



## Enduring Traditions Foster New Opportunities at the 91st Annual Meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists

Reed Bowman

What happens when members of a 91 year-old scientific organization gather at a 72 year-old field station located amid the densest population of senior citizens in the United States?

You might be surprised. If it's today's Association of Field Ornithologists meeting at Archbold Biological Station's state-of-the-art facilities, innovation happens. If it's amateurs and professionals exploring Florida's sandy scrub and lush wetlands, discovery happens. And if it's bright students interacting closely with some of the hemisphere's most venerable ornithologists, opportunity happens.

The 2013 Annual Meeting, held from March 27 to 31 in Venus, Florida, attracted nearly 90 participants from across the US Southeast and beyond. For a few sunny days, ornithologists from Maine to Hawaii and from Washington to Brazil formed a vibrant community within Archbold's new LEED-certified lodge and learning center. Most found time to venture into the surrounding scrub to view Florida Scrub-Jays, which have been the subjects of continuous research at Archbold since 1969.

The hardworking field crew and gregarious jays helped set the tone for the meeting, which will be remembered for rigorous *and* sociable science. But credit for striking this delicate balance goes to AFO Vice President and Local Chair **Reed Bowman**, Scientific Chair **Alex Jahn**, and AFO President **Kathryn Purcell**, plus dozens of others who supported them.

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## What On Earth is Ornithology Exchange?

By Ellen Paul, Co-administrator, Ornithology Exchange

This new kid on the block has actually been around since April 2011, with its formal launch in September of that year. This website serves as a resource hub for the ornithological community by supplementing the websites of its member societies, giving them a more immediate and constant way to share information with not only their own members, but the entire community. It also provides a way for individual ornithologists to share information, ask questions, provide resources, and discuss everything ornithological.

### What will you find on Ornithology Exchange (OE)?

- ◆ forums on a wide range of topics including permits, research methods and ethics, and teaching, plus advice on writing papers, presenting talks, preparing posters, research funding opportunities, and all aspects of ornithology
- ◆ a jobs board
- ◆ grants and awards

- ◆ a list of meetings and detailed information about ornithological conferences
- ◆ all the current news and announcements from your ornithological societies
- ◆ user-generated blogs, photo galleries, and calendars

In addition, Ornithology Exchange (OE) features articles highlighting trends in ornithology, current research programs, and much more. Find the perfect job, stay up to date with news from your ornithological societies, participate in a journal club, write a book review, and find a rideshare or roommate for an upcoming meeting.

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# Message from the President

I am happy to report that AFO is thriving. We are fresh on the heels of an exciting and scientifically stimulating meeting at Archbold Biological Station in central Florida, where we were able to experience the distinctive Florida scrub habitat and see Florida Scrub-Jays up close and personal. We thank Reed Bowman and a long list of others who helped put on a memorable meeting.

While membership continues to decline in most professional societies, AFO membership appears to be holding steady, and was actually up by about 5% in 2012. We don't have numbers for 2013 yet but it looks like we are on track to maintain good numbers. We appreciate your renewals!

Financially, we are also doing well. At our last Council meeting we identified a Finance Committee, whose first task will be to re-evaluate how AFO's endowment is invested. Our intent is to establish a set of investment trustees, which will include finance professionals who have a strong interest in ornithology and bird conservation. If you are such an individual, or know of such individuals, we would welcome nominations for trustees.

We are continuing to make progress on our top to bottom overhaul of the AFO Banding Supplies Business ([www.afonet.org/banding](http://www.afonet.org/banding)). We have recently contracted with Jason Townsend to make some improvements in inventory and the website, and will soon begin to focus on improved marketing of the business. We have plans to expand the business beyond the needs of banders to those of all ornithological researchers.

Following the North American Ornithological Conference in Vancouver last August, the American Ornithologists'

Union (AOU) and Cooper Ornithological Society (COS) formed three task forces to consider various aspects of how their societies are run and how they could work together. These included the Publications, Efficiencies, and Meetings Task Forces. AFO provided observers to each of these groups. They subsequently added a Website Task Force as an offshoot of the Efficiency Task Force and AFO has provided an observer to that group as well. The Website Task Force will be implementing the website plan from the Society For Ornithology document. AOU and COS are happy to have other societies join them in any part of the tasks they are implementing. This does not mean that we would be merging with AOU or COS, but that we could join in a specific effort to save costs and work more efficiently. AFO has not made any decisions in that direction at this time.

At our meeting at Archbold we acknowledged the service of

**Brian Harrington** to the AFO Banding Supplies Business with a small token of our gratitude—an Audubon Octavo print of one of his study species, the Red Knot, which at the time was known as the Red-breasted Sandpiper. We also provided Brian and his wife with funds to travel to a favorite birding spot, or perhaps a new one. In reality, however, no gift could adequately acknowledge Brian's more than 40 years of service to the AFO, running the Banding Supplies Business.

Our meeting location and time has been set so mark your calendars. We will be meeting with the Wilson Ornithological Society from 29 May through 1 June at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island. Look for updates on that meeting soon.

*Kathryn Purcell, AFO President*



*President Kathryn Purcell recognizes Brian Harrington for his dedicated service to the AFO, including more than forty years overseeing the Banding Supplies Business.*

Valentina Ferretti

## Ornithology Exchange

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Full membership is open to all members of twelve ornithological societies, including AFO. Registering for Ornithology Exchange as a member of one of these societies enables access to all OE content. Even without registration or membership in a society, you will always have access to basic content such as society news, announcements, and job listings.

**Best of all, members are able to create content and initiate discussions.**

Will you get e-mail? No. None. Not unless you "tell" the website you want e-mail. If you are

interested in a particular forum or discussion, click on the "Follow this Forum" or "Follow this Topic" button on the upper right side of the screen. "Following" means that you will receive a notice when there is a new post in that forum or topic. A drop-down box will ask you how frequently you would like to be notified of new postings in that forum or that topic: instantly, daily, or weekly. If you are no longer interested in receiving those notices, return to the forum or topic and click on "Unfollow this Forum" or "Unfollow this Topic."

We've succeeded in keeping the site spam-free and focused on ornithology by screening members and by requiring sign-in. We don't like passwords either but this is a necessary evil if we want to prevent spam and have a place where ornithologists can talk openly.

We hope you will register soon and join your colleagues—1,976 of them as of April

2013!—in creating this vibrant community of ornithologists! To register, visit the site at **OrnithologyExchange.org**

Note: OrnithologyExchange.org will not replace society websites, but will consolidate the information your societies send out and will replace ornith-L and OCNET. For further information about OrnithologyExchange.org, please contact Chris Merkord at [chris@merkord.com](mailto:chris@merkord.com) or Ellen Paul at [ellen.paul@verizon.net](mailto:ellen.paul@verizon.net).

So...Ornithology Exchange is:

- ◆ You! OE members generate the content and initiate the discussions on OE
- ◆ 360° communication on every ornithological subject under the sun
- ◆ The place to be!



# Tradition and Opportunity at the 2013 Annual Meeting

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The meeting at Archbold was the first time since 2010 that the AFO met separately from other ornithological societies. The conference's small scale enabled the AFO Council to conduct its business in an efficient and inclusive manner. More importantly, the setting and size enabled upcoming and accomplished ornithologists to exchange ideas across the lectern and build relationships across the picnic table.

## Scientific Program Spans Many Topics, Emphasizes Conservation



Sara Bebus

Blake Jones as a novel scrub-jay "predator" at Archbold Biological Station

The scientific program featured a mix of traditional and innovative approaches to studying birds in the field. Together, oral and poster presentations offered a short course in ornithological techniques ranging from direct observation (e.g., aerial surveys, atlasing, point counts, and nest monitoring) to technologically enhanced methods (e.g., videography, satellite and radio telemetry, radio frequency identification, radar, and digital sound analysis). The range of methods even included seemingly madcap, though fundamentally sound, experimentation. No one in attendance will forget the umbrella-wielding ninja who discovered that the initial stress response of Florida Scrub-Jays to a novel "predator" correlates with subsequent escape behavior from that stimulus.

Presenters also covered a wide range of topics related to avian biology, including: endocrinology, population genetics, virology, parasitology, toxicology, hematology, and ethology. However, conservation ecology received the most attention with entire sessions devoted to threatened waterbird and passerine populations. The plenary and keynote addresses, in particular, underscored the vital role of field ornithology in the conservation of species at risk.

**Dr. Kenneth Meyer**, Executive Director of Avian Research and Conservation Institute, described the seasonal movements of rare Florida raptors and discussed implications for land use and population recovery efforts. **Dr. Peter Frederick**, Research Professor at the University of Florida, provided examples from his mercury research of how careful investigation can yield surprising discoveries that bear on conservation decisions.

In his keynote speech at the concluding banquet, **Dr. Reed Bowman**, Director of Archbold Avian Ecology Program, encapsulated 44 years of Florida Scrub-Jay research initiated by the late Glen Woolfenden. With evidence and anecdotes, Reed explained how the scrub-jay study helped shape the field of evolutionary biology and led to true conservation breakthroughs. His team's successful translocation

Valentina Ferretti



Jerry Jackson (in front seat), Brian Harrington (two seats back) and others on a swamp buggy tour of Buck Island Ranch during the 2013 Annual Meeting

of Florida Scrub-Jays recently resulted in the establishment of a new population of this rare species, which is the state's only endemic bird.

Each of these talks hummed with accumulated experience and wisdom. The presenters displayed countless findings on charts and graphs while illuminating new avenues for additional study. As these and other senior scientists continue to investigate important questions, a cadre of AFO-supported students and young professionals are making discoveries of their own.

## AFO Supports Students and Young Professionals with Grants and Awards

**Dr. Melissa Price** epitomizes this group of rising scientists. She is the recipient of the 2011 *Journal of Field Ornithology (JFO)* Best Student Publication Award. Dr. Price, now a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, attended the 2013 Annual Meeting with support from AFO to give an invited plenary talk of her award-winning paper on the status and ecology of the critically endangered Bahama Oriole (see *AFO Afield* Volume 17, No. 1, June 2012).

The 2012 recipient, announced during the same session by Best Student Publication Chair **Diane Neudorf**, is **Lucas Redmond** of Portland State University. His article entitled "Using complementary approaches to estimate survival of juvenile and adult Eastern Kingbirds" appeared in Volume 83, No. 3 of *JFO*. It was co-authored by his doctoral advisor, **Michael T. Murphy**. Luke has been offered travel support to present his paper in an expanded timeslot at AFO's 2014 meeting in Newport, Rhode Island.

For the 2013 meeting, the AFO granted Student Travel Awards to ten applicants representing seven universities in the US and Brazil. In addition, cash awards were made for Best Student Oral and Best Student Poster Presentations at the meeting (see page 4). And rounding out the honors announced at Archbold were five U.S. and Canadian students who each received \$1,000 **Bergstrom Memorial Research Awards**, which are funded from the sale of AFO mist nets and banding supplies. In all, the AFO granted over \$10,000 in support of the next generation of professional ornithologists. Additional award details appear on pages 4 to 6.

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# 2013 Annual Meeting

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## A Mature Organization with a Bright Future

Cultivating young ornithologists is a key function of the AFO Annual Meeting, which also serves to connect scientists across institutional and generational boundaries. At Archbold, our field's future leaders honed their scientific and communication skills among sages of ornithology such as AFO Past President **Jerry Jackson**, Cornell Lab of Ornithology Director and Archbold scrub-jay collaborator **John Fitzpatrick**, Archbold Librarian **Fred Lohrer**, and Emeritus Biologist at Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences **Brian Harrington**.

Meanwhile, veteran ornithologists benefitted from the fresh perspectives offered by the amateurs, students, and young academics that attended the meeting. This vital exchange of information and ideas continued on the final day of the conference, as participants sought out Florida specialties in pastures, prairies, swamps, marshes, longleaf pines, and bald cypress forest.

Over five days of robust activity in the Sunshine State, the nonagenarian AFO showed no signs of retiring. Those able to attend the meeting returned home with deepened personal and professional connections as well as confidence in the vitality of field ornithology. As Dr. Fitzpatrick remarked at the closing banquet, it is field ornithologists, with eyes and ears attuned to wild birds, who are the sentinels of discovery in avian research.

## Student Presentation Awards

The student papers and posters that were presented at Archbold scored consistently high marks for scientific merit, potential impact, and presentation quality. The strong showing by students helped keep the meeting's veteran ornithologists on their toes, especially those who were charged with the difficult task of selecting the very best examples. The team of evaluators, led by **Diane Neudorf** and **Vickie McDonald**, managed to identify three outstanding presentations from those contributed by students to the scientific program.

Blake Jones



Sara Bebus

### Best oral presentations

**Blake Jones, University of Memphis**

Stress response correlates with learned antipredator behavior in free-living Florida Scrub-Jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*)

Co-authors: Sara Bebus, Philip Bateman, Stephan Scheoch

The extent to which animals learn and retain information about predators, and the mechanisms that mediate these processes, remain largely unexplored. Corticosterone (CORT), the avian glucocorticoid,

is released in response to stressful stimuli, including perception of a predator. Elevated CORT facilitates physiological and behavioral changes over the short-term that can enhance survival and, over the long-term, can affect memory function. Thus, CORT is a likely candidate to mediate learned antipredator behavior. Florida Scrub-Jays (FSJ) exhibit intraspecific variation of stress induced plasma CORT levels, which are repeatable within individuals. We used the FSJ as a model to test two hypotheses: 1) FSJs have the capacity to learn antipredator behavior and 2) CORT responsiveness is predictive of antipredator behavior. We developed a model to test for, and compare CORT responsiveness to, learned antipredator behavior in free-living FSJs. Compared to control birds, Individuals who were previously exposed to an artificial novel "predator" displayed longer flight initiation distances (FID) and alarm called more frequently in response to the novel "predator." Also, CORT responsiveness was positively correlated with FID. These data indicate FSJs can learn to associate a novel "predator" stimulus as a threat after a single exposure, and that stress physiology is related to this cognitive process.

## Marjorie Liberati, Ohio State University

Habitat selection and nesting ecology of Northern Bobwhite in Ohio

Co-author: Robert Gates

Local abundance of breeding Northern Bobwhites (*Colinus virginianus*) has increased with grasslands created through the Conservation Reserve Program but positive range-wide population growth has not occurred. Ohio's bobwhite population experienced a 90% population decline after severe winters in 1976–1977 and 1977–1978 and populations continued at a 76% decline during 1984–2004. Radio-marked adult bobwhites were monitored during the breeding season (1 May–30 Sep, 2010–2011)

on four private-lands study sites located in southwest Ohio. Eighty-six percent of nests (n = 52) were located in grassland habitats. Nest success was 27.9% and daily nest survival (96.9%) was not influenced by nesting habitat, nest initiation date, year, or study site. Row crop was the most abundant habitat type (41%) within breeding season home range areas, but was generally avoided. Early successional (ES) woody habitat (e.g., fencerows and ditches) was the most highly selected habitat type at all spatial scales. Grassland habitat was the next most selected habitat type. Selection of forest and ES woody habitats diminished at study sites where these habitats had mature canopies and poorly developed understories. Future bobwhite management strategies should focus on providing more ES woody cover within landscapes because it can provide year-round benefits. Continuing to providing grassland habitat for bobwhites during the breeding season should not be abandoned due to its lower selection ranking because it provides important nesting habitat. Providing proximate ES woody cover near grasslands would enhance breeding habitat quality for bobwhites in Ohio and other areas of the Midwestern United States.



Michael Lombardo

Marjorie Liberati

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# 2013 Annual Meeting

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## Best poster

Molly Grace, University of Central Florida

Songbirds' acoustically complex notes may facilitate communication in noisy urban areas

Co-author: Rindy Anderson

In an increasingly urban world, noise pollution creates communication challenges for wildlife. Loud, low-frequency traffic noise can mask songbird vocalizations, and populations of some urban songbird species have shifted the frequency of their vocalizations upward in response, which is energetically costly. However, acoustically complex notes have a quasi-harmonic frequency structure that may make them resistant to masking, suggesting that species that use them could be more successful in areas with high levels of traffic noise. Based on this idea, we hypothesized that complex notes are not produced at higher frequencies in response to traffic noise. We recorded Carolina Chickadees (*Poecile carolinensis*), whose calls feature complex 'D' notes, along a traffic noise gradient in Durham and Orange Counties, North Carolina, USA. There was no correlation between the frequency of 'D' notes and the level of noise in which they were recorded, implying that a frequency shift is not required for complex notes to be communicated in noise. Understanding how complex notes are affected by traffic noise will increase our ability to predict how the expansion of noisy areas may impact songbird community composition in the future.

Michael Lombardo



Molly Grace

## Student Travel Awards

A committee chaired by **Andrea Townsend** selected ten students to receive up to \$550 for travel and lodging expenses associated with their participation in the Florida meeting. These young scientists hailed from five states and Brazil. The AFO Council looks forward to seeing them at future conferences.

- Jessica Burnett University of Florida, Gainesville
- Kelly Commons Millikin University
- Jessica Fowler Arkansas State University
- Brehan Furfey Arkansas State University
- Lauren Helton Arkansas State University
- Andrew Laughlin Tulane University
- Marjorie Liberati Ohio State University
- Michelle Peterson Florida Atlantic University
- Emily Jean Toriani Moura Universidad do Vale do Rio dos Sinos
- Amy Wynia Arkansas State University

## 2012 Journal of Field Ornithology

### Best Student Publication Award

Lucas J. Redmond, Portland State University

Using complementary approaches to estimate survival of juvenile and adult Eastern Kingbirds

Co-author: Michael T. Murphy

JFO Volume 83(3): 247–259

Survival rates of young birds during the period between nest departure and their first breeding season is an important but difficult statistic to measure because of low natal site fidelity, especially for long-distance migrants. From 2002 to 2008, we conducted a capture-mark-resight study of Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), a Nearctic-Neotropical migrant, at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon, to estimate juvenile (*SJ*) and adult (*SA*) survival. The return rate of juvenile kingbirds was high (0.224) and not significantly different from program MARK's estimate of *SJ* (0.291). On average, and for both sexes, program MARK's estimate of *SA* for birds banded as nestlings (0.64) was similar to that for birds first banded as adults (0.65). Enumeration methods and MARK yielded similar estimates of *SA*, especially for males banded as adults. We attribute the similarity of resighting rate of birds banded as nestlings to *SJ* and the similarity of *SA* estimated using program MARK and by enumeration methods to the high site fidelity of most juvenile and adult kingbirds at our ecologically isolated study site. An independent estimate of *SJ* calculated using local estimates of population growth and average annual production of young per year suggested that true *SJ* and *SA* were probably slightly higher than program MARK's estimates because of undocumented permanent emigration, especially of birds first banded as adults. Demographic balancing suggests that true *SA* and *SJ* were roughly 0.70 and 0.30, respectively. In general, our multiple estimates of *SJ* were similar. However, program MARK estimates of *SJ* tended to be lower than those produced by demographic balancing. Because of the difficulty in differentiating permanent emigration and mortality, and the effect it has on empirical estimates of survival, we urge researchers to use multiple methods of survival estimation, when possible, to validate the precision of their estimates.

Luke Redmond monitoring kingbird nests by canoe



Jennifer K. Richardson

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# 2013 Annual Meeting

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## E. Alexander Bergstrom Memorial Research Awards

### Bergstrom Grants Fund Projects that Span the Hemisphere

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 21 years. The Bergstrom Awards honor his memory and dedication to bird research. Their purpose is to promote field studies of birds, especially projects that: focus on avian life history; use data collected all or in part by non-professionals; and/or employ banding or

other marking techniques. Approximately five awards (maximum \$1,000 US each) are made to applicants working in the US or Canada each winter. Approximately three awards (maximum \$1,500 US each) are made to applicants based in Latin America each summer.

### 2013 US and Canadian Award Recipients

In 2013, the AFO received 32 Bergstrom Award applications from the US and Canada, including many of excellent quality. Five students received \$1,000 each. Congratulations to the successful applicants.

**Rachael Derbyshire**, University of Guelph, “Examining the hoard-rot hypothesis in a boreal songbird: an experimental test of the food limitation assumption”

**Evan Keleman**, Villanova University, “Singing behavior in Carolina Chickadees (*Poecile carolinensis*) is consistent across contexts”

**William Lewis**, University of Southern Mississippi, “Response of gut microbiota to the energetic demands of long-distance passerine migration”

**Justin Proctor**, Cornell University, “Uncovering life history traits and conservation strategies for the Golden Swallow, *Tachycineta euchrysea*, a threatened and endemic passerine on Hispaniola”

**Alex Wang**, University of Hawaii, “Source and sink or ecological trap? Using juvenile dispersal of an endangered Hawaiian bird to tell the difference”

### Bergstrom Award Reviewers

Thanks to **Paul Rodewald** for chairing the Bergstrom Awards Committee, which also included **Dan Ardia**, **Ethan Clotfelter**, **Tom Gardali**, **Julie Jedlicka**, **Dan Lambert**, **Eugene Morton**, **Lee Robinson**, **Scott Stoleson**, and **Jason Townsend**.

## Bergstrom Award Recipient Studies Seabirds and Subsistence Fishing

**Cristián G. Suazo** of Germany’s Justus Liebig University Giessen received a Bergstrom Research Award from the AFO in 2008 to study the relationship of birds with humans fishing in the subantarctic islands of Chile. He and his colleagues recently published their findings in an *Oryx* article titled: “Artisanal fishermen’s perception and seabird conservation in Chilean Patagonia.” By means of interviews, questionnaires and field-based observations the authors determined the extent to which artisanal fisheries interact with and affect seabirds in the fjords and channels of the Chonos Archipelago. They found that fishermen demonstrated a positive perception of seabirds as useful indicators of marine productivity and in their role scavenging fish waste and discards associated with fishing operations. However, fishermen also established seasonal camps to collect seabird eggs and adults for food or

bait and introduced feral predators (such as domestic dogs) to islands with seabird breeding colonies. The authors point out that, despite these negative impacts, local knowledge from fishermen on marine biodiversity is critical for the future of community-based conservation of the region’s marine resources and biodiversity.



Fishing for subsistence and small markets in the Chonos Archipelago.

C.G. Suazo

# AFO Reaches Out by Sponsoring Neotropical Memberships

By John Cavitt

The Association of Field Ornithologists has a long-standing interest in supporting ornithologists and ornithological research in Latin America. Consequently, the Neotropical Outreach Committee established an initiative to increase participation in AFO by ornithologists throughout Latin America. To fund this initiative, we created a process by which AFO members could select to sponsor memberships at \$15 each on the 2012 OSNA membership renewal form. Between November 2011 and May 2012, AFO members donated 87 free memberships for ornithologists residing and working in Latin America. The memberships will provide online access to the *Journal of Field Ornithology*, *AFO Afield*, an invitation to the AFO annual meeting, 10% discount on mist nets, banding and field supplies, and the bimonthly *Ornithological Newsletter*.

## Eligibility and Process

The eligibility and process for individuals to apply for a sponsored membership was developed during spring 2012. One-year membership awards are for qualified Latin

American ornithologists, including professionals, non-professionals, and students. To be eligible for an AFO-sponsored membership award, individuals must be a current resident of any Latin American country (including the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America) and be actively involved in field ornithology in Latin America.

The process included submitting a completed application form and a resume or curriculum vita via email by October 1, 2012. Application materials were available in both English and Spanish.

## Marketing

Information describing this initiative and process was available on the AFO website and distributed to colleagues of AFO councilors working in Latin America. An email describing the AFO and announcing this initiative was prepared and sent to colleagues of AFO councilors working in Latin America. In addition, BirdLife International sent the announcement to their extensive Listserv

network of ornithologists working in Latin America. Finally, an advertisement describing the benefits of AFO membership and this initiative was placed in the program for the Neotropical Ornithological Society meeting in Cusco, Peru, November 2011.

## Results

A total of 38 applications were received and accepted for membership beginning January 2013. The distribution of memberships are – 10 Argentina; 3 Bolivia; 4 Chile; 4 Colombia; 2 Dominican Republic; 1 Ecuador; 1 El Salvador; 12 Mexico; and 1 Paraguay.

Given that 49 memberships remain unclaimed, applications will continue to be accepted until all memberships have been filled. Suggestions on reaching a broader audience within Latin America are welcome.

For more information, please contact Neotropical Outreach Committee Chair Valentina Ferretti at [valentina.ferretti@villanova.edu](mailto:valentina.ferretti@villanova.edu) or visit [afonet.org/about/neotropical\\_sponsorship.html](http://afonet.org/about/neotropical_sponsorship.html).

## Deadlines Approaching for Latin American Bergstrom Research Awards and Skutch Research Award

July 15 is the application deadline for two awards supporting ornithological research in Latin America and the continental Neotropics, respectively. If your work meets the application criteria for either of these awards, please consider submitting your proposal this summer.

### The E. Alexander Bergstrom Memorial Research Award for Latin American proposals

The Latin American Bergstrom Awards promote field studies of birds, especially projects that: focus on avian life history; use data collected all or in part by non-professionals; and/or employ banding or other marking techniques. They are restricted to individuals based at Latin American institutions. Individuals from Latin America that are studying or working at a US or Canadian institution are eligible for US/Canada awards only. Non-professionals, undergraduates, MS, and PhD candidates are all eligible for this competition, provided that they and/or their primary research supervisors are members of the AFO prior to the application deadline. Approximately three awards (maximum \$1,500 US each) are made under this

program each year. Complete details are available at [www.afonet.org/grants/Bergstrom/Bergstrom.html](http://www.afonet.org/grants/Bergstrom/Bergstrom.html), along with application forms in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

### The Pamela and Alexander F. Skutch Research Award

The Pamela and Alexander F. Skutch Research Award supports minimally invasive, preferably observational research into the life histories, social relations and reproduction of little-known birds of the continental Neotropics, including Trinidad and Tobago. The AFO welcomes applications for funding from amateur or professional ornithologists of any nationality. Preference will be given to Neotropical-based applicants who have had some previous experience with the geographic region as well as the bird species involved in the proposed study. Applicants and/or their primary research supervisor must be members of the AFO prior to the application deadline to be eligible for an award. One award of up to \$10,000 US is offered annually. Complete details are available at [www.afonet.org/grants/Skutch/Skutch.html](http://www.afonet.org/grants/Skutch/Skutch.html), along with application forms in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.



*Association of Field Ornithologists*

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# AFO Council Update

Members who attended the annual meeting at Archbold Biological Station elected five accomplished ornithologists to the AFO governing council. **Dan Ardia**, of Franklin and Marshall College, will serve his second three-year term. He was profiled in the **April 2010 issue of *AFO Afield***, when he was first nominated. Julie Jedlicka, who has filled a vacated seat since October of 2012, was elected to her first full term. Dan Cristol, Dale Gawlik, and Marty Raphael round out the class of 2016.

The AFO extends warm thanks to outgoing councilors **Dylan Maddox**, **John McCarty**, and **Andrea Townsend**. Each served our association in multiple roles, leading or participating on committees that evaluated papers, awarded grants, organized meetings, and/or managed AFO's web-based communications. Their contributions endure in the AFO initiatives that they helped to strengthen.

## Dr. Julie A. Jedlicka

Julie earned BS and MS degrees in ecology from the University of Michigan before graduating from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2011 with a PhD. She is currently a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research employs quantitative, field-based experiments along with mathematical modeling and molecular laboratory techniques to model the avian conservation potential of agricultural landscapes. Her current studies investigate whether the provision



Julie Jedlicka

of songbird nest boxes may conserve declining bird populations in California vineyards, and whether these insectivorous birds provide growers with ecosystem services in the form of pest control. Her goal is to understand prey availability through time and space, so that bird conservation efforts result in viable populations of avian predators in bird-friendly agroecosystems.

## Dr. Daniel A. Cristol

Dan is a Professor of Biology at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. He has been the director of William & Mary's premier merit scholarship program for seven years and a faculty member in the biology department for 16 years. Before that he was a research fellow or student at University of California-Davis, Oxford University, Indiana University (PhD 1993), and Cornell University (BS 1985). He specializes in studying bird ecology, especially migration, ecotoxicology, and behavior. He has studied junco migrations for many years and has recently focused on the effects of mercury pollution in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Dan teaches Introductory Biology, Animal Behavior, and Ornithology and has written a monthly column on birds in the *Virginia Gazette* for over 120 straight months.



John Porter

Dale Gawlik

productivity, behavior, and physiological condition. A hallmark of his work is a heavy use of experiments with free-ranging birds to answer applied conservation questions. He and his students also use

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Daniel Cristol



Lucinda Baker



## AFO Council Update

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information-theoretic approaches to develop wading bird resource selection functions and spatial habitat models linked to the hydrologic management and restoration of the Everglades.

### Dr. Martin G. Raphael

Marty is a Senior Research Wildlife Biologist with the US Forest Service's Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station in Olympia, Washington. He received a BA (1968) from California State University at Sacramento, and BS (1972), MS (1976) and PhD (1980) degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. He was Project Leader with the Rocky Mountain Station from 1984 to 1989 and has since been a Team Leader with the PNW Research Station. He is actively involved in the development of monitoring plans for the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet. His research includes habitat relationships of forest birds, ecology of the Marbled Murrelet and American marten, and investigations into the roles of riparian habitat for terrestrial and aquatic organisms. He recently led an effort to synthesize information on alternative approaches to the conservation of rare and little-known species. Marty has published over 150 papers and co-edited six books on wildlife habitat relationships and conservation biology.



Ted Thomas

Martin Raphael

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## AFO Afield Seeks Historical Perspectives for Next Issue

The December 2013 issue of *AFO Afield* will include articles, interviews, and photographs focused on our society's rich history. If you would like to contribute ideas or material to this special issue, please email Dan Lambert at [jdaniel.lambert@gmail.com](mailto:jdaniel.lambert@gmail.com) or call him at (802) 436-4065.

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