

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 200

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ORGANIZATION NEWS

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

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

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/>

AOU SILENT AUCTION – After its fantastic success in 2010, the AOU Student Affairs Committee Silent Auction is back for its 4th year! In this conference-long event items donated by various companies and AOU members are bid on by conference attendees - and to the highest bidder go the spoils! From jewelry to fine art to books and monographs, we've got it all. The generosity of our donors and bidders help fund events hosted by the AOU Student Affairs Committee at future conferences. To do this WE NEED AUCTION ITEMS! Suggested donations include, but are not limited to: books and field guides (new and used, vintage, hard-to-get, out of print, or autographed books are especially welcome), binoculars or other optics, tripods, field supplies, education materials, services (e.g., statistics consulting or bird identifications), trips, jewelry, art, decorations, and software. This is the perfect opportunity to support ornithology students and recycle those used, but still valuable items laying around your lab or office! If you have suitable items to donate, or have any questions, please contact STEPHANIE WRIGHT (EM: wright.1295@osu.edu). We can make arrangements to give receipts for donated items, for donors who may wish to take a tax deduction.

NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP CLASSES OF Fellow and Elective Member of the AOU are **due 11 Mar 2011**. 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.php>). Nominators seeking to endorse a nominee must first obtain the instructions and forms for 2011, available on the AOU website (URL: <http://www.aou.org/members/nominations/index.php>) 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: aousecretary@aou.org). For ELECTIVE MEMBER nominations, the Secretary will compile and prepare ballot packets to be sent to current Fellows and Elective Members in Apr 2011. Ballots must be returned by mail to the Secretariat by three weeks before the Stated Meeting (i.e., **by 5 Jul 2011**) and the names will be announced at the Business Meeting of Members in San Diego, CA. For FELLOW nominations, the Secretary will compile and prepare packets to be sent to current Fellows in May 2011. Voting will take place at the Fellows Meeting on the first evening of the Jacksonville

meeting in July.

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER HAS REACHED A MILESTONE – 200 issues since its inception! Thank you to all who have supplied content over the years and to the former editors. Without you, we would never have gotten here. – *The Editor*

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AOU AWARDS FOR 2011: 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 2011**.

•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 be in the form of a written letter that includes (1) the name and institution of the nominee, and (2) a written description of the contributions of the nominee to ornithology.

•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 be in the form of a written letter that includes (1) the name and institution of the nominee, and (2) a written description of the contributions of the nominee to ornithology.

•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 five 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 and institution 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.

•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 be in the form of a written letter that includes (1) the name and institution of the nominee, and (2) 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.

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

NOMINATIONS FOR AOU OFFICERS AND ELECTIVE COUNCILORS must be received by the Secretary four months before the Stated Meeting. Thus, nominations this year are **due 24 Mar 2011**. 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 Secretary, Treasurer, four Elective Councilors (three-year terms) and one Elective Councilor (one-year term). At the conclusion of the 129th Stated Meeting, John R. Faaborg will begin his second year as President, and Susan M. Haig will begin her second year as President-Elect. 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 129th Stated Meeting in 2011 are Bonnie S. Bowen, Mary Bomberger Brown, Janis L. Dickinson, Rebecca L. Holberton, and Amanda D. Rodewald. Continuing to serve in 2011-2012 will be Elective Councilors Peter Arcese, Ronald L. Mumme, Jennifer C. Owen, J. Michael Reed, Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza, Brett K. Sandercock, and Michael S. Webster. 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: aousecretary@aou.org).

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONLINE RESEARCH IN BIOLOGY PROJECT – The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has recently launched a website featuring technology-enhanced investigations for use in undergraduate biology and environmental science courses. Funded by NSF, the Online Research in Biology project provides a way to engage undergraduates in course-based research experiences using online data and visualization tools. Lessons currently featured on the website include Species Concepts in Birds, which uses sounds and videos to explore behavioral reproductive isolation, and Birds in Human Landscapes, which uses maps and Breeding Bird Atlas data to explore causes of change in distribution and abundance of bird species over the past 20 years. We are looking for faculty to pilot these investigations with undergraduate courses in Spring 2011, or to provide feedback about new lessons under development that use eBird, NestWatch, and similar citizen science data about birds and their habitats. For more information or to download lesson resources, please visit our website (URL: <http://birds.cornell.edu/orb>) or contact COLLEEN MCLINN (EM: mclinn@cornell.edu).

ALEX AND ME: THE MOVIE – Hello fellow bird lover! It is my great pleasure to announce the launch of a brand new website offering fans of Alex, the genius African Grey Parrot, a unique opportunity to take part in the motion picture adaptation of the New York Times bestseller "Alex & Me." The website (URL: <http://www.alexandmethemovie.com>) was created by independent filmmakers working with the book's author, Dr. Irene Pepperberg, to develop a screenplay based on her remarkable true story. We want to promote a film about love and triumph, groundbreaking scientific research, and the journey of one woman to reveal the secrets of avian intelligence to the world. This is your chance to help some young filmmakers make a dream come true and bring the story of Alex to the silver screen. The process of adapting a screenplay from a book requires immense amounts of research and financial resources, and we need your help. For more information, visit the website. If you would like to contact the writing team to request an interview or additional information about the project for a news article, contact Producer Joshua Dinner (EM: alexandme@earthrisepictures.com).

ERRATA: In the December 2010 issue, in the Ornithological Council subsection item, STATE AGENCIES, BUDGET CUTS, PERMIT DELAYS, the number of individuals reported being laid off in the N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation should have read 140 –still, not an insignificant number. (From all agencies, the number is over 800).

NEWS FROM THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Provided by the Ornithological Council. Major funding for the Ornithological Council is provided by its 12 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: URL: <http://www.osnabirds.org/>) or via paypal on the BIRD-NET homepage (URL: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET>). Thank you for helping the Ornithological Council in its efforts to keep the world safe for ornithology!

APPLY FOR PERMITS NOW – Don't wait until spring to apply for permits that you need for field work that starts in late spring or early summer! Most federal permit issuance is relatively rapid, though endangered species will always take a minimum of 90 days due to the legal requirement that notices of permit applications be published in the Federal Register. Staffing changes in some regions may also result in slight delays. However, state permit issuance has become a serious challenge in a number of states, due to state budget challenges. Contrary to popular belief, nearly every state requires state permits for wildlife research; a few do not require permits for banding (check your state's or states' requirements here: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/permit/stateindex.html>).

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL PUBLISHES REVISED *GUIDE TO CARE AND USE OF LABORATORY ANIMALS* – The Institute of Laboratory Animal Welfare of the National Research Council (of the National Academies of Science) has published the eighth revision of its highly influential *Guide to the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. Though little in the Guide pertains to field research, the general principles espoused in the Guide are applied by Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees to all research involving vertebrates, in large part because the National Institutes of Health, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare adopts the Guide as its official policy. In addition, the Guide is applied to research involving wildlife studied in captivity. The Ornithological Council, along with the American Society of Mammalogists and The Wildlife Society, expressed strong concern about certain aspects of the pre-publication edition of the Guide, some of them errors and others unsupported mandates that had the potential to cause major and unnecessary barriers to scientific research without improving animal welfare. The published version corrects some of these problems. The Ornithological Council will work to educate oversight agencies such as the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare and AAALAC International (a private accreditation body) as well as individual animal care and use committees about the appropriate interpretation of the Guide insofar as it pertains to field research or the study of wild birds in captivity. We strongly encourage ornithologists to (1) obtain a copy of the Guide, available in hard copy or for download (URL: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12910); or free for viewing online (URL: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12910#toc) and (2) to notify the Ornithological Council with questions or concerns about the manner in which the Guide is being interpreted by the animal care and use committees when reviewing their protocols.

WHITE HOUSE RELEASES LONG-OVERDUE SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY POLICY; A SIGN OF PROGRESS? – For many years, the Ornithological Council has worked to bring about a change in policy that has been a deterrent – and in some cases, a complete barrier – to the service of scientists employed by the federal government on the boards of their scientific societies. The scientific integrity policy released recently by the White House (URL: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/scientific-integrity-memo-12172010.pdf>) includes this statement: "Allow full participation in professional or scholarly societies, committees, task forces and other specialized bodies of professional societies, including removing barriers for serving as officers or on governing boards of such societies." This, we believe, is the product of the efforts of the Ornithological Council, The Wildlife Society, the Society for Conservation Biology, AAAS, and the American Statistical Association, who met with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy earlier this year. Earlier this year, we met with John Berry, the director of the Office of Personnel Management, and his staff. We have now been informed by counsels general for the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Government Ethics that they have indeed moved forward to remove those barriers. More generally, according to a press release from the Union of Concerned Scientists, "The scientific integrity directive released by the White House articulates a broad vision for defending science from political interference. It requires federal agencies and departments to develop meaningful and specific plans to protect scientists from political pressure by special interests, and ensure that the government makes decisions that protect this country's health and environment. For years, interference from industry and government officials has prevented government scientists from doing their jobs, and has led to flawed policy decisions on a wide range of issues, including prescription drug safety and childhood lead poisoning. If the agencies fully carry out the directive, the public will have more access to the science considered in making policy decisions and government scientists will finally be able to share their research and scientific analyses with the public and the press. In addition, the directive clearly removes roadblocks that kept scientists from staying current on the latest research. Francesca Graaff, senior scientist and director of the UCS Scientific Integrity Program, said of the policy, 'This is a rough but promising blueprint for honesty and accountability in the use of science in government decisions. If the details are fully articulated by federal agencies and departments, the directive will help keep politics in its place and allow government scientists to do their jobs. At the same time, I'm worried that the directive leaves an enormous amount of discretion to the agencies. We will be watching them every step of the way. Everyone wants to have science on their side. But twisting scientific data to fit preconceived opinions or political needs does not serve the public good. For years, politicians and government officials have manipulated science and censored scientists, and in the process put the public's health and safety at risk. The directive has the potential to stop special interests from spinning science at the expense of the American people. And it could enable government officials to take on the complex scientific challenges facing our country, from the safety of our medicines to the quality of our air. The directive also encourages agencies to make science more transparent. Whether the issue is offshore oil drilling or levels of toxic chemicals in children's toys, the public has a right to know how the government has used science in making policy. Now, agencies and departments must dive into the details. Those creating these policies should be open and collaborative and should include input from those inside and outside government. In addition, the Office of Science and Technology Policy should hold agencies accountable for developing effective plans.'" The Ornithological Council joins the Union of Concerned Scientists in hoping that "the road from directive to implementation is short and straight."

AND NOW WE ARE TWELVE - The Ornithological Council is pleased to welcome the North American Crane Working Group as its twelfth member society. The NACWG is an organization of professional biologists, aviculturists, land managers, and other interested individuals dedicated to the conservation of cranes and their habitats in North America. It originated as an informal group that met at periodic workshops beginning in 1975 and then became the NCWG at the 1987 International Crane Workshop. The group then officially incorporated in 1988. Workshops are held every 3-4 years, and the next workshop will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Waterbird Society, Grand Island, Nebraska in Mar 2011. For more information about the NACWG, visit the organization's website at <http://www.nacwg.org/>

POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

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

AN E-LIST SERVICE is available. Subscribers to this list will receive the same new announcements that appear on-line. E-list members often receive these announcements before they are posted on-line. To subscribe, send the following message to: <lyris@cornell.edu>, 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>

CALL FOR MINI-GRANT APPLICANTS – The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "Celebrate Urban Birds" project is now accepting applications for another round of mini-grants. Grants average \$250 - \$500 and are used to fund neighborhood events that promote an appreciation for birds and nature. Neighborhood events or projects feature activities involving birds, community service, art, greening, and science. Participants collect simple information about common birds and report to the Cornell Lab. Celebrate Urban Birds mini-grants could be used to support a bird-activity day at a local museum, afterschool program, library, or community center, or fund art and gardening activities at your club, business, school, senior center, or neighborhood. To apply for a mini-grant, visit (URL: <http://www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org>). Organizations working with underserved communities are strongly encouraged to apply. No experience with birds is required. Deadline to apply is **15 Feb 2011**. Celebrate Urban Birds is a free, year-round citizen science project in which participants watch birds in their neighborhoods and report what they see. This information helps scientists better understand how birds survive in cities and make use of green spaces, including parks and gardens. Contact: KAREN PURCELL, Project Leader, (PH: 607-254-2455, EM: urbanbirds@cornell.edu).

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

THE FLEXIBLE PHENOTYPE, by Theunis Piersma and Jan van Gils. 2010. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-959724-6 (Paper, \$52.95), 978-0-19-923372-4 (Hardback, \$117.00). *The Flexible Phenotype* attempts a true synthesis of animal physiology, behavior, and ecology by developing an empirical argument that describes the intimate connections between animal phenotype and environment. It starts with a synthesis of the principles guiding current research in ecophysiology, behavior, and ecology, illustrating each aspect with the detailed results of empirical work on as wide a range of organisms as possible. The integrated story of the flexible phenotype is woven throughout the book on the basis of the authors' long-term research program on migrant shorebirds and their invertebrate prey. These birds travel vast distances from one environment to another, and the changing nature of their bodies reflects the varied selection pressures experienced in these very different locations. In essence, the authors argue for the existence of direct, measurable, links between phenotype and ecology. Their book outlines a more encompassing approach to evolutionary ecology, based on first principles in physiology, behavior, and ecology. It aspires to encourage a further integration of ecology and physiology, as well as fostering a collaborative research agenda between ecologists and physiologists.

BIRDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, 2nd ed. (Princeton Field Guides), Richard Porter & Simon Aspinall. 2010. Princeton University Press. 400 pp., 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, 176 color plates, 820 maps. ISBN13: 978-0-691-14844-1 (Paper: \$39.50). A field-ready and comprehensive guide to the birds of the region, this fully revised and updated second edition covers all species—including vagrants—found in the Arabian Peninsula (including Socotra), Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Cyprus. The color plates depict more than 800 species, and the distribution maps show the breeding range for almost every species. In this upgraded edition, maps and detailed species accounts are located opposite the plates. URL: <http://press.princeton.edu/titles/9291.html>

BIRD SONGS BIBLE: THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED REFERENCE FOR NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS, edited by Les Beletsky. 2010. Chronicle Books. This deluxe offering blends artwork, information, and sounds for all breeding bird species found in North America. The songs and calls for each species come from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Macaulay Library. Each species account includes four-color illustrations and range maps, showing where the bird is likely to be found. Information about the bird's habitat, behavior, and vocalizations is also included. The most unique feature of the Bird Songs Bible is its built-in audio player so the vocalizations of nearly 750 species are available while reading the species accounts. (URL: <http://www.chroniclebooks.com>).

PERSONAL EXCHANGES

WANTED: *BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA SPECIES ACCOUNTS* – If you have (a) print versions of the species accounts of diurnal raptors (all species in the families Cathartidae, Accipitridae, and Falconidae), (b) a copy of Stotz et al. *Neotropical Birds* collecting dust in your book shelves, and (c) would like to use them in support of research and conservation efforts of Pronatura Veracruz in Mexico, please contact me. I can help you put those to a good use. Contact Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza (EM: ernesto.ruelas@dartmouth.edu).

AVAILABLE: Issues of *Auk*: 1964 (v.3), 1968-1972, 1975-1977, 1978 (v.1), 1980, 1981 (v.2, 3, 4), 1982 (v.1, 3), 1983-2010. Contact: (EM: judith.rhymer@umit.maine.edu).

AVAILABLE: Duplicate issues of ornithological journals available for the cost of shipping; most runs are complete, but inquire first about missing issues: *Auk* 1958-2007; *Condor* 1987-2005; *Ibis* 1987-1989; *Wilson Bulletin* 1965-2007; *Bird Banding / AFO* 1961-1994. Contact STEVEN LATTA (EM: steven_latta@aviary.dot.org).

FOR SALE: Complete bound set of the *Birds of North America Series*. More than 700 individual species accounts. Downsizing personal library (this series takes up a lot of shelf space). All accounts are in excellent condition with no marking. Includes the black slip cases. Free delivery within 200 miles of Athens, Georgia. Otherwise, seller pays shipping. \$775 for complete set. EM: nancyohare@gmail.com

FOR SALE (for a reasonable price)—Antique 1800's heavy pine dovetailed trunk with the name J. Harris Reed stenciled on top. Acquired on Cape Cod in 1990's. No provenance or proof of connection to historical ornithologist J. Harris Reed. Measures: 40" wide x 21" deep x 22" high. Wide pine boards and old hardware (lock, hinges, handles). Reed was Founder of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club in 1890 and was Associate Member of The American Ornithologists Union in the 1890's. Among his publications were *The Terns of Great Gull Island During 1897* and *Notes on the American Barn Owl in Eastern Pennsylvania, 1897*. Contact: LISA POPITZ in Providence, RI (EM: lisapopitz@gmail.com).

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

GYRFALCONS AND PTARMIGAN IN A CHANGING WORLD – The Peregrine Fund, Boise State University, and the U.S. Geological Survey will convene an international conference “Gyrfalcons and Ptarmigan in a Changing World” from **1-3 Feb 2011**, in Boise, Idaho, U.S.A. We invite scientists, land managers, policy analysts, and other conservationists from around the world to explore evidence for a range of environmental changes (climate, contaminants, disease, development) in arctic ecosystems with a focus on the Gyrfalcon and its principal prey, ptarmigan, as models of the predator-prey relationship. The proceedings will be published in what we expect will be a landmark publication of information, ideas, and strategies. For details please visit: (URL: http://www.peregrinefund.org/gyr_conference/) or contact us (EM: tpf@peregrinefund.org).

THE FOLLOWING SOCIETIES will hold a joint meeting at KEARNEY 2011, **9 – 13 Mar 2011**:

2011 Annual Meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists
81st Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society
2011 Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society

KEARNEY 2011 – The Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO), the Cooper Ornithological Society (COS), and the Wilson Ornithological Society (WOS) will jointly hold their annual meetings **9 – 13 Mar 2011** in Kearney, Nebraska. The conference, “Kearney 2011,” is timed to coincide with the spring migration of Sandhill Cranes and other waterbirds in the Platte River region. The conference will also dovetail with the annual meeting (13 - 16 Mar) of The Waterbird Society (URL: <http://www.waterbirds.org/>) to be held jointly in Grand Island, Nebraska, with the 12th Workshop of the North American Crane Working Group (URL: <http://www.nacwg.org/workshops.html>). Conference organization for Kearney 2011 is being carried out by a Local Committee chaired by MARY BOMBERGER BROWN (PH: 402-472-8878; EM: mbrown9@unl.edu), Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership, 3310 Holdrege St. 153cHardin Hall, Lincoln NE 68583-0931. Full details about all aspects of the conference are available online (URL: <http://snr.unl.edu/kearney2011/index.asp>). The primary venue of Kearney 2011 will be the Younes Conference Center. Most attendees will want to take advantage of conference rates at the three Heartland Hospitality hotels closest to the conference center: Holiday Inn, Wingate Inn, and Hampton Inn. Registration fees (including lunch each day) for Professionals will be \$245.00 until **15 Jan 2011** (\$280.00 thereafter) and \$160.00 for Students (\$185.00 after 15 Jan). Registration will be handled online using links on the primary conference web site. The scientific program for the conference will include three days of sessions on 10 - 12 Mar including plenary presentations, society business meetings and awards, symposia, presentation by the COS Young Investigator award winners, contributed oral presentations and a single contributed poster session. Field trips include trips to the blinds at the Rowe Audubon Sanctuary in Gibbon, NE, waterbirds in the Rainwater Basin, and Sharp-tail Grouse and Prairie Chicken leks in Mullen, NE. For more information and to register, please visit the website (URL: <http://snr.unl.edu/kearney2011/index.asp>).

THE THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WATERBIRD SOCIETY—Notice of meeting and Call for Papers. The meeting will be held in Grand Island, Nebraska, from **13 - 16 Mar 2011** (Sunday to Wednesday) and will be held jointly with the North American Crane Working Group. Call for Papers. This meeting will constitute the annual

meeting for the 2010 calendar year, and will include presentations of research papers, symposia, workshops, social events and area field trips. The Waterbird Society will be meeting for the first time with the North American Crane Working Group whose mission is to improve communication and interaction among individuals researching or managing cranes in North America. The theme of the meeting is Migration and Migratory Landscapes and both organizations are anticipating a productive and stimulating conference. Planned symposia and special paper sessions include: Central Flyway migration, mid-continent wetland habitats, climate change and threatened species, reintroduction strategies, roosting habits and local movements of waterbirds, oil spill impacts to waterbirds, management of large landscapes. In addition, the meeting will include general paper sessions and poster presentations. The setting for the meeting is the historic Platte River and nearby wetlands which provide in mid-March, staging habitat for nearly 10 million waterfowl and half a million Sandhill Cranes—a phenomenon of global significance. Due to its use by large numbers of migrating shorebirds, the area also is designated a Landscape of International Importance by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Daily opportunities to view cranes, waterfowl and shorebirds will be available via blinds and field trips. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Midtown in Grand Island, Nebraska. The Holiday Inn Midtown has 206 rooms and is a conference center with two ballrooms, seven breakout rooms, an exhibit area and all services required for a major conference. The room rate for meeting participants is \$79.00 for single, double, triple, or quadruple occupancy. In addition, rooms are available at several other hotels within walking distance of the conference venue. Registration fees cover most meal costs as well as travel to and from the Crane Trust Wild Rose Ranch which is hosting evening socials with crane viewing opportunities throughout the conference. Significant support is offered to students through travel awards and housing. The Central Nebraska Regional Airport in Grand Island has direct flight services from Denver, Phoenix, and Las Vegas with Allegiant Air and Great Lakes Airlines. Kearney Regional Airport in Kearney NE is 40 minutes away and supports flights to Denver with Great Lakes Airlines. Lincoln Airport in Lincoln NE is a 1.5 hour drive to Grand Island and supports direct flights to Minneapolis and Denver. The Omaha Airport is a 2.5 hour drive from Grand Island and has connecting flights to and from most major airline hubs in the US. Further information about the meeting is posted at the websites of the Waterbird Society (URL: http://www.waterbirds.org/annual_meeting) and the North American Crane Working Group (URL: <http://www.nacwg.org/>). Contacts for the meeting are: FELIPE CHAVEZ-RAMIREZ, Local Committee Chair (EM: fchavez@whoopingcrane.org) and KATHARINE PARSONS, Scientific Program Chair (EM: katharineparsons@gmail.com).

THE TWELFTH NORTH AMERICAN CRANE WORKSHOP will be held in Grand Island, Nebraska, **13 - 16 Mar 2011** and will be held jointly with the Waterbird Society. The workshop is open to all those interested in crane research and conservation. Workshop details and registration information coming soon. Contacts for the meeting are: FELIPE CHAVEZ-RAMIREZ, Local Committee Chair (EM: fchavez@whoopingcrane.org) and DAVID ABORN, Scientific Program Chair (EM: david-aborn@utc.edu). For more information about the North American Crane Working Group, please visit (URL: <http://www.nacwg.org/>).

THE 129TH STATED MEETING OF THE AOU will be held in Jacksonville, FL, **26-29 Jul 2011**.

4TH WESTERN HEMISPHERE SHOREBIRD GROUP CONFERENCE – **11-15 Aug 2011**, Vancouver BC Canada (URL: <http://www.sfu.ca/biology/wildberg/4WHSG/4WHSG.htm>).

*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. Organizers: Dr. Gerald J. Niemi, (University of Minnesota-Duluth), Dr. Matthew Etterson (US EPA Mid-Continent Ecology Division) and Julie O'Conner (Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory). Contact: JULIE O'CONNOR (EM: RRFinDuluth@aol.com, PH: 218-348-2291).

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 to interchange 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. The Peruvian Ornithological Congress will be held concurrently with the NOC and will sponsor sessions focused on Peruvian ornithology as well as share NOC sessions and plenary addresses. To obtain more information about the IX NOC and VIII COP we invite you to visit the web site for the congress (URL: <http://www.ixconperu2011.org>), where you will find information regarding activities as they are organized, as well as registration forms and other information.

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. The conference will place a particular emphasis on studies concerning the impact of invasive species on ecosystem functioning and/or services, irrespective of taxonomic groups or ecosystem types. However, studies on any other ecological aspect of biological invasions will also be welcome, including topics such as the spread of invasive species into ecosystems, the biogeography and history of species introductions, and the community- or species-level impact of biological invasions. Contact: JORGE L. GUTIÉRREZ (EM: biolief@grieta.org.ar). For more information about this meeting, visit our website (URL: <http://www.grieta.org.ar/biolief/>). You can also follow us in Facebook for news and updates (URL: <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/BIOLIEF-2011/126444150720221?ref=sgm>).

NEWS OF MEMBERS

NICHOLAS COLLIAS passed away at age 95 on 28 April 2010. He was a life member of the AOU, which he joined in 1933, was elected an Elective Member in 1950, and was elected a Fellow in 1963. He joined the Cooper Ornithological Society in 1958 and was elected an Honorary Member in 1981. In 1997, he and his wife, Elsie, were awarded the first annual Margaret Morse Nice Medal by the Wilson Ornithological Society.

JAMES HODGES of Davenport, Iowa, died on 1 Nov 2009. He joined the AOU and WOS in 1946 and was a life member of both groups.

LEONARD PEYTON, noted Alaskan bird bander and bird song recorder died on 10 Dec 2010. He has been a member of the AOU since 1963, AFO since 1983, and COS since 1958. He was involved with migration/vocalization studies for decades and was a pioneer in recording bird songs. He recorded more than 7000 birdsongs and banded 49,059 birds in his lifetime.

WARREN PULICH of Fort Worth, TX, died 27 Nov 2010, just shy of his 91st birthday. He joined COS in 1941, the AOU in 1948, and WOS in 1963. He became an Elective Member of the AOU in 1984.

GRANT STEVENSON is in the middle of field work for data comparing the effects on species distributions and movements due to sprawl in the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania. His primary interests are diurnal raptors, corvids, and avian ecology. He is also interested in the interrelationship between energetics, species distribution, weather and climate change. His contact information is: Open Space Consultants, 946 Seneca Street, Suite 11, Bethlehem, PA 18015-2600. PH: 01-(610)867-2862. EM: grantstevenson44@yahoo.com.us.

ALFRED H. WEHRMAKER of the University of Stuttgart, Germany, recently passed away. He joined the AFO in 1988, the AOU in 1966, the COS in 1984, and the WOS in 1984.

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 AT andrews.edu).

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THE MOST RECENT NUMBERS of the Society journals and the month of mailing are: *Auk*, 2010, Vol. 127, #4 (Nov); *Condor*, 2010, Vol. 112, #4 (Dec), *J. Field Ornith.*, 2010, Vol. 81, #4 (Dec), *Raptor Res.*, 2010, Vol. 44, #4 (Dec), *Waterbirds*, 2010, Vol. 33, #4 (Dec), *Wilson J. Ornith.*, 2010, Vol. 122, #4 (Dec). Numbers follow at about 3-month intervals. If you are missing an issue, please contact OSNA. New members receive the first issue of the volume year. Please check your address label to confirm membership information and address.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be issued in April. Items you wish to have included must reach the Editor, CHERYL L. TRINE, 3889 E. Valley View, Berrien Springs, MI 49103 (PH: 269-471-7886; EM: ctrine AT andrews.edu), **by 1 March 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.