

AFO Afield



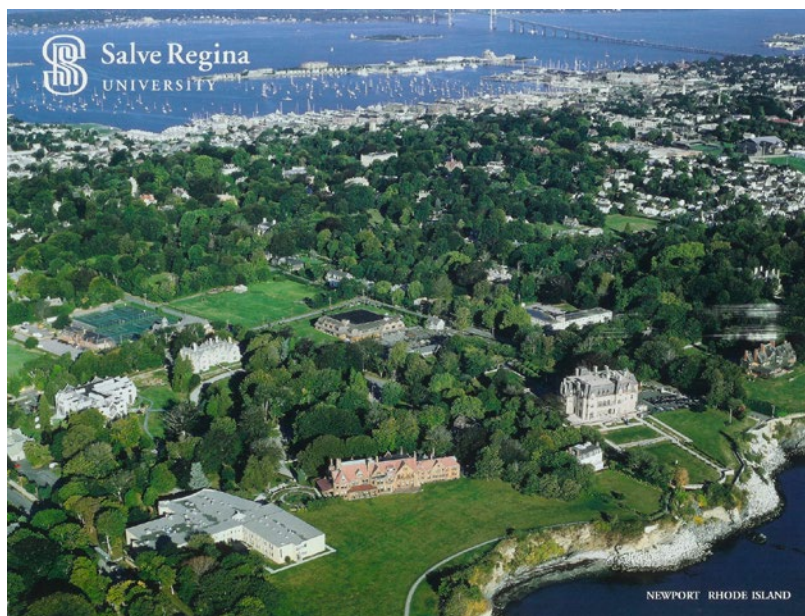
Vol. 19, No. 1 May 2014

AFO Returns to New England for 92nd Annual Meeting

May 29–June 1, 2014 at Salve Regina University in Newport, RI

Historic Newport, Rhode Island will be the site of this year's joint meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists and the Wilson Ornithological Society. The conference will run from Thursday, May 29 to Sunday, June 1 at Salve Regina University. Local host Jameson Chace and his team have prepared an agenda filled with opportunities for participants to share research findings, connect with fellow ornithologists, and explore coastal, pelagic, and inland birding hotspots. The scientific program will feature several paper sessions across two days, as well as symposia on avian frugivory and the status and ecology of New England's Osprey population.

Dr. Donald Kroodsma, a University of Massachusetts emeritus professor and former AFO Secretary, will share insights into avian communication in his May 30 plenary address, titled "Birdsong: The Hour before Dawn". Dr. Kroodsma will be honored at the meeting as the 2014 recipient of the Wilson Ornithological Society's premier ornithological award, the Margaret Morse Nice Medal. This prize is named for the Wilson Society's first female president, who published landmark life history studies and reviews of



Salve Regina campus

The Norman Bird Sanctuary, located just 15 minutes from the Salve Regina campus, will be one of many field trip destinations.



over 1,000 international ornithological publications in *Bird-Banding* (now the *Journal of Field Ornithology*) between 1931 and 1942.

The conference's location, near the Massachusetts birthplace of the Association of Field Ornithology, is expected to attract many key figures from AFO's past. A special luncheon will provide an opportunity for past and current members to reflect on AFO's history and draw out lessons for the organization's future. Former officers and councilors are especially encouraged to attend.

For more information and to register for the meeting, visit **wos.salvereginablogs.com**.

An AFO Luncheon to Remember

Friday, May 30 from 12 pm to 1:45 pm

Ochre Court, Salve Regina University

Please bring your AFO memories and stories to share at this buffet gathering.

Message from the President

I'm pleased to report on a couple of new developments since our last newsletter. Our Finance Committee has been hard at work researching and rethinking how to best handle our investments and endowments. AFO funds are now under new, more active management. At our upcoming meeting in May the Council will discuss new investment and endowment policies, and the membership will vote on by-laws changes that will create a set of Investment Trustees. The trustees will include financial professionals with an interest in ornithology along with ornithologists with an interest in, and experience with, investing. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

I'm also happy to announce that the AFO Council unanimously voted to increase the stipend for the editor of our *Journal of Field Ornithology*, bringing us more in line with comparable journals. We also wanted to recognize the excellent work that editor Gary Ritchison has done over the last eight years, work that has directly resulted in the increased stature of our journal.

We are looking for a member or set of members who would be interested in hosting the 2015 annual meeting, or another meeting in the near future (e.g., 2017 or 2018). We are always looking for interesting new places to meet that would have attractions for ornithologists and

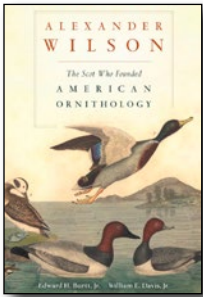
birders. If you have always wanted to host a meeting to complete your "ornithological career checklist" but would prefer it to be a manageable and intimate meeting, then an AFO annual meeting would be ideal. Please contact me or Reed Bowman for details.

As our 2014 AFO Annual Meeting approaches, I consider the five councilors in the Class of 2014 now finishing their terms. Two first-term councilors—Alex Jahn and Valentina Ferretti—have agreed to stay on for another three years. They have both been assets to AFO and I am certain that they will continue to serve us well. Dan Lambert, Diane Neudorf, and John Cavitt have each served two three-year terms, providing exceptional service to the AFO and we thank them for their efforts. I, too, will be stepping down as President at the upcoming annual meeting and am pleased to be passing the reins on to a very capable Vice President, Reed Bowman. As Past President, I will continue to remain active in AFO business. We have some exciting developments in progress that I am hoping to help see through. My term has passed swiftly and I have had the pleasure of working with many wonderful people who will remain colleagues. I hope that my efforts will have a lasting effect on AFO.

Kathryn Purcell, AFO President

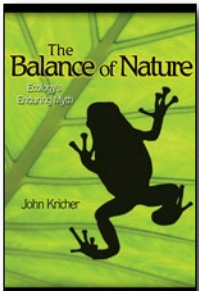
A Book List for the 2014 Annual Meeting

Alexander Wilson: The Scot Who Founded American Ornithology (2013)



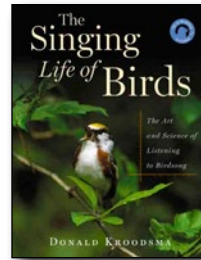
Edward H. Burtt, Jr. and William E. Davis, Jr. This volume, written by two AFO past presidents, illuminates Wilson's far-reaching artistic and scientific achievements. According to *The New York Review of Books*, Burtt and Davis "establish Wilson's stature as a bird illustrator" and "successfully make clear Wilson's importance in establishing American ornithology on two firm pillars: international Linnaean binomial nomenclature and close observation of living birds as well as specimens."

The Balance of Nature: Ecology's Enduring Myth (2009)



John C. Kricher With a style described as "deft" and "highly readable", John Kricher describes how the concept of balance has biased the study of our complex, dynamic, and evolving natural world. A more nuanced understanding, he asserts, prepares us to better understand and protect ecosystems. Kricher, who served as AFO president from 1984–1987, is also the author of several Peterson Guides including *Peterson First Guide to Seashores* (1998) and *A Field Guide to Eastern Forests* (1998).

The Singing Life of Birds (2006)



Donald Kroodsma

In this comprehensive and encouraging guide to the "art and science of listening to birdsong", former AFO Secretary Kroodsma reveals that "anyone can do this kind of stuff. And anyone should." This book won the 2006 John Burroughs Medal Award, which honors the best in nature writing, as well as the American Birding Association's Robert Ridgway Distinguished Service Award for excellence in publications pertaining to field ornithology.

Research is a Passion with Me (1979)



Margaret Morse Nice

Bird Watcher's Digest described this book as "an enthralling autobiography of one of the great individuals in her field and of her time." Nice's extraordinary scientific career spanned decades, continents, and disciplines. One measure of her extraordinary productivity was her review of nearly 200 ornithological publications in just one volume of *Bird-Banding* (1942), for which she served as Literature Review Editor for a decade. *Bird-Banding* is now the *Journal of Field Ornithology*.

Avian Research Supplies: For Ornithologists and For the Birds

By Brian Harrington

Our Avian Research Supplies (ARS) business exists to ensure that bird-banders and other ornithology researchers have uncomplicated access to the tools that they need for doing their work. Secondly, we also earn some dollars from the business that are used for purposes of our Association, with strong attention to supporting ornithology through grants from the E. Alexander Bergstrom Fund. Mr. Bergstrom created what is now the Avian Research Supplies business, with an eye to supplying ornithologists with “hard-to-obtain” stuff, such as the mist nets that many of us now depend upon for our banding and field studies.

During 2013, the ARS business had its least profitable year since I adopted its management from Mr. Bergstrom in the early 1970s. Indeed (and sadly), it may have been the first year of financial loss for the business since its inception in the 1950s. Frankly, we do not know if this was a consequence of national decline of wildlife, conservation and science funding, or is attributable to an able, and profit-oriented, competitor. So we remind our readership, that our Avian Research Supplies business is (essentially) managed for support of not-for-profit outcomes. If you like that, BUY FROM US! See www.afonet.org for more information.

By the way, our ARS business also takes care to ensure that OUR products do not end up in the hands of unethical users, such as participants in the wild-bird trade.

ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS AVIAN RESEARCH SUPPLIES

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E. Alexander Bergstrom Memorial Research Awards Bergstrom Grants Fund Five Projects from Alaska to the Andes

E. Alexander Bergstrom (1919–1973) was vice president of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association (now the AFO) and the Editor of *Bird-Banding* (now the *Journal of Field Ornithology*) for twenty-one years. The Bergstrom Awards honor his memory and dedication to bird research. Their purpose is to promote field studies of birds by helping to support a specific research or analysis project. In judging among proposals of equal quality, special consideration is given to those that: 1) focus on avian life history; 2) use data collected all or in part by non-professionals; and/or 3) employ banding or other marking techniques. Approximately five awards (maximum \$1,000 US each) are made to applicants working in the US or Canada annually. Approximately three awards (maximum \$1,500 US each) are made to applicants based in Latin America. For more information, visit www.afonet.org/grants/Bergstrom/Bergstrom.html.

2014 North American Recipients

Congratulations to the recipients of this year's North American Bergstrom Awards.

Santiago David (University of British Columbia): Population and community-level niche conservatism in antbirds (*Thamnophilidae*) along a tropical elevational gradient

Joseph Eisaguirre (Colorado College): Spatial variation of Golden Eagle diet, nest site productivity, and nest area landscape characteristics on the Seward Peninsula, Alaska

Katherine Freeman (Villanova University): Impacts of post-fledgling survival on reproductive success in an endangered and cooperatively breeding passerine

Vitek Jirinec (College of William and Mary): Wood Thrush habitat use: implications for local distribution

Nicholas Moy (Virginia Commonwealth University): Lateral export of algal bloom toxin from stream systems: Effects of microcystin on an insectivorous riparian songbird

Paul Rodewald chairs the Bergstrom Award committee. The reviewers for the North American research proposals were: Ethan Clotfelter, Julie Jedlicka, Dan Lambert, Eugene Morton, Lee Robinson, Scott Stoleson, and Jason Townsend.

Latin American Application Guidelines

The deadline for the Latin American awards is 15 July, 2014. To be eligible for a Bergstrom Award, applicants and/or their primary research supervisors must be members of the AFO prior to the application deadline.

Bergstrom Grant Recipient is Pioneering Golden Swallow Science and Conservation in the Dominican Republic

In 2013, Cornell graduate student Justin Proctor received a Bergstrom Research Award to support his investigation of life history traits and conservation strategies for the Golden Swallow (*Tachycineta euchrysea sclateri*). This threatened passerine is endemic to the island of Hispaniola. Proctor and his international team of researchers are focused on studying the reproductive life history traits of the species, including breeding phenology, nestling growth, fledging success, and yearly trends in survival at ten



Justin Proctor



Tim Salzman

study sites within the Dominican Republic's Parque Valle Nuevo. Among their initial discoveries: high site-fidelity among recaptured females, low nest success in tree-mounted nest-boxes due to depredation by invasive mammals, and ready adaptation to new, pole-mounted nest-boxes with predator guards. During his time in the field, Proctor also connected with communities to cultivate local interest and involvement in wildlife conservation. To learn more about this project, visit www.thegoldenswallow.org.

Journal of Field Ornithology

James Dwyer Receives 2013 Best Student Publication Award

Dr. James F. Dwyer is the winner of the Best Student Publication Award for 2013. His paper, co-authored by Dr. James Fraser and Dr. Joan Morrison, is titled "Range sizes and habitat use of non-breeding Crested Caracaras in Florida" (*JFO* 84:223–233). The article included findings from Dwyer's PhD research at Virginia Tech, conducted under the supervision of Dr. Fraser. The 58 radio-tagged non-breeders in their study ranged widely, made extensive use of pasture with cattle, and also used adjacent citrus groves, possibly as refugia from socially dominant conspecifics. Dr. Dwyer has been invited to present his research at AFO's 2015 annual meeting.

Now a research scientist at EDM International, Dr. Dwyer works to develop and publish original research to facilitate environmentally responsible operation of electric utilities. His main focus is on minimizing avian electrocutions and collisions on overhead power structures. He also chairs the Raptor Research Foundation's Scientific Committee.

This year's Best Student Publication Committee included: Diane Neudorf (chair), Ethan Clotfelter, Gary Ritchison, Colleen Barber, Dan Cristol, and Dale Gawlik.



James Dwyer banding a Great Horned Owl nestling.

John Farrell

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