

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/>

WATERBIRD SOCIETY AWARDS – At the 2014 annual meeting of the Waterbird Society in La Paz, Mexico, the following awards were presented: Robert Cushman Murphy Award (International): Dr. PETER BECKER, Institute für Vogelforschung, Wilhelmshaven, Germany for his lifelong research on the Common Tern; Distinguished Service Award: Dr. DAVID SHEALER, Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa.

NOMINATIONS FOR AOU OFFICERS AND ELECTIVE COUNCILORS must be received by the Secretary four months before the Stated Meeting. Thus, this year nominations are **due 27 Mar 2015**. Officers to be elected will be Secretary, Treasurer, and four Elective Councilors. The election will occur by electronic and postal ballots prior to the meeting. At the conclusion of the 133rd Stated Meeting, Scott M. Lanyon will begin his second year as President and Steven R. Beissinger will begin his second year as President-Elect. The Bylaws of the AOU require that the Secretary and Treasurer be elected or re-elected annually. The incumbent Secretary (Andrew W. Jones) is willing to stand for re-election. AOU is actively soliciting nominees for Treasurer; James Herkert will conclude his term at the end of the 133rd Stated Meeting. Of the total of twelve Elective Councilors, four are elected annually to serve terms of approximately three years, beginning at the close of the Stated Meeting. Elective Councilors to be replaced at the conclusion of the 133rd Stated Meeting in 2015 are Daniel R. Ardia, María del Coro Arizmendi, Rebecca T. Kimball, and Jorge Pérez-Emán. Continuing to serve in 2015-2016 will be Elective Councilors David N. Bonter, Kevin J. Burns, Deborah M. Finch, Colleen Handel, Patricia J. Heglund, Jim Rivers, Rebecca Safran, and David Winkler. The procedure for nominating AOU Officers and Elective Councilors is outlined in the Bylaws (Art. IV, Sec. 2). "Each Fellow and Elective Member shall be invited to nominate to the Secretary, persons for President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Elective Councilors. These nominations shall be received by the Secretary four months before the Stated Meeting. Nominations for all Officers and Elective Councilors must be accompanied by documented consent of the nominee." Nominations may be submitted electronically or in writing to the Secretary, ANDREW W. JONES, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval Drive – University Circle, Cleveland, OH 44106 USA (PH: 216-231-4600 ext 3332, FX: 216-231-5919, EM: ajones@cmnh.org).

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NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP CLASSES OF Fellow and Elective Member of the AOU are due 15 Apr 2015. Fellows and Elective Members are encouraged to submit nominations of deserving colleagues. Nominations and full supporting information are to be supplied by the nominators. Lists of current Fellows and Elective Members are available on the AOU website (<http://www.aou.org/membership/special.php>). Nominators seeking to endorse a nominee must first obtain the instructions and forms for 2015, available on the AOU web site (<http://www.aou.org/about/nominations.php>) or from the Secretary, ANDREW W. JONES, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval Drive – University Circle, Cleveland, OH 44106 USA (PH: 216-231-4600 ext 3332, FX: 216-231-5919, EM: ajones@cmnh.org). The Committee on Nomination of Fellows and Elective Members will prepare additional nominations. Any AOU member who would like to put forward a name for consideration by the committee should contact the chair of the committee, JACK DUMBACHER (EM: jdumbacher@calacademy.org), by 15 Apr 2015. For ELECTIVE MEMBER nominations, the Secretary will compile and prepare information to provide to current Fellows and Elective Members for electronic balloting in June 2015. Anyone preferring a hard copy may request one as long as it is returned by mail to the Secretariat by three weeks before the Stated Meeting (i.e., by 06 July 2015) and the names will be announced during the AOU's Business Announcements at the Meeting of Members in Norman, OK. For FELLOW nominations, the Secretary will compile and prepare packets to be sent to current Fellows in May 2015. Voting will take place at the Fellows Meeting in Norman, OK, in late July, 2015.

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

- **WILLIAM BREWSTER MEMORIAL AWARD**–The Brewster Award is given for the most meritorious body of work (book, monograph, or series of related papers) on birds of the Western Hemisphere published during the past ten years. Nominations should include (1) the name, institution, and contact information for the nominee, (2) a written letter that includes a description of the contributions of the nominee to ornithology, and (3) a CV of the nominee.

- **ELLIOTT COUES AWARD**–The Elliott Coues Award recognizes extraordinary contributions to ornithological research and involves no limitation with respect to geographic area, sub-discipline(s) of ornithology, or the time course over which the work was done. Nominations should include (1) the name, institution, and contact information for the nominee, (2) a written letter that includes a description of the contributions of the nominee to ornithology, and (3) a CV of the nominee.

- **NED K. JOHNSON YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD**–The Ned K. Johnson Award recognizes outstanding and promising work by a researcher early in his/her career in any field of ornithology. Successful nominees will excel in research and show distinct promise for leadership in ornithology within and beyond North America. They must have received their doctorate within 5 years of being nominated, must not have received the award previously, and must be a member of the AOU at the time of nomination. Nominations should be in the form of a written letter that includes (1) the name, institution, and contact information of the nominee, and (2) a written summary why the nominee should be considered for an award, including statements on his/her scientific accomplishments, the relevance of his/her research to scientific ornithology, and his/her promise as a leader in ornithology. Nominations should also include a CV of the nominee.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AOU RALPH W. SCHREIBER CONSERVATION AWARD FOR 2015. This award recognizes extraordinary scientific contributions to the conservation, restoration, or preservation of birds and/or their habitats by an individual or small team

(usually fewer than 10 people). Contributions from throughout the world and over any time course are eligible. Appropriate activities include: Applied research, restoration, and educational actions that conserve birds, or preserve significant bird habitats; Scientific examination of the principles of avian conservation and application of new insights into species restoration; and/or Scientific evaluation, guidance, creation, and oversight of avian recovery programs or habitat reserve/restoration programs. Nominations should include (1) the name, institution, and contact information for the nominee(s), (2) a CV of the nominee(s), and (3) a written letter that summarizes why the nominee(s) should be considered for an award, including statements on scientific, educational, and conservation accomplishments, the relevance of his/her science to avian conservation, and his/her leadership in avian conservation, documentation of the conservation implications of the candidate's work, and what birds have benefitted from the science. Nominations may be submitted electronically to the Chair of the AOU Conservation Committee, PATRICIA MCGILL (patricia.mcgill@dallaszoo.com) by **Feb 15, 2015**.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROTECTION FOR THE HIGHLY ENDANGERED ARARIPE MANAKIN – The first-ever bird reserves have been created for the critically endangered Araripe Manakin, a six-inch bird only discovered in 1996 that numbers fewer than 800 individuals and survives in the smallest of areas – 11 square miles – in northeastern Brazil. The reserves were made possible by the purchase of one parcel of land encompassing 140 acres and through a formal agreement with a neighboring landowner, who designated 27 acres of his land as a fully protected area. Both actions were carried out by Aquasis, a Brazilian conservation organization that has led the effort to protect the species, and through support from American Bird Conservancy (ABC), an organization that leads bird conservation efforts across the Americas. “The Araripe Manakin exists only in a narrow strip of humid forest on the slopes of the Araripe Plateau,” said Dr. Daniel Lebbin, Director of ABC’s International Programs. “Creating this reserve is a critically important step in what must be a long-term effort to protect this bird’s habitat and prevent its extinction.”

RED KNOT LISTED AS THREATENED UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT – On 9 Dec 2014, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced federal protection for the *rufa* subspecies of the red knot, designating it as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Since the 1980s, the knot's population has fallen by about 75 percent in some key areas, largely due to declines in one of its primary food resources – horseshoe crab eggs in Delaware Bay, an important migratory stopover site. The largest concentration of *rufa* red knots is found in May in Delaware Bay, where the birds stop to gorge themselves on the eggs of spawning horseshoe crabs; a spectacle drawing thousands of birdwatchers to the area. In just a few days, the birds nearly double their weight to prepare for the final leg of their long journey to the Arctic. Although this food-supply threat is now being addressed by extensive state and federal management actions, other threats, including sea-level rise, some shoreline projects and coastal development, continue to shrink the shorebird's wintering and migratory habitat. Changing climate conditions are also altering the bird's breeding habitat in the Arctic and affecting its food supply across its range, in particular through climate-driven mismatches in migration timing that affect the peak periods of food availability. The bird must arrive at Delaware Bay at exactly the time when horseshoe crabs are laying their eggs. The Service expects to propose critical habitat for the *rufa* red knot for public review and comment in 2015 after completing the required review of economic considerations. Visit <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/redknot/> to read the final rule and response to comments; view and download video, photos and maps; and explore more resources, such as an interactive timeline and infographic. The rule will be available at <http://www.regulations.gov> under docket number FWS-R5-ES-2013-0097.

“HANDS-ON BIRD SCIENCE” is the title of a 6 day residential learning program being offered to the public this summer for the first time at the historic Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. Organized and directed by ornithologist and author Scott Weidensaul, this session will include practicing alongside experts in bird-banding techniques, taxidermy work, the recording of bird songs, tracking migrants using new technologies, censusing breeding birds on Maine islands, and more. Participants will live on a beautiful 330 acre spruce-covered island, in Maine’s mid-coast area, and utilize the pristine surroundings as their laboratory and workplace. Breeding birds on Hog Island include Blackburnian and Parula Warblers, and a trip to the nearby restored Atlantic Puffin and tern colony is included. Meals are home-cooked gourmet style, **21-26 June**. Scholarships are available. Go to <http://hogisland.audubon.org/hands-bird-science> for more information, or call the camp office (PH: 607-257-7308).

MASTER'S PROGRAM AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ANIMAL BEHAVIOR AND CONSERVATION at Hunter College, New York City. Learn and practice about applied and basic animal behavior, evolutionary and conservation biology, and field, urban, and zoo animal welfare at Hunter College's 2-year Master's program in Animal Behavior. For more information, please visit: www.tinyurl.com/abcmahunter Application deadline is **1 Apr 2015**.

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE – LECONTE'S THRASHER (*Toxostoma lecontei*) NESTING DATA from Mexico is sorely lacking with only a handful of nests reported from the west coast of Baja California over the past 125 years, as well as a similar tiny number from Sonora. I am seeking any information on clutch/brood sizes and nesting dates for this species from anywhere in Mexico. Similar data from Nevada, Utah and northern portions of the Mojave Desert in California are also being sought. I am also seeking any recording of vocalizations of this thrasher from anywhere in Mexico, but most particularly from the west coast of Baja California. This is all part of a larger ongoing study of this species. Full credit will be given in any subsequent publications on the biology of this thrasher. Please contact me if you have or know where such information might be found: JAY SHEPPARD (EM: jmsheppar@AT.aol.com).

POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

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

AN E-LIST SERVICE is available. Subscribers to this list will receive the same announcements that appear on-line in a weekly/biweekly list. To subscribe, send the following message to: <lyris@cornell.edu>, in the body of the message type: join Birdjobs-L “your name”. The subject line should be blank. Please use the “plain text only” e-mail format option, include your own name in the message, and put quotation marks around your name.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

FOR INFORMATION ON CONTINUING GRANTS PROGRAMS relevant to ornithological research, visit: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/grants/index.html>

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA: A Photographic Guide, by Iain Campbell, Sam Woods & Nick Leseberg, with photography by Geoff Jones, 2014. Princeton University Press. 392 pp., more than 1,100 color photos, 6 x 9-1/2", ISBN: 9780691157276 (Paperback, \$35.00 / £24.95). *Birds of Australia* covers all 714 species of resident birds and regularly occurring migrants and features more than 1,100 color photographs, including many photos of subspecies and plumage variations never before seen in a field guide. Detailed facing-page species accounts describe key identification features such as size, plumage, distribution, behavior, and voice. This guide also provides extensive habitat descriptions with a large number of accompanying photos. The text relies on the very latest IOC taxonomy and the distribution maps incorporate the most current mapping data, making this the most up-to-date guide to Australian birds.

MEETINGS

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

* in this section indicates new or revised entry

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

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

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

tee will be **1 Apr 2015**. Continually updated conference information will be available on the meeting web site; please contact MARTIN G. RAPHAEL (EM: mraphael@fs.fed.us), scientific program chair, with any questions about the program or submission process. Abstracts for both oral and poster presentations will be reviewed by the scientific program committee who will select and organize presentations in appropriate sessions based on the scientific content of the abstract. Abstract submission will be online only; abstracts will not be accepted by fax or e-mail. If all oral presentation sessions are filled, it may be necessary to accept some abstracts for poster presentations instead of oral presentations.

*THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION AND THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY will be held **28 July to 1 Aug 2015**, at The University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma. The local host, JEFF KELLY, may be reached at the Oklahoma Biological Survey, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019 (PH: 405-325-2440; EM: jkelly@ou.edu).

*SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT "WATERBIRDS 2015: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES" -- Call for Symposia and notice of Meeting Web Site. Bar Harbor, ME, **11-15 Aug 2015**. This is an invitation to anyone who would like to propose a Symposium for the 39th annual Waterbird Society meeting. The symposium can be for a full (approximately 14 presentations) or half day (7 presentations). Currently, we have two full-day symposia scheduled on American Oystercatcher Biology and on Cormorant Biology and Management and one half-day symposium on Behaviour and Conservation. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the American Oystercatcher Working Group, the Wilson Plover Working Group and the Northwestern Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative. Meeting information including details on the venue, field trips, accommodations and special events are now posted on the Waterbird Society web site (http://www.waterbirds.org/annual_meeting-2014). Meeting registration will open up on Jan. 15. Please contact ERICA NOL (EM: enol@trentu.ca) or JOHN ANDERSON (EM: janderson@coa.edu) by **31 Jan 2015** if you have suggestions for further symposia topics. Abstract submission for contributed papers and posters will be available shortly after that deadline

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

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

NEWS OF MEMBERS

ALLAN BAKER, member of AOU since 1981 (elective member, 1984), AFO since 1988, and COS since 2004, passed away at his home in Toronto, Canada on November 20, 2014. Allan, who served as Senior Curator of Ornithology and Head of the Department of Natural History at the Royal Ontario Museum where he spent more than 42 years. In addition to pioneering several methodologies in molecular genetics and avian evolution, he was heavily involved in shorebird conservation, especially the *rufa* Red Knot and endangered Kiwis in his native New Zealand. A Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, he received the Society of Canadian Ornithologists' Doris Huestis Speirs Award for Outstanding Contributions to Canadian Ornithology in 2006 and, in 2007, the William Brewster Memorial Award from the AOU for his work in avian molecular evolution.

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*, 2014, Vol. 131, #3 (Aug); *Condor*, 2014, Vol. 116, #3 (Aug), *J. Field Ornith.*, 2014, Vol. 85, #4 (Dec), *Raptor Res.*, 2014, Vol. 48, # (Dec), *Waterbirds*, 2014, Vol. 37, #4 (Dec), *Wilson J. Ornith.*, 2014, Vol. 126, #4 (Dec). 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 April. 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 March 2015**. Please submit announcements by email (in the body of the email message--not an attached file). Items sent to the OSNA office may not reach the Editor in time. Items with deadline dates should be submitted at least four months in advance of that date to allow time for response.