

## NEWS AND NOTES

### BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

#### 1996 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

Kim Sullivan (Chair), Russ Balda,  
Peter Stettenheim

The following people have agreed to be nominated for the Cooper Ornithological Society (COS) Board of Directors.

1. *Luke George* is Assistant Professor in the Department of Wildlife at Humboldt State University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico in 1987 and has been a member of the COS since 1982. He has served on the Student Participation Committee of the COS since 1992, was a member of the Scientific Committee for the 1995 COS meetings, and the Local Committee for the 1983 COS meetings. He has served as a session chair at numerous COS meetings, and has attended almost every COS meeting since 1982. Dr. George has published two papers in *The Condor* and one in *Studies in Avian Biology* and has reviewed a number of manuscripts for *The Condor*. His research interests include the ecology of grassland birds, the behavior and ecology of island birds, and the effects of habitat fragmentation on bird populations.

2. *Bette A. Loiselle* is Associate Professor of Biology and a Research Associate of the International Center for Tropical Ecology at University of Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1987 and has been a member of COS since 1981. Dr. Loiselle regularly attends meetings of the Society, reviews manuscripts for and publishes in *The Condor*. Her primary research interests are in the ecology and conservation of tropical fruit-eating birds, with an emphasis on understanding spatial patterns of distribution at local and regional scales, community organization, and the importance of seed dispersers to ecosystem structure and function. She has active research programs in Costa Rica, Colombia, and Brazil.

3. *Robert E. Ricklefs* is Curators Professor of Biology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1967 and was a professor there until 1995. Dr. Ricklefs joined the COS in 1965 and is a Life Member. Although he has not regularly attended COS meetings, he will do so if elected to the Board and looks forward to it, having grown up birding in California. Dr. Ricklefs's research interests include avian growth and development, population biology and life-history evolution, community organization, and biogeography. His first paper was published in *The Condor*, and his 16th contribution to that journal (hopefully, not the last) is in press. He also has advised over 20 Ph.D. students, many of whom are members of the COS.

4. *Ruth O. Russell*, of Tucson, Arizona, is a community activist interested in conservation, education and health issues. She has worked as a lobbyist and has been involved with social and health service organizations and conservation groups as a volunteer. She was elected to the Board of Directors of the Na-

tional Audubon Society in 1992, and is now Vice-Chairman of the Board. She is Secretary for the Appleton-Wittel Research Ranch Foundation, and has been appointed by the governor to several task forces and state commissions. She has served as Secretary of WBBA and is chair of the AOU Endowment Committee. Hummingbirds are the focus of her research interests.

5. *Diana F. Tomback* is Professor of Biology at the University of Colorado at Denver. She received her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1977 and has been a member of COS since 1971. For COS, Dr. Tomback served as chair of the Resolutions and Conservation Committee in 1985 and as chair of the Mewaldt-King Award Fund Committee from its inception in 1991 to 1995. She serves as a reviewer for *The Condor* and other ornithological, ecological, behavioral, forestry, and ecological literature. Her research interests focus on nutcracker-pine mutualisms, including nutcracker foraging and caching behavior and the influence of avian seed dispersal on patterns of pine regeneration, growth form, and the population structure of bird-dispersed pines.

### REPORT ON THE 66TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Cooper Ornithological Society held its 66th annual meeting at the Bahia Resort Hotel, San Diego, California, 27-31 March 1996. The Local Committee was chaired by Barbara Kus and Abby Powell and the Scientific Program Committee was chaired by Tom Scott. There were 286 registrants, including 90 students, and 154 papers and posters were presented.

The Society's award for lifetime achievement in ornithological research, the Miller Award, was presented to William R. Dawson. A full citation is published in this issue of *The Condor*.

Honorary membership was bestowed on Glenn E. Walsberg for outstanding contributions to the Cooper Ornithological Society and to ornithology. A citation will be published in *The Condor*.

Mewaldt-King Student Research Awards were presented to Mitschka J. Hartley of the University of Maine for "Effects of forest management on songbird site-fidelity: an experimental study" and to William R. McClain of the University of Memphis for "Effects of alternate gypsy moth treatments on the diet, foraging behavior, and nest provisioning of two species of Vireo in central Appalachia."

Four awards were presented for outstanding student papers. The A. Brazier Howell Award went to David W. Willey, Northern Arizona University, for "Movements and habitat utilization by Mexican Spotted Owls (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) in Canyonlands of the Colorado Plateau." Daniel R. Kozlovic, University of Toronto, won the Francis F. Roberts award for "Rate of

Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism on House Finch nesting is related to their time in sympatry." David P. Craig, University of Colorado, Boulder, won a Board of Directors' Award for "Corvid densities and nest predation in rural versus wild landscapes." Bonnie B. Chen, University of Northern Arizona, also won a Board of Directors' Award for "Differences in spatial memory by mated pairs of Pinyon Jays, *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*."

Support for student travel was awarded to Maurie Beck (Humboldt State Univ.), Angela Hodgson (Univ. Nevada-Reno), Jeffrey Kelly (Colorado State Univ.), Matthias Leu (Univ. Washington), Eric Linder (Brigham Young Univ.), Patrick Magee (Univ. Missouri-Columbia), Julie Robinson (Univ. Nevada-Reno), and Joshua Tewksbury (Univ. Montana).

Through the annual balloting by all members of the Society, Bonnie S. Bowen, Charles T. Collins and David S. Dobkin were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors.

In the Board of Directors' meetings, the following were elected to, or continue in, office: Sheila A. Mahoney, President; J. Michael Scott, President-elect; Terrell D. Rich, Secretary; Peter Stettenheim, Assistant Secretary; Erick G. Campbell, Treasurer; Walter D. Koenig, editor of *The Condor*, and John T. Rotenberry, editor of *Studies in Avian Biology*. Larry S. Mangan was appointed as acting Assistant Treasurer following the annual meeting.

The next annual meeting of the Society will be held 30 April-4 May 1997 at the Hawaii Naniloa Hotel in Hilo, Hawaii. JIM JACOBI will chair the Local Committee and STEVE HESS will chair the Scientific Program.

The Conservation-Resolutions Committee, chaired by Martin Raphael, prepared the following resolutions, which were approved by the Board of Directors for distribution to appropriate recipients.

#### BIRD BANDING LABORATORY

WHEREAS bird banding is essential for many studies of avian populations and other aspects of field biology, and

WHEREAS any ornithologist who bands birds must have a permit issued by the Bird Banding Laboratory of the National Biological Service, and

WHEREAS the Bird Banding Laboratory maintains an unparalleled record of data that is essential for understanding avian populations, migration, and conservation, and

WHEREAS the Bird Banding Laboratory has suffered severe cuts in staff and funding over the past year, and

WHEREAS the future of the Bird Banding Laboratory is less certain due to the ongoing merger of the National Biological Service into the U.S. Geological Survey;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cooper Ornithological Society affirms the critical role of the Bird Banding Laboratory to the ornithological research community and asks the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the National Biological Service, the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Congress to provide strong fiscal and administrative support for

the Bird Banding Laboratory as an intact unit in the Department of the Interior.

#### MORATORIUM ON LISTING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

WHEREAS the biodiversity of the United States and the planet are under unprecedented threats, and

WHEREAS the implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides an effective tool to conserve endangered species and serves as a critical last line of defense against extinction, and

WHEREAS Congress has imposed a moratorium on the listing of additional species under the ESA since April 1995, and

WHEREAS the Senate failed to overturn the moratorium as recently as March 1996, and

WHEREAS species that meet the biological criteria for listing as threatened or endangered are denied the protection of the ESA for reasons that are political and not scientific, and

WHEREAS the moratorium affects more than 500 species, including 240 that have been formally proposed for listing and 270 candidate species, and

WHEREAS bird species such as the Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*), the Alaska breeding population of Stellar's Eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), Kauai Creeper (*Oreomystis bairdi*), and Texas and Arizona populations of the Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*), among other non-avian species, are presently banned from the endangered species list even if they are found to meet the biological criteria for listing, and

WHEREAS failure to list species that are endangered or threatened will only make it more difficult and more expensive to recover these species and prevent extinction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cooper Ornithological Society condemns the moratorium on listing of endangered and threatened species as scientifically and fiscally unsound and urges the Congress and the President to do everything in their power to immediately end the moratorium and restore necessary funding to the Fish and Wildlife Service for listing activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cooper Ornithological Society reaffirms its support for a strong Endangered Species Act and asks the Congress to reauthorize the Act without weakening amendments.

#### LOGGING WITHOUT LAWS

WHEREAS the Cooper Ornithological Society approved a resolution in 1995 opposing efforts to mandate salvage logging on the national forests and other public lands of the United States as being without sound scientific basis and compromising prudent management, and

WHEREAS this resolution was based on a study of the national forests in eastern Washington and Oregon conducted by scientific professional societies, and

WHEREAS the Congress in July 1995 approved a Salvage Logging Rider to mandate salvage logging, and

WHEREAS the Salvage Logging Rider releases many timber sales in the Pacific Northwest that were suspended because of their destructive effects on Marbled Murrelet habitat and critical salmon watersheds, and

WHEREAS this amendment waived the application of all environmental laws to these logging operations, and

WHEREAS the result has been to open environmentally sensitive areas to indiscriminate logging on more than 500 sites, and

WHEREAS logging without laws is poor public policy and is scientifically unsound, and

WHEREAS Congressional efforts are currently underway to make provisions of the rider permanent (or at least to extend them well past the current January 1, 1997, sunset);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cooper Ornithological Society strongly condemns the amendments that mandate salvage logging without application of environmental laws and urges the Congress and the President to take all necessary actions to immediately end this policy and to restore the rule of law to forestry in the United States.

#### MARBLED MURRELET SURVEY PROTOCOLS AND CENSORSHIP OF SCIENCE

WHEREAS the integrity of scientific research and the effectiveness of research-based management depends on freedom from political influence, that is, from restrictions that serve to produce a particular result, and

WHEREAS use of the Congressionally mandated standards and the resultant destruction of Murrelet habitat increases the likelihood that the Marbled Murrelet will be faced with extinction, and

WHEREAS recent Congressional action (section 2001(k)(2) of the "Emergency Salvage Timber Sale Program") has compelled federal biologists to discard the accepted survey protocol (known as the Pacific Seabird Group protocol) for determining nesting habitat used by the threatened Marbled Murrelet, and

WHEREAS scientific research on this secretive bird has shown that the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) protocol provides the best estimate of active nesting sites, and

WHEREAS restricting use of the PSG protocol not only has the potential disadvantage of releasing lands to timber sales that have been determined by unbiased scientific means to have a high probability of being active Murrelet nesting habitat, but also has contributed to a particular result favored by the sponsors of the "Emergency Salvage Timber Program," namely the release of timber sales in Murrelet habitat that were formerly canceled under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act, and

WHEREAS Congressional authority to impose restrictions on the Murrelet protocol was recently upheld by the U.S. District Court in Oregon (Northwest Forest Resource Council vs. Glickman, 1995), with the judge's comment that the court was duty-bound "to make decisions based on law, not science," and

WHEREAS this sets a troubling precedent for political manipulation of science;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cooper Ornithological Society calls upon Congress to:

1. Restore the Pacific Seabird Group protocol as the most scientifically sound standard for identifying Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat.

2. Recognize that the independence and integrity of government science depends upon freedom from political pressure to modify scientifically sound methods.

3. Refrain from specifying the design, conduct, or analysis of scientific studies based on any other than sound biological and scientific grounds.

#### COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, the Cooper Ornithological Society held its 66th Annual Meeting at the Bahia Resort Hotel in San Diego, California, sponsored by Absearch, Academic Press, Avinet, Cornell University Press, Eagle Optics, Kowa Optimed, Inc., the San Diego Field Station of the National Biological Service, the San Diego Zoological Society, Sea World California, the Wandering Tattler, Yale University Press, and anonymous donors, and

RECOGNIZING that the Committee on Local Arrangements assisted by a horde of volunteers, under the outstanding direction of Barbara E. Kus and Abby N. Powell, 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 Tom Scott, 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 commends the Committee on Local Arrangements and the Committee on the Scientific Program for their efforts toward this successful meeting.

#### THE 67TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY 30 APRIL-4 MAY 1997

The annual meeting will be hosted by the Biological Resources Division Pacific Islands Center and the University of Hawai'i and will be held at the Hawai'i Nanioloa Hotel in Hilo, Hawai'i. There will be symposia on the unique avifauna, biology and urgent conservation issues of the Pacific and Hawaiian Islands, as well as other ornithological topics. Queries about lodging, transportation, field trips or other matters should be directed to Jim Jacobi, Pacific Islands Science Center, P.O. Box 44, Hawai'i National Park, HI 96718 or jim\_jacobi@nbs.gov. Queries concerning the scientific program should be directed to Steven C. Hess, Pacific Islands Science Center, P.O. Box 44, Hawai'i National Park, HI 96718 or shess@aloha.net

#### NORTH AMERICAN LOON FUND GRANTS-1997

The North American Loon Fund (NALF) announces availability of 1997 grants in support of management, research, and educational projects directly related to the conservation of the family Gaviidae. Proposals in the range of \$500 to \$3,000 are most likely to be considered for funding. High priorities include: (1) identify and refine locations of important habitat areas for loons

during migration and winter, and for juvenile loons during summer, (2) obtain more information on the population dynamics of all species of loons, including the average age of initial breeding, annual survival rate, longevity, dispersal, and sources of mortality, (3) design methods and establish population trends for regions with significant loon populations but where trends are currently unknown.

Deadline for submission of proposal is December 15, 1996. Funding awards will be announced by March 30, 1997. Please submit guideline request to North American Loon Fund, 6 Lily Pond Rd., Gilford, NH 03246.