

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

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/>

CALL FOR SYMPOSIA AND WORKSHOPS - We invite proposals for Symposia and Workshops for the 80th Cooper Ornithological Society Meeting, 128th stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, and the 28th Society for Canadian Ornithologists Meeting in San Diego, California, **7-11 Feb 2010**. We encourage proposals for Workshops to be held mainly on Sunday, 7 Feb. Symposia will comprise 2.5 or 3.5 hour blocks, with each talk lasting 15 or 30 minutes. Symposia will be scheduled concurrently with contributed paper sessions on 8-11 Feb. For consideration by the Scientific Program Committee, please send a title, names of organizer(s) and potential participants, tentative titles of their presentations, and a brief statement on why such a Symposium or Workshop would be of interest for this meeting. Send **by 15 May 2009** to the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, JOHN ROTENBERRY (EM: john.rotenberry@ucr.edu), for consideration.

BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD - JOURNAL OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGY - The Association of Field Ornithologists is now giving an award for the best paper published by a student in each volume of the *Journal of Field Ornithology*. A committee of AFO officers, councilors, and members will judge and rank papers based on the quality, significance and potential impact of the research. Collaborative efforts between two or more students can qualify for a joint award. The award winner(s) will be invited to give a special presentation of their work at the next annual meeting, and will receive funds to help cover the costs of traveling to the meeting. For further details, see the journal's website (URL: <http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=0273-8570>) or contact DR. KATHRYN PURCELL, Chair of the Best Student Paper Committee (EM: kpurcell@fs.fed.us). The award will first be given for a paper published in volume 80 (2009).

AOU OFFICERS AND ELECTIVE COUNCILORS WILL BE ELECTED by electronic and postal ballots again this year. In June, all members will receive a postcard detailing the election process. Biographies of all officer and elective councilor nominees will be available on the AOU website (URL: <http://www.aou.org>). Any member preferring a paper ballot, should contact SCOTT GILLIHAN (EM: aouExecutiveOfficer@aou.org; PH: 505-326-1579) after 1 Jun. Balloting will end **22 Jul 2009**. The names of newly-elected officers and elective council members will be announced at the Business Meeting of Members on 14 Aug 2009 at the University of Pennsylvania.

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

OUTSTANDING STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS were presented at the 2009 annual meeting of the AFO in Pittsburgh, PA from 9-12 April 2009. Best Student Paper Awards went to ALEJANDRO RICO-GUEVERA from the University of Connecticut for his paper "Evolutionary insights about the bill structure of nectivores," SARAH KINGSTON from the University of Maryland and the National Museum of Natural History for her paper "Genome-wide levels of introgression and divergence across Mexican Towhee hybrid zones," and JASON HILL from Pennsylvania State University for his paper "Post-fledging movement, behavior, and habitat use of adult Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows." KRISTEN LEAR from Ohio Wesleyan University was awarded a Best Student Poster Award for her poster "Netting methods influence age distribution in samples of Cliff Swallows." The AFO thanks Wiley-Blackwell Publishing Co., BFW Publishing Co., and Sinauer Publishing Co. for donating prizes for these students.

PLAN TO ARRIVE EARLY FOR THE AOU 2009 MEETING in Philadelphia, as you won't want to miss the exciting pre-meeting workshops being offered on **Wednesday afternoon, 12 August 2009!** The AOU Student Affairs Committee, in collaboration with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Education Program, is excited to offer a pre-meeting workshop entitled "Innovative Teaching in Ornithology." This lively and useful session will provide a forum to discuss new ideas and best practices for teaching ornithology and related classes. Although intended as a professional development opportunity for students, it is also a valuable opportunity for faculty to learn from each other. Leading ornithology professors at various institutions will give brief presentations illustrating creative teaching techniques. A panel discussion will immediately follow, addressing questions such as: Does active learning have to take more prep time than traditional lecturing? Where can I find resources on writing a syllabus, or ornithology-specific teaching materials? How much does teaching factor into promotion and tenure decisions? No need to sign up in advance, just come join us on Wednesday! We encourage anyone interested in contributing resources for the workshop or a follow-up website to contact DANIEL BARTON (EM: daniel.barton@umontana.edu) or MEGAN WHITMAN (EM: mlw57@cornell.edu).

THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY held its annual meeting 9-12 April 2009, in joint session with the Association of Field Ornithologists. The 2009 Margaret Morse Nice Medal was awarded to SIDNEY A. GAUTHREAU, JR., who presented the plenary lecture "Bird movements in the atmosphere: discoveries from radar and visual studies." The scientific program included 54 papers organized into eight sessions, 62 posters, and a symposium consisting of 11 papers on remote and automated technologies for monitoring birds. Wilson Ornithological Society Student Travel Awards were presented to BETHANY STEPHAN, BRYNNE STUMPE, and JASON JACOBS, Canisius College; ALLYSON JACKSON, College of William and Mary; Katie LaBarbera, Cornell University; JASON COURTER, Eastern Kentucky University; ALYSSA ACKERMAN and DEANNA BROUGHTON, Franklin and Marshall College; BETHANY BASHAW, CHI KONG POON, LESLIE HOPKE, MARIA VIRGILIO, MICHAEL STEINER, QUINN SCHARA, REBECCA JONES, and RICHARD RIGGI, Hobart and William Smith Colleges; IAN AUSPREY, The Ohio State University; HEATHER SZALKOWSKI, The Pennsylvania State University; ALEJANDRO RICO GEUVARA, University of Connecticut; BRIAN DAVIDSON, University of Maryland; HUBERT ASKANAS, University of New Brunswick; CARL-ADAM WEGENSCHIMMEL and JOANNA JACK, University of Toronto; and ELIZABETH GOW, York University. The Alexander Wilson Prize for the best student oral presentation was awarded to SARAH PABIAN, The Pennsylvania State University, for "Calcium and forest bird habitat quality." The Lynds Jones Prize for best student poster presentation was awarded to LAUREN SMITH, Ohio Wesleyan University, for "The geography of color in parrots." MALCOLM ROSENTHAL, Oberlin College, received the Nancy Klamm Best

Undergraduate Student Oral Paper Award for "Loss of brightness in American Goldfinch bills in response to acute immune response" and HARDEN WISEBRAM, Oberlin College, received the Nancy Klamm Best Undergraduate Student Poster Award for "Effect of female bill color on male parental contribution in the American Goldfinch." GUSTAVO LONDONO, Florida Museum of Natural History, won the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Award for the study "Physiological and behavioral trade-offs in avian incubation rhythms along an Andean elevational gradient." SPENCER HARDY, Richmond Middle School (Norwich, VT), won the George A. Hall/Harold F. Mayfield Award for the study "Glaciers in Perú as high-elevation nesting and roosting sites." Paul A. Stewart Awards were received by RAY DANNER, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, for "Cross-seasonal natural and sexual selection in a short distance migrant (Coastal Plain Swamp Sparrow)"; SARA KAISER, Washington State University, for "Adaptive significance of plasticity in hormone-mediated avian reproductive behaviors (Black-throated Blue Warbler)"; JULIE JEDLICKA, University of California, Santa Cruz, for "Integrating songbird conservation, community ecology, and insect pest management in California vineyards"; and JUDIT UNGVARI-MARTIN, Florida Museum of Natural History, for "Bird communities along a tropical soil productivity gradient: bottom-up effects examined by integrating ecology, behavior and genetics." The Edwards Prize for the best paper published in volume 120 (2008) of *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* was awarded to KEVIN WINKER and GARY R. GRAVES for "Genetic structure of breeding and wintering populations of Swainson's Warbler." The first Storrs L. Olson Prize for the best book review published in volume 120 (2008) of *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* was awarded to Storrs L. Olson. KENNETH C. PARKES posthumously received the 2009 William and Nancy Klamm Service Award. The following officers of the society were elected: e. dale kennedy, President; ROBERT C. BEASON, First Vice-President; ROBERT L. CURRY, Second Vice-President; JOHN A. SMALLWOOD, Secretary; and MELINDA M. CLARK, Treasurer. The following candidates were elected as Members of Council for 2009-2012: MARY BOMBERGER BROWN, MARY GARVIN, and MARK S. WOODREY. MIA REVELS was elected as Member of Council for 2009-2010 (replacement position).

AOU ELECTIVE MEMBERS AND FELLOWS should receive ballots for Elective Member nominees in late May or early June. Fellows or EMs who do not receive a ballot **by 15 Jun** should request one from SCOTT GILLIHAN (EM: aouExecutiveOfficer@aou.org; PH: 505-326-1579). Ballots must be returned by mail to the Secretariat by three weeks before the Stated Meeting (i.e., **by 22 Jul 2009**) and the names of newly-elected ELECTIVE MEMBERS will be announced at the Business Meeting of Members on 14 Aug 2009 at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA. Fellows will be sent a separate mailing that includes information related to their upcoming meeting (12 Aug 2009 at the University of Pennsylvania), during which they will elect new Fellows and conduct other business. Contact Secretary Sara Morris (EM: aousecretary@aou.org) for more information.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR PAPERS—THE WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION is currently accepting abstracts for papers and posters to be presented at the 2009 annual meeting at the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory in Milpitas, California, **28-30 August 2009**. The meeting is not to be missed, and will have exciting demonstrations and workshops of banding, data management, and analysis of banding data. Presentations can reflect original research, summarize existing information, or address the use of banding as a tool in avian research and monitoring. It is best if abstracts identify study objectives, describe study methods and data analysis, discuss the significance of the research, and propose future research directions. Please submit abstracts electronically **by 15 July** to C. J. RALPH (EM: cjralph@humboldt1.com), specifying paper or poster. For additional information on abstract submission and about the 2009 meeting, please visit the WBBA website (URL: <http://www.westernbirdbanding.org/next-meetings.html>), or contact C.J. (PH: 707 825-2992).

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD PHENOLOGY PROGRAM (NABPP)—six million Migration Observer Cards are being scanned, transcribed, and converted into a digital database for online access. These cards were generated by a network of over 3000 observers from the 1880's to the 1970's who recorded migration arrival dates in the spring and fall as well as other information. Analyses of these data will provide information on bird distribution, abundance, migration timing and migration pathways and how they have changed. The BPP program, which is operating on a minimal budget, now has more than 800 online volunteers, ranging from ornithologists to amateur bird watchers to ordinary citizens looking to translate a piece of science history. Over 200,000 cards have been scanned and more than 17,000 have been transcribed. You can become one of the many volunteers from around the country to help convert the scanned files into the NABPP database and enable the migration records to become accessible for analysis. To learn more visit (URL: <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bpp>).

NIGHTJAR QUESTIONS, NIGHTJAR SURVEY—Is it the decline of juicy insects? Is it the loss of nesting habitat? Is it the spread of fire-ants in some locations? For whatever the reason, nightjars – or goatsuckers – seem to be in a steep decline in North America. The U.S. Nightjar Survey Network was initiated in the southeast U.S. in 2007 and then expanded in 2008. The survey program utilizes standardized counts conducted along census routes at night. Observers count all nightjars seen or heard for a six-minute period at each of 10 stops along a designated route. The surveys, which are run between 31 May and 15 Jul, depending on location hardly take more than an hour to complete, and each survey only needs to be conducted once a year. More details can be obtained from the Center for Conservation Biology located at the College of William & Mary in Virginia (URL: <http://www.ccb-wm.org/nightjars.htm>). (Excerpted from *Birding Community E-bulletin* - May 2009)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MOVES TOWARD LEAD PHASE-OUT—In the past couple of months, the National Park Service (NPS) has indicated that it would begin to phase-out the use of lead ammunition and fishing sinkers on its lands. The reason for the move is the harm to birds and other wildlife caused by the ingestion of spent lead shot, bullets, or sinkers and the danger of dissolved lead contaminating groundwater. For example, a single lead shot or fishing sinker is enough to kill a large swan. Non-toxic substitutes for lead bullets are now available including those made from tungsten or copper. And several alternatives to lead fishing sinkers are available or under development including sinkers made of stainless steel, tin, tungsten, brass, and zinc. The move may have relatively little impact on hunters, more though on fishing activity. (Hunting is currently permitted in about 60 NPS units, and fishing is widely allowed across the system.) (Excerpted from *Birding Community E-bulletin* - May 2009)

NEWS FROM THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Provided by DAVIDE. BLOCKSTEIN, Chair (EM: oc@ncse.org), and ELLEN PAUL, Executive Director (EM: ellen.paul@verizon.net), the Ornithological Council. Major funding for the Ornithological Council is provided by its eleven member societies: American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, CIPAMEX, Cooper Ornithological Society, Neotropical Ornithological Society, 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/>). Thank you for helping the Ornithological Council in its efforts to keep the world safe for ornithology!

DATA SHARING/ARCHIVING WORKSHOP AT AOU MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA—(in Philadelphia—see URL: <http://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/default.htm>). Please to plan to arrive early enough (on Wednesday morning) so you can attend a great workshop organized by the Ornithological Council on data archiving and data sharing. Many scientific societies and other organizations have already established data archives, and in the near future, data archiving likely will become routine, so this a good time to learn all about it. Ornithology is rich in

data that are underutilized because they are not accessible. Ornithologists conduct research projects, collect and analyze data, and publish papers. The data then go silent, vanquished to the attic in boxes full of note cards and field notebooks, cabinets full of punch cards, old magnetic tape, floppy disks (in one of 22 formats and three sizes), CDs, and USB storage devices. Most is never to be seen again. Decades of data are disappearing rapidly and irretrievably because the scientists who collected the data had no opportunity to archive it in a physical or electronic form. Whether on paper or in some kind of electronic medium, datasets collected over the past century could contribute greatly to our knowledge of avian biology. These data can, if disinterred from their unmarked graves in their data cemeteries, answer many more questions, especially in conjunction with other datasets. Many scientific disciplines, realizing the value of the data generated today and yesterday, have already established data archives. We plan to discuss three fundamental topics: a) An overview of data sharing and archiving - the value (and limitations) of shared data, technical details of archiving and data sharing; b) Metadata - a critically necessary exercise; and c) Technical methods and practices to balance the interests and rights of researchers with the value of shared data. Invited speakers include the leading lights of data archiving: Town Peterson, University of Kansas (Ornis), Steve Kelling, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (Avian Knowledge Network), Bill Michener, University of New Mexico (LTER, NCEAS/ESA, and Dryad), Vivian Hutchison (USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure), Matt Jones, NCEAS Knowledge Network for Biodiversity (Ecological Metadata Language), and Anne Barrett Clark (SUNY Binghamton (EthoData and ABOCore). Although the OC will not itself create a data archive, we plan to develop a web page providing information about existing data archives of interest to ornithologists, information on best practices for data archiving, and standards (including ethical standards) for sharing data and for using shared data.

OC SUBMITS WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON H.R.669 - A bill pending in the U.S. House of Representatives would require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to conduct a risk assessment on every species proposed for import into the United States. Although the Lacey Act already gives the USFWS the authority to exclude "injurious wildlife" the agency has actually banned only a handful of species. While the goal is meritorious, the specifics of this particular legislation are problematic. The USFWS is already understaffed and strains to achieve its various legislative mandates, including the issuance of new or updated regulations, environmental impact statements, and other required assessments and management and conservation activities. In addition, though the bill provides for permits for scientific import, it would not allow birds imported for research to be transported across state lines. Written testimony submitted by the Ornithological Council addressed these concerns, and pointed out that avian imports for research purposes already require at least one permit from the USFWS, another from the USDA, and a costly quarantine process. The testimony suggested that if the bill moves forward, it be amended to provide that in situations where another permit is required, that authority to import under this legislation be included and that no additional permit fee be assessed.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION WITHDRAWS ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT CONSULTATION RULE - On 28 Apr 2009, Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced that the two departments had revoked an eleventh-hour Bush administration rule that undermined Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections. Their decision requires federal agencies to once again consult with federal wildlife experts at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - the two agencies that administer the ESA - before taking any action that may affect threatened or endangered species. Salazar said, "Because science must serve as the foundation for decisions we make, federal agencies proposing to take actions that might affect threatened and endangered species will once again have to consult with biologists at the two departments." This is precisely the argument made by the Ornithological Council in comments submitted jointly with The Wildlife Society and the Society for Conservation Biology in objecting to the proposed rule change in Oct 2008, and again earlier this month, in urging the departments to use the authority afforded them by Congress in the Omnibus Appropriations Act to revoke the two rules before 9 May 2009, without instituting formal regulatory proceedings. Locke and Salazar said the two departments will conduct a joint review of the 1986 consultation regulations to determine if any improvements should be proposed.

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

NEW PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR SOUGHT to continue 30-year study of breeding Tree Swallows in **southern Ontario**. Over 200 boxes in 3 sites differing in local climate and food supply. Huge data-base of breeding stats for marked birds. Local accommodation and volunteer assistants available. For full details, see the announcement (URL: <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/longpoint/index.jsp?lang=EN&targetpg=lpbotres>)

REQUEST FOR LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE CARCASSES: We are seeking frozen and/or preserved Loggerhead Shrike carcasses of all ages from various geographic localities for a University of Connecticut doctoral project on jaw and hind limb musculoskeletal morphology. Upon donation of carcasses, skeletons and/or flat skins may be returned upon request, otherwise they will be accessioned in the University of Connecticut Research Collections upon completion of the study. If you have any carcasses, which may not necessarily make good skins but are otherwise intact, that you could make available for this study, please contact DIEGO SUSTAITA (EM: diego.sustaita@uconn.edu, PH: 860-486-0309).

PURPLE MARTIN RADIO TRACKING PROJECT—The Mille Lakes Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota DNR and Audubon partners will be radio-tracking 24 purple martin fledglings from natal colonies to pre-migratory roost sites in Minnesota. The radios, in the 150 MHz range, have an expected life of 120 days, and will be deployed starting mid- to late-July. We are willing to share a list of our frequencies with any other researchers in the U.S. or Central or South America who work or live near major roost sites on the migration routes and winter range and who have their own telemetry receivers. If you would like a list of frequencies, contact MICHAEL NORTH (EM: michael.north@dnr.state.mn.us).

POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

The Positions and Opportunities section is available only in the on-line edition. This information 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@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>

THE WORLD OWL HALL OF FAME is seeking nominations of both owls and humans who have made tremendous strides toward making this world a better place for owls. Nominees may be living or deceased and may reside anywhere in the world. Self-nominations are accepted. Nominations must be received **by 23 Nov 2009** and will be reviewed by a panel of judges from around the world with expertise in owl conservation, education, rehabilitation, and research. Winners will be individually notified in Dec 2009 to allow time for travel arrangements to be made, and will be made public in mid Jan 2010. Awards will be presented at the International Festival of Owls in Houston, Minnesota, USA on Saturday, 6 March 2010. For more information about the World Owl Hall of Fame and to download nomination forms visit (URL: <http://www.festivalofowls.com>) or contact the Houston Nature Center (PH: 507-896-HOOT (4668), or EM: nature@acegroup.cc).

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

ATLAS OF WADER POPULATIONS IN AFRICA AND WESTERN EURASIA, Simon Delany, Derek Scott, Tim Dodman, David Stroud, Editors, 2009. Wetlands International and Wader Study Group. 524 pages, including full color photos and distribution maps. Price: £ 70 (€ 75.). The Wader Atlas is a milestone publication presenting the current knowledge of the numbers, distribution and movements of waders in the Africa-Western Eurasia region. Built on ten years of study, the Wader Atlas is the latest in the line of Flyway Atlases that so clearly demonstrate the need for international collaboration in the conservation of migratory birds. It brings together for the first time all the information that is needed to act as a basis for the conservation 90 species in the African-West Eurasian region. Waders are one of the most migratory groups of birds and successful conservation demands a strongly international approach. Data provided by thousands of experts, most of them volunteers, from over 80 countries, have been combined with published results of bird ringing and national bird atlases. For each species, a full-color map shows populations and key sites; in-depth text describes movements and status of each population, including a color photograph and a table of key sites. The detailed count data presented and the adoption of a flyway approach provide the necessary empirical evidence, as well as a framework for, waterbird conservation. One of the strengths of the Atlas is that it brings together data and information on many rather unknown wader species in Africa. As the final product of ten years of labor it defines principal migration strategies, delineates separate units for conservation purposes, and provides the best current estimation of population size and status. For more information visit the website (URL: <http://www.wetlands.org/waderatlas>).

TURKEY VULTURES: A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE FOR AGING NESTLINGS. R. W. Nelson, D. Moore, F. Kunas, and R. Morse. 2009. Fish and Wildlife Division, *Alberta Species at Risk Report No. 124*. Edmonton, AB. 44 pp. The descriptions and 80+ color photos of known-age nestlings, "... are intended to allow users ... to estimate the age of nestling Turkey Vultures, from their own photographs, to within \pm two days, without handling the young birds." Part of an ongoing study at the northern edge of the breeding range. Available as a pdf download (URL: <http://srd.alberta.ca/fishwildlife/speciesatrisk/projectreports.aspx>).

LIFE LIST: A WOMAN'S QUEST FOR THE WORLD'S MOST AMAZING BIRDS, Olivia Gentile, 2009. Bloomsbury USA. 352pp, ISBN13: 9781596911697 (price \$26). *Life List* is a portrait of a woman who found refuge from society's expectations in a dangerous and soul-stirring obsession. At forty-nine, she was diagnosed with cancer and told that she had less than a year to live. Devastated, she began crisscrossing the globe, finding rare and spectacular birds that brought her to the heights of spiritual ecstasy. But as it turned out, she didn't get sick. She eventually went to more than a hundred countries, had frequent brushes with danger, became a hero in the birding world, and set a record for the most species seen. Widely available in bookstores and on Amazon. For more information, please visit the website (URL: <http://www.oliviagentile.com>).

THE BALANCE OF NATURE: Ecology's Enduring Myth, John Kricher, 2009. Princeton University Press. 252 pp., ISBN13: 978-0-691-13898-5 (cloth, \$24.95). That there is no real balance of nature, nor has there ever been, has only recently come to be understood by ecologists. In this timely book, Kricher traces why the balance of nature was such a prevalent belief even after Darwin's revelations about evolution. He then shows why an understanding of the dynamic nature of ecology and evolution is essential to formulating policies of environmental ethics necessary to ensure that Earth's ecosystems remain sustainable. More information on the webpage (URL: <http://press.princeton.edu>).

PERSONAL EXCHANGES

FOR SALE: automatic datalogging receiver for beeper transmitters: 148-152 MHz. Lotek SRX-400/W9 (event log firmware option W9). Includes downloading software & cable, AC charger, external power cable & carry case. Bought new in summer 2008 but only used indoors and is still in mint condition. Price \$4500 providing a 10% discount from factory price (\$5032) plus shipping (appr. \$160). Price FOB (freight, bank fees & applicable taxes are extra). Also available 3 element Yagi antenna from Biotrack with flexible elements and also a Larsen whip antenna with a magnetic attachment. Please contact Dr. ERPUR SNAER HANSEN at South Iceland's Nature Centre. Strandvegur 50, IS-900 Vestmannaeyjar, ICELAND. [EM: erpur@nattsud.is; PH: (+354) 4812683; GSM: (+354) 6633877; FX: (+354) 4812669].

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

46TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SOCIETY, **22-26 Jun 2009**. Pirenópolis, Brazil. The meeting venue will be the Pousada dos Pireneus (URL: <http://www.pousadadospireneus.com.br>), located near the town's historical center. Plenary Speakers: Richard Dawkins, Oxford University; Dan Rubenstein, Princeton University; and Marlene Zuk, University of California at Riverside. For additional information, see: (URL: <http://www.animalbehavior.org>). Contact: REGINA MACEDO (EM: rhfmacedo@unb.br).

URBAN WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT: An International Symposium on Urban Wildlife and the Environment, University of Massachusetts, Amherst **21-24 Jul 2009**. Potential topics for presentations and symposia may include ecology of wildlife in urban areas, management of human-urban wildlife conflicts, improved conservation of urban wildlife through urban planning, landscape architecture, and wildlife-friendly development, and international urban wildlife ecology and management. More information is available at (URL: http://www.people.umass.edu/sdestef/urban_conference.html).

ANNUAL WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION (WDA) meeting at the Semiahmoo Resort and Spa in Blaine, Washington from **2 - 7 Aug 2009**. The theme for the conference this year is "Wildlife Health from Land to Sea: Impacts of a Changing World" and abstracts will be accepted until **1 May 2009**. For more information, please visit our conference website (URL: http://www.wildlifedisease.org/Conference_2009.html). The mission of the WDA is to acquire, disseminate, and apply knowledge regarding health and disease of wild animals in relation to their biology, conservation, and ecology including interactions with humans and domestic animals. To learn more about our organization, visit (URL: <http://www.wildlifedisease.org>).

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION will hold its 127th Stated Meeting in Philadelphia, **12-15 Aug 2009**. The meeting, co-hosted by Villanova University and the University of Pennsylvania, will take place on the UPenn campus. Dr. Robert Curry, Villanova University, is the Chair of the Committee on Local Arrangements; Dr. David White, UPenn, is the Local Host. The conference will feature three days of contributed scientific papers, posters, invited speakers, and symposia; evening events hosted by the Philadelphia Zoo and the Academy of Natural Sciences; special activities for students; and field trips before and after the conference, showcasing especially the peak of Delaware Bay shorebird migration. Accommodations at UPenn will include suite-style dormitory rooms and hotels adjacent to campus. The

meeting's location will provide easy access to the many historical and cultural attractions of Philadelphia—the "birthplace of American ornithology." For additional information, visit the conference web site (URL: <http://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/>).

*WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION, 2009 annual meeting at the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, Milpitas, California, **28-30 Aug 2009**. The meeting is not to be missed, and will have exciting demonstrations and workshops of banding, data management, and analysis of banding data. Please submit abstracts electronically **by 15 July** to C. J. RALPH (EM: cjralph@humboldt1.com), specifying paper or poster. For additional information, please visit the WBBA website (URL: <http://www.westernbirdbanding.org/next-meetings.html>), or contact C. J. (PH: 707 825-2992).

*34TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS, **10 - 13 Sep 2009**, Boise, Idaho. Under the auspices of our local host, the Idaho Bird Observatory, the meeting will take place at Oxford Suites of Boise (1426 S. Entertainment Ave, Boise, ID. 83709, (PH: 208-322-8000). It will feature contributed scientific papers, expert identification panels, half- and full-day field trips, field skills workshops, social events, and our annual membership meeting and banquet—this year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Craig Benkman (whose recently described South Hills Crossbill *Loxia sinesciuris* we hope to see!). Deadline for presentation abstracts is **15 Jun 2009**. Detailed information is posted under 'Conference' and 'Spring 2009 Newsletter' at the WFO website (URL: <http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org>).

RRF 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - SCOTLAND. For the first time in the society's history, the annual conference (2009) will be held outside of the Americas, to reflect the global interests of the membership. This historic six-day event will be held in Pitlochry, Scotland from **29 Sep - 4 Oct 2009**, hosted by the Scottish Raptor Study Group. Social events include an exclusive evening party at a magnificent Scottish castle and there are 11 field trip options to some of the country's premiere wildlife sites, including the Isle of Mull and Speyside/Cairngorm Mountains. Numbers are limited to 300 delegates so early booking is advisable. Tickets are selling fast and, to date, delegates from 23 countries have already registered. Please visit the conference website to find out how you can register.

33rd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WATERBIRD SOCIETY will be held **4-7 Nov 2009** at Cape May, New Jersey, and will be hosted by the New Jersey Audubon Society. This is the first time the meeting has been held on the northeast coast since 2000 and we are expecting a large turnout of long-time members and students. The Local Organizing Committee is co-chaired by DAVID MIZRAHI (EM: david.mizrahi@njudubon.org) and NELLIE TSIPOURA (EM: nellie.tsipoura@njudubon.org). We are planning on having the following symposium sessions: 1. Citizen Science Projects led by Nellie Tsipoura, 2. Biology of the Great Egret, led by John Brzorad (EM: brzoradj@lrc.edu) and Alan Maccarone (EM: AlanM@friends.edu), 3. Waterbirds as indicators of environmental health led by David Evers (EM: david.evers@briloon.org), 4. Waterbirds and offshore wind turbines co-led by Christina Kisiel (EM: ckisiel@hughes.net) and 5. At Sea Research and Conservation of NW Atlantic Marine Birds led by Melanie Steinkamp (EM: Melanie_Steinkamp@fws.gov). Please send any further suggestions for symposia to the Chair of the Scientific Program (EM: chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca). As is being done at this year's AOU meeting, our poster session will be comprised of two types of posters: those reporting completed works/studies and those reporting on proposed or in progress studies. We, too, are taking this approach to give students an opportunity to receive input on their work before going into the field or before the work is completed. All posters will be on display for at least two days. We have not yet made our call for abstract submission but please check the Society and NJ Audubon web pages (see below) for imminent updates on this. The Society would like to make a sincere invitation to European ornithologists to consider attending this meeting. The major New York area airports (JFK and LaGuardia airports in New York City; and airports at Newark, New Jersey and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) are conveniently accessed from Europe and the Cape May venue is within easy driving distance from those airports or from the regional airport at Atlantic City, New Jersey. A symposium on waterbird species common to North America and Europe might be an interesting one to pursue. An array of exciting field trips is planned for the Cape May area. There will be both pre- and post-meeting field trip opportunities, so plan on spending a couple extra days

in the area. For more information, please see our Society web page (URL: <http://www.waterbirds.org/>), and the New Jersey Audubon Society web page (URL: <http://njudubon.org>). Details on accommodation and registration are not yet available but check the above web pages periodically.

*JOINT MEETING OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, and THE SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS will take place **7-11 Feb 2010** in San Diego, California. The meeting will be held at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, conveniently located near many San Diego attractions and birding sites. Local Hosts for the meeting are Dr. Barbara E. Kus and Dr. Kevin J. Burns, and chair of the Scientific Program Committee is Dr. John T. Rotenberry. The conference will feature four days of contributed scientific papers, posters, invited speakers, symposia, and special activities for students. In addition, field trips are planned that take advantage of the abundant and diverse bird life of San Diego. A call for papers will be issued in Aug 2009. For additional information about the conference, visit the conference web site (URL: <http://www.birdmeetings.org>).

*THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP, 37TH ANNUAL MEETING, **17-20 Feb 2010**, Long Beach, California. For information contact JENNIFER BOYCE, NOAA Restoration Center, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4470, Long Beach, CA 90802 (PH: 562-980-4086; EM: Jennifer.Boyce@noaa.gov) or NINA KARNOVSKY, 175 W. Sixth Street, Claremont, CA 91711 (PH: 909-607-9794; EM: nina.karnovsky@pomona.edu). For information on the scientific program contact TOM GOOD, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, 2725 Montlake Boulevard East, Seattle, WA 98112 (PH: 206-860-3469; EM: Tom.Good@noaa.gov).

*THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY will be held **20-23 May 2010**, in Geneva, NY. The meeting will be hosted by and held at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Dormitory rooms and an optional meal plan will be available at low cost; additional accommodations will be available at the Geneva Lakefront Ramada. The local host, MARK DEUTSCHLANDER, may be reached at the Department of Biology, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Rosenberg Hall, Geneva, NY 14456 (PH: 315-781-3586; EM: deutschlande@hws.edu).

25TH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS 2010 Call for Symposia Proposals (**22-28 Aug 2010**) Campos do Jordão, Brazil. The Scientific Program Committee has been formed and a web page is in place (<http://www.i-o-c.org> or <http://www.ib.usp.br/25ioc>). We hope that you will circle these dates on your calendar and plan to attend! For further information, please contact PROF. DR. CRISTINA YUMI MIYAKI, Secretary-General of the 25th IOC (EM: ioc2010@ib.usp.br).

NEWS OF MEMBERS

VICTOR APANIUS, a member of the AOU since 1986, WS since 2004, and RRF since 1997, died on 12 Apr 2009 in Chesterland, Ohio at age 53. He suffered a stroke while doing field work in the California Sierras the previous June, and complications from that stroke led to his passing. Victor was active in the areas of field immunology, comparative physiology, and avian life history evolution, and had just published a major work integrating those topics in the month before his stroke (*Ornithological Monographs* 65).

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](mailto:ctrine@andrews.edu)).

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THE MOST RECENT NUMBERS of the Society journals and the month of mailing are: *Auk*, 2009, Vol. 126, #1 (Feb); *Condor*, 2009, Vol. 111, #1 (Mar); *J. Field Ornith.*, 2009, Vol. 80, #1 (Mar); *Raptor Res.*, 2009, Vol. 43, #1 (Mar); *Waterbirds*, 2009, Vol. 32, #1 (Mar); *Wilson J. Ornith.*, 2009, Vol. 121, #1 (Mar). Numbers follow at about 3-month intervals. If you are missing an issue, please contact OSNA. New members receive the first issue of the volume year. Please check your address label to confirm membership information and address.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be issued in August. Items you wish to have included must reach the Editor, CHERYL L. TRINE, 3889 E. Valley View, Berrien Springs, MI 49103 (PH: 269-471-7886; EM: [ctrine AT andrews.edu](mailto:ctrine@andrews.edu)), **by 1 July 2009**. Submission by email (in the body of the email message--not an attached file) or on diskette (PC format: Word-Perfect 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.