

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

AARON M. BAGG STUDENT MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Student Membership Awards in the Wilson Ornithological Society have been made available through funds generously donated in memory of the late Aaron M. Bagg, former president of the Society. The Student Membership Committee has designated the award recipients for 1978 as follows: Gary R. Alten, California State Polytechnic University; Darrel C. Boone, University of Maryland; Michael C. Delesantro, New Mexico State University; Claire L. Filemyr, Virginia Commonwealth University; Wayne Hoffman, University of South Florida; Anthony H. James, San Francisco State College; Samuel F. Jojola, New Mexico State University; Thomas R. Kemp, University of Toledo; Sandra J. Korowotny, Texas A&M University; Marc D. Longwood, California State University, Sacramento; Selby R. Mohr, California State University; Erica Nol, University of Guelph; Christopher M. Rogers, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; Kathryn J. Schneider, Princeton University; Theodore R. Simons, University of Washington; Thomas W. Smith, Jackson, Kentucky; Shirley J. Thompson, University of Toronto; Melinda J. Welton, University of Connecticut.—James R. Karr, Chairman, Student Membership Committee.

1978 ANNUAL MEETING

The 59th annual meeting of The Wilson Ornithological Society will be held at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia, on 4-7 May 1978. The meeting will be hosted by the Brooks Bird Club, the Department of Wildlife Biology of West Virginia University, and West Virginia University.

A special feature of the meeting will be a symposium titled, "Resource Use Strategies in Birds," to be held on the afternoon of Friday, May 5th. The symposium is organized by Dr. Elliot J. Tramer. The chairman of the Local Committee is Dr. Robert Whitmore, Division of Forestry, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506.

NOTICE OF A POSSIBLE NUMERICAL CODING SYSTEM FOR ALL BIRD SPECIES

Increased use of computers to store and process data about birds has precipitated a number of problems. One such problem is that of identifying the species (or higher taxonomic unit) under consideration. Many local ornithological organizations have solved this problem by identifying each species in their area with a unique code number (AOU number, for example). The proliferation of local systems could be avoided by development of an internationally recognized coding system for all bird species. The advantages of a standard system include international compatibility of records and facilitation of exchange of data and literature among countries.

Any new system must be taxonomically based, flexible enough to accommodate new species and taxonomic revisions, and be expandable for those interested in subspecific classification. For purposes of discussion, the following system is proposed. A worldwide numerical system will be based on Morony, Bock, and Farrand (Reference List of the Birds of the World, 1975, AMNH) with six digit numbers identifying each species.

Thus, each genus has numbers reserved in advance for up to 99 species and searches of data can be made rapidly and efficiently by computer for any taxonomic level. Individuals wanting subspecific identifications can simply add one or two digits to the 6-digit base.

A conversion table from old numbers (AOU, etc.) to new numbers should be developed for study of zoological material, bird banding, and other references to old numbers. Interested persons are invited to send comments about this proposal to James R. Karr, Department of Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution, University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois 61820, U.S.A.

A special discussion group at the International Ornithological Congress in Berlin will discuss this and other proposals and all comments received by 15 May 1978. A final recommendation will then be developed and circulated to the international ornithological community for comment and eventual adoption.

COLONIAL WATERBIRD GROUP MEETING

The Linnaean Society of New York, as part of its centennial celebration, will host the Second Annual Meeting of the Colonial Waterbird Group at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on 20–23 October 1978. The Linnaean Society will sponsor a symposium of invited papers on Factors Affecting Productivity in Colonial Species on October 21 and the morning of October 22. Submitted papers will be given on the afternoon of October 22 and on October 23. For information on contributing a paper, write to Dr. P. A. Buckley, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, 15 State Street, Boston, Mass. For registration information, write to Miss Helen Hays, Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, N.Y. 10024.

NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON LOONS

The North American Conference on Common Loon Research and Management, sponsored by the National Audubon Society and hosted by Syracuse University, was held 12–14 August 1977 at the Minnowbrook Conference Center, Blue Mountain Lake, N.Y. Priorities determined by the Participants included: (1) establishment of an informal working group to serve as a clearinghouse for information on research and management efforts, (2) collection of historical loon nesting records for assessment of recent range contraction or expansion by this species, (3) coordination and standardization of breeding surveys and an effort to document the current breeding status of the loon, particularly in the northeastern U.S., and (4) expanded research, including increased banding efforts and initiation of a winter banding program.

The working group, consisting of Judith W. McIntyre of Syracuse University, Richard L. Plunkett of the National Audubon Society, and Rawson L. Wood of the Loon Preservation Committee of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, plans another meeting next year. Requests for conference summaries and other inquiries may be directed to the coordinator, Judith W. McIntyre, Biology Department, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13210.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Effective immediately, new manuscripts to be considered for publication in the *Wilson Bulletin* should be sent to editor-elect, Dr. Jon Barlow, Department of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2C6. Correspondence concerning volume 90 of the *Wilson Bulletin*, referee reports, and revisions of manuscripts should be returned to the present editor.

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