

NEWS AND NOTES

REPORT OF THE SEVENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Cooper Ornithological Society held its 70th annual meeting at Holiday Inn Select, Riverside, California, 25-29, April, 2000. Co-chairs of the Local and Scientific Program Committees were John Rotenberry and Tom Scott. There were 205 registrants for the general meeting and 26 registrants for the symposia only. There were 15 oral presentations in the symposium "Ecology and Conservation of Avifauna of the Salton Sea," and 8 oral presentations and 4 posters for the symposium "Biology and Management of the Genus *Corvus*." The general program included 77 papers and 31 posters.

The Society's award for lifetime achievement in ornithological research, the Miller Award, was presented to Ernst Mayr. A full citation is published in this issue of *The Condor*. Robert Ricklefs, the Miller Award Committee chair, read the full citation for the banquet audience. Dr. Mayr was unable to attend the meeting.

Mewaldt-King Student Research Awards were presented to two students this year: William A. Mackin, University of North Carolina, for "The population biology and ecology of Audubon's Shearwaters at Long Cay, Exumas, Bahamas," and Lesley J. Evans Ogden, Simon Fraser University, for "Habitat selection within an agricultural matrix by shorebirds wintering on the Fraser River Delta, British Columbia."

The Grinnell Award, a new award for student research, was introduced this year. The two winners of this year's Grinnell Awards were: Kazuya Naoki, Louisiana State University, for "Community evolution of Tangara tanagers in the Neotropics," and Alexis Blackmer, University of California-Davis, for "An energetic explanation for differences in individual quality in Leach's Storm-Petrels."

Four awards were presented for outstanding student papers. Mark Hauber of Cornell University was awarded the Brazer Howell Award for his paper "A potential 'password' for species recognition in a brood parasitic bird, the Brown-headed Cowbird." Brett L. Walker (with co-author Erick Greene), University of Montana, was awarded the Frances F. Roberts Award for his paper "Vocal communication in the Brewer's Sparrow." Board of Directors Student Paper Awards were presented to Hugh Powell, University of Montana, for his presentation of "Prey availability and diet in relation to post-fire habitat use by the Black-backed Woodpecker," and Elsa Alvear (co-authors John Ogden, Sheila Mahoney, and Annabelle McKie), Florida Atlantic University, for her poster "Timing and nesting of Roseate Spoonbills in northeastern Florida Bay compared to water management practices."

Through the annual balloting by all members of the Society, T. Luke George, Martin Raphael, and Susan Skagen 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: Glenn Walsberg,

President; Terrell Rich, President-elect; Eileen M. Kirsch, Secretary; Peter Stettenheim, Assistant Secretary; Bonnie Bowen, Treasurer; James J. Dinsmore, Assistant Treasurer; Walter D. Koenig, Editor of *The Condor* until August 1st 2000, after which, David Dobkin would take over as editor; and John T. Rotenberry, editor of *Studies in Avian Biology*.

The Cooper Ornithological Society will meet in Albuquerque, New Mexico, 17-21 April, 2001, at the Sheraton Old Town. Kathy Granillo and Deborah Finch are co-chairs of the Local Committee, and David Ligon is chair of the Scientific Committee.

Several resolutions were passed by the Board of Directors. If you know of individuals or organizations that should receive official copies of one or more of these resolutions, contact Mark Sogge, chair of the Conservation-Resolutions committee, or Ellen Paul, Executive Director of the Ornithological Council, who provided resolutions for our consideration this year.

BIOCOMPLEXITY IN THE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the National Science Foundation's (NSF) National Science Board established in August 1998 a Task Force on the Environment to provide the NSF with guidance on its role with respect to environmental research, education, and scientific assessment, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force July 1999 interim report—*Environmental Science and Engineering for the 21st Century*—recommended that the NSF's environmental portfolio be expanded and strengthened, and

WHEREAS, the interim report recommended that the NSF implement most of the activities initially proposed for a National Institute for the Environment, and

WHEREAS, in October 1999, the Committee for the National Institute for the Environment (now known as the National Council for Science in the Environment) announced its support for the full and effective implementation of this report and suspended its call for the creation of a National Institute for the Environment to work in support of the NSF initiative, and

WHEREAS, the National Science Board approved the final, revised Task Force report on 2 February 2000, and

WHEREAS, the NSF has already demonstrated its commitment to increased environmental research with the development of the Biocomplexity in the Environment Initiative and is seeking a substantial increase in funding for this initiative, and

WHEREAS, the NSF has further demonstrated its commitment to environmental research and education within existing directorates,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cooper Ornithological Society commends the National Science Foundation for its commitment to environmental research, education, and assessment, and, in particular, for the creation of and support for the Biocomplexity in the Environment Initiative.

CHLORFENAPYR

WHEREAS, chlorfenapyr is an insecticide and miticide designed for use by cotton growers to control the beet armyworm, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that chlorfenapyr causes "reduced egg production, reduced hatching success, and reducing nesting survival for many bird species," and is "one of the most reproductively toxic pesticides to avian species" ever evaluated by that agency, and

WHEREAS, the timing of chlorfenapyr application coincides with critical reproductive events for most, if not all, of the more than 50 avian species reported to be associated with cotton fields, with the probable result of extensive negative impacts to reproduction, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Branch of Ecosystem Health in the agency's Environmental Contaminants Division strongly opposed the registration (permitted use) of chlorfenapyr, noting that there are less toxic alternative chemicals already registered for use on army beetle worms, and

WHEREAS, the Minister of Environment Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service opposed the registration of chlorfenapyr and expressed concern about its potential effects on birds, and

WHEREAS, many conservation and environmental organizations, led by The American Bird Conservancy's Pesticides and Birds Campaign, opposed the registration of chlorfenapyr, and

WHEREAS, this effective effort by the American Bird Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, Defenders of Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minister of Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, and others led the EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxics to recommend denial of registration to chlorfenapyr,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cooper Ornithological Society commends the Environmental Protection Agency for its decision to deny registration to chlorfenapyr, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cooper Ornithological Society commends the American Bird Conservancy for its excellence in leadership, and the World Wildlife Fund, Defenders of Wildlife, and other conservation agencies and organizations for their efforts in communicating to the EPA the risks of chlorfenapyr to birds.

CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY FOR THE BALD EAGLE IN ARIZONA

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed that the Bald Eagle be removed from the Federal list of threatened and endangered species throughout the lower 48 states, and

WHEREAS, the Bald Eagle in the Southwest recovery region, and specifically Arizona, still requires active protection and management due to water-related projects, the impacts of development and recreation, loss of riparian habitat, and other human-related aspects of growth in central Arizona, and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has drafted a Conservation Assessment and Strategy to be signed with other federal, tribal, and county governments to maintain management for Arizona Bald Eagles, and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Assessment and Strategy recommends continuance of annual efforts such as the Arizona Bald Eagle nestwatch program, nest searches, winter count, and banding and demography studies, and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Assessment and Strategy Projects describes the need to maintain seasonal nest-area closures and develop nest-area buffer zones to reduce the effects of projects, and to continue the collection and measurement of eggshells, and organochlorine and heavy metal analysis of addled eggs, and

WHEREAS, funding of these efforts by various agencies is important to the continued success, management, and maintenance of nesting Bald Eagles in Arizona,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, if the Bald Eagle in the Southwest is removed from the Endangered Species List, the Cooper Society recommends completion and adoption of the Conservation Assessment and Strategy for the Bald Eagle in Arizona, and encourages funding and implementation of the programs and efforts outlined in the document.

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, at no time in the history of natural resource management has bird conservation been more dynamic or diverse than at present—the concepts of partnerships, international cooperation, resource monitoring, and landscape level conservation are being realized, and

WHEREAS, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) has been formed to coordinate the "vision" of integrated, international bird conservation, originating with the preparation of the 1998 Update of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the Partners in Flight planning effort, as well as the initiation of the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan and the North American Colonial Waterbird Conservation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the intent of the NABCI—crafted by representatives from federal, state and provincial agencies and nongovernmental organizations from Canada, the United States, and Mexico—was to create a single strategic framework that would foster coordination among the initiatives, not to replace existing bird conservation initiatives, and

WHEREAS, the charge of NABCI is to be "a regionally based, biologically driven, landscape-oriented partnership delivering the full spectrum of bird conservation across the entirety of the North American continent," and

WHEREAS, the NABCI recognizes that effective conservation requires linking population responses to habitats at multiple spatial scales; from local scale habitat

management to continental scale national and international program planning and evaluation,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cooper Ornithological Society supports the basic concepts of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative and encourages its general vision of integrated, international bird conservation.

COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, the Cooper Ornithological Society held its 70th Annual Meeting at the Riverside Convention Center in Riverside, California, sponsored by the USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center and Western Ecological Research Center, and the University of California Riverside Natural Reserve System, and the University of California Cooperative Extension Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Region 6), University of California Riverside College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, and the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society provided financial support to provide for increased student involvement at the conference; and Lynx Edicions, Academic Press, Oxford University Press, University of Alaska Press, and Thayer Birding Software contributed items for sale during the conference's silent auction, and

WHEREAS, effectively executed and scientifically

stimulating annual meetings provide important opportunities for members to interact professionally and socially, encouraging the exchange of information and ideas vital to the vigor and persistence of the society, and

RECOGNIZING that the Committee on Local Arrangements, assisted by an energetic and dedicated group of volunteers under the talented direction of John Rotenberry and Tom Scott, provided us with a diverse and enjoyable assemblage of exhibits, special events, field trips, and evening social events, and

RECOGNIZING that the Committee on the Scientific Program, also under capable direction of Tom Scott and John Rotenberry, arranged outstanding and stimulating 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, and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cooper Ornithological Society thanks the numerous sponsors and contributors for their generosity and participation in the conference.



Outgoing *Condor* Editorial staff: Rickey Wolfe, David Gubernick and Walter Koenig, and Donna Condon of Federal Express.

PASSING THE TORCH

Since 1995, *The Condor* has been edited and produced at Hastings Natural History Reservation in upper Carmel Valley, California from the Linsdale Laboratory (a.k.a. "Condor World Headquarters"). Our staff has been small but dedicated. Pictured above, starting clockwise from lower left, is Warwick (Rickey) Wolfe, our editorial assistant, who has performed most of the everyday secretarial duties associated with the journal since 1996. Rickey was born in Oakland, has a degree in Anthropology from UC Berkeley, and spends her spare time travelling around the world when she's not relaxing at her home a few miles down the road from Hastings. Behind Rickey is David J. Gubernick, who took over as Managing Editor in 1996 after a short but important stint by Christina Slager, who left to work at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. David is a Psychobiologist who has studied male parental care and monogamy in the California mouse (*Peromyscus californicus*) both in the lab, and in the field at Hastings. With extensive academic and publishing experience himself, David quickly became the only truly indispensable member of the editorial office, putting issues together, maintaining a liaison with Allen Press, copy-editing papers, and generally managing operations. All Editors should be so fortunate! After this issue, David moves on from Hastings to make his way in his new career as a professional photographer on the Monterey Peninsula; I wish him well and thank him profusely for all his help. To the right of David is yours truly, Editor Walt Koenig, who has lived at Hastings more or less

continuously since 1974 and is otherwise employed as a Research Zoologist with the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UC Berkeley (which, non-coincidentally, also owns and manages Hastings Reservation). I picked all 3,344 reviewers and wrote all editorial decisions for the 1,376 papers that were submitted to *The Condor* between 1 August 1995 and 31 July 2000. My congratulations to all those whose papers we were able to publish and my regrets to all those who were less fortunate. Finally, as a gesture of thanks to the various delivery persons who kept manuscripts moving both to and from our rural office, we present Donna Condon of FedEx. Donna cheerfully delivered hundreds of manuscripts directly to the steps of Condor World Headquarters, and was indispensable getting issues of the journal to and from Allen Press. Thanks, Donna!

Editing a journal as large and prestigious as *The Condor* involves a lot of time and effort, and I admit to being somewhat relieved to be able to move on. But, the fact is, it's been a truly rewarding experience and, more cogently, has taken a lot less time than you probably think (thanks to my highly capable staff). I highly recommend it to all of you when and if you're fortunate enough to be asked to volunteer for such a position.

And so, with the conclusion of this issue, I pass into what I trust will be a long and productive term as ex-Editor. Best of luck to our new Editor David Dobkin and the entire Bend, Oregon staff; may you have as rewarding and fun a time producing *The Condor* as did we.—WALT KOENIG.