

# Ornithological Newsletter

American Ornithological Society  
Raptor Research Foundation

Association of Field Ornithologists  
Wilson Ornithological Society

Cheryl L. Trine, Editor

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## ORGANIZATION NEWS

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER ON-LINE can be found on the 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.wilsonsociety.org/>

BIRDNET - <https://birdnet.org/>

CHANGES COMING TO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETIES PARTNERSHIP – In late September, the Board of Directors of OSNA (Ornithological Societies of North America) voted to dissolve the legal OSNA organization (a 501(c)6 corporation) and to continue the partnership among the ornithological societies in a less formal way. OSNA was created in 1979 by the AOU, COS, and WOS to provide for a joint membership database for facilitate membership renewals and efficient mailing of the jointly produced Ornithological Newsletter. OSNA has undergone many changes in the past 40 years, including the most recent one. Members will see a few changes, but most services that OSNA has provided will still be available, including:

- Joint membership database, including the online directory (the FLOCK) for AOS, AFO, RRF and WOS.
- Joint online renewal system through the Member Portal (<https://customer265664c9b.portal.membersuite.com>) and/or a paper renewal form.
- Archives of the Ornithological Newsletter (the last issue of the Newsletter will be published in December 2019).
- Emails from the Ornithological Societies to which you belong (AOS, AFO, RRF, WOS)
- Ornithological Jobs will still be available on the Ornithology Exchange, as they have been for the past few years.

Changes that will occur include:

- The OSNA website, [osnabirds.org](http://osnabirds.org), will cease to exist and users will be redirected to the Member Portal.
- Assistance is still just an email or phone call away - but the email addresses have changed. For AFO, RRF, or WOS related questions, please contact SCOTT GILLIHAN (EM: [OrnithologyMembers@gmail.com](mailto:OrnithologyMembers@gmail.com); 312-883-4670). For AOS related questions, contact CHRIS MULVANEY (EM: [cmulvaney@americanornithology.org](mailto:cmulvaney@americanornithology.org); 312-379-9531).

CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP PORTAL – The membership portal for the Ornithological Societies (AFO, AOS, RRF, WOS) has a new and improved look. Please log in to <https://customer265664c9b.portal.membersuite.com> to see the new features. This is where you can manage your membership status, find award nominations, find meeting registrations, locate your colleagues in the FLOCK, access journals through BioOne, etc.

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER FUTURE – With the change in the form of association between the ornithological societies, the *Ornithological Newsletter* will be discontinued at the end of the year. The December 2019 issue will be the last one.

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POSTMASTER: Send address change to ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER, 5405 Villa View Dr., Farmington, NM 87402.

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2020 EARTH EXPEDITIONS GRADUATE COURSES – Miami University's Project Dragonfly is accepting applications for 2020 Earth Expeditions graduate courses that offer extraordinary experiences in 16 countries throughout the world. <http://EarthExpeditions.MiamiOH.edu> Earth Expeditions can build toward the Global Field Program (GFP), a master's degree that combines summer field courses worldwide with web learning communities so that students can complete the GFP master's part-time from anywhere in the United States or abroad. <http://GFP.MiamiOH.edu> Project Dragonfly also offers the Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP) master's degree that combines web instruction from Miami University with experiential learning and field study through several AIP Master Institutions in the U.S. Applications for Miami's 2020 cohorts are being accepted now with place-based experiences provided at zoos and botanical gardens in Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, New York, San Diego, Seattle, and St. Louis. New for 2020: residents of the Jacksonville, Florida area can study and earn the AIP master's through Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, AIP's newest Master Institution. <http://AIP.MiamiOH.edu> Graduate tuition for all programs is greatly reduced because of support from Miami University.

ANOTHER REFUGE/WALL PROBLEM: The Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona. In a brazen move, the Trump Administration announced on 18 September that the Interior Department planned on transferring as much as 300 acres within the Cabeza Prieta NWR to the military for border wall construction. Those acres are extremely remote and contain critical wildlife habitat which could soon be bisected by an impenetrable 30-foot wall. This refuge is also part of the "Sonoran Desert Borderlands Important Bird Area" in Arizona: <https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/sonoran-desert-borderlands>.

Cabeza Prieta NWR bird observations have documented 212 species recorded over the decades. At least 27 IBA surveys were conducted over the last decade, and seven Audubon Watchlist species were detected: Costa's Hummingbird, Gilded Flicker, Bendire's Thrasher, Le Conte's Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, and Abert's Towhee. Loggerhead Shrike, a USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern, was also found in relative abundance along with Sage Thrasher which is listed as a Partners in Flight Conservation Priority Species and an Arizona Bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need. "The Administration is using this narrative of a 'national emergency' to rewrite the borders of our refuge lands. Only Congress has the authority to change the boundaries of federal lands, and it is despicable that the President and Interior Secretary are willing to irreparably damage our refuge lands with no oversight, no environmental review, and no public support," said Geoffrey L. Haskett, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. (Excerpted from *Birding Community E-bulletin* - October 2019, <https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin>)

UPDATE ON MBTA LITIGATION – 6 AUGUST 2019: THE LAWSUIT HAS SURVIVED THE GOVERNMENT'S MOTION TO DISMISS, AT LEAST IN PART – In essence, the Court ruled that the States (the two cases were consolidated; the plaintiffs are now both state governments and several NGOs) have standing to pursue the case in court because the DOI M-Opinion excluding liability for incidental take creates a "substantial risk that migratory birds owned by the States will be killed by private actors." Since the state owns all wildlife except privately owned wildlife, the state would suffer a loss. In other words, there is a potential of harm to a protectable interest, and that is a legal basis for standing. "That substantial risk of injury to a State's proprietary interest constitutes injury in fact." The Court also ruled that the National Audubon Society's claim could continue, as it "has standing to bring suit on behalf of its members when its members would otherwise have standing to sue in their own right, the interests at stake are germane to the organization's

purpose, and neither the claim asserted nor the relief requested requires the participation of individual members in the lawsuit." However, one legal aspect of the case was rejected by the Court. National Audubon had asserted that the M-Opinion was invalid because the DOI had not complied with the notice-and-comment requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). The Court noted that the applies only to actual rulemakings and not to interpretive decisions and that the M-Opinion is an interpretive decision. The Court did rule that the M-Opinion is subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and presumably, will, as the case proceeds, enjoin implementation of the M-Opinion until the DOI complies with NEPA. Which, in essence, could be game over in that NEPA compliance can be a lengthy process, often resulting in additional litigation. The clock could run out on this Administration if...2020. N.B. That the actual M-Opinion may not go into force is not necessarily going to change the ultimate outcome. The fact is that the government has prosecutorial discretion, meaning it can determine which cases, if any, it wants to prosecute. It is nearly impossible to force the government to prosecute. In fact, there was never really a need for this M-Opinion to have been issued in the first place, except as a sop to industry, because DOI and DOJ could merely have decided not to prosecute...and they still can do just that. (Ornithology Council, <https://ornithologyexchange.org/forums/topic/37882-update-on-mbta-litigation/>)

**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF WILDLIFE REFUGES** – Every five years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) releases a report on the economic impact of visitation to our National Wildlife Refuges. The report is called "Banking on Nature," and the most recent report, released earlier this summer, documents the 2017 economic findings. The report is the sixth in a series of studies since 1997. This research was conducted on 162 National Wildlife Refuges across the country to estimate economic impacts. According to the report, 53.6 million people visited refuges in that fiscal year (2017-2018). The "Banking on Nature" study also revealed that:

- 1) National Wildlife Refuges are seen widely as travel-worthy destinations: 83 percent of refuge spending was done by visitors from outside the local area - an increase of 9 percent from the 2011 study.
- 2) Trip-related spending generated \$3.2 billion of economic output in regional economies - an increase of 20 percent from the 2011 report.
- 3) More than 41,000 jobs (up 18 percent from 2011) and \$1.1 billion in employment income (up 22 percent) were generated.
- 4) The combined economic contribution to communities nationwide is more than six times the \$483.9 million appropriated by Congress to the Refuge System in FY 2017.
- 5) About 86 percent of total recreation-related expenditures and 81 percent of all visits are generated by non-consumptive activities on refuges (e.g., birding, wildlife photography, hiking, paddling, auto-touring, bicycling, and educational experiences).

In one sense, this edition of "Banking on Nature" is the broadest to date, representing a 70 percent increase in the number of refuges sampled, compared to the 2011 report. On the other hand, previous reports - covering fewer refuges - have been much longer, going into more page-by-page detail when it comes to individual refuge profiles. The useful individual NWR reports do exist, but combined as a separate downloadable document. Unfortunately, however, the important non-consumptive activities stipulated in the 1997 National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (Public Law 105-57) of wildlife watching, wildlife photography, environmental education and interpretation - are virtually lost in these summaries. There was at least one other loss in the current report: The 2013 report had a useful two-page appendix on the impact of birding in the Refuge System with material and tables on NWRs with high birding visitation, birding expenditures on sample refuges, and related job incomes on these refuges. Regrettably such similar information is lacking in the current report. You can access the new 32-page summary study here, with expanded details on individual refuges available through the same page:

<https://www.fws.gov/economics/divisionpublications/bankingOnNature/BoN2017/bon2017.asp> (*Birding Community E-bulletin* - August 2019, <https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin/>)

## POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

**DEMISE OF BIRDJOBS-L** It is with great sadness that I announce that the BIRDJOBS-L e-list is being laid to rest. I have enjoyed providing the list for the 20 years that it was active, and especially enjoyed meeting users at various ornithological meetings. In 1997, OSNA started the BIRDJOBS-L e-list to make it possible for job announcements to be made available faster than the bimonthly publication of the Ornithological Newsletter. This decreased the time from submission to publication of an announcement from 2-4 months down to 1-2 weeks or less. When OSNA started the online Ornithological Jobs, the list continued to be compiled from the jobs posted on the job board because many people still did not have regular internet access, modems were slow, and finding the online time to spend pouring through job board listings was difficult. By putting the jobs into an email list, it could be downloaded quickly and perused at a later time without using internet, and could be posted on campus bulletin boards. At the time the last job list was sent out in 2017, there were over 4500 members receiving the list. When the OSNA job board was closed and posting was moved to Ornithology Exchange, the differing formatting made production of the job list take more than ten times as long; time I quickly found I did not have. Although I kept hoping to be able to resume compiling the list, it became apparent that was not possible. A big Thank You to KEVIN MCGOWAN who helped set up and administer the list, and Cornell University for hosting it over its lifetime. RIP BIRDJOBS-L! For your bird job needs, whether searching for, or posting, a job, please go to <https://ornithologyexchange.org/jobs/board/> I hope you find it meets your needs – Cheryl Trine, Editor: Birdjobs-L

P.S. Anyone who would like to consider resurrecting the Birdjobs-L list, please contact me (EM: [ctrine@andrews.edu](mailto:ctrine@andrews.edu)). It would require someone with either a lot of time on their hands, or someone with some knowledge of data science, web-scraping, JSON, regex, etc. (or both!).

To POST or FIND ornithological jobs, please go to the Ornithology Exchange, <http://ornithologyexchange.org/jobs>

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

FOR GRANT OPPORTUNITIES, visit: <http://ornithologyexchange.org/forums/forum/139-grants-awards/>

**GREG DAVIES RECEIVES THE AFO SKUTCH AWARD** – This year's Pamela and Alexander F. Skutch Research Award goes to Greg Davies (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles) for research on Sungrebes in Costa Rica.

## PUBLICATIONS

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY, VOLUME IV.** William E. Davis, Jr., editor. The Nuttall Ornithological Club, Memoir No. 24, Cambridge, Massachusetts. 2019. 516 pp., 143 figures, 17 tables, 2 appendices, index. ISBN 978-1-877973-51-3. \$35 (cloth). This volume contains chapters on American Ornithologists' Union academic phylogenies, the Raptor Research Foundation, Florida State University, Long Point Bird Observatory and Bird Studies Canada, ornithologist William Brewster, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Point Blue Conservation Science). Copies of the book can be purchased from Buteo Books, 2731 Arrington Road, Arrington, VA 22922. <http://www.Buteobooks.com/product/CHNA4.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

8<sup>TH</sup> WESTERN HEMISPHERE SHOREBIRD GROUP MEETING --The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group is excited to announce its

upcoming meeting, to be held **24-28 Oct 2019** in Panama City, Panama, and hosted by the Panama Audubon Society. Travel award information will be posted soon with the Call for Abstracts. Information for the Baker and Oring Awards is at the WHSG website here! (URL: <http://westernshorebirdgroup.org/awards/>) We hope you will consider submitting an abstract, and attend the meeting in October!" <https://www.audubonpanama.org/index.php/2-all/89-whsg2019-eng.html> (English), <https://www.audubonpanama.org/?id=80:whsg2019-esp&catid=21> (Spanish). STEPHEN BROWN, Chair, Science Committee, EVELING TAVERA, Chair, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group

AFO-WOS 2019 CONFERENCE – The website is live and registration is now open for the 2019 joint meeting of AFO and WOS! The Association of Field Ornithologists and the Wilson Ornithological Society invite you to our 2019 joint meeting to take place at the Grand Hotel of Cape May, NJ, **27-30 Oct 2019**. Hosted by New Jersey Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory (CMBO), the conference will offer an exciting scientific program and excellent opportunities for birding in this migration hotspot. Visit the conference website - <http://www.cvent.com/d/z6qq5k> - for details about the meeting. Plenary speakers are **Christina Riehl**, Assistant Professor in Ecology and Evolution at Princeton University and **Robert Curry**, Professor of Biology at Villanova University, who is being awarded WOS's Margaret Morse Nice Medal for lifetime contributions to ornithology. Cape May birding is an incredible experience, and fall migration offers exciting opportunities to observe songbirds, raptors and waterfowl. There are many nearby opportunities for early morning birding including The Nature Conservancy's South Cape May Meadows and Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area. You can also choose to visit the Cape May Raptor Project Banding Blind and the CMBO Songbird Banding Station. For a small fee, you can join the Cape May "Triple Play" trolley trip to migration count sites (i.e., Cape May Hawkwatch, Songbird Morning Flight and Avalon Seawatch) on Wednesday. Alternatively, you may wish to participate in a workshop on Wednesday offered by Cellular Tracking Technologies to learn about the exciting new developments in tracking technologies being developed right in Cape May. Early Registration & Abstract submission **due 30 Aug 2019**. Save up to \$50 by registering early. Early member registration is \$340 and early student registration is \$190. Abstract submission and registration are handled through the same website, and you can modify your registration at any time. So register now, and submit your abstract before the August 30 deadline. Registration fees include continental breakfast and lunch at the Grand Hotel during the meeting, and opening and poster socials. Add a banquet ticket (\$50 for members or \$30 for students) to make this an all-inclusive meeting. Reasonable discounts (\$106/night plus tax) are available on a limited block of rooms at the Grand Hotel for Sunday, October 27 through Wednesday, October 30. We recommend booking early and sharing a room to ensure all participants have a chance to stay at the venue. Stay tuned for future announcements about symposia. Questions can be addressed to MARK DEUTSCHLANDER (EM: [deutschlander@hws.edu](mailto:deutschlander@hws.edu)) or VALENTINA FERRETTI (EM: [ferrettivale@gmail.com](mailto:ferrettivale@gmail.com)).

54<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION will be held in Fort Collins, Colorado, **5-10 Nov 2019**. Co-hosted by the Rocky Mountain Raptor Project and EDM International, the conference will take place at the Fort Collins Hilton. Key dates include: **1 May** – symposium submission deadline; abstract submission and early registration opens. **30 June** – abstract submission deadline, Andersen Award, and Koplin Travel Award submission deadlines. Information on the conference is available on the RRF website (URL: <https://raptorresearchfoundation.org/conferences/current-conference/>) Additional conference details will be added to the RRF website in the weeks ahead.

THE 43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WATERBIRD SOCIETY will be held at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, Maryland from **6-9 Nov 2019**. As information becomes available, it will be posted on the meeting website (URL: <https://waterbirds.org/annual-meeting/>). In addition to an outstanding scientific program, this meeting will feature a special diversity emphasis that will include UMES students and students from other, nearby Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the Waterbird Society meeting. A call for symposia and workshops has already been issued. A symposium may

be a full day (~14 presentations) or half day (7 presentations). Likewise, workshops can be a full day, half day, or a couple of hours. Please direct any questions about symposia and workshops to DAVE MOORE (EM: [dave.moore2@canada.ca](mailto:dave.moore2@canada.ca)).

NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE VII, Puerto Rico, **10-15 Aug 2020**. Come and join us for a week of sizzling hot ornithology in the Caribbean! We aim for #NAOC2020 to be the most inclusive and diverse NAOC to date. To achieve this, #NAOC2020 is being delivered by a much wider group of societies than previous events, reflecting the increasingly global reach and diversity of NAOC conferences. This seventh conference is sponsored by ornithological societies from across the Americas and Europe: American Ornithological Society (AOS), Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO), BirdsCaribbean, British Ornithologists' Union (BOU), Cipamex, Neotropical Ornithological Society, Society of Canadian Ornithologists, Waterbird Society and Wilson Ornithological Society. Check out the new NAOC website (URL: <https://naocbirds.org/>) from 1 September for more details about how you can participate, present your research and attend #NAOC2020, and look for 'naocbirds' on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to keep up with conference announcements.

### THE FLOCK - SPECIAL SECTION

To correct your address in the membership database please send the new information to the Membership Office, 5405 Villa View Dr., Farmington, NM 87402 (EM: [ornithologymembers@gmail.com](mailto:ornithologymembers@gmail.com), PH: 312-883-4670) or change it yourself online in the Member Portal (URL: <https://customer265664c9b.portal.membersuite.com/Login.aspx>).

MARY BOMBERGER BROWN, who was an AOS Fellow (2013) and a member of WOS (2005), passed away on August 24, 2019 in Lincoln. She served twice as editor for the Wilson Journal of Ornithology and most recently served as the Second Vice President for WOS. Her long-term work in cliff swallows earned her a shared Elliot Coues lifetime achievement award from the American Ornithologists' Union in 2009 and the COS Harry R. Painton Award for 2003.

DAVID W. JOHNSTON, member of the AOU since 1950 (Elective member - 1959, Fellow -1967), AFO since 1985, COS since 1947, RRF since 1997, and WOS since 1950, died on July 26, 2015 at his home in Fairfax, Virginia. He edited *Bird-Banding* (now *Journal of Field Ornithology*) and *Ornithological Monographs*, and for a time was director of the ecology program of the National Science Foundation. Among his many publications, he edited *Ecology and Conservation of Neotropical Migrant Landbirds*, which one the best-edited book award from the Wildlife Society in 1999.

JAMES A. PITTMAN JR., M.D., a member of the AOU since 1947 and WOS since 1945, passed away Jan. 12, 2014. He was formerly dean of the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

**ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETIES  
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THE MOST RECENT NUMBERS of the Society journals and the month of publication are: *Auk*, 2019, Vol. 136, #3 (Jul-online only); *Condor*, 2019, Vol. 121, #3 (Aug-online only), *J. Field Ornith.*, 2019, Vol. 90, #3 (Sep), *Raptor Res.*, 2019, Vol. 53, #3 (Sep), *Wilson J. Ornith.*, 2019, Vol. 131, #2 (Jun). Numbers follow at about 3-month intervals. If you are missing an issue of JFO, JRR or WJO, please contact the Membership Office [ornithologymembers@gmail.com](mailto:ornithologymembers@gmail.com), PH:312-883-4670 or submit a claim on the Member Portal. Please check your address label to confirm membership information and address.

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THE LAST NEWSLETTER will be issued in December. 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@andrews.edu](mailto:ctrine@andrews.edu)), **by 15 November 2019**. Please submit announcements by email (in the body of the email message--not an attached file). Items sent to the Membership 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.