

**ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS'
E. ALEXANDER BERGSTROM MEMORIAL RESEARCH AWARD**

E. Alexander Bergstrom (1919-1973) was Vice-President of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association (now the Association of Field Ornithologists) and the Editor of *Bird-Banding* (now the *Journal of Field Ornithology*) for 21 years. These awards honor his memory and dedication to bird research. The purpose of the award 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 will be 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. Research in both the U.S./Canada and Latin America is supported.

If possible, awardees, especially those from the U.S. and Canada, are expected to present the results of their research at an annual meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists. All awardees are also encouraged to consider publishing some of their findings in the *Journal of Field Ornithology*.

Eligibility: The applicant and/or their primary research supervisor *must* be a member of the Association of Field Ornithologists prior to the application deadline. To become a member, please visit <http://www.osnabirds.org/>.

U.S./Canada awards are aimed at people beginning their research or those with limited or no access to major funding. They are restricted to non-professionals, undergraduates, and Masters degree candidates working in the United States or Canada. Ph.D. students studying at U.S. and Canadian institutions, regardless of their nationality or geographic region of investigation, are **NOT** eligible to receive a Bergstrom Research Award.

Latin American awards are restricted to individuals based AT Latin American institutions (individuals from Latin American that are studying or working at a U.S. or Canadian institution are eligible for U.S./Canada awards only). Non-professionals, undergraduates, Masters and Ph.D. candidates are all eligible for the Latin American competition.

Frequency and value: Approximately five awards (maximum \$1000 US each) are made to applicants working in the U.S. or Canada annually. Approximately three awards (maximum \$1500 US each) are made to applicants based in Latin America. Individuals may wish to consider using some of their award to purchase mist nets and other supplies used in ornithological research from the AFO. A list of supplies available can be found at: <http://catalog.manomet.org/catalog/cart.cgi>.

Language of, deadlines for, and submission of applications: U.S./Canada applications should be submitted in English. Latin American applications may be submitted in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. U.S./Canada applications are due **15 January**. Latin American applications are due **15 July**. Applicants should put "Bergstrom Award Application for [applicant's initials and last name here]" in the subject line. Applicants must also arrange to have one letter of reference in Microsoft Word, PDF or TEXT (.txt) file format e-mailed directly from the referee to the Awards Committee Chair. Referees should put "Bergstrom Letter of Reference for [applicant's initials and last name here]" in the subject line. **Applications and the letter of reference should be sent to Paul Rodewald, Chair of the Bergstrom Awards Committee at: pgr35@cornell.edu**

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Format and content of applications: Applications must be submitted as a single, electronic attachment to an e-mail in Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF, or TEXT (.txt) file format. Applications can be submitted in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. All margins must be ≥ 2 cm wide, and the font size must be ≥ 11 pt). The application must contain the following in the order specified, each starting on a separate page:

- 1) a cover sheet, the template for which appears in the box below (please replicate the contents of this box in the first page of your application and provide the requested information);

Template for Application Page 1

APPLICATION FOR BERGSTROM MEMORIAL RESEARCH AWARD

Name:

Member of the Association of Field Ornithologists? (write “yes” or “no”)

Mailing address:

Telephone: **E-mail address:**

Title of study:

Amount of funding requested from the Association of Field Ornithologists:

Starting date and anticipated duration of study:

Name of primary research supervisor (if any):

Is supervisor a member of the Association of Field Ornithologists? (write “yes” or “no”)

Name of person supplying reference letter:

Their telephone: **Their E-mail address:**

- 2) a curriculum vita *no longer than two pages in length* summarizing academic degrees, relevant employment history, current position, and any publications;
- 3) a research proposal, not exceeding three single-spaced pages, which describes the purpose of the study and its significance, contains a brief description of the methods to be used, and includes any critical, supporting citations;
- 4) a budget itemizing total costs for the proposed project and indicating the amount you are requesting in the form of a Bergstrom award (not to exceed \$1000 for Domestic applicants or \$1,500 for Latin American applicants).

Review of applications: Applications are reviewed and scored by professional ornithologists from throughout North, Central and South America. Reviewers are instructed to consider the following in scoring proposals:

- 1) Degree to which proposed research meets the criteria for a Bergstrom Award

Bergstrom Awards are intended to support *field* research on birds. As such, all else being equal, studies that involve extensive field work to increase knowledge and understanding of avian life

histories, ecology, behavior, and conservation should be rated higher than proposals in which the field work component is limited to collecting blood or tissue samples for analysis in the laboratory.

2) Significance of the proposed research

Are the questions being asked relevant and important? Are the results likely to advance our knowledge of avian biology and/or have important applications to avian conservation and management? Will the results be publishable?

3) Quality of the proposed research

Is the research well-designed, i.e., are the methods appropriate to answering the questions being asked? Are sample sizes adequate? Has the applicant considered how their data will be analyzed and do proposed analyses seem appropriate?

4) Quality of the proposal itself

Does the proposal contain all required/critical elements? Is the proposal well-written and easy to comprehend? Is the proposal largely free of grammatical errors and does it appear to have been carefully proof-read? Attention to quality and detail when preparing the proposal suggests that there will be attention to quality and detail when completing the research (both from the applicant and supervisors).

Please direct any questions you may have about the awards or application process to **Paul Rodewald: pgr35@cornell.edu or 607-254-6276.**