

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.

AOS - <http://www.americanornithology.org>
AFO - <http://www.afonet.org>
RRF - <http://raptorresearchfoundation.org>
WOS - <http://www.wilsonsociety.org/>
BIRDNET - <https://birdnet.org/>

CHANGES TO THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETIES PARTNERSHIP – OSNA no longer exists: In late October 2019, the legal OSNA (Ornithological Societies of North America) organization (a 501(c)6 corporation) was dissolved. This action was approved by the Board of Directors of OSNA. The ornithological societies will continue their partnership in a less formal way. OSNA was created in 1979 by the AOU, COS, and WOS to provide for a joint membership database to 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.

- The *Ornithological Newsletter's* last issue is this one – December 2019. Archives of the *Ornithological Newsletter* are available through the Member Portal (<https://customer265664c9b.portal.membersuite.com>).
- The OSNA website, osnabirds.org, no longer exists. Users will be redirected to the Member Portal.

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.
- 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.

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; PH: 312-883-4670). For AOS related questions, contact CHRIS MULVANEY (EM: cmulvaney@americanornithology.org; PH: 312-379-9531).

THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY held its annual meeting jointly with the Association of Field Ornithologists on 27-30 October 2019 at the Grand Hotel of Cape May, New Jersey. Highlights of the meeting include:

- The scientific program included 130 papers and 79 posters.
- The 2019 Margaret Morse Nice Medal was awarded to ROBERT CURRY, who presented the plenary lecture "Transformation of familiar birds into model organisms: What chickadees can teach us". CHRISTINA RIEHL presented a plenary lecture on "Cooperative breeding in the Neotropics: Important lessons from obscure players".

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- The meeting included workshops from the North American Banding Council on understanding molt and ageing of passerines, from Cellular Tracking Technologies on tagging techniques and new technologies for ornithology, and from the Student and Early Professionals Committee on social media for ornithologists
- Social events included a LGBTQIA+ and allies social, a mentor/mentee meet up event, a selfies with leadership promotion, and birding field trips.
- The 2019 William and Nancy Klamm Service Award was awarded to JOHN SMALLWOOD.
- The Alexander Wilson Prize for the best student oral presentation was awarded TO KIIRSTI OWEN, University of Windsor, for "Bird communities in an endangered tropical ecosystem: a bioacoustic approach to monitoring forest recovery". The Nancy Klamm Best Undergraduate Student Oral Paper Award was awarded to REBEKAH LABLUE, University of North Carolina Wilmington, for "Sweating the speckles: darker Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) eggs become hotter under direct solar radiation".
- The Lynds Jones Prize for the best student poster presentation was awarded to ELSA CHEN, Virginia Commonwealth University, for "Examining the tradeoffs of female aggression in high- and low-density sites for a migratory songbird". The Nancy Klamm Best Undergraduate Student Poster Award was awarded to DYLAN ALLENBACK, Colorado State University Pueblo, for "Cassin's Sparrow song behavioral analysis".
- The Edwards Prize for the best paper published in volume 130 (2018) of *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* was awarded to MIEKE TITULAER, ALICIA MELGOZA-CASTILLO, ALBERTO MACÍAS-DUARTE, and ARVIND O. PANJABI for "Seed size, bill morphology, and handling time influence preferences for native vs. nonnative grass seeds in three declining sparrows." The Storrs L. Olson Prize for the best book review published in volume 130 (2018) of *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* was awarded to PAMELA C. RASMUSSEN for her review of "The Feather Thief" by Kirk Wallace Johnson.
- Travel Grants were awarded to 41 student and early professional presenters. Free banquet tickets and free student memberships in both WOS and AFO were awarded to all 120 student presenters.
- The following candidates were elected as Members of Council from 2019-2022: MEG HATCH, JASON LUSCIER, and DESIREE NARANGO.
- The following officers were elected: President: JAMESON CHACE, 1st Vice-President: TIM O'CONNELL, 2nd Vice-President: DAN KLEM, JR., Secretary: LINDSEY WALTERS, Treasurer: MELINDA CLARK

THE 2019 WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH GRANT WINNERS are:

- Louis Agassiz Fuertes Grants: ELSA CHEN, Virginia Commonwealth University, "Understanding the tradeoffs of female aggression in high- and low-density breeding sites for a migratory songbird" and SHEELA TURBEK, University of Colorado Boulder, "Explaining mismatches between genetic and phenotypic divergence in a rapid radiation of finch-like birds"
- Wilson Ornithological Society Research Grants: GLAUCIA DEL-RIO, Louisiana State University, "Genomic architecture of an amazonian hybrid zone"; KATIE SCHROEDER, University of Massachusetts, "A timeline and mechanism for species-specific song discrimination in nestling passerines"; CHRISTINE GURLEY, University of North Texas Denton, "Testing the female-mimicry hypothesis in Painted Buntings (*Passerina ciris*)"; and JENNIFER LINSKOTT, University of South Carolina, "Fleeting stopovers in a long-distance migratory strategy"
- Paul A. Stewart Grants: ELIZABETH AMES, Ohio State University, "Carryover effects between breeding and winter habitat in a Neotropical migrant that is non-territorial on the wintering grounds"; JOHN

MULLER, University of Oklahoma, "Winter occupancy, abundance and movement of Chestnut-collared Longspurs in Oklahoma"; LUKE WILDE, University of South Carolina, "Investigating the community effects of spatio-temporal distribution on the predator-prey dynamics in the sub-Arctic nesting-grounds"; and KIAH WILLIAMS, Tulane University, "The effects of parental investment and territory establishment on chick survival in Wilson's Plovers"

- George A. Hall/Harold F. Mayfield Grant: KRISTINA COCKLE, CONICET, "Tracking Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) movements from wintering grounds in Argentina"
- Jed Burt Undergraduate Mentoring Grants: DANIEL SHUSTACK and HANNAH WAIT, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, "Establishing migratory connectivity of slate-colored juncos (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) using stable isotopes" and JOANNA HUBBARD and MELISSA BAILEY, Truman State University, "Do early developmental conditions affect structural and melanin-based plumage color in eastern bluebirds, *Sialia sialis*?"
- KERRI CORNELL DUERR chaired the Jed Burt Undergraduate Mentoring Award Committee, assisted by the following reviewers: JOEL RALSTON, LETTY REICHART, and JEFF STAFFORD
- MEG HATCH chaired the Research Grants Committee, assisted by the following reviewers: WILLIAM BROWN, T. J. BENSON, VAL BUXTON, KRISTEN COVINO, CARLA DOVE, JAMES HARE, KAMAL ISLAM, JASON JOHNSON, TODD JONES, TODD KATZNER, JANICE KELLY, DESIREE NARANGO, LETTY REICHART, SCOTT ROBINSON, JOHN SMALLWOOD, ROBERT SMITH, SARAH SONSTHAGEN, MARK STANBACK, JEFFREY STRATFORD, MIKE WARD, DOUG WHITE, and JAY WRIGHT

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER DE-LISTING – An ESA success story involving a highly threatened migratory songbird, the Kirtland's Warbler. If anything, this is proof that when the FWS can document that a population of a species is healthy and exists in adequate numbers, delisting should not be onerous. Kirtland's Warbler nests almost exclusively in central Michigan in young jack-pine forests that are about 80 acres or larger in size, and include a multitude of small, grassy openings. The impact of habitat reduction and Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism originally led the FWS to list the Kirtland's Warbler when the Endangered Species Act was passed into law in 1973. In actuality, the estimated population had already plummeted to about 400 birds in 1971. The goal of the conservation plan between the FWS and the state of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources was to eventually reach 1,000 pairs of nesting warblers per year, but that number has now been surpassed. Currently, about 2,000 pairs of this species highlight the success of this species' recovery. On 9 October, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced that it would remove the species from the federal Endangered Species list. This was more than a year after the agency first proposed delisting the species due to its significant recovery. Restoration of jack pine habitat and Brown-headed Cowbird control have been essential in getting the Kirtland's Warbler to recover to this point. Kirtland's Warblers have historically nested in the northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan, but as the species has recovered to more than 2,000 nesting pairs, its nesting range has extended gradually into the Upper Peninsula, Wisconsin, and Ontario. This comeback has been widely hailed as yet another wildlife conservation success story under the Endangered Species Act. The future of the Kirtland's Warbler still will depend on continued and regular hands-on management. The FWS says that without continued human involvement, the birds' numbers would once again plunge. A specific designation - conservation reliant - indicates as much. Right now, there many creative plans being implemented - including even arrangements with private forests and golf courses - across the warbler's breeding range to provide the specific on-the-ground habitat mix that these birds will need into the future. Of course, this will also have to include some creative and long-term funding. Fortunately, the forces behind the Kirtland's recovery insist that the ESA works and that the Kirtland's Warbler federal/state and public/private model can serve as an example to help other fragile species. (*Birding Community e-Bulletin*, October and November 2019, <https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin>).

USFWS PERMIT APPLICATIONS NOW ONLINE – The Ornithological Council has been encouraging the USFWS to develop an online permitting system since 2002 and congratulates the agency on reaching this important junction - online permit applications. We encourage everyone to register; if you encounter any problems or questions, please let us know and we will relay them to the USFWS. To apply for permits through the Service's new payment platform, visit: <https://epermits.fws.gov/>. For more information regarding the permitting process, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/permits/>.

JUDGE BLOCKS TRUMP PLANS TO LOOSEN SAGE GROUSE HABITAT PROTECTION – In March, when the Trump administration released a new set of land-use plans that rolled back a collection of 2015 restrictions on oil and gas drilling across 9 million acres of the Greater Sage-Grouse's most important habitat, environmental groups immediately sued to get the plans thrown out. They also asked for a court order to stop the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from implementing the administration's less protective plans until a final ruling on that suit. Now, a federal judge has granted that order. On Wednesday, U.S. District Court Judge B. Lynn Winmill issued an injunction that blocks the March plans, finding that the administration failed to take a hard look at how they would affect populations of the imperiled ground-dwelling birds. "When the BLM substantially reduces protections for sage grouse contrary to the best science and the concerns of other agencies, there must be some analysis and justification," Winmill wrote. Greater Sage-Grouse have lost some 90 percent of their historic numbers and roughly half their pre-settlement range due to oil and gas development, wildfires fueled by invasive grasses, and other disturbance. To avoid listing the bird under the Endangered Species Act, conservation groups, fossil fuel companies, ranchers, and others came together in 2015 to reach a major compromise, articulated in 98 land use plans across 10 western states. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the protections in those plans were enough to keep the bird's population healthy without a listing under the Act. Among those protections was a policy that prioritized areas outside sage-grouse habitat for development. (Excerpted from <https://www.audubon.org/news/judge-blocks-trump-administration-plans-lifted-sage-grouse-protections>).

ANOTHER RECOVERY MILESTONE FOR THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR – In 1982 there were only 22 California condors left in the world. In 1992, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), with its public and private partners, began reintroducing captive-bred condors to the wild. In 2001 the first wild nesting occurred in Grand Canyon National Park since re-introduction. In 2002 there were only 8 pairs of wild nesting birds population-wide. In 2008, for the first time since the program began, more California condors were flying free in the wild than in captivity. Today there are nearly 500 – more than half of them flying free in Arizona, Utah, California, and Baja Mexico. Another milestone on the road to recovery was reached this year with the hatching of the 1000th chick since the start of the recovery efforts. Lead poisoning from spent ammunition is the number one cause of death among adult California condors in the wild. Condors also pick up and feed their young small objects left behind by humans, such as pieces of glass and metal and have been known to accidentally drink poison like antifreeze. The Recovery Program is now in the final phase of recovery, focusing on the creation of self-sustaining populations. We are placing increased emphasis on the captive-breeding and reintroduction of California condors to the wild and the management of that wild population. These efforts combine trying to reduce the threat of lead with actively managing nesting in the wild to increase the number of wild fledged chicks. The goal of the California Condor Recovery Plan is to establish two geographically distinct self-sustaining populations, each with 150 birds in the wild and at least 15 breeding pairs, with a third population of condors retained in captivity. As the Recovery Program works toward this goal, the number of release sites has grown. There are three active release sites in California, one in Arizona and one in Baja, Mexico.

POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

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/>

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

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.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT G. GOELET, a member of the AOU since 1952 and AFO since 1983, passed away 8 Oct 2019.

JOHN B. OLSON, a member of COS since 1963, passed away.

ROBERT C. WHITMORE, a member of the AOU since 1972 (Elective Member 1982), COS since 1993, and WOS since 1972, passed away 28 Jul 2019. He dedicated his career to education and wildlife ecology as a Professor for over 30 years at West Virginia University.

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, PH: 312-883-4670) or change it yourself online in the Member Portal (URL: <https://customer265664c9b.portal.membersuite.com/Login.aspx>).

THE MOST RECENT NUMBERS of the Society journals and the month of publication are: *Auk*, 2019, Vol. 136, #4 (Oct-online only); *Condor*, 2019, Vol. 121, #3 (Aug-online only), *J. Field Ornith.*, 2019, Vol. 90, #4 (Dec), *Raptor Res.*, 2019, Vol. 53, #4 (Dec), *Wilson J. Ornith.*, 2019, Vol. 131, # (Sep). 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, PH:312-883-4670 or submit a claim on the Member Portal. Please check your address label to confirm membership information and address.

