, Minnesota, USA. You can find more information and nomination forms at (URL: <http://www.festivalofowls.com/worldowllhalloffame.htm>). Current sponsors for 2012 include the Global Owl Project, Tanja Sova, and the Gray Owl Fund.

TIOF ENDOWMENT FUND PROPOSAL--The International Osprey Foundation (TIOF) is seeking applications for its 21st annual grant program to support research activities of a graduate student primarily focusing on osprey. However, work with other raptor species may be considered. The award recipient will be expected to provide a report on his or her research and use of the funds within one year of receiving the grant. To apply, send a project description of no more than two pages, an itemized estimate of expenses, and the name and address of the graduate supervisor. This project description and estimated budget, along with a cover letter giving whatever personal data you wish to furnish, will serve as your grant application. No further documents are required. Applications must be submitted **by 31 Jan 2012** to: TIOF Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, Florida, USA 33957-0250. The grant will be awarded on 31 Mar 2012.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

THE ATLAS OF BIRDS: Diversity, Behavior, and Conservation, by Mike Unwin, 2011. Princeton University Press. 144 pp., 8½ x 11". ISBN: 978-0-691-14949-3 (paper, \$22.95). This volume is an illustrated atlas of bird diversity, behavior, and conservation. It features full-color maps, photos, and diagrams to aid in the explanation of bird evolution, classification, and behavior, as well as the complex relationship between birds and their habitats and the impact of human activities on species survival. Sample page spreads may be viewed by clicking on the links on the right hand side of the <http://press.princeton.edu/titles/9416.html>

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published, both on the web and in paper format, the following publication: *INFORMING ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT: SCIENCE AND PROCESS FOR LANDBIRD CONSERVATION IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES*, Stephens, J. L., K. Kreitinger, C. J. Ralph, and M. T. Green (editors). 2011. U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological Technical Publication FWS/BTP-R1014-2011, Washington, D.C. Web address (URL: <http://library.fws.gov/BTP/information-ecosystem-management-2011.pdf>). The paper copies are available from JAIME L. STEPHENS (EM: jlh@klamathbird.org) or from MICHAEL GREEN (EM: Michael.Green@fws.gov). Please remember to include your postal address! FWS has published a number of Biological Technical publications recently, and these are posted on the web (URL: <http://library.fws.gov/BiologicalTechnicalPublications.html>). Paper copies of most of these are available from STEPHANIE JONES (EM: stephanie_jones@fws.gov).

SOURCES, SINKS, AND SUSTAINABILITY, edited by: Jianguo Liu, Vanessa Hull, Anita T. Morzillo, John A. Wiens, 2011. Cambridge University Press. 544 pages, 87 b/w illus. ISBN: 9780521145961. \$65.00. Inspired by the classic 1988 paper by H. Ronald Pulliam "Sources, Sinks, and Population Regulation" (*The American Naturalist*, 132:652-661), this book presents the latest advances in source-sink theories, methods and applications in the conservation and management of natural resources and biodiversity. The interdisciplinary team of authors from around the world uses case studies, field experiments and modeling, and syntheses to incorporate source-sink ideas into research and management, and explores how sustainability can be achieved in today's increasingly human-dominated ecosystems. More information about the book is available at URL: http://cts.vresp.com/c/?MichiganStateUniv/00ced0a692/fea8fd990c/b8c805860e/site_1ocale=en_US

CAPTURING THE ESSENCE: Techniques for Bird Artists, by William T. Cooper, 2011. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, VIC, Australia. 128 pp., 10 1/4 x 7 7/8, 139 color illus. ISBN: 9780300176261 (\$42.00 sc). This volume is a step-by-step guide to observing, retaining the essential information and then painting birds from field notes and sketches, photographs and other field observations. The author takes the reader through the processes involved in oil painting, watercolor and acrylic techniques, and a piece of art is built up in stages to demonstrate the skills required in each of these media. To learn more or to order, visit: <http://yalepress.yale.edu/book.asp?isbn=9780300176261>

COMPLETE GUIDE TO FINDING THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA, 2nd ed., Richard Thomas, Sarah Thomas, David Andrew and Alan McBride, 2011. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, VIC, Australia. 463 pp. color and b/w photographs, maps. ISBN: 9780643097858 (paperback). The 2nd edition follows almost precisely the same contents as the first. It guides the reader anti-clockwise around Australia, beginning in Victoria and ending in South Australia but adds an extra section for islands and external territories and, for Australian birders, a section on rarity hotspots. Every site in the book has, at some point relatively recently, been visited by either the authors or a reliable birder the final chapter (10) is about pelagic birding and finally the Bird Finding Guide, an annotated list of all the birds of Australia that cross-references locations elsewhere in the book.

STRAY FEATHERS: Reflections on the Structure, Behaviour and Evolution of Birds, Penny Olsen and Leo Joseph, 2011. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, VIC, Australia. Paperback, 288 pp., 286 p. b/w ill., maps ; 26 cm. ISBN: 9780643094932 (\$66.95, pbk.)

9780643103443 (epdf) 9780643103450 (epub). Also available in an electronic version via the Internet. This volume showcases some of the remarkable adaptations of Australian birds. A brief introduction describes how evolution shapes form and function, followed by a series of vignettes illustrating the wondrous variety of forms and functions shaped by evolution. A variety of aspects are considered including anatomy and physiology; vocalizations; plumage; getting around; optimizing foraging and feeding; competition; and reproduction. Black and white drawings enhance the text.

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

*RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE – **5-9 Oct 2011, Duluth, Minnesota**. The Natural Resources Research Institute and Department of Biology at the University of Minnesota-Duluth will host the 2011 RRF conference in Duluth. Co-hosts include Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory and Duluth Audubon. In addition to the general topic sessions, the conference will feature symposia and special-topic paper sessions on Raptors and Contaminants; Raptors and Wind Energy; Breeding Ecology, Distribution, and Movements of *Aegolius* Owls; Short-eared Owls: the need for a continental conservation plan; and Ecology & Conservation of Eastern North American Golden Eagles. For complete conference details, visit the website (URL: <http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/conferences/current-conference>).

IXTH NEOTROPICAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS (NOC) and VIIITH PERUVIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS (COP) – The Neotropical Ornithological Society (NOS) and the Peruvian Ornithological Union (UNOP) are pleased to announce the IXth Neotropical Ornithological Congress (NOC) and VIIIth Peruvian Ornithological Congress (COP) to be held in the city of Cusco, Peru (**8-14 Nov 2011**). The objective of the congress is for interchange of information related to recent research and advances in the areas of ecology, evolution, systematics, and conservation of Neotropical birds and their habitats with colleagues from throughout the world. To obtain more information, please visit the congress web site (URL: <http://www.ixconperu2011.org>).

THE WATERBIRD SOCIETY is pleased to announce its 35th and 2011 meeting, to be held in Annapolis, Maryland, **9-12 Nov 2011**. Simultaneous paper sessions will be held 9-11 November. The poster session will be held on Friday evening, 10 November. Detailed information about travel, accommodations, field trips, and other information along with the abstract submission and registration system is available on the Waterbird Society website (URL: <http://www.waterbirds.org/>).

BIOLIEF 2011 - 2nd World Conference on Biological Invasions and Ecosystem Functioning. Mar del Plata, Argentina, **21-24 Nov 2011**. BIOLIEF 2011 will be a forum for the presentation, discussion, and synthesis of research on biological invasions in its broadest sense. Contact: JORGE L. GUTIÉRREZ (EM: biolief@grieta.org.ar). For more information, visit our website (URL: <http://www.grieta.org.ar/biolief/>), and follow us in Facebook for news and updates (URL: <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/BIOLIEF-2011/126444150720221?ref=sgm>).

QUAIL VII ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS – The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, University of Tennessee, invite you to the Seventh National Quail Symposium in **Tucson, Arizona, 9-12 Jan 2012**. Quail VII will feature the diversity in conservation of quails with field tours of areas supporting Gambel's, scaled and Mearns' quail and will highlight current management and research, including progress of the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative and The Western Quail Plan. The meeting includes posters, oral presentations and a peer-reviewed proceedings. Proceedings from the quail symposia series can be found at (URL: http://gamebird.forestry.uga.edu/quailvi/previous/index_html). See (URL: <http://www.azgfd.gov/quailvii/>) for details.

5TH NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE, **14-18 Aug 2012, Vancouver, BC, Canada** on the University of British Columbia campus. NAOC web site (URL: <http://www.naoc-v2012.com>)

NEWS OF MEMBERS

MARY ANNE CLENCH, member the AOU since 1953, Elective member since 1963 and Fellow since 1976, member of the AFO since 1983, the COS since 1960, and WOS since 1955, passed away in Gainesville, FL on 27 June 2011. She served as president of Wilson Ornithological Society and on the board of directors of National Audubon Society. Her career included positions as Assistant Curator of Birds at Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh and the University of Florida and research associate in Charlottesville, VA and Galveston, TX. She traveled the world doing bird research and some of her happiest days were at Powdermill Nature Reserve in PA and in the Bahamas with her beloved husband Harry.

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@atandrews.edu).

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THE MOST RECENT NUMBERS of the Society journals and the month of mailing are: *Auk*, 2011, Vol. 128, #3 (Jul); *Condor*, 2011, Vol. 113, 3 (Aug), *J. Field Ornith.*, 2011, Vol. 82, #3 (Sep), *Raptor Res.*, 2011, Vol. 45, #3 (Sep), *Waterbirds*, 2011, Vol. 34, #3 (Sep), *Wilson J. Ornith.*, 2011, Vol. 123, #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.

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@atandrews.edu), **by 1 November 2011**. 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.