

## NEWS AND NOTES

### BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

#### 1999 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

Don Powers (Chair), S. Jones, and D. Swanson

The following people (in alphabetical order) have agreed to be nominated for the Cooper Ornithological Society (COS) Board of Directors.

*T. Luke George* is an associate professor in the Department of Wildlife at Humboldt State University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico in 1987 and has been a member of the COS since 1982. He has served as chair of the Student Participation Committee of the COS since 1996, was a member of the Local Committee for the 1983 COS meetings and the Scientific Committee for the 1995 COS meetings in La Paz, Mexico. Dr. George has published two papers in the *Condor* and one in *Studies in Avian Biology*, and with Dr. David Dobkin chaired a symposium at the 1999 COS meetings on the effects of habitat fragmentation on western bird populations. His research interests include the ecology of grassland birds, the behavior and ecology of island birds, and the effects of land use and habitat fragmentation on bird populations.

*Kathy Granillo* is the Regional Biologist in the Division of Refuges and Wildlife of the Southwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and also serves as the Regional Research Coordinator. She became interested in birds at an early age, and she is an avid birder as well as having a passionate interest in bird ecology. She moved into resource management after a few years in research (working for Dr. Jared Verner on monitoring bird populations in the Sierra Nevada, and for Dr. C. J. Ralph on the old-growth Douglas-fir wildlife study), in order to make things happen on the ground for conservation of birds and their habitats. She remains an active member of COS and is hosting the 2001 annual meeting in Albuquerque. She regularly attends annual meetings and has published in the *Condor*. She has a B.S. in Forestry (wildlife emphasis) from U.C. Berkeley, and an M.S. in Wildlife Resources from the University of Idaho.

*Kathryn Purcell* is a Research Wildlife Biologist for the USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station in Fresno, California. She received her Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology from the University of Nevada, Reno (1995), a M.S. in Wildlife from Humboldt State University (1988), and a B.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of California, Davis (1980). She has been a member of the COS since 1987. She regularly attends the annual meetings, chairs technical paper sessions at meetings, has one paper published in *The Condor*, and reviews manuscripts for the journal. Her research interests focus on life histories of open- and cavity-nesting birds, source-sink dynamics, wildlife-habitat relations, nest-site selection, nest parasites, brood parasites, and responses of birds to habitat alteration, especially in relation to grazing and forestry practices.

*Martin G. Raphael* is a Research Wildlife Biologist

with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, and an Affiliate Associate Professor with the College of Forest Resources, University of Washington. A member of the COS since 1975, he received his Ph.D. in Wildland Resource Sciences from U.C. Berkeley in 1980. He has served as Chair of the Membership Committee and Chair of the Resolutions Committee, was a member of the Panton Award Committee, served as Assistant Secretary, served on the Board of Directors, and was Chair of the Scientific Program Committees for the 1987 and 1999 Annual Meetings. His research interests focus on the ecology and management of threatened and sensitive birds, including the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet. He also studies relationships between forest management and wildlife populations and communities.

*Susan K. Skagen* is a Research Wildlife Biologist at the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey in Fort Collins, Colorado. She received her Ph.D. in Zoology/Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin in 1986 and also joined the COS in 1986. She attends and presents papers at COS meetings, and has published papers in and reviewed several manuscripts for the *Condor*. She is an Elective Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, serves on the National Shorebird Council and the Research and Monitoring Working Group for the National Shorebird Plan, has served on the Publication Awards Committee and the Publications Committee (chair in 1999) for The Wildlife Society, as member of the Editorial Panel for the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, and on several other committees. Her research interests have focused on migration ecology of shorebirds and land birds, effects of human activity on wildlife communities, and conservation of declining grassland birds.

### REPORT OF THE SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Cooper Ornithological Society held its 69th annual meeting at the Double Tree-Lloyd Center, Portland, Oregon, 29 March through 2 April, 1999. The Local Committee was chaired by Erick Campbell and the Scientific Program Committee was chaired by Martin Raphael. There were 288 registrants. The program included 92 papers and 22 posters, plus 20 papers each in two symposia.

The Society's award for lifetime achievement in ornithological research, the Miller Award, was presented to Gordon Orians. A full citation is published on p. 934 of this issue. Glenn Walsberg, the Miller Award Committee chair, read the full citation for the banquet audience. Dr. Orians was the keynote speaker to kick off the meeting a few days earlier, recapping a long and fruitful career studying the behavioral ecology of Icterids.

Mewaldt-King Student Research Awards were presented to five students this year: Heather Hinam, University of Manitoba, for "The effects of habitat frag-

mentation and slope on the spatial distribution of owls in the western upland region of Manitoba, Canada;" Barbara M. Pezzanite, City University of New York, for "Coastal tundra and Lesser Snow Geese habitat recovery and foraging behavior;" Benjamin H. Becker, University of California-Berkeley, for "Assessing seasonal, annual, and centennial dietary patterns of the Marbled Murrelet (Alcidae: *Brachyramphus marmoratus*) using stable isotope analysis of carbon and nitrogen;" Brian Linkhart, University of Colorado, for "Source/sink habitats of Flammulated Owls: inferring territory quality from long-term demographics;" and Laura Stenzler, Cornell University, for "Dispersal distance and genetics in two passerines." For the second year in a row, Bethany Woodworth and Tom Grubb assisted John Faaborg, the Mewaldt-King Award committee chairperson, with selecting awardees. Normally the COS presents only two Mewaldt-King Awards, however, the Mewaldt-King fund had done very well over the past year and enough funds were available to present five awards.

Four awards were presented for outstanding student papers. Matthew Johnson, Tulane University, was awarded the Brazer Howell Award for his paper "The role of migratory birds in tropical ecosystems: a test of the breeding currency hypothesis." Sophie Osborn, University of Montana, was awarded the Frances F. Roberts Award for her paper "Effect of streamside development on the American Dipper in Western Montana." Board of Directors Student Paper Awards were presented to Robbyn Abbott, University of Idaho, for "Distribution of small range species and development patterns in the United States," and Bonnie Nielson, University of Idaho, for "Nest site selection of Apapane in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park."

Through the annual balloting by all members of the Society, Patricia Kennedy, Lloyd Kiff, and Terrell Rich were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors.

In the Board of Directors' meetings, the following were elected to, or continue in, office: Glenn Walsberg, President; Terrell Rich, President-elect; Eileen M. Kirsch, Secretary; Peter Stettenheim, Assistant Secretary; Bonnie Bowen, Treasurer; James J. Dinsmore, Assistant Treasurer, Walter D. Koenig, Editor of *The Condor*, and John T. Rotenberry, editor of *Studies in Avian Biology*.

The Cooper Ornithological Society traditionally meets in California in years that end in zero; and the next annual meeting will be held at the Mission Inn, Riverside, California, 26-30 April, 2000. Tom Scott and John Rotenberry are co-chairs of the Local and Scientific Committees.

Several resolutions were passed by the Board of Directors. If you know of individuals or organizations that should receive official copies of one or more of these resolutions, contact Mark Sogge, chair of the Conservation-Resolutions committee, or Ellen Paul, Executive Director of the Ornithological Council, who provided resolutions for our consideration this year.

#### SUPPORT FOR ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCE AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENTS OF THE INTERIOR AND AGRICULTURE

Whereas, the agencies and bureaus of the Department of the Interior—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Na-

tional Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Minerals Management Service, and Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement—and the Department of Agriculture—Forest Service, Wildlife Services, and Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service—that are responsible for managing the natural resources and public lands of the United States—rely on scientific information, including biological information, to fulfill their responsibilities and implement the laws and regulations pertaining to those resources, and

Whereas, the research budgets of these agencies have not increased, or in some cases, have decreased, over the past six years, which has resulted in a substantial backlog of biological research and has seriously impaired the capacity of the Science Centers of the Biological Resource Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, and

Whereas, the President's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2000 includes some provisions that will enhance the ability of the research entities within the Departments of Interior and Agriculture to conduct the research needed by resource managers, but

Whereas, the President's Proposed Budget also overlooks some critical needs of the research entities,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Cooper Ornithological Society supports the following principles and appropriations for biological research and its application to natural resource and public land management:

(1). Rebuilding the capacity of the Science Centers of the Biological Resources Division (BRD) of the U.S. Geological Survey by restoring funding to at least the FY1994 level; adjusted for inflation, over a period of no more than three years, by increasing appropriations for BRD by \$15 million per year, and allocating all or substantially all of this increase to the Science Centers.

(2). Providing full funding for the BRD Cooperative Research Unit program with a \$1 million increase over the current funding level, which will enable the Coop program to fill its remaining six vacant positions.

(3). Restoring the cuts from the FY1999 enacted budget for BRD research, including \$3.5 million for species and habitat protection, \$2 million for clean water and watershed restoration, \$250,000 for mitigating acid mine runoff, and \$760,000 for training and travel.

(4). Appropriating the additional \$2.8 million requested by the Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Migratory Bird Management (MBMO) for migratory bird monitoring and inventory.

(5). Enabling the Forest Service to manage properly both the timber and the other biological resources in our nation's forest with the full \$37.2 million increase (for a total of \$234.6 million) requested for Forest and Rangeland Research, and particularly the requests for Wildlife, Fish, Watershed, and Atmospheric Sciences Research (\$53.1 million) and Vegetation Management and Protection Research (\$102.9 million).

(6). Allocating the full mandatory funding (\$120 million) for the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, a competitive grant research program to be managed by the Cooperative State Research, Ed-

ucation, and Extension Service (CSREES), which was created by the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998.

(7). Restoration of the CSREES Rangeland Research Grants budget of \$500,000.

(8). Reversing the continual decreases in funding for Wildlife Services and restoring its budget to at least the FY99 level (an increase of \$766,000 over the President's budget request, plus \$655,000 for pay costs and \$194,000 for methods development).

(9). Appropriating the \$670 million requested by the National Science Foundation for its "Biocomplexity in the Environment" program, an NSF wide set of increasingly-coordinated activities in environmental science, engineering, and education. It includes both focused initiatives and core research programs aimed at fostering research on the complex interdependencies among the elements of specific environmental systems and the interactions of different types of systems.

#### COPPER RIVER DELTA

Whereas, the coastal ecosystems of the Copper River Delta in Alaska are a unique part of the Pacific Flyway from South America to Alaska and are critical for the survival of at least twenty species of migratory shorebirds numbering over five million, and

Whereas, large populations of waterfowl and many other wetlands-dependent birds utilize the Copper River Delta which is one of the most important staging sites in North America, and

Whereas, after nomination by the U.S. Forest Service, in collaboration with the state of Alaska, the Chugach Alaska and Eyak Corporations, and the City of Cordova, the Copper River Delta was officially designated as a Hemispheric Site by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) in 1990, and

Whereas, the Copper River Delta has been designated as a Globally Important Bird Area by American Bird Conservancy, and

Whereas, it is essential to monitor the populations of migratory and breeding birds that depend upon the critical habitat of the Delta, and

Whereas, the Copper River Delta is the only area in the entire Forest Service system that has an express mandate to give priority to conservation of fish and wildlife and associated habitats, and

Whereas, the U.S. Forest Service has proposed to eliminate research funding for vital work carried out by the Copper River Delta Institute on migratory shorebirds along the Pacific Flyway (consisting of one wildlife biologist position at the Pacific Northwest Research Station whose primary responsibility is to design and conduct shorebird research on the Copper River Delta), and

Whereas, there are apparently no plans for any further shorebird research on the Delta, and

Whereas, the loss of this research position will seriously hamper international bird conservation programs that rely on data from research centers such as the Copper River Delta. These include the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (a collaborative effort based at the Manomet Center for Conservation Science between re-

searchers, land managers, and education specialists from the U.S. who will cooperate with colleagues from Canada and Mexico to advance effective conservation of North American shorebird species); the North American Colonial Waterbird Conservation Plan (NACWCP) in progress under the leadership of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (USGS Biological Resources Division); and the efforts of Partners in Flight and the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (funded from the Commission on Environmental Cooperation, which was created under NAFTA) to develop conservation plans for North American birds, Institute,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Cooper Ornithological Society urges the Forest Service to continue funding this critical research at the Pacific Northwest Research Station.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF ENDANGERED WILDLIFE IN CANADA

Whereas, a proposal has been made to remove scientists from the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), and

Whereas, biological information is the critical, defining information for the determination that a species is endangered or threatened, and

Whereas, the scientists who serve on the COSEWIC subcommittees are trained to find, evaluate, and apply peer-reviewed research findings, gray literature, and unpublished data, and are uniquely equipped, by virtue of their training, to make recommendations that are based on science, rather than on emotion or personal perception, and

Whereas, the National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk recognizes COSEWIC as a source of independent advice on the status of species at risk nationally, and

Whereas, a critical component of the independent advice that a body such as COSEWIC provides is scientific information, which, by definition, is independent, free from political influence, free from personal or societal judgments and fashions, and free from personal bias, and

Whereas, science has a rigorous system of quality-assurance known as peer review. If research is published in a respected journal, it has been critiqued by several scientists who have expertise in the fields to which that research pertains. Peer-review is usually conducted anonymously, which is further guarantee against the incursion of political and personal bias,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Cooper Ornithological Society urges the Canadian federal and provincial, and territorial governments to recognize the critical and indispensable role of science in endangered species protection, by:

- (1). Assuring that every COSEWIC subcommittee includes scientists with the appropriate expertise.
- (2). Basing their decisions to protect species on the recommendations of the COSEWIC scientists.
- (3). Codifying the role of science in endangered species designation and protection in the national legis-

lation anticipated to be introduced in 1999 and in any subsequent legislation of this nature.

#### NEW STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD

The Cooper Ornithological Society announces the establishment of the Joseph Grinnell Research Award. Two \$1,000 awards will be presented annually to graduate students in support of basic research in any area of avian biology. The awards are named in memory of Dr. Joseph Grinnell, a founding member of the Co-

oper Ornithological Society, editor of *The Condor* for 34 years, and one of the most prominent vertebrate biologists of the first half of the 20th Century. This award program complements the Cooper Society's Mewaldt-King Student Research Award, which also supports two \$1,000 awards each year and which is dedicated to supporting research that relates to the conservation of birds. For additional information on both of these awards, including application information, see the Cooper Society's web page [[www.cooper.org/awards.htm](http://www.cooper.org/awards.htm)]