

## NEWS AND NOTES

### 60th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Cooper Ornithological Society held its 60th annual meeting on 25-30 June 1990 at Los Angeles, California. The meeting was held jointly with the American Ornithologists' Union. Lloyd F. Kiff and Bryan S. Obst co-chaired the Committee on Local Arrangements, and Joseph R. Jehl, Jr. chaired the Scientific Program Committee. Program coordination between the AOU and COS was handled by Gary D. Schnell.

The following members are continuing or newly elected officers: Jared Verner, President; Martin L. Morton, President-elect; Terrell D. Rich, Secretary; Martin G. Raphael, Assistant Secretary; Robert C. Szaro, Treasurer; James T. Jennings, Assistant Treasurer. Glenn Walsberg is the new editor of *The Condor*. Joseph R. Jehl, Jr., continues as editor of *Studies in Avian Biology*. Three new members of the board were elected for 3-year terms (1990-1992) by the membership in balloting conducted prior to the meeting: Sheila A. Mahoney, Stephen I. Rothstein, and J. Michael Scott. They replace retiring members Carl E. Bock, Theresa L. Bucher, and Michael D. Kern. W. B. Quay was elected by the board to serve a 1-year term in place of retiring member L. Richard Mewaldt.

There were 596 registrants at the meeting, including 169 students. In the general paper sessions, poster session, and symposia, 256 papers and posters were presented. A joint AOU/COS Paper Awards Committee judged all student papers and randomly assigned available awards, all of equal monetary value, to the 7 best. The following COS awards were presented: A. Brazier Howell Award to Gustavo H. Kattan (University of Florida), Francis S. Roberts Award to Michael S. Webster (Cornell University), first Board of Directors' Award to Carolee Caffrey (UCLA), and second Board of Directors' Award to Eric Stone (Idaho State University).

The Board of Directors conferred honorary membership to Joseph R. Jehl, Jr., Martin L. Morton, and C. J. Ralph for exceptional service to ornithology and the COS.

Resolutions concerning a variety of issues were passed jointly with the AOU; these resolutions appear below.

The 1991 annual meeting will be held jointly with the Wilson Ornithological Society at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, 15-19 May 1991.

### RESOLUTIONS

The COS Conservation and Resolutions Committee (Carl D. Marti, Chair) and the AOU resolutions committee drafted the following resolutions that were jointly approved by the AOU Council and the COS Board of Directors.

#### RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR THE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT OF 1980

Whereas the U.S. Congress enacted the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980 to accelerate preparation

of fish and wildlife conservation plans, to execute management actions, to maintain and perpetuate non-game wildlife and fish habitats and populations, and to provide grants to the states for these purposes, and

Whereas by directing attention to non-game species, populations and habitats and by integrating all vertebrate fish and wildlife under a single management concept, the Act represents a keystone in the system of federal grants to the states for the conservation of all unconfined vertebrates, and

Whereas the Congress has never appropriated funds for the Act.

Therefore be it resolved that the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society urge the Congress to provide a continuing and adequate source of funds to permit the Act to become fully operational, and that at least \$25 million be authorized and appropriated annually, starting with fiscal year 1991 (October 1, 1990), until funds from an identified and approved continuing source become available for allocation to the States.

#### COMMENDATION OF THE CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR THE NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL

Whereas the Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) has declined due to commercial logging of old-growth coniferous forests in the Pacific Northwest, and

Whereas continued logging of these forests without regard to their biological integrity will likely lead to the rapid extinction of the Northern Spotted Owl, and

Recognizing that an Interagency Scientific Committee (representing the USDA Forest Service, the USDI Bureau of Land Management, the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, and the USDI National Park Service) has prepared a responsible and scientifically credible plan for the conservation of the Northern Spotted Owl,

Therefore be it resolved that the Cooper Ornithological Society and American Ornithologists' Union urge that the conservation plan be adopted and implemented by the appropriate federal and state agencies.

#### COMMENDATION OF PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY

Whereas 2.8 million ducks, 750,000 geese, and 450,000 Sandhill Cranes overwinter in the prairie wetlands of New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado, and

Whereas at least 32 species of migratory birds move through these wet basin or "playa" areas each Spring and Fall, and

Whereas the Phillips Petroleum Company has joined with Ducks Unlimited, the wildlife agencies of the five states involved, the National Wildlife Federation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to launch a five-

year \$1.3 million program to "secure, preserve, and enhance" 25,000 playa lakes, and

Recognizing that the contribution of the Phillips Petroleum Company of \$125,000 per year, plus manpower and technological support for this project, represents an exemplary partnership between private and government agencies.

Therefore be it resolved that the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society commend Phillips Petroleum Company for its genuine, long-term commitment to the conservation and stewardship of North American ecological resources, and

Therefore be it further resolved that the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society urge other U.S. corporations to meet the challenge and commitment shown by the Phillips Petroleum Company.

#### SUPPORT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ECOSYSTEMS

Whereas the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently lists over 1,000 plant and animal species as endangered or threatened, and

Whereas efforts to save some individual species have been effective, other species continue to go extinct as a result of human activities, and

Whereas a broad-based ecosystem approach aimed at preventing species from becoming endangered would minimize our total species loss, and

Whereas hundreds of natural communities are as threatened as are individual species,

Therefore be it resolved that the Cooper Ornithological Society and the American Ornithologists' Union ask the Congress of the United States to take a proactive approach to the conservation of plants and animals by appropriating money for the assessment of all habitat types and to approve legislation emphasizing the protection of representative samples on entire ecosystems through the creation of an Ecosystem Conservation Act.

#### RESOLUTION ON THE RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER

Whereas most Red-cockaded Woodpecker populations are declining, particularly small populations, and

Whereas this woodpecker is a unique and valuable component of the southern pine, fire climax ecosystem, and

Whereas the species has been legally defined as endangered for more than 15 years, and

Whereas current laws, enforcement, and management guidelines have been inadequate to protect and maintain habitat on private and on most public lands, and

Whereas present intensive management has been largely ineffective in stabilizing small declining populations, Therefore be it resolved that the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society strongly urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and

the U.S. Forest Service to quickly revise and/or amend present plans and guidelines to effect a prompt stabilization and recovery of the species on both public and private lands.

#### COMMENDATION OF THE FRANK M. CHAPMAN MEMORIAL FUND

Whereas the Department of Ornithology of the American Museum of Natural History has, for 45 years, administered the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund, and

Whereas this fund represents the largest single source of private funding for ornithological research, and

Whereas the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund has provided and continues to provide support to thousands of ornithologists, most of them students and amateurs with little access to funding, and

Whereas each year the Chapman Committee of the American Museum of Natural History devotes extraordinary time and effort to the complex process of administering the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund and to the rigorous selection of award recipients,

Therefore be it resolved that the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society commend the American Museum of Natural History, through its administration of the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund, for 45 years of dedicated service to the ornithological community.

#### RESOLUTION URGING SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO CALL UPON THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (NIE)

Whereas the environment of the earth is deteriorating under the stress of the growing human population and its increasing demand for resources, and

Whereas this degradation of the environment threatens the health and quality of life of all human beings, and Whereas human activities are reducing the diversity of plant and animal species and potentially changing the climate of the planet, and

Whereas solutions to many of these environmental problems will require a great deal of additional basic and applied research in the physical, biological, and social sciences, and

Whereas improved education at all levels will be needed to train the environmental scientists who must do this research and also to educate citizens about environmental problems, and

Whereas a single government agency could most efficiently coordinate the research and educational programs that will be needed to solve these problems, and

Whereas legislation is currently pending before the U.S. Congress calling upon the National Academy of Science to study the feasibility and organization of a new government agency, the National Institute for the Environment (NIE), which would provide urgently need-

ed coordination and funding for basic research, applied research, and education in the environmental sciences, Therefore be it resolved that the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society urge all members of Congress to support the ending legislation calling upon the National Academy of Sciences to study the feasibility of establishing a National Institute for the Environment.

#### RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

Whereas the Cooper Ornithological Society held its Sixtieth Annual Meeting and the American Ornithologists' Union held its One Hundred and Eighth stated meeting jointly in Los Angeles, California on the campus of the University of California at Los Angeles at the invitation of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, U.C.L.A. Department of Biology, and the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, and

Recognizing that the Committee on Local Arrangements, under the outstanding direction of Lloyd F. Kiff and Bryan S. Obst, provided us with an exceptionally diverse assemblage of exhibits, special events, field trips, and evening social events, and

Recognizing that the Committee on the Scientific Program, under the equally capable direction of Joseph R. Jehl, Jr., arranged outstanding scientific lecture sessions, workshops, and poster sessions, and

Whereas all those who have attended this meeting have been enriched by it,

Therefore be it resolved that the Cooper Ornithological Society and the American Ornithologists' Union commend the Committee on Local Arrangements and the Committee on the Scientific Program for their efforts toward this memorable meeting, and

Therefore be it further resolved that the Cooper Ornithological Society and the American Ornithologists' Union also thank the Sponsors of this meeting, namely, The Ahmanson Foundation, Biosystems Analysis, Bleitz Wildlife Foundation, Michael Brandman Associates, Daniel J. Brimm, Chevron Corporation, Ed N. Harrison, Institute for Scientific Information, Interior Steel Equipment Company, Kay Elemetrics, Lida Scott Brown Fund, Lifecodes Corporation, Los Angeles Audubon Society, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Paquita L. Machris, Donna O'Neill, J. W. Sefton Foundation, Mrs. Reese H. Taylor, and the Lulu May Lloyd Von Hagen Foundation, for their most generous support.

#### SUPPORT FOR PERMANENT PROTECTION OF THE SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY AREA

Whereas the Snake River plain in southwestern Idaho supports the highest density of breeding birds of prey in the world, and

Whereas much of this area is publicly owned land used in many ways by humans, and

Whereas some of the present and potential human uses of this land are detrimental to the health of the raptor assemblage, and

Whereas this important raptor habitat has no permanent protection,

Therefore be it resolved that American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society urge the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Congress of the United States to grant permanent protection to this area.

#### SUPPORT FOR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE SHOREBIRD RESERVE NETWORK

Whereas migratory shorebirds concentrate in large numbers in a few strategic and indispensable stopover locations along their migratory pathways, and

Whereas much of the wetland and grassland habitat essential for shorebirds has been degraded or converted from its natural state for construction, commerce, agriculture, and recreation, and

Whereas the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies established the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network to identify and promote the protection of sites essential to migratory shorebirds through a voluntary collaboration of government and private organizations and to educate and train biologists and policy makers about shorebird conservation issues,

Therefore be it resolved that the Cooper Ornithological Society and the American Ornithologists' Union support the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network by urging conservation and land management agencies to recognize the ecological significance of wetland and grassland habitats for shorebirds and to fund and implement conservation and education programs to protect these habitats for shorebirds throughout the western hemisphere.

#### ENCOURAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE EDUCATION

Whereas the public needs to understand ecological principles to evaluate environmental issues that will arise in upcoming decades, and

Whereas people rely on public agencies for opportunities to learn about wildlife and wildlife-habitat relationships,

Therefore be it resolved that the Cooper Ornithological Society and the American Ornithologists' Union commend the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service for creating wildlife viewing opportunities and wildlife education programs, and

Therefore be it further resolved that the Cooper Ornithological Society and the American Ornithologists' Union urge the Congress of the United States to encourage and support future efforts by these agencies through adequate appropriations.

#### NOMINEES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 1991, the members of the Cooper Ornithological Society shall elect to the Board of Directors three people to replace retiring members Richard L. Hutto, W. B. Quay, and Frank A. Pitelka.

The nominating committee, consisting of Richard L. Hutto (Chair), Mary Murphy, and Martin G. Raphael nominates Howard L. Cogswell, James R. King, Michael L. Morrison, Bryan S. Obst, Robert C. Szaro, and Carol M. Vleck for 3-year terms to the Board. A ballot will be distributed to all members 45 days prior to the 1991 annual meeting.

**Howard L. Cogswell** has been Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences at California State University, Hayward, since 1980. He received his Ph.D. in 1962 from the University of California, Berkeley and was on the faculty at Mills College, Oakland, California from 1952 to 1964. He has been a member of the Society since 1940, twice chaired the local committee for annual meetings, and has been chair of both the History and Honorary Members Committees. His ornithological research interests have included territory size in relation to vegetation and habitat-related behavior in general. He is currently working on a computerized geographical phenology of the birds of California.

**James R. King** is Professor of Zoophysiology at Washington State University, Pullman. He received his Ph.D. from Washington State University in 1957. He has been a member of the Society since 1953 and an Honorary Member since 1975. He has served as Editor of *The Condor* (1965–1968), as a member of the Board of Directors (1977–1980), and as member or chair of various committees (1968–present). His general research interests are in avian physiological ecology, with special attention currently on aspects of protein and amino acid nutrition, energy metabolism, and the physiology of molt.

**Michael L. Morrison** is Associate Professor of Wildlife Biology at the University of California, Berkeley. He has been a member of the Society since 1974, and a Life Member since 1988. He has served the Society as Secretary, as member of the Publications and Finance (current) committees, and as co-chair of the Scientific Program Committee for several annual meetings. His research includes studies of resource use, especially foraging behavior, and habitat use.

**Bryan S. Obst** is an Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of California, Los Angeles. He re-

ceived his Ph.D. in Biology at UCLA in 1986, followed by two years as an NIH postdoctoral fellow. He has been a member of the Society since 1980, has presented papers at five Society meetings, and has served as a reviewer for *The Condor*. He was a co-chair of the Committee on Local Arrangements at the 1990 AOU/COS annual meeting. His research interests include the physiological ecology of birds, particularly the energetics and foraging ecology of seabirds. He is also involved with conservation of the endangered California Least Tern and with assessment of the impact of salinity changes on bird populations at Mono Lake, California.

**Robert C. Szaro** is a research ecologist with the USDA Forest Service in Washington, DC. He received his Ph.D. in Zoology at Northern Arizona University in 1976. He has been a member of the society since 1969 and has presented papers at the annual meeting beginning in 1974. He has served on the Student Awards Committee, currently serves on the Finance Committee and is completing a three-year term as Treasurer of the Society. He has published papers in *The Condor* and in *Studies in Avian Biology*. His major research interests include habitat relationships of terrestrial vertebrate faunas in southwestern riparian ecosystems, effects of land-use patterns and habitat juxtaposition on community composition, and the conservation of biodiversity in managed landscapes.

**Carol M. Vleck** is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1978 and did postdoctoral work at the University of Washington, State University of New York at Buffalo, and University of Adelaide. She has been a member of the Society since 1973. She served on the Editorial Review Board for *Studies in Avian Biology* monograph series, 1985–1987. She has attended several COS meetings, has published in *The Condor*, and reviews manuscripts for the journal. Her research interests include the energetics of avian eggs, timing of reproduction in desert birds, and hormonal control of behavior, particularly in cooperatively breeding species.