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Received 1 Sep. 1992; accepted 10 Feb. 1993.

1994 JOINT ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS AND THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

The Association of Field Ornithologists and the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs will hold joint annual meetings on 14–16 Oct. 1994 at the Frost Valley Conference Center in the southern Catskills. A symposium on owls is planned. Julio de la Torre will give the keynote address, live owls will be displayed by the Hudson Valley Raptor Center and there will be nocturnal owling excursions. Eagles, ravens, loons and waterfowl are likely on local field trips. Workshops, demonstrations and poster papers are planned. Accommodations will be available for every pocketbook. The paper session will be chaired by Dr. Valerie Freer, Science Department, Sullivan County Community College, Loch Sheldrake, New York 12759 USA. Join the "Fall alternative" in ornithological meetings at the height of foliage season in a beautiful lakeside setting. Circulars will be mailed in early spring to AFO and Federation members.

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THE ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS is looking for volunteers to help with the management and development of its mist net business. Profits from this business support needs of the Association, especially the E. Alexander Bergstrom Fund. Although the business is located in Massachusetts, the help needed can be done remotely. Please contact Brian Harrington, Manomet Observatory Conservation Sciences, P.O. Box 1770, Manomet, Massachusetts 02345 USA. Business hours phone: (508)224-6521. Fax: 224-9220.

Plain Titmouse, *Parus inornatus*
Bridled Titmouse, *Parus wollweberi*
Mexican Chickadee, *Parus sclateri*
Mountain Chickadee, *Parus gambeli*
White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*
House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*
Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*
Bewick's Wren, *Thryomanes bewickii*
Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis*
Western Bluebird, *Sialia mexicana*
Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia curricoides*
Prothonotary Warbler, *Protonotaria citrea*
Lucy's Warbler, *Vermivora luciae*

Scientific names of other species discussed in the text

Bufflehead, *Bucephala albeola*
Tengmalm's Owl, *Aegolius funereus*
Marsh Tit, *Parus palustris*
Blue Tit, *Parus caeruleus*
Great Tit, *Parus major*
European Nuthatch, *Sitta europaea*
Common Treecreeper, *Certhia familiaris*
Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula hypolueca*
European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*

GRADUATE AND POST-GRADUATE RESEARCH GRANTS

The Biological Research Station of the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve offers grants of up to $2500 (US) to support biological research that utilizes the resources of the Preserve. Among the research areas supported are basic and applied ecology, animal behavior, systematics, evolution and conservation. The 800-ha Preserve is located on the Helderberg Plateau, 50 km southwest of Albany, New York. Habitats include northeast hardwood-hemlock forests, conifer plantations, old fields, permanent and intermittent streams, 4- and 40-ha lakes and several waterfalls. Facilities include a wet and dry lab, library and houses/cabins for researchers. Deadline is 1 Feb. 1994. Application material may be obtained from Dr. Richard L. Wyman, Executive Director, E. N. Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station, P.O. Box 189, Rensselaerville, New York 12147 USA.

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THIRTEENTH ANNUAL JOHN SCHARFF MIGRATORY BIRD FESTIVAL

The 13th annual John Scharff Migratory Bird Festival will be held in Burns, Oregon on 8–10 April 1994. This premiere festival coincides with the peak spring migration through the Harney Basin and Pacific Flyway. Three days of guided tours, workshops, speakers and special presentations highlight this spectacular wildlife festival. Wildlife artists from around the Northwest exhibit throughout the weekend, and Saturday evening activities include a dinner, auction and special keynote speaker. For more information, please contact the Harney County Chamber of Commerce at 18 West D Street, Burns, Oregon 97721 USA. (503)573-2636.

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Received 7 Aug. 1992; accepted 26 Mar. 1993.

SAFRING NEWS AVAILABLE ON SUBSCRIPTION

Safring News, the biannual journal of the South African Bird Ringing Unit (SAFRING), has been in publication since 1972. The journal publishes articles reporting the results of ringing activities in southern Africa, aging and sexing guides to southern African birds, and book reviews. Many of these papers relate to migratory birds, and therefore their immediate interest transcends a purely southern African relevance. Papers in Safring News are included in Wildlife Review and similar services. Previously, Safring News has had a limited circulation, with copies being sent only to SAFRING ringers and to ringing offices. In response to requests from researchers and institutions in many parts of the world, it has been decided to make Safring News available on subscription. The subscription rate for volume 23, 1994 has been set at $30 (US) for individuals and $60 for institutions. Orders for subscriptions should be sent to SAFRING, Avian Demography Unit, Department of Statistical Sciences, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa.

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CONCEPTUAL LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (NIE)

Legislation was introduced on 6 Aug. 1993 by George Brown (D-CA) and Jim Saxton (R-NJ), along with a bipartisan group of 40 original (now 52) co-sponsors, for the creation of a National Institute for the Environment (NIE) as an independent establishment with a mission to improve the scientific basis for making decisions on environmental issues. The purpose is to advance the concept of the NIE, but the bill does not contain the structural elements nor authorization levels necessary to establish the NIE. These will be added following hearings, which are expected to occur in the fall.

The bill would set the duties of the Institute to: (1) increase scientific understanding of environmental issues by supporting credible, problem-focused research on environmental resources, environmental systems and environmental sustainability; (2) assist decision making by providing ongoing comprehensive assessments of current environmental knowledge about the environment; (3) to serve as the nation's foremost provider and facilitator of current and easy-to-use scientific information about the environment; (4) strengthen capacity to address environmental issues by sponsoring higher education and training; (5) to foster the interchange of scientific information about the environment among scientists, decision makers, and the public in the United States and foreign countries; (6) to identify and seek to address emerging environmental issues, including all scientific, technological, and societal aspects.

The NIE would carry out its duties by providing contracts, cooperative agreements, and grants to scientists, engineers, and other researchers regardless of whether they are from government or private sector institutions. It would not have its own laboratories, nor would it have duties for regulation or management of the environment.

to be a useful source of information on factors affecting breeding success of several granivorous species and on the breeding biology of each species.—Kathleen Groschupf.

34. Wanderer on my native shore. G. Reiger. 1992. Lyons and Burford Publishers, New York. 286 pp. $19.95, softcover.—The title gives an accurate portrayal of the book's contents. Reiger, a former editor of *Field & Stream, Audubon,* and *National Wildlife,* takes the reader on an excursion down the Atlantic coast from Maine to Key West. The tales begin at selected geographic localities, such as "down east" in Maine, the New York Bight, the Chesapeake, and so on. At each stop (or chapter) Reiger shares stories that come to mind, wandering among topics of recent and not so recent history such as boyhood summer camp, mosquitoes, DDT, osprey population declines, fishing skills of man and bird, once abundant fish species, land preservation, and early natural history writings of Thoreau, Beston, and Richards. The book's pace is leisurely, offering the reader an unstructured view of biology and human history of the eastern seaboard. Reiger's observations and memories of events that shaped what we see today of the coastal Atlantic are refreshing and personal, although a nostalgic reminder of the former wealth of this potentially renewable resource.—Kristin E. Brugger.

AFO MIST NETS

The **Association of Field Ornithologists** sells mist nets for approved purposes as a service to members and the scientific community, and to support AFO's research and publications programs.

Make inquiries or orders to **MIST NETS, Manomet Observatory for Conservation Sciences, Box 1770, Manomet, Massachusetts 02345 USA.** Manomet observatory acts as agent for AFO in the sale of mist nets. **Telephone: (508)224-6521** (answering machine during non-business hours). **Fax: (508)224-9220** (24 h a day).

Net description.—All nets are made of black nylon and are tethered to prevent bunching in a breeze. In the specifications below, height is as designated by our manufacturer (users should allow slack in order to form shelf pockets). Mesh size figures are for stretched netting, i.e., the longest possible distance. Denier indicates the weight of thread (lower is lighter and less visible to birds). All yarn is two-ply, except ETX (four-ply). Prices are in U.S. dollars; AFO members receive an extra 10% off prepaid orders.

We try to keep all nets in stock for immediate shipment, but delays sometimes occur for a variety of reasons (manufacturing delays, customs delays, strikes, etc.). We urge you to order early if you know your needs in advance.

Choice of mist net types.—Net choice is partly a matter of personal preference, but here are some general guidelines. In general, use 12-m types if you have the space, and 6-m nets only where space is limited. The best mesh size depends on the species to be captured. No one size is efficient for all sizes of birds; outside the proper range of sizes, the net may be inefficient, become tangled, or be damaged by birds. (1) **24 mm** is the specialty size for kinglets and the smallest wood warblers. (2) **30 mm** is recommended for wood warblers in general and for birds taking

USFWS band size 1 or smaller (use 36 mm for birds taking 1B or larger; see Bird-Banding 37:280–286). (3) **36 mm** is the general purpose size for smaller birds. (4) **61 mm** is for doves, grackles, medium-sized shorebirds and the largest thrushes. (5) **121 mm** is for grouse, large shorebirds, and small-to-medium sized ducks and hawks.

Prices and shipping.—**Our prices include shipping costs** by surface parcel post within the U.S. If desired, we can ship by other methods at the actual cost (which we will invoice if you have prepaid the order). We make every effort to deliver by the desired date, but requests should consider the limitations of the postal service. Note that we do not ship via freight forwarders or consolidators.

Please note that our prices may change when our costs change. If you need a firm price quote, it would be best to check by contacting us shortly before plaing your order. Massachusetts customers should add sales tax (currently 5%) unless exempt under law.

For shipments outside the U.S., the purchaser must (1) arrange any import license or other formalities, (2) pay customs duties or other charges levied by his or her country and (3) send full payment for the nets with the order. Postage costs will be billed later in a separate invoice. If you are a **new customer** from outside the U.S. or Canada, we also require a letter describing how the nets will be used. We also require a copy of any permits required by your country for capturing wild birds. If no permits are required, then please provide us with the names, addresses and telephone/fax numbers of three professional wildlife experts who are familiar with your work. If possible, please include one name of an ornithologist or person known by international conservation organizations.

Making your order.—Please make checks or U.S. money orders PAYABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS. If invoices must be on a special form, please supply the proper forms with the order. U.S. and Canada: **please show the applicable permit number on every order.**

Institutional purchasing agents should name the individual(s) responsible for use of the nets and show the permit number. AFO sells nets only for scientific purposes, and only to individuals and institutions that appear qualified to use them. We will decline sales where qualifications appear inadequate or unproven. Nets will not be sold for purposes such as control of the numbers of birds, for commercial collection, or for resale.

AFO Mist Net Specifications

Type	Length (m)	Height (m)	No. shelves	Mesh (mm)	Denier	Prepaid price	Invoice price
ATX	12	2.6	4	36	70	43	45
CTX	12	2.6	4	61	110	42	44
DTX	6	2.6	4	36	70	23	25
ETX	12	2.6	2	121	210	37	39
FTX	12	2.6	4	24	70	56	58
GTX	6	2.4	4	24	70	31	33
HTX	12	2.6	4	30	70	47	49
JTX	6	2.6	4	30	70	27	29
LTX	20	2.6	5	36	70	103	105