

AFO Afield



Summary of the 2015 AFO/WOS/SCO-SOC Joint Meeting in Nova Scotia

By Marty Raphael

In mid-July, 2015 the AFO held its annual meeting jointly with the Wilson Ornithological Society (WOS) and Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO-SOC) at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Wolfville, a small college town located in the Annapolis Valley, and along the shore of the Bay of Fundy, was a beautiful setting for our meeting, attended by 252 people. The scientific program included 101 papers, including 60 given by students, which were organized into 12 sessions and 3 symposia ("Ecology and Conservation of Landbird Species at Risk", "Brochures to Business Plans", and "Migration in Atlantic Canada and the Gulf of Maine"), in addition to 68 poster presentations (30 given by students). Highlights of the scientific program included two plenary presentations; Dr. Erica "Ricky" Dunn gave the WOS Margaret Morse Nice Medal Lecture (co-sponsored by SCO-SOC) entitled "Bird Observatories: Diversity and Opportunity" and Dr. James Dwyer gave an AFO-sponsored plenary lecture entitled "Range Sizes and Habitats of

Non-Breeding Crested Caracaras: Implications for the Evolution of Communal Roosting."

We congratulate those who received the following awards! Travel awards were given to 13 undergraduate, 13 MSc, and 11 PhD students. The AFO "Outstanding Poster Presented by an Undergraduate Award" was given

Dietary Methylmercury on the Parental Care of a Model Avian Species." AFO "Outstanding Student Oral Presentation Awards" were given to Jennifer McCabe, University of Maine-Orono, for her presentation entitled "Using an Individual-Based Particle Trajectory Model to Examine Wind Patterns as a Major Driver

in the Evolution and Maintenance of North America's Migratory Divides" and to Desiree Naranjo, University of Delaware, for her presentation entitled "Behavioral Responses to Non-Native Vegetation by Carolina Chickadees in Residential Landscapes."

At the annual members business meeting the following AFO officers were elected: Reed Bowman, President; Paul Rodewald, Vice-President; Greg Shriver, Treasurer; Dan Ardia and Scott Sutcliffe,

Assistant Treasurers; Michael P. Lombardo, Secretary. The following were elected to the AFO Council: Jill Jankowski, Matthew Reudink, Jennifer Smith, Scott Stoleson, Christine Stracey Richards (Class of 2018).



Bob Curry

Reed Bowman introducing Dr James Dwyer before his plenary lecture

of Akshay Deverakonda, College of William & Mary, for her poster entitled "Spatial Breeding Ecology of Wood Thrush Mating Pairs." The AFO "Outstanding Poster Award" was given to Stephanie Chin, College of William & Mary, for her poster entitled "The Effect of

Message from the President

Managing your digital memberships in today's professional societies is a task that seems to be growing in complexity. In this issue, we provide some tips, and also highlight tools available to ornithologists who publish in the *Journal of Field Ornithology* (JFO) to disseminate their work. We are working with Wiley to bring some of these tools to our members. In the academic world of publish or perish, it's no longer sufficient to simply get you papers in print. Not only do review boards look at the Impact Factor of the journals in which we publish, but they look at how often our papers are cited, or how often they are digitally downloaded or even read on-line. This means that younger scientists must promote their work, increasing its public visibility. John Wiley and Sons, the publisher of JFO, now offers authors 'Kudos', a tool to measure, monitor and maximize the visibility and impact of their published articles. Philip Carpenter, Vice President & Managing Director, Research Communications for Wiley said "The research process today

does not end with online publication; rather that is the starting point for authors in explaining and sharing their articles, particularly using social media to ensure that their published work is at the forefront of the debate within their community".

AFO is constantly seeking out new services to provide to our members and to encourage publication in JFO. Our organization is very strong, financially and programmatically. We are doing more to reach out to ornithologists throughout the hemisphere (see our details about the 2017 meeting), working with the North American Banding Council to increase banding certification training in Latin America. Your Council is working hard to ensure stable funding for the organization, to provide a breadth of programs for members from all stages of their career, and efficient means to disseminate that information. We look forward to many more years of successes.

Reed Bowman, AFO President

E. Alexander Bergstrom Memorial Research Awards

By Paul Rodewald

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. Five awards are annually awarded to applicants based within the US or Canada, and five additional awards are made to applicants based in Latin America. For more information, visit www.afonet.org/grants/Bergstrom/Bergstrom.html.

Congratulations to the recipients of 2015 Bergstrom Awards!

2015 North American Recipients

Nikole Freeman (University of Guelph): Effects of the early life environment on physiology

and fitness across life-history stages in a resident boreal passerine.

Jesse Holmes (University of Central Missouri): Establishing baseline temperature and humidity levels in Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) roosts to determine if there is a correlation between microclimate and roost habitat selection during the breeding season.

Todd Jones (University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana): Examining the post-fledging period of migratory birds: Do carryover effects from the nestling stage influence fledgling behavior and survival?

Steven Sevillano (Cornell University): Seasonal variation and resource partitioning of a *Polylepis* bird community through and altitudinal gradient.

Christy Wails (University of New Brunswick): Movement, colony attendance, and behaviour of prospecting Least and Crested Auklets.

Bergstrom Award recipient Emiliano Agustín Depino with a Rufous-sided Crane



Bergstrom Award recipient Cristian Andrés Gorosito with a White-crested Elaenia nestling

2015 Latin American Recipients

Fernando Henrique Teófilo de Abreu (Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Brazil): Influence of hemoparasites (*Plasmodium*) on plumage coloration in males and its implications on the mechanisms of female choice in *Lepidothrix coronata*.

Daniel Pascual Cáceres Apaza (Universidad Nacional de Cuyo & Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones de las Zonas Áridas, Argentina): Evaluation of factors that influence the social

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Bergstrom Memorial Research Awards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

mating system in a population of *Cistothorus platensis*.

Emiliano Agustín Depino (Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Argentina): Vocal interactions between *Laterallus melanophaius* and *L. leucophrys* on the coast of the Rio de la Plata, Argentina.

Cristian Andrés Gorosito (Centro de Investigación Esquel de Montaña y Estepa Patagónica (CONICET-UNPSJB), Argentina): Determinants of reproductive success of *Elaenia albiceps* in the Andean forests of Patagonia.

Alejandro Alberto Schaaf (Universidad Nacional de Salta & Program of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development of the Universidad Nacional de Jujuy, Argentina): Relationships among population parameters of cavity nesting birds in Piedmont forests of low forestry intensity in northwestern Argentina.

Bergstrom Committee News

We welcome Valentina Ferretti as the new chair of the Bergstrom Award committee and thank Paul Rodewald for his role as chair over the last couple of years. The reviewers for the North American research proposals were Ethan Clotfelter, Tom Gardali, Julie Jedlicka, Dan Lambert, Eugene Morton, Lee Robinson, Scott Stoleson, and Jason Townsend. Reviewers of Latin American proposals included Ignacio Areta, Dan Brooks, Felipe Chavez-Ramirez, Valentina Ferretti, Alex Jahn, Paulo Llambías, Luiz dos Anjos, Carlos Bianchi, Maria Alice dos Santos Alves, James Roper, G. Sebastián Cabanne, and Renata Durães Ribeiro. Special thanks to all those involved in reviewing Bergstrom award applications!!!

Applying for Future Awards

This year's deadline for the North American



Bergstrom Award recipient Alejandro Alberto Schaaf conducting field work in northwestern Argentina

award applications has now passed (1 February 2016), but there is still time to submit an application for the Latin American award (due 15 July 2016). 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. Please see the AFO website for further application details.

Avian Research Supplies For Ornithologists and For the Birds

By Patrick Keenan

Our Avian Research Supplies (ARS) business had a successful 2015 and we are looking ahead to 2016. Last year was the first full year that Avian Research Supplies was managed by Biodiversity Research Institute. In 2016, we will continue to advance new product offerings while maintaining the consistent supply of the highest quality research products for ornithologists.

Avian Research Supplies provides an essential service to the ornithological research community by offering necessary equipment and supplies to bird researchers. An additional outcome of this service is that it provides funds to our Association that support ornithology through grants from the E. Alexander Bergstrom Fund. Indeed, Mr. Bergstrom began the business in the 1950's with the vision to supply researchers with mist nets that they rely on for field research. As we look ahead we expect to increase product offerings to meet the full range of researcher needs.

The ARS business is managed for you and in support of not-for-profit outcomes. Please purchase supplies from our shop at www.avianresearchsupplies.org. Our business takes care to ensure that our products do not find their way to unethical users such as those involved in the pet trade. If you have suggestions for new products please let us know by contacting afonets@briloon.org.

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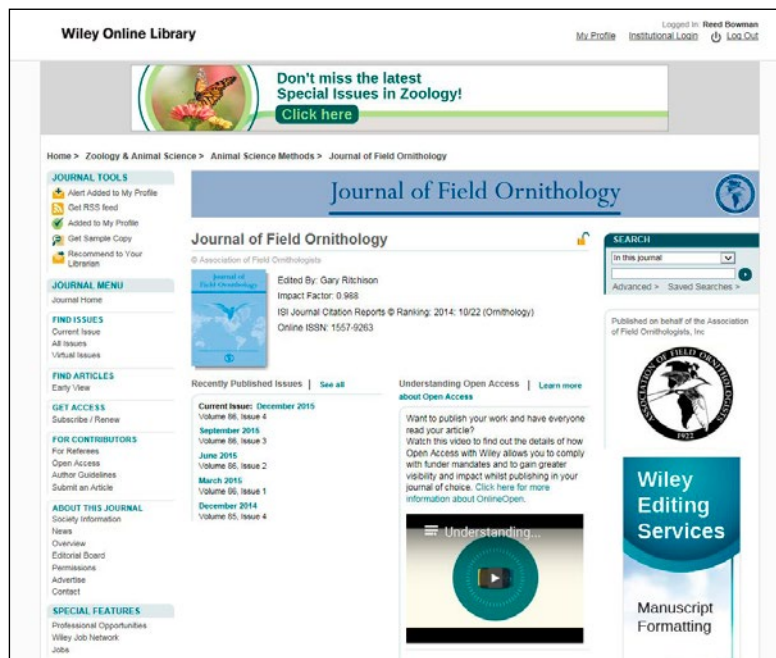
Welcome to the Digital World

By Reed Bowman

Welcome to the Digital World. At the end of 2014, all 1490 members of the AFO had online access to the *Journal of Field Ornithology* (JFO) and over 30% of those had opted for online journal access only. Some of our members, including myself, may be reluctant to abandon their print journals, but last year I made the move to online only for all my journal subscriptions. Since then I've learned to manage those subscriptions so that access to literature is easier and less time consuming, ultimately increasing my ability to keep up with the enormous breadth of literature. So here is a primer for managing your digital membership to AFO.

Each year, when you renew your membership, you will receive an email from Wiley, the publisher of JFO, with instructions for online access to JFO via the Wiley Online Library. Please save this email! If you have never used Wiley Online Library, you must first register at onlinelibrary.wiley.com. Click on "Log in/Register" at the top right hand part of the page and click on "Register". Fill in the registration form and submit. You will immediately receive an email which requires you to click on a link and validate the information you provided during your registration. Please do so within 24 hours to avoid the need to re-register. Once you have registered, go to AFO's page in the Wiley system onlinelibrary.wiley.com/societies/AFO. Enter your email address and password you provided during registration. Then enter your membership number and access code that were provided in that first email you received from Wiley. Once you have registered you won't need to use your membership number and access code again. In future you can go straight to onlinelibrary.wiley.com and log in.

Once on Wiley's JFO home page, you have lots of options for managing your subscription. You can browse the current issue, read our virtual issues, and peruse "Early View", which includes papers that have been accepted, but not yet published. You can search the archives of past issues for specific papers using a variety of keywords. Enter your search term in "parentheses" in the search box at the top right of the home page. If you click on "Advanced Search", you can specify multiple



search terms, but you must specify *Journal of Field Ornithology* as a publication title search term. Your search will cover only those issues available through Wiley, currently present through 2006. Although the Wiley page states that access to earlier issues is via JSTOR, this is only by individual subscription. AFO is working with JSTOR to remedy this, but in the meantime you can access issues from 1999 and older via SORA (sora.unm.edu/). When you get your search result, click on the publication of interest. From this page you can read the abstract, download a .pdf hard copy, or export the citation in formats specific to a variety of personal bibliographic software.

If you wish to get email alerts of new publications or the table of contents of new issues of JFO as they are available, you can click "Alert Added to My Profile" on the upper left on the home page. If

you wish to manage your personal profile, click on "My Profile" at the extreme upper right. Here you can change your profile or log-in information. I find the "Alert Manager" most useful. You can sign up for new content alerts for any journal published by Wiley, which includes a great selection of ornithological and ecological titles. Add "Content Alerts" and every time new content is available, you will receive an email with a link to the citations or the table of contents. You will be able to read abstracts, but access to papers is only through individual subscriptions to those journals. I have content alerts set for 16 journals so that I can keep up with the literature.

There is always more and we will try to keep members abreast of new resources and opportunities via our blog and forums on the AFO web page.

AFO and Social Media

By Jen Smith

Social media has fast become a powerful tool for communication, networking, and disseminating information. As such, AFO have expanded their virtual distribution and can now be found on Facebook, Twitter (@FieldOrnith), LinkedIn, and Google+. Members and non-members alike can now follow AFO through social media to read up-to-date information about grants and awards, meetings, and receive announcements about up-coming deadlines

and recently published articles in the *Journal of Field Ornithology* (JFO). Our members can use social media to communicate with AFO members and the wider ornithological community through 'tweeting' on Twitter and using the hashtag #FieldOrnithology, or posting on our Facebook page. We encourage users to 'live-tweet' from the AFO annual meetings to share information with those not fortunate enough to attend

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

AFO and Social Media

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

For those 'live-tweeting' at conferences here are some keywords and abbreviations associated with Twitter:

- ♦ **Hashtag (#):** used to highlight keywords so they can be searched for more easily on Twitter (e.g. a tweet containing #Ornithology would show up if you searched for #Ornithology within Twitter)
- ♦ **Retweet (RT):** allows users to share someone else's tweet with your followers
- ♦ **@:** allows users to communicate with specific people (e.g. using @FieldOrnithology will send the tweet directly to the AFO)
- ♦ **Hat-tip (HT):** use this to give recognition, kudos, or credit where credit is due



- ♦ **Modified tweet (MT):** a retweeted tweet that has been modified/paraphrased/shortened

For those 'live-tweeting' at conferences we suggest the following:

- ♦ Familiarize yourself with the conference policies regarding live-tweeting;
- ♦ Use conference specific 'hashtags' so that interested parties can follow along;
- ♦ Include speaker name and affiliation in your tweet;
- ♦ Provide concise summary of talk. Where possible, summary should cover all aspects of talk, not just one take home message;

- ♦ Utilize 'twitter language' to engage others (e.g. use # to highlight important words, use @ to engage specific individuals);
- ♦ If using a figure, photo, or photo of a slide from the talk, provide an acknowledgement;
- ♦ Encourage others around you to tweet because tweets from multiple parties provide followers with more in-depth information;
- ♦ Avoid tweeting negative, snarky, or generally inappropriate comments—remember, your twitter account is in the public domain;
- ♦ If a presenter asks you not to tweet about their presentation, don't!

The AFO also plans to use YouTube to communicate with members and to allow members to upload videos and highlight their contributions to ornithology! Please follow us on social media for further news!

Good-for-Something House Sparrow Eggs

By Caren Cooper

A common sentiment among birders is that House Sparrows are good for nothing. But Caren Cooper, Assistant Director of the Biodiversity Research Lab at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, has a use for donated House Sparrow eggs! Museum specimens, particularly eggs, are valuable for monitoring long-term environmental change. A textbook example of the use of bird eggs in identifying environmental hazards is the Peregrine Falcon and the pesticide DDT. In the 1960s, researchers were able to compare eggshells from decades before the use of DDT to those after its use was banned. The difference in eggshell thickness was apparent, making the cause of Peregrine Falcon endangerment indisputable. The research helped the

US movement to ban DDT and informed a strategic recovery plan for the falcons.

What purpose will donated House Sparrow eggs serve?

YOUR help is needed to investigate whether House Sparrow eggs could be a useful bio-monitoring tool to assess human exposure to environmental contaminants. House Sparrow eggs bio-accumulate heavy metals like lead and mercury. The eggs harbor flame retardants (such as in sewage sludge) and other endocrine disruptors from pesticides and so the presence of pollutants in House Sparrow eggs can indicate their movement into a living system. Current maps of these types of environmental contaminants are interpolated from relatively few sampling locations, and based on samples of the abiotic environment, such as soil, water, and air. Sampling pollutants in House Sparrow eggs will allow Caren and her research team to increase our knowledge of human exposure to pollutants.

As part of the Citizen Science program being developed by Caren, participants would collect eggs from House Sparrow nests following protocols for field collection that involve keeping detailed records before, during, and after collection. Those eggs would be sent to labs for subsequent analysis.

If you'd like to participate, visit scistarter.com/sparrowswap. If you'd like to get more involved in planning and implementing this study, please contact Caren at caren.cooper@naturalsciences.org.



Jack Williamson, Jr



Donated House Sparrow eggs used to assess human exposure to environmental contaminants

Caren Cooper

Upcoming meetings

By Reed Bowman

Our next meeting will occur August 16–20 in Washington DC, as part of NAOOC VI, the sixth North American Ornithological Congress naoc2016.cvent.com. The meeting is hosted by the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, CIPAMEX, Cooper Ornithological Society, BirdsCaribbean, Society of Canadian Ornithologists, and Wilson Ornithological

Society. It promises to be one of the largest ornithological gatherings ever in North America. Registration is not yet open, but Early Registration will occur February 1–May 1, 2016 and Regular Registration, May 2–July 30, 2016. Please see the web site (above) for more details.

At our meeting in Nova Scotia, the Council voted to approve our precedent-setting meeting

for 2017. AFO will meet jointly with Aves Argentinas and the Brazilian Ornithological Society (Sociedade Brasileira de Ornithologia) at Iguazu Falls on the border between Argentina and Brazil. Details are still being worked out, but it is likely that the meeting will occur in August and be held in either Puerto Iguazu (Argentina) or Foz do Iguaçu (Brazil). The steering committee representing all three societies will be visiting potential venues—with many thanks to our representatives Valentina Ferretti and Alex Jahn. This promises to be a large and exciting meeting bringing together ornithologists from across the western Hemisphere. Two national parks (one in Brazil and one in Argentina) provide access to the waterfalls and wonderful birding opportunities and, together, comprise an UNESCO World Heritage Site whc.unesco.org/en/list/303. AFO will be working hard to increase Travel Support for students and early career professionals. Now is the time to add this to your calendar. We hope to attract as many North Americans to this meeting as possible, even if they aren't AFO members! How many opportunities do we have for a tax-deductible trip to South America?! We look forward to seeing you there.

Although it is still early, it looks like our 2018 meeting will be a joint meeting with the Wilson Ornithological Society in Chattanooga, TN.



Iguazu Falls

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