

# 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 223

DECEMBER 2014

## ORGANIZATION NEWS

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

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

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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/>

WELCOME TO THE NEW BOOK REVIEW EDITOR, Jay Mager, for both *The Auk: Ornithological Advances* and *The Condor: Ornithological Applications*. Send books for review to JAY MAGER, Department of Biological & Allied Health Sciences, Ohio Northern University, 155 Meyer Hall, Ada, Ohio 45810.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AOU SCIENTIFIC AWARDS FOR 2015: Nominations are invited for the following AOU Awards. Nominations may be submitted electronically to the Chair of the Awards Committee, ROB FLEISCHER (EM: [fleischerr@si.edu](mailto:fleischerr@si.edu)) **by 15 Feb 2015**.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

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

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

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AOU RALPH W. SCHREIBER CONSERVATION AWARD FOR 2015. This award recognizes extraordinary scientific contributions to the conservation, restoration, or preservation of birds and/or their habitats by an individual or small team (usually fewer 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; and/or 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 benefited from the science. Nominations may be submitted electronically to the Chair of the AOU Conservation Committee, PATRICIA MCGILL (EM: [patricia.mcgill@dallaszoo.com](mailto:patricia.mcgill@dallaszoo.com)) **by 15 Feb 2015**.

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION held its 132<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting, the Cooper Ornithological Society held its 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des ornithologistes du Canada held its annual meeting jointly in Estes Park, Colorado, at the YMCA of the Rockies from 23-27 September 2014. SUSAN K. SKAGEN and SARA OYLER-MCCANCE, both of the U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins Science Center, co-chaired the Committee on Local Arrangements. DIANA F. TOMBACK and MICHAEL B. WUNDER, both of the University of Colorado, Denver, co-chaired the Committee on the Scientific Program. There were 926 registrants, including 355 students. The program included 4 plenary lectures, 201 papers in 20 symposia, and 436 contributed papers (311 oral papers and 125 posters). Highlights of the joint meeting include the following:

- THE JOINT AOU/COS PRESENTATION AWARDS COMMITTEE was chaired by Anna Chalfoun (COS, chair), Matt Carling (AOU, co-chair) and Joe Nocera (SCO, co-chair). Awards were given to 11 students for excellence in the rigor and quality of their scientific papers, and these awards were unranked. STEPFANIE AGUILLON of University of Arizona received the COS Frances F. Roberts Award for "resource-mediated behavioral dynamics among kin drive dispersal in first-year Western Bluebirds (*Sialia mexicana*)."
- SHAWN BILLERMAN of University of Wyoming received the COS A. Brazier Howell Award for "Behavioral influences on a sapsucker hybrid zone."
- LAURE CAUCHARD of the University of Montreal received the SCO/SOC Award for the Best Poster for "Inter-individual variations in cognitive performances and selective pressures in a natural Great Tit population."
- JENNIFER MALPASS of the Ohio State University received an AOU Council Presentation Award for "Nest survival of urban-adapted songbirds in residential yards and adjacent forest parks."
- NICK MASON of Cornell University received an SCO/SOC Student Presentation Award for "Differentially expressed genes unite phenotypes amidst undifferentiated anonymous loci in the phenotypically diverse redpoll finches (*Acanthis*)."
- LIBBY MEGNA of the University of Wyoming received a COS Board of Directors Award for "Environmental niche divergence for hybridizing and non-hybridizing passerines."
- SARAH SAUNDERS of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities received the AOU Robert B. Berry Award for Best Student Conservation Presentation for "Genetic and environmental influences on fitness-related traits in an endangered shorebird population."
- KATIE FAUST STRYJEWSKI of Boston University received the AOU Nellie Johnson Baroody Award for "Islands of divergence in an extraordi-

- nary radiation of finches (*Lonchura* spp.) from Papua New Guinea." JORGE TOMASEVIC of the University of Washington received an SCO/SOC Student Presentation Award for "Successful exploitation of suburban landscapes by the Pileated Woodpecker." SHANNON WALSH of San Diego State University received a COS Board of Directors Award for "Genetic and phenotypic divergence of the Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) on the California channel islands." BENJAMIN WINGER of the University of Chicago and the Field Museum of Natural History received an AOU Council Presentation Award for "A time threshold for plumage divergence in allopatric Andean birds."
- THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS (including the AOU's Marcia Brady Tucker travel awards) was chaired by Matt Carling (AOU Chair), Rolf Koford (COS), and Ryan Germain (SCO/SOC) and granted awards to 83 students to help defray expenses for transportation to the annual meeting. The committee is pleased to announce the winners for 2014 were STEPFANIE AGUILLON (University of Arizona), ALEXANDRA ANDERSON (Boise State University), PRIYA BALASUBRAMANIAM (University of California-Riverside), CHRISTOPHER BATTEY (University of Washington), ELIZABETH BECKMAN (University of New Mexico), LISHA BERZINS (University of Northern BC), ALYSSA BOROWSEK (University of Connecticut), ANDY BOYCE (University of Montana), KATHRYN BRAUTIGAM (University of Arkansas at Monticello), LAURE CAUCHARD (Université de Montréal), ANTONIO CELIS-MURILLO (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), KRISTEN COVINO (University of Southern Mississippi), MERLE CROMBIE (University of British Columbia), CLAIRE CURRY (University of Manitoba), CATHERINE DALE (Queen's University), PETRA DEANE-COE (Cornell University), ALANA DEMKO (University of Windsor), RACHAEL DERBYSHIRE (University of Guelph), BRYANT DOSSMAN (The Ohio State University), SHAWN DUBAY (University of Chicago), RACHAEL EATON (Michigan State University), ELISA ELIZONDO (Oklahoma State University), LISA ELLIOT (University of Minnesota), KATIE FAUST STRYJEWSKI (Boston University), MOLLY FOLKERTS (Louisiana State University in Shreveport), ERICK GONZALEZ-MEDINA (UNAM), BRENDAN GRAHAM (University of Windsor), DAVID GRUNZEL (University of Maine), SARAH GUTOWSKY (Dalhousie University), MICHAEL HALLWORTH (Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute), REBECCA HARRIS (University of Washington), MICHAEL HARVEY (Louisiana State University), KRISTINA HICK (University of Windsor), AMANDA HOLLAND (University of Georgia/SREL), KATE JOHNSON (University of British Columbia), KRISTIN JONES (Oregon State University), LUKE KLICKA (San Diego State University), EUNBI KWON (Kansas State University), DIANE LANDOLL (University of Oklahoma), ANNA LEHMICKE (University of Georgia), CARL LUNBLAD (University of Idaho), SARAH MACLEAN (UC Berkeley), JENNIFER MALPASS (The Ohio State University), NICHOLAS MASON (Cornell University), JENNIFER MCCABE (University of Maine), MOLLY MCDERMOTT (The Ohio State University), ASHLEY OZELSKI (City University of New York), KATHRYN PEIMAN (UCLA), JENNIFER N. PHILLIPS (Tulane University), JENNIFER L. PHILLIPS (UC Davis), JEANNINE RANDALL (University of Northern BC), ANGELA RICONO (Florida Institute of Technology), KARLA RIVERA-CACERES (University of Miami), ANGELINA RUIZ-SANCHEZ (UNAM), KATHARINE RUSKIN (University of Maine), LUIS SANDOVAL (Universidad de Costa Rica), JASON SARDELL (University of Miami), SARAH SAUNDERS (University of Minnesota), TAZA SCHAMING (Cornell University), ALMA SCHRAGE (UC Berkeley), HEATHER SKEEN (Loyola University Chicago), DAVID SLAGER (University of Washington), ROBERT SPAUL (Boise State University), MARIA STAGER (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), REBECCA STANTON (University of Saskatchewan), ANDREW SWEET (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), ANNA TIGANO (Queen's University), PASCAL TITLE (University of Michigan), JORGE TOMASEVIC (University of Washington), BRIAN TREVELLINE (Duquesne University), ANNA TUCKER (Virginia Commonwealth University), JASON UNRUH (University of Regina), BRAM VERHEIJEN (Kansas State University), LAUREN WALKER (University of Washington), JENNIFER WALSH (University of New Hampshire), SHANNON WALSH (San Diego State University), ALEX WANG (University of Hawaii (Hilo)), RYAN WEAVER (Auburn University), EMILY WEISER (University of Otago), ALANA WESTWOOD (Dalhousie University), and BEN WINGER (University of Chicago).
  - AOU POST-DOCTORAL TRAVEL AWARDS FOR 2014 were granted to 9 recipients: ANDREA BONISOLI-ALQUATI (University of South Carolina), GUSTAVO BRAVO (University of Sao Paulo), GRAHAM FAIRHURST (University of Saskatchewan), ANDREA GRUNST (Indiana State University), MELISSA GRUNST (Indiana State University), SARA KAISER (Cornell University), JAY MCENTEE (University of Arizona), JEREMY ROSS (University of Oklahoma), and SCOTT TAYLOR (Cornell University).
  - The 133<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting of the AOU and the 85th Annual Meeting of the COS will be held jointly in Norman, Oklahoma, **28 July-1 Aug 2015**. The 2015 meeting of SCO/SOC will be held with the annual meetings of the AFO and WOS in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, **16-19 Jul 2015**.
- HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 132nd STATED MEETING OF THE AOU INCLUDED:
- AOU Officers elected were President-Elect: STEVEN R. BEIS-SINGER, Secretary: ANDREW W. JONES, and Treasurer: JAMES HERKERT. Newly-elected Councilors were COLLEEN M. HANDEL, JAMES W. RIVERS, REBECCA J. SAFRAN, and DAVID W. WINKLER.
  - The Council re-elected MARK HAUBER as Editor of *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*.
  - The Elliott Coues Award was presented to STAFFAN BENSCH, and the William Brewster Memorial Award was presented to GEOFFREY E. HILL. ALEX E. JAHN received the Ned K. Johnson Young Investigator Award and STEPHEN W. KRESS received the Ralph W. Schreiber Conservation Award. SARA R. MORRIS received the Marion Jenkinson AOU Service Award.
  - The Fellows elected 11 new Fellows: JONATHAN L. DUNN, MARY C. GARVIN, JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI, WESLEY M. HOCHACHKA, REBECCA T. KIMBALL, JENNIFER C. OWEN, BRIAN D. PEER, THEODORE R. SIMONS, ALLAN M. STRONG, YONG WANG, and LIANA Y. ZANETTE.
  - Fellows and Elective Members elected 29 new Elective Members: LAURYN BENEDICT, JAY D. CARLISLE, ZAC A. CHEVIRON, DAVID A. CIMPRICH, KRISTINA L. COCKLE, CHRISTOPHER W. EBERLY, KEVIN S. ELLISON, ANDREW FARNSWORTH, JEFFREY T. FOSTER, THOMAS GARDALI, SHARON A. GILL, DAVID J. GREEN, KATHRYN P. HUYVAERT, DARREN E. IRWIN, JORDAN O. KARUBIAN, ELIZABETH A. KREBS, JAMES D. LAMBERT, JAMES E. LYONS, CURTIS A. MARANTZ, LIBA PEJCHAR, JAMES F. SARACCO, PAUL ALLEN SMITH, ROBERT J. SMITH, SABRINA TAYLOR, WAYNE E. THOGMARTIN, MORGAN W. TINGLEY, CHRISTOPHER TONRA, SCOTT WILSON, and MARK S. WOODREY.
- REPORT OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY – The Cooper Ornithological Society held its 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting jointly with the American Ornithologists' Union and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists in Estes Park, Colorado, at the YMCA of the Rockies from 23-27 September 2014. SUSAN K. SKAGEN and SARA OYLER-MCCANCE, U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins Science Center, co-chaired the Committee on Local Arrangements. DIANA F. TOMBACK and MICHAEL B. WUNDER, University of Colorado, Denver, co-chaired the Committee on the Scientific Program. There were 926 registrants, including 355 students. The program included 4 plenary lectures, 201 papers in 20 symposia, and 436 contributed papers (311 oral papers and 125 posters).
- The members of the Society, through online balloting, elected JILL DEPPE, JEFF KELLY, and MATT JOHNSON to three year terms as members of the Board of Directors. Many thanks go to retiring board members ANNA CHALFOUN, VICTORIA DREITZ, and SCOTT SILLET.
  - In the Board of Directors' meetings, the following individuals were elected to or continue in office: Frank Moore, President; MARTIN RAPHAEL, President-elect; ABBY POWELL, Secretary; T. J. Fontaine, Assistant Secretary; BARBARA KUS, Treasurer; MARY WHITFIELD, Assistant Treasurer; PHIL STOUFFER, Editor-in-Chief of the Condor: Ornithological Applications, and BRETT SANDERCOCK, Editor of Studies in Avian Biology.
  - The 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the COS will be held jointly with the AOU at University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, **28-31 July 2015**.

**YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD** – The Cooper Ornithological Society's Young Professional Award (YPA) recognizes early-career ornithological researchers for their outstanding contributions to ornithology. Congratulations to this year's awardees, CONOR C. F. TAFF and MARY CASWELL STODDARD, who presented at the YPA Plenary session during the AOU/COS/SCO annual meeting in Estes Park, CO, this fall. Conor, a NIFA Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California-Davis, investigates both the proximate and ultimate factors that control the physiology of signal production and influence selection on signaling traits. For his postdoctoral research, he is currently studying social behavior and disease transmission in wild American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Mary, a Junior Fellow in the Harvard Society of Fellows at Harvard University, uses a multidisciplinary approach to explore key questions in evolution, behavior and sensory systems, emphasizing avian vision and communication. With colleagues, she has developed new methods for quantifying pattern and color mimicry among brood parasites to determine how host birds recognize their own distinctive egg patterns. At Harvard University, Mary is currently pursuing interdisciplinary work on the genomic and structural basis of eggshell evolution.

**MILLER AWARD** – This year, the Cooper Ornithological Society's prestigious Miller Award for lifetime achievement in ornithological research was presented to ELLEN KETTERSON, Distinguished Professor of Biology at Indiana University, at the joint AOU/COS/SCO meeting in Estes Park, CO, this fall. Ellen, like the Millers, has mentored many highly productive doctoral and postdoctoral students in the study of avian biology - and continues to do so today. The focal species for much of the work in the Ketterson lab is the dark-eyed junco, which starred in a feature length film recently produced by Ellen and former student Jonathan Atwell, entitled *Ordinary Extraordinary Junco: Remarkable Biology from a Backyard Bird!* When told of the award, Ellen shared some personal thoughts: "Alden Miller has been a hero ever since Val [Nolan] spoke of his extraordinary abilities as an editor, something we both know that Val valued very highly. And as I have been drawing together chapters for a book I am editing on the junco, I have had a chance to read about Alden Miller and wife and his father and to appreciate their many contributions to ornithology and evolutionary biology. So an award in their names is especially pleasing for me and I hope for all the people who study juncos."

**COS STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS** – This year the Cooper Ornithological Society awarded support toward the research of several students: The Grinnell Research Award went to SARAH CLEETON SCHNEIDER, University of Illinois, for her work on the role of migratory songbirds in the range expansion of black-legged ticks and the Lyme disease pathogen. Mewaldt-King Student Research Awards, which focus on conservation oriented work, went to SARAH BOMBACI, Colorado State University, for her study of the ecological consequences of bird reintroductions: the effect of patch size and frugivore diversity on bird-mediated seed dispersal, GLAUCIA DEL-RIO, Universidade de São Paulo, for work on the distribution, occupancy, density, and habitat selection of the São Paulo Marsh Antwren (*F. paludicola*), JENNIFER SMETZER, University of Massachusetts Amherst, for her study of the demographic structure of songbird migration in the Gulf of Maine and implications for offshore wing energy development, and THEODORE ZENZAL, University of Southern Mississippi, for his work on the effects of climatic variation on the availability and nutrient content of fruit used by Gray Catbirds during fall migration.

**HONORARY MEMBER RECOGNITION** – Honorary Membership in the Cooper Ornithological Society is bestowed to those who have made significant contributions to the society and to ornithology. This year, ornithology at the joint AOU/COS/SCO meeting in Estes Park, CO, the society bestowed honorary membership on Dr. Abby Powell for her outstanding service to the society and to ornithology. Abby is currently assistant unit leader at the AK cooperative fish and wildlife research unit and professor in the Department of Biology and Wildlife at the University of Alaska - Fairbanks. Abby is actively engaged in avian conservation research where her work is focused on a variety of species, while having been very active in the Cooper Ornithological Society, including service as the society's secretary since 2008.

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BOB SARGENT**, co-founder of the Hummer/Bird Study Group and one of Alabama's foremost bird experts, died on Sept. 7. He was 77. He was the co-founder of The Hummer/Bird Study Group, Inc., a non-profit organization for the study and preservation of Hummingbirds and other Neo-tropical migrant birds. For 30 years he led the bird banding group at Fort Morgan, AL, in the study of migrant birds. He trained hundreds of new hummingbird and passerine banders. He was past president and life member of Alabama Ornithological Society and a long time member of Birmingham Audubon. Bob was the author of the book *Ruby-throated Hummingbird* and of other scientific papers and magazine articles.

## REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

**NATIONAL EAGLE ROOST REGISTRY LAUNCHED – CALL FOR ROOST INFORMATION** – The Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) is delineating and compiling Bald Eagle communal roost locations throughout North America for the National Eagle Roost Registry <http://www.ccbirds.org/maps/#eagleroosts>. We are requesting information from eagle tracking projects and individuals that want to contribute to eagle conservation by improving the state of knowledge about eagle roosts. One of the primary impediments to protecting communal roosts is the lack of information on their location. Please contact LIBBY MOJICA with roost locations to add to the National Eagle Roost Registry. Email or phone ([EM:ekmojica@wm.edu](mailto:EM:ekmojica@wm.edu), PH: 757-221-1680).

**REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE** – For the last 42 years I have maintained a long-term study of common guillemots (common murrelets in North America) on Skomer Island, Wales. Earlier this year the Welsh government chose not to continue to fund this study even though we had just experienced the worst seabird disaster for several decades in which over 40,000 seabirds, including many guillemots (and including many of our color-marked individuals from Skomer) starved to death as a result of persistent storms. The aim of the study has been two-fold: (i) to understand how the population 'works', and (ii) to provide a scientifically robust monitoring program which quantifies (annually) numbers, survival, timing of breeding, breeding success and chick diet. Concern over the lack of funding prompted the journal *Nature* to ask me to provide an account of the situation, which I have done here ([URL: http://www.nature.com/news/stormy-outlook-for-long-term-ecology-studies-1.16185](http://www.nature.com/news/stormy-outlook-for-long-term-ecology-studies-1.16185)). And because there seems to be no other way to be able to continue the study I have resorted to crowd-sourcing ([URL: https://www.justgiving.com/timbirkheadguillemots/](https://www.justgiving.com/timbirkheadguillemots/)). If you can help I will be extremely grateful. The support I have had already is breath-taking, and we have recently reached half way point towards the target – Tim Birkhead

**HELP TRANSCRIBE WILLIAM BREWSTER'S DIARIES AND JOURNALS** – The Ernst Mayr Library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University is currently scanning and digitizing the diaries and field notes of William Brewster. This effort is part of a grant-funded project that aims to make all of Brewster's many volumes available online through the Biodiversity Heritage Library. The main purpose of the grant is to develop better ways to crowdsource transcription of these kinds of materials to the public. In order to do this, we are actively enlisting ornithologists, natural historians, citizen scientists, and birders of all kinds to help us transcribe Brewster's diaries and journals. For more information on the project (as well as links to the transcription sites) please see: <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/ernstmayrlibrary/2014/05/30/transcribing-the-field-notes-of-william-brewster/>

## POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

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

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP AWARDS FOR THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION IN 2015 – Are you a student interested in joining the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU)? The AOU provides one-year student membership awards to qualified undergraduate or graduate students interested in pursuing a career in ornithology. There are many benefits to becoming a member of the AOU: (1) You will receive electronic access to *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*, the world's leading journal of ornithology. (2) You will have access to the online membership directory *The Flock*, providing contact information for all members of the Ornithological Societies of North America. (3) You will be eligible to apply for travel awards to attend annual meetings, including the upcoming joint AOU meeting at the University of Oklahoma in July, 2015. (4) You will be eligible to apply for research grants to support high quality research (only members can apply). (5) You will become part of a forward-looking organization that promotes participation of professionals and amateurs in the mission of understanding and conserving birds. To qualify, students must: \*\*Have no current or prior membership in the AOU, \*\*Provide a resume or curriculum vitae describing the current degree program, the expected date of completion and the candidate's academic and/or work experience, and interests in ornithology (submit by email, details below), and \*\*Provide a brief letter of sponsorship from an academic advisor from the institution in which the student is currently enrolled (submit by email, details below). Awards are not renewable, but recipients can continue to be AOU members at the reduced student rate, as long as they retain student or post-doctoral status. To apply, please read the full application details through the "Membership" link on the AOU website (<http://www.aou.org/>) and forward your materials electronically the Student Membership Awards organizer, DANIEL MENNILL (EM: dmennill AT uwindsor.ca). Applications are due **before 1 Jan 2015**.

2015 AOU RESEARCH AWARDS - Information on the 2015 AOU Research Awards can be found at <http://www.aou.org/awards/research/>. The deadline for submission is **Friday, 30 Jan 2015 @ noon (EST)**. Questions should be directed to the Chair of the AOU Research Awards Committee, BRIAN PEER (EM: BD-Peer@wiu.edu).

NORTH STAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSMITTER GRANT PROGRAM – North Star Science and Technology, LLC and American Bird Conservancy announce the 9th bi-annual North Star Science and Technology Transmitter Grant Program. In the spirit of giving back to the research community that they serve, North Star will award a total of eight (8) battery-powered or solar powered satellite transmitters (Argos Platform Transmitter Terminals (PTTs), GPS or Doppler, to 1-3 recipients (8 PTTs to one project or 4 PTTs to each of two projects, or 4 to one, 2 to one, and 2 to another). PTTs are powerful, cutting-edge tools for the study of bird migration that greatly extend the range over which individual birds can be tracked. Research that contributes to our knowledge of avian biology and that provides data useful for bird conservation, particularly of threatened species, will receive preference in the selection process. American Bird Conservancy (<http://www.abcbirds.org>) will handle the proposal submission process, review proposals, and select the winning projects. Please see <http://www.northstarst.com> for more information and proposal guidelines. Deadline for proposals is **13 Mar 2015**. Any further questions about the program can be directed to George E. Wallace, American Bird Conservancy (EM: gwallace@abcbirds.org; PH: 540-253-5780; FX: 540-253-5782).

TIOF ENDOWMENT FUND PROPOSAL – The International Osprey Foundation (TIOF) is seeking applications for its 26th annual grant program to support research activities of a graduate student primarily focused on osprey. However, work with other raptor species may be considered. The award recipient will be expected to provide a report of 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 2015** to: TIOF Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 250 Sanibel, Florida, USA 33957-0250. The grant will be awarded on 31 Mar 2015.

THE 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEWALDT-KING STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDEES will be announced by the Cooper Ornithological Society at the 2015 meeting in Norman, Oklahoma. These \$1,000 awards are designated in the memory of L. Richard Mewaldt and James R. King to support Master's and Ph.D.-level research that relates to the conservation of birds. Research may be in any area of ornithology, but studies that involve demographics, breeding biology, or disease ecology may be particularly relevant, especially if the species is endangered, threatened, or otherwise of management concern. Studies of species from threatened ecosystems (e.g. old growth forest, wetlands) or with reference to large-scale conservation issues such as climate or landscape change are also of particular interest. The application and a letter from the student's major faculty advisor must be received by the Mewaldt-King Award Committee **on or before 15 Jan 2015**. For further information and instructions, please visit (URL: [http://www.cooper.org/awards\\_and\\_grants/awards\\_and\\_grants.htm](http://www.cooper.org/awards_and_grants/awards_and_grants.htm)).

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

*BIRDS OF NEW GUINEA, 2nd ed.*, Thane K. Pratt & Bruce M. Beehler, 2014. Princeton University Press. 528 pp., 6 x 9, 635 maps. ISBN: 9780691095639 (Paperback, \$49.50 / £34.95). ISBN: 9780691095622 (Hardcover, \$99.50 / £69.95). This is the completely revised edition of the essential field guide to the birds of New Guinea. It is the only guide to cover all 780 bird species reported in the area, including 366 endemics. Expanding its coverage with 111 vibrant color plates—twice as many as the first edition—and the addition of 635 range maps, the book also contains updated species accounts with new information about identification, voice, habits, and range. A must-have for everyone from ecotourists to field researchers, *Birds of New Guinea* remains an indispensable guide to the diverse birds of this remarkable region.

*BIRDS OF WESTERN AFRICA*, Nik Borrow & Ron Demey, 2014. Princeton University Press. 592 pp., 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, 266 color plates, 1,285 color maps. ISBN: 9780691159201 (Paperback \$45.00 / £30.95). This revised and expanded edition of *Birds of Western Africa* is now the most up-to-date field guide available to the 1,285 species of birds found in the region—from Senegal and southern Mauritania east to Chad and the Central African Republic and south to Congo. It now features all maps and text opposite the plates for quick and easy reference. The comprehensive species accounts have been fully updated and expanded, and the color distribution maps have been completely revised. This premier guide also includes more than 3,000 illustrations on 266 stunning color plates.

*DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS OF NORTH AMERICA*, by Guy Baldassarre, 2014. Johns Hopkins University Press. 1,088 pp., 144 color photos, 138 color illus., 50 maps. ISBN: 9781421407517 (Hardcover, two vol. set with CD, \$69.95). *Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America* has been hailed as a classic since the first edition was published in 1942. This fully revised and updated edition provides definitive information on the continent's forty-six species. Maps of both winter and breeding ranges are presented. Originally authored by F. H. Kortright and later revised by Frank Bellrose, this latest edition, which has been meticulously updated by renowned waterfowl biologist Guy Baldassarre, continues the legacy. Each species account contains in-depth sections on identification, distribution, population status, breeding biology, ecology, molts and plumages, and conservation and management. The species accounts also include detailed illustrations

of wings. An appendix contains comparative illustrations of ducklings, goslings, and cygnets. Guy Baldassarre was an AOU Fellow and professor of wildlife ecology at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse until his death in 2012. He is the coauthor of the textbook *Waterfowl Ecology and Management*. Available from Johns Hopkins University Press at <https://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/content/ducks-geese-and-swans-north-america>.

## MEETINGS

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

\* in this section indicates new or revised entry

SCIENCE FOR PARKS, PARKS FOR SCIENCE: THE NEXT CENTURY – A 2.5-day Summit at UC Berkeley, **25-27 Mar 2015** convening natural and social scientists, managers and practitioners -- 100 years after historic meetings at UC Berkeley helped launch the National Park Service -- to rededicate a second century of science and stewardship for national parks. This summit will feature visionary plenary lectures, strategic panel discussions on current controversies, and technical sessions of contributed paper and posters. Abstract submission deadline is **1 Nov 2014**. For information, see <http://www.xcdsystem.com/parksforscience>. Keynote Plenary Speaker: E. O. Wilson. Distinguished Plenary Speakers and Panelists: David Ackerly, Jill Baron, Steven Beissinger, Joel Berger, Ruth DeFries, Thomas Dietz, Josh Donlan, Holly Doremus, Ernesto Enkerlin, Carolyn Finney, David Graber, Denis Galvin, Jane Lubchenco, Gary Machlis, George Miller, Hugh Possingham, Jedediah Purdy, Nina Roberts, Mark Schwartz, Daniel Simberloff, Monica Turner, & Jennifer Wolch.

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

\*2015 JOINT MEETING OF THE SCO-SOC, AFO, and WOS at Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, **16-19 July 2015**. The Society of Canadian Ornithologists / Société des ornithologistes du Canada, the Association of Field Ornithologists, and the Wilson Ornithological Society will hold their joint 2015 annual meetings at Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia ([acadiu.ca/index.php](http://acadiu.ca/index.php)), from Thursday through Saturday, 16 - 18 July 2015, preceded by council meetings. Thursday afternoon will include a WOS-sponsored workshop on mentoring, and field trips are planned for Sunday, 19 July. DAVE SHUTLER (EM: [dave.shutler@acadiu.ca](mailto:dave.shutler@acadiu.ca)) is chair of the local organizing committee. We encourage student participation and will offer student travel awards. Please see the meeting website (<http://personalpress.acadiu.ca/ornithmeet2015/>) for details and application criteria for student travel awards; the deadline will be **15 Feb 2015**. In addition, student presenters who are first author of a paper (the students can give either an oral or poster presentation) will be given a free ticket for the closing banquet. Highlights of the scientific program include the WOS Margaret Morse Nice Lecture and a symposium. Erica Dunn, recipient of the 2015 Nice medal, will give the opening plenary lecture on Friday, co-sponsored by the WOS and SCO-SOC, about the history and future of North American bird observatories. On Saturday, the societies will host a symposium on "Movement Ecology in the Gulf of Maine". Post-conference field trips currently planned include bird- and whale-watching from Brier Island, a hike to Cape Split, and a bus tour of local wineries. The deadline for receipt of Abstracts by the Scientific Program Committee will be **1 Apr 2015**. Continually updated conference information will be available on the meeting web site; please contact MARTIN G. RAPHAEL (EM: [mraphael@fs.fed.us](mailto:mraphael@fs.fed.us)), scientific program chair, with any questions about the program or submission process. Abstracts for both oral and poster presentations will be reviewed by the scientific program committee who will select and organize presentations in appropriate sessions based on the scientific content of the abstract. Abstract

submission will be online only; abstracts will not be accepted by fax or e-mail. If all oral presentation sessions are filled, it may be necessary to accept some abstracts for poster presentations instead of oral presentations.

\*THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING of the COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY and the AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION will be held **28 Jul to 1 Aug 2015** at The University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma. The local host, JEFF KELLY, may be reached at the Oklahoma Biological Survey, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019 (PH: 405-325-2440; EM: [jkelly@ou.edu](mailto:jkelly@ou.edu)). The deadline for symposia and workshop proposals is **1 Dec 2014**. Contact the chair of the scientific program committee, MICHAEL PATTEN (EM: [mpatten@ou.edu](mailto:mpatten@ou.edu)), for proposal guidelines.

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

\*RRF 2015 - Block out **4-8 Nov** for the 2015 Raptor Research Foundation conference in Sacramento – the fiftieth anniversary of the groundbreaking 1965 Peregrine Falcon meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. Sacramento, CA is easy to get to, with proximity to the diverse Central California coast, the Sierra Foothills, the Central Valley, and much more. Sessions will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, a stone's throw from the raptor-rich American River Parkway. Hosting the conference is the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO), celebrating 30 years of raptor migration monitoring in the Marin Headlands. The 2015 conference will feature a symposium on Golden Eagle conservation. Other anticipated symposia may include Strix owl conservation, rodenticide effects, raptor health and diseases, and mitigating energy impacts on birds of prey. Field trips are expected to the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory migration site in the Marin Headlands, to the Sacramento Valley National Wildlife Refuge complex, to Altamont Pass Wind Region, and to the California Raptor Center at UC Davis. For suggestions of events and to offer ideas or support, please contact: Local conference chair ALLEN FISH (EM: [afish@parksconservancy.org](mailto:afish@parksconservancy.org)) or RRF conference chair KATE DAVIS (EM: [raptors@montana.com](mailto:raptors@montana.com)).

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

ÇAĞAN ŞEKERCİOĞLU, who campaigns to save wetlands in his native Turkey, has won that nation's highest science prize, which is similar to the U.S. National Medal of Science. Three researchers won the Science Award and two – including Şekercioğlu – won the Special Award, which is equivalent to the Science Award but for scientists who are from Turkey but working abroad. Şekercioğlu, founder of the Turkish environmental organization KuzyDoğa Society, says he was invited to apply for the award last year when he met Turkish President Abdullah Gül and handed the leader 13,000 signatures collected by the biologist's campaign to save the Aras River wetlands from a proposed dam. The wetlands are home to 258 bird species, 36 of which are threatened or endangered. "If my receiving this award can convince the government not to destroy the wetlands where I do my science, the cycle will be complete," Şekercioğlu says. Information about Şekercioğlu's work to save the Aras River wetlands may be found here (URL: <https://www.change.org/p/save-and-protect-turkey-s-arasriverbirdparadise-cbabdullahgul-rt-erdogan-veyseleroglu>). (Excerpted from [http://unews.utah.edu/news\\_releases/utah-biologist-wins-turkeys-top-science-prize/](http://unews.utah.edu/news_releases/utah-biologist-wins-turkeys-top-science-prize/))

THE OSNA OFFICE HAS RECENTLY LEARNED OF THE DEATHS of the following members:

RICHARD BEIDLEMAN, member of the AOU since 1948, the COS since 1948, and AFO since 1989.

NOEL J. CUTRIGHT, member of the AOU since 2010.

DONALD ELKINS, AOU life member since 1976.

WILLIAM E. GLANZ, member of the AOU since 1979 and the COS since 1980.

IVAN GOODBODY, AOU life member since 1979.

STEWART HOLOHAN, member of the AOU since 1973, the COS since 1980, the AFO since 1983, and the WOS since 1969.  
 DEREK LEES-SMITH, AOU life member since 1951.  
 G.V.T. MATTHEWS, elected an AOU Honorary Fellow in 1969.  
 SCOTT MELVIN, member of the AOU 2009.  
 WILLIAM F. RAPP, Jr., AOU life member since 1939 and AOU Elective Member since 1950; life member of COS since 1941; and life member of WOS since 1941.  
 R. J. ROBEL, AOU member since 1967, and AOU Elective Member since 1974; AFO member since 1997; and WOS member since 1978.  
 OTIS WADE, AOU life member since 1960 and COS member since 1921.

#### THE FLOCK - SPECIAL SECTION

To correct your address in the membership database please send the new information to the OSNA Business Office, 5400 Bosque Blvd., Suite 680, Waco, TX 76710 (EM: [business@osnabirds.org](mailto:business@osnabirds.org), PH: 254-399-9636, FX: 254-776-3767) or change it yourself online (URL: <http://www.osnabirds.org>). To alert your colleagues of new address information, contact the *Ornithological Newsletter* Editor, CHERYL L. TRINE (EM: [ctrine AT andrews.edu](mailto:ctrine@andrews.edu)).

## ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETIES OF NORTH AMERICA

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THE MOST RECENT NUMBERS of the Society journals and the month of mailing are: *Auk*, 2014, Vol. 131, #3 (Aug); *Condor*, 2014, Vol. 116, #3 (Aug), *J. Field Ornith.*, 2014, Vol. 85, #3 (Sep), *Raptor Res.*, 2014, Vol. 48, #3 (Sep), *Waterbirds*, 2014, Vol. 37, #2 (Jun), *Wilson J. Ornith.*, 2014, Vol. 126, #3 (Sep). Numbers follow at about 3-month intervals. If you are missing an issue, please contact OSNA. New members receive the first issue of the volume year. Please check your address label to confirm membership information and address.

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THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be issued in February. 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](mailto:ctrine@andrews.edu)), **by 1 January 2015**. **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.