

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.americanornithology.org>

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

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

WS - <http://www.waterbirds.org>

RRF - <http://raptorresearchfoundation.org>

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

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

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP AWARDS FOR THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY – Are you a student interested in joining the American Ornithological Society (AOS) the merged society of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) and the Cooper Ornithological Society (COS)? The AOS 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 student member of the AOS: (1) You will receive electronic access to Auk: Ornithological Advances and Condor: Ornithological Applications, two of the world's leading journals of ornithology. (2) You will have electronic access to the Birds of North America Species Accounts. (3) You will be eligible to apply for travel awards to attend the upcoming meeting of the AOS in East Lansing, Michigan on July 30 - August 4, 2017 (only members can apply). (4) You will be eligible to apply for research grants from the AOS 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:

1. Have no current or prior membership in the AOS, the AOU, or the COS.
2. 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)
3. 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 AOS members at the student rate. To apply, please read the full application details through the "Awards at a glance" link on the AOU website (<http://americanornithology.org>) and forward your materials electronically the Student Membership Awards organizer, DANIEL MENNILL (EM: dmennill AT uwindsor.ca). Applications are due **before 1 Jan 2017**.

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

40TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE WATERBIRD SOCIETY AWARDS – At the meeting in New Bern NC, 20-24 Sep 2016, two major awards were given: Dr. Joanna Burger, Rutgers University, was presented the Kai Curry-Lindahl Conservation award for her 45+ years of studies of waterbird ecology, behavior, and the effects of contaminants on aquatic birds. Also, Dr. D.V. "Chip" Weseloh, retired Canadian Wildlife Service biologist, was awarded the Society's Distinguished Service Award for his many contributions to the organization. Our society's first Publication Award for Outstanding Contribution to Conservation recipient was Dr. Juliet Lamb and her co-authors, for their paper: Lamb J.S., C.S. Hall, S.W. Kress, and C.R. Griffin. 2014. Comparison of burning and weed barriers for restoring common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) nesting habitat in the Gulf of Maine. *Waterbirds* 37:286-297.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2017 MEMBERSHIP CLASSES of Fellow and Elective Member of the AOS are being accepted now **until 1 Feb 2017**. Current Fellows and Elective Members may submit nominations electronically. Nominations and full supporting information are to be supplied by the nominators. The lists of current Fellows and Elective Members are available on the American Ornithology website (<http://americanornithology.org/content/aos-special-membership-classes>). Nominators seeking to endorse a nominee must first obtain the instructions and forms for 2017, available on the American Ornithology web site (<http://americanornithology.org/content/aos-special-membership-classes-nomination-guidelines>) or from the Secretary, ANDREW W. JONES (EM: ajones@cmnh.org). The Committee on Nomination of Fellows and Elective Members will prepare additional nominations. Fellows and Elective Members who would like to put forward a name for consideration by the nomination committee should contact the chair, JACK DUMBACHER (EM: jdumbacher@calacademy.org), **by 31 Dec 2016**.

THE 129TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 9-12 Mar 2017. Will be held on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers, Florida. The campus is located just east of I-75 (between exits 123 and 128) and about 3 miles south of the Regional Southwest International Airport in a pine flatwoods setting crossed by a baldcypress slough and dotted with small lakes and baldcypress domes. Access to campus habitats is made possible by a nature trail through wooded areas and boardwalks through wetlands. Timing of the meeting coincides with the university's spring break and-more importantly-with the best birding of the year in southwest Florida. Winter residents will still be present and Neotropical migrants such as warblers, vireos, and Swallow-tailed Kites will be arriving daily. Resident Loggerhead Shrikes, Northern Mockingbirds, and others will be nesting. It will be well into the dry season in southwest Florida and wading birds will be concentrated at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Six-mile Cypress Slough, and the famed STA-5 (Stormwater Treatment Area-5). Nearby Bunche Beach and Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge will be hosting wintering shorebirds and others arriving from the south enroute to breeding grounds. Come prepared for a birding extravaganza and share with us the fruits of your ornithological research at paper sessions on Friday and Saturday. Frank Moore will present the Margaret Morse Nice plenary lecture. **IMPORTANT DATES AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Student Travel Award applications will be accepted until **9 Dec 2016**. A link is provided on the WOS website, <http://www.wilsonociety.org/wilsonsoc/awards/wotravelawards.html>. Call for Papers. Abstracts for the scientific program will be accepted until **20 January 2017** at <http://www.wilsonociety.org/wos2017/callforpapers.html>. Early (discounted) registration will be open from **5 through 31 January 2017** at <http://www.wilsonociety.org/wos2017/registration.html>. The local host, JERRY JACKSON, may be reached at (EM: jjackson@fgcu.edu).

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (AOS) IS OFFICIAL! All of the legal paperwork has been filed in Washington DC and California to change the name of the AOU to AOS, and for the COS to merge into AOS. AOS became a legal entity on 11 Oct 2016. The first official meeting of the AOS Council was on 1 November and our first annual meeting of American Ornithology will be next July on the campus of Michigan State University. Our consolidated website (<http://AmericanOrnithology.org>) and a new logo will be announced in December. Members will be able to subscribe or renew using a new program which will also be announced in December.

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION REPORT – And here goes another year for the Raptor Research Foundation (RRF). Certainly a year to be remembered and celebrated as we commemorated our 50th anniversary in conjunction with our annual meeting held in Cape May, New Jersey a few weeks ago. To all past and current members, THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your membership and involvement in our Foundation. Talking about the annual conference, what an amazing experience we had in Cape May! The local committee and the RRF conference committee, assisted by a very large number of volunteers and staff, prepared an amazing program. We heartedly thank all them for making this meeting so unique and great. In Cape May, we not only had excellent talks about cutting edge research on raptors, hands on workshops, supportive vendors and sponsors, internationally recognized plenary speakers and multiple symposiums; we also reviewed during this gathering the important historical aspects of raptor research and conservation. We learned about the challenges, successes and stories of the men and women that wrote the early pages of our Foundation's history. We listened carefully about how everything started 50 years ago, who were the raptor researchers and conservationists that built the foundations of what our organization is today, and how our Journal of Raptor Research transformed from a few pages of newsletter to the top quality, highly reputed, international scientific journal that make us all so proud. This past year has been challenging for RRF and other members of the Ornithological Societies of North America, as we start the transition of membership management from the Schneider Group to a new provider, MemberSuite. We thank the Schneider Group and all its representatives for accompanying us along this journey for so many years. We couldn't have done it without you. And we welcome MemberSuite for the years to come. This transition, working together with other societies, would have been a more winding road without the hard work of our President-elect Libby Mojica and former RRF Director Michael Collopy. Together, we are working hard to make this transition occur as smoothly as we can, and I am confident the change will be of real benefit for all the societies, including RRF. Finally, we are happy to inform you that the RRF Board of Directors recently approved a motion to begin work on a Strategic Plan for our Foundation. A task force is being created to work on this endeavor, so if you want to be part of it or want to contribute to the early development of this Strategic Plan please contact RRF's President. We will keep you posted of future developments about RRF in the following issues of the OSNA and Wingspan Newsletters. Stay tuned, as the future looks as exciting and inspiring as the past we just left behind – Best regards, Miguel Saggese, RRF President

NAOC VI STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS – Travel awards of all seven societies were determined by a joint committee comprised of representatives from all of the sponsoring societies. The joint committee on student travel awards (including the AOU's Marcia Brady Tucker travel awards) was co-chaired by Matt Carling (AOU Chair), Meg Hatch (WOS), Julie Jedlicka (AFO), Dan Mennill (SCO-SOC), Dennis Siegfried (WOS), Dave Swanson (COS), and granted awards to 351 students to help defray expenses for transportation to the joint meeting – Heather Abernathy, Virginia Abernathy, Michael Akresh, Daniel Albrecht-mallinger, Stephanie Aguilon, Irith Aloni, Melissa Althouse, Elizabeth Ames, Rachel Anderson, Fidel Atuo, Andrea Ayala, Brett Bailey, Jacob Bailey, Abigail Barenblitt, Andrew Barnas, Mercedes Bartkovich, Sahas Barve, Christopher Battey, Sara Bebus, Tessa Behnke, Ruth Bennett, Elizabeth Bergen, Jacob Berv, Kristin Bianchini, Shawn Billerman, Adam Bleau, Misha Blizard, Lia Bobay, Donella Bolen, Erica Bonderud, Andy Boyce, Chloe Boynton, Annie Bracey, Jessica Brauch, Holly Brown, Alicia Brunner, Lee Bryant, Evan Buechley, Kevin Burgio, Tianna Burke, Marie-helene (Marie) Burle, Ryan Burner, Jessica Burnett, Faith Byrd, Sergio Cabrera-cruz, Laura Cardenas-ortiz, Jason Carlisle, Wales Carter, Xeronimo Castañeda, Rebecca Cheek, Ryan

Chitwood, Daniel Chronowic, Vivien Chua, Kalen Clifton, Gemma Clucas, Tara Conkling, Clara Cooper-mullin, Allison Cornell, Samuel (Sammy) Cowell, George Cummins, Larynn Cutshaw, Catherine Dale, Santiago David, Kayla Davis, Kyle Davis, Devin De Zwaan, Clayton Delancey, Alana Demko, Bryant Dossman, Hannah Driscoll, Justin Droke, Erich Eberts, Douglas Eddy, Mandy Ehnes, Emily Elderbrock, Elisa Elizondo, Lisa Elliott, Erik Enbody, Philina English, Danielle Ethier, Kathleen Farley, Laura Farwell, Shilo Felton, Stephen Ferguson, Alison Fetterman, Karolina Fierro Calderon, Sarah Fischer, Alyssa Fitzgerald, Scott Flemming, Dillon Fogarty, Gabriel Foley, Ella Fornari, Auriel Fournier, Mack Frantz, Nikole Freeman, Timothy Freiday, Cooper French, Guillermo Friis, Stephanie Frizzell, Erik Funk, Connor Gable, Chauncey Gadek, Ariel Gaffney, Milene Gaiotti, Marie-sophie Garcia-heras, Laura Garey, Megan Garfinkel, Lucy Garrett, Brock Geary, Jordan Giese, Ana Gonzalez, Geoffrey Gould, Kathleen Grady, Brendan Graham, Carrie Gray, Virginia Greene, Emily Griffith, Kirsten Grond, Joao Marcos Guimaraes Capurcho, Eric R. Gulson-castillo, Natasha Hagemeyer, Matthew Halley, Kin-ian Han, Zachary Hanna, Michael Hanson, Michael Hardy, Bronwyn Harkness, Rebecca Harris, Johanna Harvey, Rachel Hasson, Sacha Heath, Richard Hedley, Holly Hennin, Rachael Herman, Mark Herse, Anna Hiller, Natalie Hofmeister, Sydney Hope, Kyle Horton, Johnathan Huska, Angela Hsiung, Ping Huang, Katrina Hucks, Emily Hudson, Nicholas Huffeldt, Amanda Hund, Kelsi Hunt, Jerry Huntley, Kelly Iknayan, Allyson Jackson, Nicolas Jaffe, Rocio Jara, Levi Jaster, Julianna Jenkins, Ashley Jensen, Oscar Johnson, Allison Johnson, Chelsea Johnson, Richard Johnston Gonzalez, Blake Jones, John Jones, Zach Kahn, Emma Keele, Janice Kelly, Haley Kenyon, Samantha Knight, Alison Koccek, Rebecca Koch, Heather Korey, Gunnar Kramer, Nicole Krauss, Katie Labarbera, Lawrence Lam, Blaine Landsborough, Allison Lansverk, Samantha Lantz, Marie-pier Laplante, Carlos Lara, Caitlin Laughlin, Ariel Lenseke, William Lewis, Sara Lipshutz, Tyng Liu, Katie Low, Sean Macdonald, Sarah Maclean, Maggie Macpherson, Christine Madliger, Michael Mandru, Kristen Marini, Nicholas Mason, Elizabeth Matseur, Alix Matthews, Anna Matthews, Beverly McClenaghan, Jenna McCullough, Kelsey McCune, Laurel McDonald, Jessica McLaughlin, Darin McNeil, Libby Megna, Samuel Merker, Colleen Miller, Preston Mitchell, Adam Mitchell, Noelle Moen, Andre Moncrieff, Spynce Mones, Ines Moran, Kate Morgan, Erin Morrison, Jennifer Mortensen, Christopher Moserpurdy, Jenny Munoz, Kathrin Munro, Lukas Musher, Brian Myers, Gretchen Nareff, Libby Natola, Shelby Nemec, Claire Nemes, Nicholas Newberry, Gretchen Newberry, Janet Ng, K. Samantha Nichols, Veronica Norbury, Ryan O'connor, Sean O'daniels, Brennan Obermayer, Emily Ostrow, Krista Oswald, Juan Oteyza, Joel Owen, Ohad Paris, Nicholas Pattinson, Nadine Paul, Michelle Peach, Lykke Pedersen, Teresa Pegan, Marie Perkins, Lori Petruski, Alice Pintaric, Henry Pollock, Michael Pontius, Ahva Potticary, Sean Power, Kaiya Provost, Tonya Rahinsky, Vijay Ramesh, Danielle Ramsden, Jeannine Randall, Douglas Raybuck, Jessie Reese, Carrick Rice, Corey Riding, Alisha Ritchie, Melissa Roach, Amélie Roberto-charron, Samuel Roberts, Ashton Roberts, Samantha Robinson, Fabiola Rodriguez, Steve Roels, Brian Rolek, Patricia Rosa, Josee Rousseau, Jessica Rozek, Katharine Ruskin, Tamara Russell, Gerardo Soto, Jessie Salter, Lina Maria Sanchez-clavijo, Lindsey Sanders, Drew Sauve, Matthew Schepers, Spencer Schubert, Sarah Schulwitz, Benjamin Sedinger, Glenn Seeholzer, Sara Seibert, Kimberly Serno, Amie Settlekowski, C Sevillano, Subir Shakya, Anusha Shankar, Amanda Shave, Megan Shave, Brittany Simons, Morgan Slevin, Samuel Slowinski, Nicholas Sly, Wayne Smart, Katherine Snell, Cara Snell, Allison Snider, Lauren Solomon, Graham Sorenson, Julien St-amand, Michelle Stantial, Naima Starkloff, Valerie Steen, Kristie Stein, Abby Sterling, Any Strauss, Alex Sutton, Andrew Sweet, Rose Swift, Kaeli Swift, Oona Takano, Eveling Tavera Fernandez, Rebecca Taylor, Capwell Taylor, Ryan Terrill, Hillary Thompson, Sarah Thomsen, Anna Tigano, Joseph Tipton, Brian Trevelline, Anna Tucker, Molly Tuma, Sheela Turbek, Jessica Tutterow, Cornelia Twining, Jennifer Uehling, Jonathon Valente, Amanda Van Dellen, Benjamin Van Doren, Charles Van Rees, Bram Verheijen, Mitch Walters, Silu Wang, Catherine Welke, Carrie Wendt, Aija White, Emma White, Jennifer Wilcox, Sean Williams, Heather Williams, Madison Williams, Emily Williams, Rebecca Windsor, Sarah Winnicki, Brad Woodworth, Alexander Worm, Michelle Thompson, James Wright, Amy Wynia, Aaron Young, Theodore Zenzal, David Zonana, and Jasmin Zvornicanin.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVANCED BIRD BANDING WORKSHOP – The Southern Sierra Research Station is offering an advanced bird banding workshop in the spring of 2017. The workshop will be located in the beautiful Kern River Valley in California. This advanced bird banding class is designed to help participants fine tune the banding skills they already possess and to advance their comprehension of molt strategies and ability to recognize molt limits and plumages on birds in hand. We will spend the morning mist-netting and banding birds, and in the afternoon will have classroom lectures and discussions. The workshop will be between **10-14 Apr 2017**. Workshop cost is \$850 with a \$150 non-refundable down payment. Housing may be available at an additional cost on a first come, first serve basis. Places are limited so contact us soon (EM: micelleatssrs@gmail.com with name, address, and phone number or visit <http://www.southernsierraresearch.org/Workshop/BirdBanding/>).

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE WEBSITE and BULLETIN – The new website for the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) is now up and running. This new site provides information on the US NABCI Committee, as well as directs members of the bird conservation community to information about national-level bird conservation partnerships and resources. As part of the transition to a more streamlined and user-friendly online presence for the US NABCI Committee, the All-Bird Bulletin, formerly a biannual PDF publication, will now appear as a bi-monthly blog. This blog series, also called the All-Bird Bulletin, will continue to focus on three or four themes per year, but it will now provide more frequent highlights for conservation partners concerning topics of interest. If you were subscribed to the All-Bird Bulletin, you will continue to receive NABCI blogs. If you were not already signed up, and would like to receive blogs notices, you can subscribe here: <http://nabci-us.org/committee/all-bird-bulletin/>. This is an important milestone for NABCI, and we encourage interested birders and bird conservationists to share the link to NABCI's website: <http://nabci-us.org/>

CAN YOU NAME CANADA'S NATIONAL BIRD? Neither can anyone else, because, as of this writing, Canada does not have a national bird. The Royal Canadian Geographic Society launched the National Bird Project in January 2015 to help rectify the situation by 2017, Canada's 150th anniversary. Canadians were invited to vote for their candidate of choice on the website of *Canadian Geographic* magazine. Although the Common Loon led the flock when the public voting ended 31 August 2016, there is no guarantee that it will be the final choice. A panel debate was held in September where experts argued the merits of the top five choices—Common Loon, Snowy Owl, Gray Jay, Canada Goose, and Black-capped Chickadee. The final choice will be announced 16 November, after which the organizers will submit their proposal to the government, probably through a private member's bill in the Commons. This is not the first attempt to get a national bird designated; the Canadian Raptor Conservancy tried to convince the federal government to name a national bird back in 2010; at that time, the red-tailed hawk was the top choice to represent the nation, with the Canada goose coming in second and the common loon landing third. Perhaps in the near future Canada will have a National Bird.

SCRIPPS'S AND GUADALUPE MURRELET POPULATIONS SAFE FOR NOW according to findings of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, published in the Federal Register, 21 Sep 2016, <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-09-21/pdf/2016-22453.pdf>. In 2002 the Pacific Seabird Group petitioned to have Xantus's murrelet (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*) listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act citing a small population, a limited breeding range, and nonnative predators on the breeding islands as reasons for concern. In 2004 the USFWS added it to the list of candidate species and determined that listing the Xantus's murrelet was warranted but precluded by higher priority listing actions. At the time of the petition, the Xantus's murrelet (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*) was recognized as having two subspecies, *S. h. hypoleucus* (Guadalupe murrelet) and *S. h. scrippsii* (Scripps's Murrelet). In 2012 the AOU elevated the two subspecies to species status. Incorporating the change, the USFWS evaluated the two new species separately, but the findings are essentially the same for both. The USFWS acknowledges that both species probably underwent steep declines as a result of predation and habitat destruction prior to the mid-1900s, but in the last 40 years the

limited survey data indicates populations have remained stable. In the intervening time period, since being added to the candidate list, all non-native predators (particularly rats and cats) have been removed from almost all of the islands on which the murrelets nest. According to the USFWS the causes for the steep population declines have either been eliminated or reduced to the point of marginal significance and the populations of these two species are not currently endangered or likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

BUILDING A NEW COLONY OF THREATENED NEWELL'S SHEARWATERS – A project years in the making took place on Kaua'i's north shore this past September when seven threatened Newell's Shearwater ('A'o) chicks were flown by helicopter from their montane nesting areas to a new colony protected by a predator-proof fence at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. There they will be raised to fledging from the same site where 10 Hawaiian Petrels were successfully translocated last year in the hopes of starting new colonies of both species. Newell's Shearwater chicks imprint on their birth colony location the first time they emerge from their burrows and see the night sky, and will return to breed at the same colony as adults. Since chicks were removed from their natural burrows before this critical imprinting stage, the hope is that they will emerge from their nest boxes and imprint on the Nihoku area and return to the site as adults. While this project will be the first translocation of Newell's Shearwater chicks within Hawai'i, translocation of closely related seabird species has been used with success in New Zealand in order to create new colonies, and this is the second year of testing this technique in Hawai'i. It is hoped that similar outcomes will be achieved on Kaua'i. (Excerpted from https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Kilauea_Point/News/News_Items/Newells_Shearwaters_Colony.html)

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 submit announcements on-line and the announcements will be posted after approval by a moderator. If problems occur with online submission, please send your announcement to the Ornithological Newsletter Editor, Cheryl Trine (EM: ctrine AT andrews.edu) in the body of the email message.

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>. For other grant opportunities, visit: <http://ornithologyexchange.org/forums/forum/139-grants-awards/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY—THE DAVID S. LEE FUND FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CARIBBEAN BIRDS – \$1,000 is budgeted for one or two grants from the David S. Lee Fund. Application Deadline: **15 Dec 2016 at 5 p.m. EST**. For more information, see <http://www.birdscaribbean.org/2016/10/funding-opportunity-the-david-s-lee-fund-for-the-conservation-of-caribbean-birds/>. Address questions and send application to: WILL MACKIN, Co-Chair Seabird Working Group, BirdsCaribbean (EM: mackinwa@guilford.edu; copy to info@birdscaribbean.org).

2017 AOS RESEARCH AWARDS - Information on the 2017 AOS Research Awards can be found at <http://www.Americanornithology.org>. The deadline for submission is **Friday, 27 Jan 2017 @ noon (EST)**. Questions should be directed to the Chair of the AOS Research Awards Committee, BRIAN PEER (EM: BD-Peer@wiu.edu).

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE 2017 WILSON RESEARCH GRANTS – The Wilson Ornithological Society is pleased to call for proposals for the 2017 Wilson Research Grants. Louis Agassiz Fuertes Grant, the Wilson Society's most prestigious award, is available to all ornithologists, although graduate students and young professionals are preferred. Any avian research is eligible. Up to two awards of \$2500 are given annually. The George A. Hall / Harold F. Mayfield Grant is limited to independent researchers without access to funds and facilities available at colleges, universities, or governmental agencies, and is restricted to non-professionals, including high school students. Any kind of avian research is eligible. Up to one \$1000 award is given. Up to four Wilson Ornithological Society Research Grants awards of \$1500 are given annually, for work in any area of ornithology. Two of these awards will be limited to research by Masters students. Paul A. Stewart Grants will be given to proposals for studies of bird movements (based on banding, radio or satellite telemetry, or similar methods) or an emphasis on economic ornithology. Up to four awards of \$1000 are given annually. Applications for all research grants are **due 1 Feb 2017** and are available only to members of the Wilson Ornithological Society. Details about eligibility and application requirements can be found on the Wilson Ornithological Society webpage (<http://www.wilsonsociety.org/wilsonsoc/awards/wosawards.html>) Please submit application materials via the application portal (<http://wos.salvereginablogs.com>) For questions, please contact Dr. MARGARET HATCH (EM: mih10@psu.edu).

TIOF ENDOWMENT FUND PROPOSAL– The International Osprey Foundation (TIOF) is seeking applications for its 28th annual grant program to support research activities of graduate students primarily focused on osprey. However, research work with other raptor species will also be considered. The award recipient will be expected to provide a report of his or her research and use 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 2017** to: TIOF Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957. Grants will be awarded on 31 Mar 2017.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

CAT WARS: THE DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES OF A CUDDLY KILLER, Peter P. Marra & Chris Santella, 2016. Princeton University Press. 216 pp., 24 color photos, 6" x 9". ISBN: 9780691167411 (Hardcover, \$24.95/£18.95). *Cat Wars* tells the story of the threats free-ranging cats pose to biodiversity and public health throughout the world, and sheds new light on the controversies surrounding the management of the explosion of these cat populations. This compelling book traces the historical and cultural ties between humans and cats from early domestication to the current boom in pet ownership, along the way accessibly explaining the science of extinction, population modeling, and feline diseases. It charts the developments that have led to our present impasse—from Stan Temple's breakthrough studies on cat predation in Wisconsin to cat-eradication programs underway in Australia today. It describes how a small but vocal minority of cat advocates has campaigned successfully for no action in much the same way that special interest groups have stymied attempts to curtail smoking and climate change. Activists and cat lovers on both sides of the debate are presented in a sympathetic light. Readers on all sides of this issue are encouraged to read *Cat Wars*.

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: THE FIRST CENTURY 1883-1983. By Keir B. Sterling and Marianne G. Ainley; edited by William E. Davis, Jr. and Byron K. Butler. Nuttall Ornithological Club Memoir No. 20, Cambridge, Massachusetts. 2016. 405 pp., 49 figures, 7 tables, 6 appendices. ISBN 978-1-877973-50-5. \$35 (cloth). This volume, written by two historians, has chapters on the AOU early years, By-laws, The Auk, classification and checklists, annual meetings, research and awards, bird protection, special projects, and patterns of change with time in the AOU. Available for sale from Buteo Books, \$35 plus \$4.99 S&H: Buteo Books, 2731 Arrington Road, Arrington, VA 22922. <http://www.buteobooks.com/product/NOCM20.html>

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

THE 2016 ALASKA BIRD CONFERENCE will be held in Cordova, **6-8 Dec 2016**. Online registration is now open at <http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/registration/>, and deadlines for abstract submission (15 Oct), nominations for student travel awards (9 Sep), and the Pete Isleib Award (15 Oct) are fast approaching. Please see our flier, http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/ABC_flier.pdf, for more information. Please contact us (EM: 2016alaskabirdconference@gmail.com) with any questions.

*14TH NORTH AMERICAN CRANE WORKSHOP – Registration is now open for the 14th North American Crane Workshop, sponsored by the North American Crane Working Group! The workshop will be held **11-13 Jan 2017**, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. There will be field trips to nearby Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge on January 14th, and to Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge (near Decatur, Alabama) on January 15th. Both refuges are major migration stopover and wintering areas for the eastern populations of Sandhill Cranes and reintroduced Whooping Cranes. Chattanooga has been hailed as one of the best mid-sized cities in the country, with beautiful scenery, a rich history, and lots of attractions and restaurants. The weather might be cold, but the hospitality will be warm! For Registration, Lodging, Call for Papers, and other Workshop details visit <http://www.cvent.com/events/14th-north-american-crane-workshop/event-summary-d9c4029b949f44dca9968026ef1bc020.aspx>. Please continue to monitor the website for information on student travel awards, silent auction, and additional updates.

44TH PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP ANNUAL MEETING will be held in Tacoma, WA, **22-25 Feb 2017**. In keeping with the locale for the meeting, the theme is "Sound to Sea: Marine Birds Across the Seascape". Registration and abstract submission opens **30 Sep 2016**. Abstract submission deadline is **18 Nov 2016**. For more information, please consult the meeting webpage (<http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org/index.php?f=meeting&t=Annual%20Meeting&s>).

*THE 129TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, **9-12 Mar 2017**. Will be held on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers, Florida. The campus is located just east of I-75 (between exits 123 and 128) and about 3 miles south of the Regional Southwest International Airport in a pine flatwoods setting crossed by a baldcypress slough and dotted with small lakes and baldcypress domes. Access to campus habitats is made possible by a nature trail through wooded areas and boardwalks through wetlands. Timing of the meeting coincides with the university's spring break and more importantly with the best birding of the year in southwest Florida. Winter residents will still be present and Neotropical migrants such as warblers, vireos, and Swallow-tailed Kites will be arriving daily. Resident Loggerhead Shrikes, Northern Mockingbirds, and others will be nesting. It will be well into the dry season in southwest Florida and wading birds will be concentrated at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Six-mile Cypress Slough, and the famed STA-5 (Stormwater Treatment Area-5). Nearby Bunche Beach and Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge will be hosting wintering shorebirds and others arriving from the

south enroute to breeding grounds. Come prepared for a birding extravaganza and share with us the fruits of your ornithological research at paper sessions on Friday and Saturday. Frank Moore will present the Margaret Morse Nice plenary lecture. **IMPORTANT DATES AND CONTACT INFORMATION:** Student Travel Award applications will be accepted until **9 Dec 2016**. A link is provided on the WOS website, <http://www.wilsonsociety.org/wilsonsoc/awards/wostravelawards.html>. Call for Papers. Abstracts for the scientific program will be accepted until **20 January 2017** at <http://www.wilsonsociety.org/wos2017/callforpapers.html>. Early (discounted) registration will be open from **5 through 31 January 2017** at <http://www.wilsonsociety.org/wos2017/registration.html>. The local host, JERRY JACKSON, may be reached at (EM: jjackson@fgcu.edu).

5TH WORLD OWL CONFERENCE, 22-26 Mar 2017. NOTE REVISED DATES. Conference will take place in Italy, where it was held in 2007 the last time. Soon we will give you all the technical information about travelling and overnight stay, and all the practical information about the scientific reports. Follow us on our official website, <http://www.woc2016.it> and on our official facebook page. For information you can write to (EM: info@woc2016.it). We are waiting for you in Italy! Organizing Committee, World Owl Conference 2016.

QUAIL 8 – NATIONAL QUAIL SYMPOSIUM, 26-28 Jul 2017, Knoxville, Tennessee, US. Sponsored by the University of Tennessee, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative & National Bobwhite Technical Committee, Quail 8 is part of a series of quail symposia dating back to 1972, featuring management and research. For more information see, <http://www.quailcount.org/quail8/home.html>

THE 135TH STATED MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (representing the merged American Ornithologists' Union and Cooper Ornithological Society) and the **35TH MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS - Société des Ornithologistes du Canada** will be held jointly in East Lansing, Michigan, USA, **31 Jul to 05 Aug 2017**.

THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS will be held **8-12 Aug 2017** as a joint meeting with the Society of Brazilian Ornithology and Aves Argentina in Puerto Iguazu, Argentina.

***INTERNATIONAL WADER STUDY GROUP CONFERENCE 2017,** Prague, Czech Republic, **15-18 Sep 2017**. Czech Wader Study and Protection Group and the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague are the hosts. For more information, visit: <http://www.waderstudygroup.org/conferences/>

***RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION CONFERENCE on 8-12 November 2017.** HawkWatch International will host the annual conference at the Sheraton in Salt Lake City, Utah. Call for papers and symposia plus conference information will be forthcoming at: <http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/conferences/upcoming-conferences>

27TH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS, 19 - 26 Aug 2018, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The meeting venue is the Vancouver Convention Centre. Nominations for plenary speakers and proposals for symposia must be received on or before **1 May 2016**. For general meeting information and updates, including special events, field trips, local attractions, and links to social media pages, please register on <http://www.IOCongress2018.com>. Mid-Congress Tours on Friday, 24 August 2018 will showcase the best of birding on the spectacular west coast of beautiful British Columbia. Pre- and post-Congress tours will not only include prime Canadian, including the Arctic, destinations but also Ecuadorian Cloud Forest, Amazon and Galapagos expeditions - in celebration of this being the first Congress on the Pacific Coast of the Americas.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

WINSTON BANKO, a member of AOU since 1966 (EM 1968), passed away March 16, 2016. He was 95 years old. His monograph, *The Trumpeter Swan: Its History, Habits and Population in the United States*, originally published in 1960, remains probably the best single source of knowledge on Trumpeter Swans. When he was assigned to Hawaii in 1965, he became the first federal field biologist assigned to work exclusively on the preservation of endangered species. He devoted much of his life to Hawaiian avifaunal research.

GEORGE C. WEST, a member of AOU since 1951, (EM 1967, Fellow 1976), passed away on 31 Aug 2016. After finishing a Ph.D. post-doc, the event that shaped his life was an invitation in 1963 to assist in the formation of the Institute of Arctic Biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where he spent 21 years conducting research on cold adaptations of flora and fauna unique to the arctic tundra. He led a full life in research, was a co-founder of the Hummingbird Monitoring Network, and the author or several books including *North American Hummingbirds; An Identification Guide* and *A Birder's Guide to Alaska*.

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*, 2016, Vol. 133, #4 (Oct); *Condor*, 2016 Vol. 118, #3 (Aug), *J. Field Ornith.*, 2016, Vol. 87, #3 (Sep), *Raptor Res.*, 2016, Vol. 50, #3 (Sep), *Waterbirds*, 2016, Vol. 39, #3 (Sep), *Wilson J. Ornith.*, 2016, Vol. 128, #3 (Sep). Numbers follow at about 3-month intervals. If you are missing an issue, please contact OSNA. New members receive the first issue of the volume year. Please check your address label to confirm membership information and address.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be issued in 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 2017**. 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.