

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 on the OSNA Member Portal <https://customer265664c9b.portal.membersuite.com>. Click on the tab for Newsletters. You do not need to log in to read the Newsletters.

OSNA - <http://osnabirds.org>

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

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

RRF - <http://raptorresearchfoundation.org>

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

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

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION CONFERENCE, 7-12 Nov 2017.

HawkWatch International will host the annual conference at the Sheraton in Salt Lake City, Utah. Call for papers and symposia plus conference information can be found at: <http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/conferences/current-conference/> Registration is now open and Early Bird registration closes **30 Apr 2017**.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE - PERMIT APP & REPORT FORMS UNDER REVIEW – Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, federal agencies must obtain approval from the White House Office of Management and Budget whenever the agency wants to collect information from 10 or more members of the public. That includes permit application forms. Every three years, the agencies must request renewal of the OMB approval and when they do so, the public is afforded a chance to comment on the forms themselves and the burden imposed on those who must use the forms. Do you have any concerns about these permit application and reporting forms? Is any aspect of the form confusing? Do you find any of the questions to be overly burdensome or perhaps unnecessary? The agency will consider your concerns when revising the forms. If so, please contact the Ornithological Council. We must submit comments by 25 April 2017. Once the agency receives the comments, it may revise the forms. If changes are to be made, there will be an additional opportunity for public comment. For more information and how to comment, please see http://ornithologyexchange.org/articles/_community/us-fish-and-wildlife-service-permit-app-report-forms-under-review-r244

ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE ALERT DATABASE – Not enough hours in the day as it is, and now you need to call your members of Congress ... again and again and again. If only there was some way to know when those calls are most urgently needed. The avalanche of proposed legislation that threatens the environment, public lands, and various aspects of wildlife conservation is daunting, and an initial budget proposal from the Administration that, if enacted, will

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destruction decades of progress in all these areas and do away with an enormous amount of funding for scientific research. The Ornithological Council has posted a database, http://ornithologyexchange.org/resources/legislative_alerts.html on Ornithology Exchange that will list and track bills of interest. Each listing includes an "alert status" based on the probability of the bill succeeding at each level which in turn is a function of many factors including the number of co-sponsors, the number of committees, the substance of the bill, and the actual progress of the bill. We hope that these alert levels will help people to determine how to best use their limited time. For additional information and tips on how to communicate with members of congress, see http://ornithologyexchange.org/articles/_community/calling-congress-should-not-be-a-full-time-job-new-resource-for-ornithologists-r242

BLACK RAIL FREE FALL CONTINUES – The Center for Conservation Biology, based at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, has issued warnings about the state of Black Rails in free fall. What we know today about this small and secretive marsh dweller is largely scattered throughout the literature. Much of the species' ecology and distribution remains a mystery. But starting with efforts around the Eastern Black Rail Conservation and Management Working Group in 2009, more information has been accumulated. Unfortunately, the northern range of the bird - from Massachusetts to New Jersey - has shrunk considerably since the late 1980s. Counts at previously known strongholds (e.g., Elliott Island in Maryland, Saxis Marsh in Virginia, and Cedar Island in North Carolina) have resulted in no birds or extremely poor numbers in recent years. Most East Coast counts have documented a 64% decline in occupancy and an 89% decline in detection. For a short summary of the Black Rail situation on the East Coast, see this page from the Center's website: http://www.cccbirds.org/2017/01/04/eastern_black_rails_free_fall/ (Birding Community E-bulletin, February 2017, <http://refugeassociation.org/news/birding-bulletin/>)

WISDOM STILL GOING STRONG – On a remote atoll in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the world's oldest-known banded wild bird just became a mother again. Last December, volunteers and staff at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and Memorial documented that Wisdom, a Laysan albatross at least 66 years old, had returned to the atoll and was incubating an egg with her mate. In February, word came from Midway that Wisdom has hatched another chick! Wisdom was first banded during a bird survey in 1956 by Chandler Robbins. In a strange twist of fate, Robbins "rediscovered" Wisdom 46 years later during a survey near the same nesting location. In her lifetime Wisdom has likely flown over three million miles. She spends much of her life in the air, crisscrossing the North Pacific.

POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

The OSNA Ornithological Jobs page is currently unavailable. To POST or FIND ornithological jobs, please go to the Ornithology Exchange, <http://ornithologyexchange.org/jobs/index.html>.

THE BIRDJOBS-L E-LIST will continue to be an option for receiving notices about ornithological jobs. Subscribers to this list will receive the same announcements that appear on Ornithology Exchange, 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. If you need help, contact ctrine@andrews.edu.

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/>

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Nuttall Ornithological Club is offering *THE BIRDS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE*, Allan R. Keith and Robert P. Fox, 2013, for just \$5 plus shipping and handling. This volume is the first statewide coverage of all species of birds in New Hampshire in 110 years. It includes status and distribution of 427 species, summary of 17,500 band returns, Breeding Bird survey results since 1966...and more, see <http://www.nuttallclub.org/books/birds.nh.htm>. Orders can be phoned to NANCY BOISVERT at New Hampshire Audubon (PH: 603-224-9909) or by email (EM: nboisvert@nhaudubon.org) or by phone or email to Buteo Books.

HANDBOOK OF BIRD BIOLOGY, 3RD ED., Irby J. Lovette and John W. Fitzpatrick, 2016. Wiley-Blackwell. 730 pp., 800+ full color images, 8.4" x 10.8", ISBN: 978-1-118-29105-4 (Hardcover \$135.00, also available as e-book). The Handbook covers all aspects of avian diversity, behavior, ecology, evolution, physiology, and conservation. Using examples drawn from birds found in every corner of the globe, it explores and distills the many scientific discoveries that have made birds one of our best known - and best loved - parts of the natural world.

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

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/>

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*ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS OF THE AMERICAS – We are excited to announce the Ornithological Congress of the Americas to be held at Puerto Iguazú, Argentina, near the spectacular Iguazu Falls. The congress will be a joint meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists, Aves Argentinas, and Sociedade Brasileiro de Ornitologia. Please join us in this beautiful location to interact with ornithologists from throughout the Americas. Dates: **8-11 Aug 2017** (with workshops and field trips on 7-8 Aug and 12-13 Aug). Deadline for workshops and symposium proposals, travel, and presentation awards deadline is **15 Apr 2017**. Abstract and early bird registration deadline is **31 May 2017**. Location: Centro de Eventos y Convenciones del Iguazú, Hotel Amerian, Puerto Iguazú, Argentina. Conference website: <http://www.afonet.org/2017iguazu/>

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.

IN MEMORIAM

CHANDLER S. ROBBINS, a member of the AOU since 1944 (elective member- '49, fellow - '70), AFO since 1983, COS since 1954, WB since 1977 and WOS since 1941, passed away on March 20, 2017, at the age of 98. He retired in December 2005 after 60 years of government service, first with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and then the US Geological Survey. He worked at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD in a variety of jobs involving birds, their distribution, populations and related subjects. In 1965, he founded the North American Breeding Bird Survey, an initiative that has grown to involve thousands of volunteer birders, and has enabled the tracking of changes in bird populations at a continental scale. He is the senior author of the well-used Golden guide, *Birds of North America*, first published in 1966, and hundreds of other reports and papers on birds. In "retirement," Robbins became "Scientist Emeritus" at Patuxent and continued to work at the U.S. Geological Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. An open Celebration of Life will be held on June 23, 2017, at the National Wildlife Visitors Center, Powder Mill Road, Laurel, MD. Further details will become available on the web site: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov>. A more complete memoriam is expected in a forthcoming *Auk*. An excellent obituary was published in the *Washington Post*: https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/chandler-robbins-friend-to-birds-and-birdwatchers-dies-at-98/2017/03/23/d7c331b0-0f44-11e7-9b0d-d27c98455440_story.html?utm_term=.fec9bcb62fd3

ROBERT ARNOLD SUNDELL, a member of the AOU since 1948 and WOS since 1951, passed away on 15 Feb 2017 at the age of 84. A biology and environmental science professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, Westminster College, Salt Lake City, UT, West Georgia College, Carrollton, GA and Jamestown Community College, NY, he enjoyed sharing his passion for birds with those around him.

PETER VICKERY, of Richmond, ME, a member of the AOU since 1985, AFO since 1983 and WOS since 1987, passed away 28 Feb 2017 following a battle with cancer. He was well-known in Maine, and beyond, for his knowledge of Maine avifauna and field identification abilities. His research interests focused on grassland birds in the northeast, Florida, and Argentina. He worked at Massachusetts Audubon Society for 23 years, and then, in consulting, as an instructor at Hog Island Audubon Camp, and working on writing *Birds of Maine*. When he learned that he was unlikely to be able to complete this work because of his cancer diagnosis, he gathered a distinguished team of co-authors to see it through to publication. Memorial donations may be made, for book design and art work costs, to: Birds of Maine Book Fund, Camden National Bank, 111 Main Street, Richmond, ME 04357.

THE FLOCK - SPECIAL SECTION

To correct your address in the membership database please send the new information to the OSNA Membership Office, 5405 Villa View Dr., Farmington, NM 87402 (EM: OSNAmembers@gmail.com, PH: 312-883-4670) or change it yourself online in the OSNA Member Portal (URL: <https://customer265664c9b.portal.membersuite.com/Login.aspx>). To alert your colleagues of new address information, contact the *Ornithological Newsletter* Editor, CHERYL L. TRINE (EM: ctrine AT andrews.edu).

**ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
OF NORTH AMERICA**

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Address Service Requested

THE MOST RECENT NUMBERS of the Society journals and the month of mailing are: *Auk*, 2017, Vol. 134, #2 (Apr); *Condor*, 2017, Vol. 119, #1 (Feb), *J. Field Ornith.*, 2017, Vol. 88, #1 (Mar), *Raptor Res.*, 2017, Vol. 51, #1 (Mar), *Wilson J. Ornith.*, 2017, Vol. 129, #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 June. Items you wish to have included must reach the Editor, CHERYL L. TRINE, 3889 E. Valley View, Berrien Springs, MI 49103 (PH: 269-471-7886; EM: ctrine AT andrews.edu), **by 1 May 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.