

Ornithological Newsletter

American Ornithologists' Union
Cooper Ornithological Society
Waterbird Society

Association of Field Ornithologists
Raptor Research Foundation
Wilson Ornithological Society

Cheryl L. Trine, Editor

NUMBER 206

FEBRUARY 2012

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/>

*5TH NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS, **14-18 August 2012**, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. For important deadlines, see website <http://www.naoc-v2012.com/registration>

- **PRE-REGISTRATIONS** – Please consider pre-registering for NAOC-V. Pre-registration will assist the local committee to gauge the interest being shown in the conference, the make up of the attendees (professional/student etc.) and their country of origin. Those who pre-register will be amongst the first to receive the latest news and email updates. Currently 220 people from 15 different countries have pre-registered.
- **SPONSORS, EXHIBITORS AND ADVERTISER PROSPECTUS**—A downloadable copy of the Sponsors, Exhibitors and Advertiser Prospectus is now available on the website under the Exhibitors tab. Contact Wendy Easton at Wendy.Easton@ec.gc.ca for any further details and please include the words "NAOC Exhibition" in the subject header of your email message.
- **FACEBOOK PAGE FOR NAOC-V** – Please note there is now a link to the Facebook page for NAOC-V, you can find the link at the bottom of the Welcome page on the website.
- **ACCOMMODATION** – Bookings for accommodation are already being received by UBC. To reserve your accommodation on line and get the best availability options go to the Accommodation page on the website and make your choice now.
- **U.S. vs CANADA SOFTBALL CHALLENGE** – Canadian ornithologists are challenging their U.S. counterparts to a softball game to be scheduled sometime during the North American Ornithological Conference. Because of obvious population demographics, Latin American participants will be temporarily adopted as Canadians. If interested, bring your glove. Rules are available from David M. Bird, david.bird@mcgill.ca.

For complete conference details see the NAOC-V website (URL: <http://www.naoc-v2012.com/>). See the December *Ornithological Newsletter* (<http://www.osnabirds.org/Newsletter/205.aspx#meet>) for additional information.

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER (ISSN 0274-564X) is published bimonthly by OSNA, 5400 Bosque Blvd., Suite 680, Waco, TX 76710 (business@osnabirds.org). Membership dues in any OSNA society include \$3.50 for the cost of publication. Separate subscriptions are not available. For application to membership write the OSNA office. Periodicals postage paid at Waco, TX.

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

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AOU AWARDS FOR 2012: Nominations are invited for the following AOU Awards.

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **RALPH W. SCHREIBER CONSERVATION AWARD**—The AOU Conservation Award recognizes extraordinary scientific contributions to the conservation, restoration, or preservation of birds and/or their habitats by an individual or small team (usually less 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; Scientific evaluation, guidance, creation, and oversight of avian recovery programs or habitat reserve/restoration programs.

Nominations may be submitted electronically to the Chair of the Awards Committee, PATRICIA HEGLUND (EM: Patricia_Heglund@fws.gov) by **15 Feb 2012**. Full details on the requirements and nominations process are available in *Ornithological Newsletter* 205 (December 2011) or at <http://www.aou.org/awards/senior/nominations.php>.

NOMINATIONS FOR AOU OFFICERS AND ELECTIVE COUNCILORS must be received by the Secretary by **14 April 2012**. Officers will be elected by electronic and postal ballot prior to the meeting, and the new officers will be announced at the Business Meeting of Members. Officers to be elected will be President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Elective Councilors (three-year terms). Additional details can be found in *Ornithological Newsletter* 205 (December 2011). Nominations may be submitted in writing, or electronically to the Secretary, SARA R. MORRIS, Department of Biology, Canisius College, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14208 USA (PH: 716-888-2567, FX: 716-888-3157, EM: secretary@aou.org).

NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP CLASSES OF Fellow and Elective Member of the AOU are **due 14 April 2012**. Fellows and Elective Members are encouraged to submit nominations of deserving colleagues. Additional details can be found in *Ornithological Newsletter* 205 (December 2011) or at <http://www.aou.org/members/nominations/index.php>.

THE AOU COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION OF FELLOWS AND ELECTIVE MEMBERS is beginning their work of preparing nominations for 2012. Any AOU member who would like to put forward a name for consideration by the committee should contact the chair of the committee, SCOTT LANYON (EM: lanyo001@umn.edu), by **1 May 2012**.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RAPTOR WORKSHOP: Accredited through University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. Three 5-day workshops entitled "Introduction to Raptor Field Techniques" will be held in Stevens Point, WI by Eugene Jacobs of the Linwood Springs Research Station and Loren Ayers of the Wis. Dept. of Natural Resources. Summer Session: **4-8 Jun, 25-29 Jun 2012**. Fall Session: **27-31 Aug, 17-21 Sep, and 8-12 Oct 2012**. Receive first hand experience working with: live raptors, capturing, handling, banding techniques, broadcast call surveys, tree climbing, rappelling, blood sampling and more. Cost is \$435 and space is limited, so register early. For more information and a registration form visit <http://www.RaptorResearch.com>

NEW REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR STABLE ISOTOPES -- Stable isotope measurements increasingly are being used in anthropology, atmospheric sciences, biology, chemistry, environmental sciences, food and drug authentication, forensic science, geochemistry, geology, oceanography, and paleoclimatology. To minimize confusion in expression of stable isotope results, the Commission on Isotopic Abundances and Atomic Weights (CIAAW, see <http://www.ciaaw.org/>) of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) announces guidelines and recommended terms for stable isotope measurements [1]. These guidelines were initiated by CIAAW and are now available after six years of discussion and more than 30 reviews. They are intended to assist in stable isotope manuscript preparations and reviewing in the many diverse scientific fields in which stable isotopes are used. The most important changes relate to the delta and epsilon definitions, where it is recommended to strictly avoid the traditional extraneous factors (1000 and 10000, respectively). Further important aspects include suggestions for figure headings and axis labels, definitions for fractionation factors, and extensive lists of recommended, as well as deprecated examples of expressing isotope-science quantities and symbols. These guidelines were published as: Coplen, T. B., 2011, Guidelines and recommended terms for expression of stable-isotope-ratio and gas-ratio measurement results, *Rapid Commun. Mass Spectrom.*, 25, 2538–2560. The full article is freely available at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/rcm.5129/>. The 8th SI Brochure, BIPM. *The International System of Units (SI)*, 8th edition brochure (in English); 2006, is also freely available at http://www.bipm.org/utls/common/pdf/si_brochure_8_en.pdf and should be required reading for science students.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS NESTING ON MIDWAY ATOLL – The same short-tailed albatross couple that reared the first documented chick on Midway Atoll last year, has returned for an encore performance. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has expended much effort to attract this endangered species to once again nest on Midway Atoll including the use of artificial decoys. Historically, millions of short-tailed albatrosses bred in the western North Pacific on several islands south of the main islands of Japan. Turn of the century feather hunting activity decreased their numbers and now only two breeding colonies remain active: Torishima Island and Minami-kojima Island, Japan. The world population is currently estimated to be about 1200 birds and is increasing.

THE WORLD'S OLDEST LAYSAN ALBATROSS, a female named "Wisdom", has returned to her normal location for nesting at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge along with her mate. Wisdom is at least 61 years old. She was banded as a nesting adult in the same location by Chan Robbins in December 1956. Robbins estimated that the bird was a minimum of 5 years old at the time. The oldest albatross in the world appears to be a northern royal albatross named "Grandma." She reached a banded age of 51.5 years and probable actual age of 61+ years.

NEWS FROM THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Provided by the Ornithological Council. Major funding for the Ornithological Council is provided by its twelve member societies: American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, CIPAMEX, Cooper Ornithological Society, Neotropical Ornithological Society, North American Crane Working Group, Pacific Seabird Group,

Raptor Research Foundation, Society of Canadian Ornithologists, Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, Waterbird Society, and Wilson Ornithological Society.

THE ANNUAL PLEDGE BREAK: THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL! - Society membership renewal notices will soon land in your inbox....and we hope that when you renew, you will consider contributing to the Ornithological Council. You will find a line on the printed renewal notice, at the top of the column where you will list your dues and contributions to the OSNA societies. You can also contribute via the OSNA website (URL: <http://www.osnabirds.org>) if you renew online. The line for contributions to the OC appear at the bottom of the webpage where you enter the society membership dues and contributions. Those who are not members of one of the six societies that send a membership renewal notice through OSNA (American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society, Raptor Research Foundation, Waterbird Society, and Wilson Ornithological Society), can contribute directly through the PayPal button on our homepage (URL: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/index.html>) using your free PayPal account or a credit card or by check (payable to the Ornithological Council and mailed to 5107 Sentinel Drive, Bethesda MD 20816, USA). Thank you for helping the Ornithological Council in its efforts to keep the world safe for ornithology!

Many ornithologists already know that the Ornithological Council is the "go-to" source for assistance and information regarding permits, animal welfare, and other policies and procedures that they must follow in conducting their research. Among the key services provided by the OC are:

- *Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research* (a peer-reviewed document, available for free, that is used by scientists, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees, and government agencies).
- Peer-reviewed guidance on the impacts of West Nile Virus and H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, and other zoonotic disease on ornithological research.
- Comprehensive guides for obtaining permits for import of specimens and live birds, permits to work on federally managed public lands, and state permitting.
- Representation to the U.S., Canadian, and international organizations that set animal welfare standards for scientific research
- We've also helped many ornithologists to obtain policy information about the birds they study, and to communicate their research findings to policy makers and conservation planners and resource managers. Others know us only through the *Ornithological Newsletter* or listservs, and have not yet needed individual assistance. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the ornithologists and the ornithological community as a whole. More details about our work can be found in our annual report, which is posted here (URL: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/OC/OCnews.html>).

Most of the support for the Ornithological Council is provided by our eleven member societies, which support the OC as an important benefit for their members. However, support from individual ornithologists is also an important source of funding for OC's efforts to "keep the world safe for ornithology." Thank you to all who have contributed in the past. We appreciate your support!

THE "IT COULD BE WORSE" NEWS ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH - The federal appropriations sky has not fallen on scientific research funding, but it is full of gloomy clouds. The FY2012 "megabus" bill actually included a small (3.1%) increase for the National Science Foundation, a 4.9% increase for the USDA research programs, and an 8.6% increase for the U.S. Geological Survey. At the EPA, research funding will be up by 12.3%. Of course, these "top-line" numbers don't tell the whole story; these increases are not going to benefit all research within each agency. Most of the increase for the USGS, for instance, will go to climate change and land use change research. At the Department of Agriculture,

USFWS MOVES FORWARD WITH PERMITS THAT WILL ALLOW WIND ENERGY DEVELOPERS TO "TAKE" GOLDEN EAGLES - The Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service on 3 January 2012 released a draft environmental assessment that would allow West Butte Wind Power LLC to kill as many as three protected golden eagles over five years if the company fulfills its conservation commitments. If granted, this would be the first eagle "take permit" application to be received and acted on by U.S. Fish and Wildlife under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Regulations adopted in 2009 enabled the agency to authorize, for the first time, the "take" of eagles for activities that are otherwise lawful but that result in either disturbance or death. This particular permit, if granted, would allow the of take 1-2 Golden Eagles per year over the 30-year duration of the permit, would entail a monitoring plan, and would also impose a compensatory mitigation requirement such that the effect on the eagle population is, at a minimum, no change for eagle management populations that cannot sustain additional mortality. The draft Environmental Assessment says nothing about suspending or revoking the permit if these conditions are not met; presumably, that would occur through the implementation of the existing permit regulations that provide for suspension or revocation. The draft Environmental Assessment can be found here: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/migratorybirds/pdf/West%20Butte%20DEA.pdf>. Public comments will be accepted until Feb. 2.

PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2012 BESC CONGRESSIONAL VISITS DAY - Each year, the Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC), a group co-chaired by AIBS, hosts a Congressional Visits Day in Washington, DC. This event is an opportunity for scientists to meet with their members of Congress about the importance of federal support for biological research and education. Event participants advocate for federal investments in biological sciences at federal agencies, such as the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, among other federal agencies. This year's event will be held on 28-29 March 2012 in Washington, DC. The first day of the event includes presentations on the federal budget and a communicating with policymakers training program that will prepare participants for meetings with congressional offices. The second day is spent on Capitol Hill meeting with members of Congress and their staff. Scientists and graduate students who are interested in communicating the importance of federal investments in scientific research and education to federal lawmakers are encouraged to participate in this important event. Space is limited and registration is required. Due to space limitations, we may not be able to accommodate all interested parties. BESC is not able to pay/reimburse participant expenses associated with participating in this event. Learn more and register at <http://www.aibs.org/public-policy/congressionalvisitsday.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 can 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: ctrine@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

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NEW ZEALAND, by Julian Fitter and Don Merton, 2011. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 320 pp., 600+ color photos, 4½ x 7½", ISBN: 9780691153513 (Paper, \$24.95). This volume contains over 600 photographs of the more than 350 bird species likely to be seen in New Zealand archipelago which stretches from the tropical Kermadec Islands to the sub-Antarctic Campbell Island. It includes full descriptions of all native species and regular visitors, distribution maps and measurements, key information on national parks, and useful information on ongoing conservation efforts in the country

PETRELS, ALBATROSSES, AND STORM-PETRELS OF NORTH AMERICA: A Photographic Guide, by Steve N. G. Howell, 2012. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 520 pp., 7" x 10", 975 photos and figures, 66 maps \$45.00. Cloth, ISBN: 9780691142111; eBook, ISBN: 9781400839629. Useful worldwide, not just in North America, this photographic guide is based on unrivaled field experience and combines insightful text and hundreds of full-color images to help you identify these remarkable birds. It features an introduction that explains ocean habitats and the latest developments in taxonomy. Detailed species accounts describe key identification features such as flight manner, plumage variation related to age and molt, seasonal occurrence patterns, and migration routes. Species accounts are arranged into groups helpful for field identification, and an overview of unique identification challenges is provided for each group. The guide also includes distribution maps for regularly occurring species as well as a bibliography, glossary, and appendixes. URL: <http://www.press.princeton.edu>

PERSONAL EXCHANGES

JOURNALS AVAILABLE – I have the following complete issues of journals available for the cost of shipping: *Auk*: 104-118 (1987-2001), *Condor*: 90-102 (1988-2000), *Wilson Bulletin*: 99-111 (1987-1999), *North American Birds* (aka American Birds and Field Notes): 37-47 (1983-1993), 52-61 (1998-2007). Please contact PAMELA HUNT, phunt@nhaudubon.org or (603) 224-9909.

MEETINGS

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

LOOKING FOR THE WEB SITE of an ornithological meeting or conference? Visit <http://www.birdmeetings.org> to find links and to post a link to your meeting.

* in this section indicates new or revised entry

5TH NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS, **14-18 Aug 2012**, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. NAOC web site (URL: <http://www.naoc-v2012.com>).

THE 130TH STATED MEETING OF THE AOU will be held as part of the Fifth North American Ornithological Conference (NAOC-V) at the University of British Columbia, **14-18 Aug 2012** (see above).

INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA - Phuket, Thailand, **27-29 Nov 2012**. There are three days of scientific program with symposia, workshops, presentations and posters, room for discussion and field trips to exciting ornithological areas. We would like to invite all professional and amateur ornithologists, local or international, interested in any aspects relating to birds in Southeast Asia to join us at an International Ornithological Congress. The scientific program of plenary talks, oral presentations, symposia, workshops, and poster sessions will be complemented by social events, a conference banquet, a welcome evening, and a range of post conference tours. This bird conference is the first organized specifically for Southeast Asian birds. It is our hope that it will become a regular event in the region in future years. If you are interested in this bird congress and would like to be kept updated with further information, please send us your details (URL: <http://www.sc.psu.ac.th/iocsea/registerinterest.html>). All ornithologists are invited to contribute oral and/or poster presentations to the scientific sessions. To apply for a place follow instructions for online submission on the conference website. Currently, we accept proposals for workshop or symposia only. Please follow the instructions on the webpage and submit the proposal to SWEN RENNEN via Email only: (EM: swen.renner@uni-ulm.de) **by 15 Feb 2012**. Submission of oral/poster presentations as well as registration for the conference will open shortly thereafter. For details, deadlines and news please have a look at the webpage which will be updated regularly (URL: <http://www.harrison-institute.org/IOCSEA/index.html>).

NEWS OF MEMBERS

DAVID B. MARSHALL, a member of the AOU since 1942 (elective member in 1974), AFO since 1989, COS since 1946, RR since 1993, Waterbird Society since 2000, and WOS since 1974 peacefully passed away 22 Nov 2011 following a prolonged illness. Starting in the 1950's he worked on various wildlife refuges, including Malheur National Wildlife Refuge where he served with refuge manager John Scharff. Later he was instrumental in establishing Basket Slough, Finley, and Ankeny wildlife refuges in the Willamette Valley. In 1973 he became chief biologist for birds and mammals in the endangered species program in Washington, D.C. After retirement from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1981 he worked as a consultant to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. In 2003, he co-authored a seven hundred page reference book *Birds of Oregon*, which has been called "the definitive source for Oregon ornithology".

FRED A. RYSER, a member of the AOU since 1951, AFO since 1989, COS since 1954, and WOS since 1956, passed away 25 Nov 2011.

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@andrews.edu).

ADDRESS CHANGES:

CLEMENT, ROLAND C., 18 Tower Lane, Apt. 1708, New Haven CT, 06519. PH: 203-787-6687.

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@andrews.edu), **by 1 March 2012**. Submission by email (in the body of the email message--not an attached file) or on diskette (PC format: WordPerfect or ASCII) with hard copy; e-mail preferred. Items sent to the OSNA office may not reach the Editor in time. Items with deadline dates should be submitted at least four months in advance of that date to allow time for response.

THE MOST RECENT NUMBERS of the Society journals and the month of mailing are: *Auk*, 2011, Vol. 128, #4 (Nov); *Condor*, 2011, Vol. 113, #4 (Dec), *J. Field Ornith.*, 2011, Vol. 82, #4 (Dec), *Raptor Res.*, 2011, Vol. 45, #4 (Dec), *Waterbirds*, 2011, Vol. 34, #4 (Jan), *Wilson J. Ornith.*, 2011, Vol. 123, #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.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETIES OF NORTH AMERICA

5400 Bosque Blvd.
Suite 680, Waco, TX 76710

Address Service Requested

Periodicals Postage

Paid at
Waco, Texas