



THE
FLUTTER
I N S I D E



IOCongress2022

**ADAPTING TO CHANGE
- GOING VIRTUAL!**

ALL THE LATEST CONGRESS
INFORMATION, NEWS
& MUCH MORE

REGISTER
NOW FOR
IOCongress2022!



THE FLUTTER

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

VOLUME 3 · ISSUE 3

31 JANUARY 2022



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- GOING VIRTUAL!

IOCongress2022

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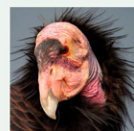
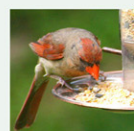
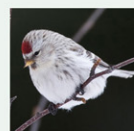
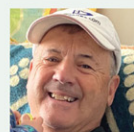
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Cover: The endangered Cape Parrot is featured in the IOCongress2022 logo (Photo: Warwick Tarboton)

NEWSFLASH!!



THE 28TH IOCONGRESS™ 14 - 20 AUGUST 2022

ADAPTING TO CHANGE - *GOING VIRTUAL!!*

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE has made the decision to convert the main congress to a **fully virtual format** but with **in-person pre- or post-congress workshops for those who want to travel**. This was not an easy decision to make as ornithologists enjoy the opportunity to experience the host country birdlife and engage with local researchers and fellow scientists. Based on the feedback received from other international ornithologists, the sense is that the health, travel, and financial risk associated with hosting an in-person or hybrid congress is not viable because of the unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Scientific Program Committee is currently working on an updated congress program format. For those still intending to travel to South Africa, details regarding the in-person pre- and post-congress workshops will be available by late February.

The **abstract submission deadline has been extended to 25 March 2022**. We would like to ask those who have submitted or will be submitting an abstract to register and pay in order to be included in the program. The virtual congress format will allow for various presentation formats, discussions and electronic posters. Our aim is to include as many abstracts and presentations as possible.

Delegates who have already registered and paid to attend the in-person congress will be refunded the difference between the in-person and virtual fees. Should anyone wish to donate the difference towards the registration of a student or ornithologist from a developing country, this would be greatly appreciated. If they allow us to publicly share their details, we will acknowledge those organisations or individuals making such a donation on our website. This approach is very much in line with the ethos of the International Ornithologists' Union, which strives towards inclusiveness for all ornithologists.

*“ Although we may miss meeting and making friends
through a traditional in-person IOCongress,
we need to adapt to new conditions
by recognizing the positive aspects of change. ”*



Cape Parrot (*Poicephalus robustus*) (Photo: Warwick Tarboton)

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
<https://www.internationalornithology.org/iocongress-2022>
OR <https://iocongress2022.com/>

REGISTER NOW!!



<https://www.iocongress2022.com/>

IOCongress2022

NOW FULLY VIRTUAL!!

“ Take advantage of the **MANY BENEFITS** offered by the **NEW VIRTUAL CONGRESS FORMAT** ”

Virtual advantages include:

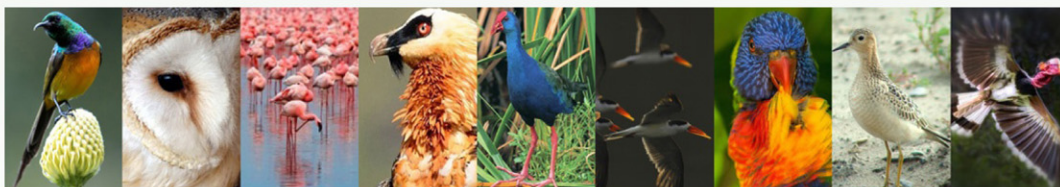
- ✓ **Reduced registration fees and no travel costs.**
- ✓ **Special IOU members-only registration rates.**
- ✓ **Participation support available (see page 3).**
- ✓ **Abstract submission deadline has been extended to 25 March 2022.**
- ✓ **All scientifically valid contributions will be accepted for an oral or poster presentation in the congress to form part of the overall virtual program.**
- ✓ **All session recordings to be available to registered attendees until 19 September 2022 (30 days post congress).**
- ✓ **Detailed information about the virtual platform can be obtained from the congress website.**
- ✓ **Participation in all plenary and concurrent sessions presented via the virtual platform.**
- ✓ **Access to all poster presentations, the virtual exhibition, one-on-one meetings with exhibitors, networking engagements and meetings with participants via the virtual platform throughout the congress.**
- ✓ **Online support for the duration of the congress.**
- ✓ **Downloadable pdf version of the full congress program.**
- ✓ **Access to the IOC proceedings will be available in electronic format on the IOU website <https://www.internationalornithology.org/iocongress-proceedings>.**
- ✓ **Attendance certificate.**
- ✓ **Enjoy the IOCongress 'vibe' and networking opportunities in the comfort and convenience of your own home or office space.**
- ✓ **Reduced air travel is good for the environment and therefore good for birds!**



Cape Parrot (*Poicephalus robustus*)
(Photo: Warwick Tarboton)

14 - 20 AUGUST 2022

REGISTER NOW!!



All information regarding **ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS** can be found on the congress website
[CLICK HERE](#)



IOCongress2022 REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION IS CURRENTLY OPEN.

All session recordings to be available to registered attendees until **19 September 2022** (30 days post congress)

All registration fees shown below are in South African Rands with an estimated amount in dollars based on a R15.00 to \$1.00 exchange rate. [Click here](#) for an online currency converter.

REGISTRATION FEES FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

IOU MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	IOU MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
<i>High-income countries</i>		<i>Middle-and low-income countries</i>	
<i>Individual Registration</i>		<i>Individual Registration</i>	
R4 500.00 - \$300	R6 900.00 - \$460	R3 000.00 - \$200	R5 500.00 - \$360
<i>Student</i>		<i>Student</i>	
R2 250.00 - \$150	R4 800.00 - \$320	R1 500.00 - \$100	R3 750.00 - \$250

REGISTER NOW!!



IOCongress2022 PARTICIPATION SUPPORT

To facilitate increased access to the IOCongress2022, low- and middle-income registrants are invited to apply for PARTICIPATION SUPPORT



We are accepting applications from students of all levels, including post-docs who received their terminal degree after 15 August 2017 as well as established scientists.

We have a growing base of support to assist potential applicants from the Walter J. Bock Travel Fellowship, the Asia and Southeast Asia Fellowship, and the National Science Foundation.

To ensure you meet funders' specific criteria please visit:

<https://www.internationalornithology.org/walter-j-bock-travel-fellowship> and
<https://www.internationalornithology.org/east-and-southeast-asia-travel-fund>

DEADLINE: 1 APRIL 2022

APPLY NOW!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear IOU members, IOU Fellows, and friends of the International Ornithologists' Union,

THIS ISSUE OF *The Flutter* is starting the fifth year of the publication of the IOU magazine ! Over its relatively brief lifespan, ***The Flutter*** has seen major improvements in its format and has continued to develop and expand its contents under the leadership of its editor, David Bird. My message in this issue will provide (1) news about the revised format and registration procedures for the **IOCongress2022**; (2) information on IOU programs (the Pronunciation Guide and IOU webinars); and (3) some thoughts on the future of ornithology as a distinct science field.



DOMINIQUE G. HOMBERGER
IOU President

Although the IOCongress2022 was conceived and organized as a hybrid conference for both in-person and virtual participation in adaptation to the global Covid-19 situation, experience with and anticipation of new coronavirus variants and a vanishing likelihood that the pandemic will be vanquished in eight months by July of this year has required a re-evaluation of the format of the **IOCongress2022** in favor of a **fully virtual conference** (see details in the announcement in this issue of ***The Flutter***). To enable this re-balancing, the registration site and portal needed to be updated, and multiple announcements will be sent out through our vast mailing list. Keep your eyes open for these messages and check your junk-mail boxes often. And please spread the word and encourage your colleagues and students to take note of the **“new” virtual IOCongress2022** with its multiple advantages, such as savings from not having to travel and a reduced burden on our environment. Although we may miss meeting and making friends through a traditional in-person IOCongress, we need to adapt to new conditions by recognizing the positive aspects of changes. The Scientific Program Committee and its chair, Professor Will Cresswell, will implement path-breaking approaches to making the presentations lively and engaging. There is no reason why presentations at scientific virtual conferences cannot be as riveting as some documentary films and TV programs.

“Please spread the word and encourage your colleagues and students to take note of the “new” virtual IOCongress2022 with its multiple advantages”

On a different topic: A new feature was added to the IOU web page: ***The Pronunciation Guide of Scientific Birds Names*** <https://www.internationalornithology.org/pronunciation-guide>. This service to the global community of ornithologists is a gift by Immediate Past President Lucia Liu Severinghaus. The IOU webmaster, Sascha Rösner, has adapted it as an interactive program for the IOU website. Try it out!

The **IOU Webinar series** <https://www.internationalornithology.org/iou-webinar-series> was launched in August last year with so far three lectures that have attracted global attention and can also be viewed on the IOU web page. The first webinar ***“The Barn Owl Replaced the Dove of Peace in the Middle East”*** was presented by Professors Yossi Leshem and Alexandre Roulin. It resonated across the globe with ornithologists as far as Indonesia interested in replicating the approach of biological pest control. The second webinar ***“How and Why Species Multiply”*** by Professors Rosemary and Peter Grant was an exemplary presentation of the highlights of decades of research and is likely to

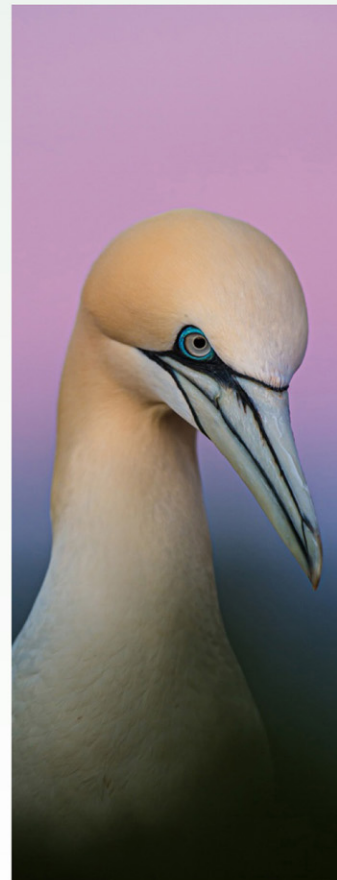
be included in many courses in ornithology. The third IOU webinar ***“Visual Control of Avian Flight”*** by Professor Doug Altshuler presented innovative research on how birds use their brains to navigate and, in the case of hummingbirds, drink nectar from a flower even when it is shaken by wind. The fourth IOU webinar on March 23, 2022 ***“eBird at 20 - What We've Learned after Two Decades of Global Citizen Science”*** will be presented by Professor John Fitzpatrick and colleagues of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York. The fifth IOU webinar is in preparation. Please feel free to send me suggestions!

The convergence of the climate crisis and Covid-19 pandemic has forced all of us to re-evaluate our personal and professional goals in life. The accelerating frequency and violence of weather-related and human-induced catastrophes has increased the acceptance of the scientific precept of global warming among people, even though appropriate actions (e.g., reduced consumption, rationing and more equitable distribution of the earth's resources; governmental support for reduced procreation by humans) are still sadly lagging all the while the benefits and necessity of degrowth are hotly discussed and debated (see, for example, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Degrowth>).

The current pandemic has demonstrated the fragility of human life and current lifestyles despite the unparalleled success by the pharmacological industry to create vaccines in a fraction of time of what used to be needed to counteract an infectious disease. The ensuing sense of at least subliminal dread has not been alleviated despite the efforts by the authorities and media to report the number of deaths and disabled people mainly in percentages of change rather than in absolute numbers perhaps in a well-meant effort to prevent panic among the population. The full extent of the disaster in regions with limited health care and statistics may not be known for a long time or even at all. The real numbers of Covid-19 victims may be known only after the number of surplus deaths will have been captured statistically (see https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00171-x?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=d781af9ed1-briefing-dy-2022024&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-d781af9ed1-43322213).

Worse even is the prospect that this pandemic will continue as the coronavirus will continue to mutate and, still worse, that it will be joined and/or followed by other pandemics due to our cramped population density and predilection for traveling as predicted by the WHO <https://www.who.int/news/item/01-10-2020-the-best-time-to-prevent-the-next-pandemic-is-now-countries-join-voices-for-better-emergency-preparedness>. The so-called avian flu (for a review, see, for example, ***“Highly pathogenic avian influenza is an emerging disease threat to wild birds in North America”*** by A.M. Ramey et al. 2022. *Journal of Wildlife Management*, doi 10.1002/jwmg.22171) should prepare us well for what we can expect from a virus that has spread to reservoirs of wild and domesticated mammals.

“We scientists have the obligation and responsibility to tell how things are, not how they hopefully could be”



An outbreak of Avian Influenza in South Africa decimated Western Cape seabird colonies in 2021. (Photo: Birger Strahl, Unsplash)

Some may feel that my assessment of the current one-health situation (see for example, <https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/basics/index.html>) is overly dark and pessimistic, but I would respond that we scientists have the obligation and responsibility to tell how things are, not how they hopefully could be. In addition, rather than bemoaning the changed conditions and futilely hoping that we will soon be able to return to the lifestyle we had taken for granted, we better try to grasp the opportunity to adapt to the changed environmental conditions and to learn from and build on positive aspects (e.g., the anthropause) that benefit Nature in general and birds in particular (e.g., reduced environmental noise and disturbance), as well as human health through cleaner air. We can also use the rising prices, problems with supply chains, and the inadvisability of travel and social gatherings to initiate and adapt to a regime of reduced consumption.

Just as the Covid-19 pandemic forced us to modify the century-old tradition of in-person IOCongresses and thereby discover and amplify the multi-faceted advantages of virtual conferences, so can we question established approaches to ornithology in research and teaching and conceive of new ones that fit the current environmental, educational and professional conditions. For example, the effects of mass tourism, so-called eco-tourism, and “extreme” birdwatching on Nature have been noticed with concern, and so has the frequent flying of ornithologists to scientific meetings.

At the same time, stagnant or dwindling professional employment opportunities for trained ornithologists at universities and museums have been observed for some time despite the obvious need for more research in ornithology. In this context, I am also reminded of what Rosemary Grant pointed out at the end of her IOU webinar, namely that research funding for fieldwork and ecology seriously lags behind funding for laboratory and medical research. In recent years, however, some counteracting and encouraging trends have been observed with greater numbers of foreign students having been trained in Europe, North America, or South Africa, for example, and now being established as leading ornithologists in their country of origin and training the next generation of autochthonous ornithologists who will be able to extend their field observations throughout the seasons and over several years. This trend is accompanied by other changes: More early career ornithologists are accepting positions in countries far away from their home country; established ornithologists spend long sabbaticals (instead of shorter visits) away from their place of employment; and retired ornithologists move to and get involved in research and conservation work in far-flung places. This trend towards a globalization of ornithology will be further amplified by using digital and telecommunication technology. In this vein, and to counterbalance the dwindling positions reserved specifically for ornithology in academia, one of the long-term plans of the IOU is to build on the success with its IOU webinars and create a global virtual university with **on-line ornithological mini-courses and workshops**, possibly in a variety of local languages and based on a variety of birds as model species to supplement the models based on standard European and North American species. The IOU has the technological capacity and a dedicated global community of IOU members and IOU Fellows to realize this need. I believe that such a plan, though ambitious, would be a win-win-win for birds, ornithologists, and our beleaguered Earth.

Finally, just as this issue of *The Flutter* was being finalized, sad news reached us, namely that Walter J. Bock peacefully died surrounded by his family at his home in Tenafl on Thursday, January 27, 2022. Walter Bock served as Permanent Secretary of the International Ornithological Committee (the precursor organization of the IOU) 1978-1998 and as its President 1998-2002 and presided over the **IOCongress2002** in Beijing, China. A preliminary note on Walter Bock's life has been added to this issue of *The Flutter* in the section “Obituaries”. An extensive obituary will be published at a later time.

With my very best wishes for 2022 and warm regards,



DOMINIQUE G. HOMBERGER
IOU President
zodhomb@lsu.edu



FROM THE EDITOR



Dear IOU Members

WANT TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION to bird conservation? It is easy.....introduce a child to birdwatching!! My wife and I have been recently blessed with a grandson who is now approaching two years of age, with another one to be born at the beginning of March. Lochlan has already shown a keen interest in birds, whether walking on the ground, floating on the water, perching in the trees, or flying in the sky. All I have to do is say, “Hey Lochlan, where are the birdies?” and he immediately runs over to the living room window and looks out. I cannot wait to buy him his first binoculars and hear him actually identify a bird. Who knows ... maybe he will follow in my footsteps!

Speaking of binoculars, I know that one can purchase those plastic toy ones, which might be useful in teaching a child how to hold them properly, however I plan to buy Lochlan something better. I want to ensure that he can actually see birds close up and in detail. It would not be the first time that someone became instantly turned off watching birds because they became frustrated in their attempts to get a decent view of them. A number of models with acceptable optics come with a modest price tag of about \$100 to \$200. I certainly won't spend more than that on a small child, mainly because I know that youngsters are not the best with caring for such delicate instruments. Above all else, make sure that the eyepieces can be adjusted to fit the child's eyes and that they are fitted for eyeglass wearers if necessary. Finally, another consideration is size. I expect to choose a pair that are not too heavy or bulky and that fit comfortably in my grandchild's hands.

The second useful tool for a budding birdwatcher is a field guide. And while one can usually find a guide for one's locale in most places in the world, even as an APP on a smartphone or tablet, it might be best not to overwhelm the budding birder with reams of pages of birds that seemingly all look alike to a neophyte or fancy computer software. Start off with a fairly simple book, one with lots of colour and just the basic birds found in the child's neighbourhood. Study the various birds with the child before even going outdoors to whet their appetite for what they might see.

When I teach neophyte birdwatchers, I employ three techniques. First, I tell them that we are going on a treasure hunt and that we are detectives. Second, I always start off simple by choosing birds that are “soft and easy to chew”. In other words, my initial goal is to help them identify the most basic of common birds with easily recognizable field marks, e.g. American robin, mallard duck, etc. I certainly do not immediately wade into sparrows, warblers, shorebirds or gulls! Third, I do not immediately blurt

“ Hey Lochlan,
where are the
birdies? ”



Emeritus Prof. David M Bird with grandson Lochlan (Photo: supplied)



Essential birding gear for all ages - binoculars and a field guide (Photo: Diane Helentjaris, Unsplash)

out the identity of the bird. It is critical that you let the child identify the bird. Essentially, I turn birding into a guessing game whereupon I ask the child to tell me what clues he or she is gathering. Things like feather colours, bill shape and length, and most important, where is the bird and what it is doing. We do not immediately go to the field guide but instead watch the bird as long as we can to gather important clues. After all, we will always have the book long after the bird has flown away!

Over my four decades of teaching ornithology and bird conservation to an army of well over a thousand university students at McGill University and bird-lovers outside academia through my various field trips, public lectures and bird courses, I have concluded that the impact of my teachings on my 'students' has likely held a far greater conservation value for birds than my two hundred peer-reviewed papers. Like many of you in the field of ornithology, a fair number of my students have gone on to secure jobs in leadership positions in academia and at all levels of government in Canada and elsewhere and thus, they have created a cascading effect whereupon they have further influenced others to become interested in bird conservation.



“Lochlan and his GrandPapar taking a great interest in some mallards in a pond”

I feel just as strongly about enticing children to get into birdwatching. And here is why. Besides the pure enjoyment of the hobby, it's very simple - the very future of all our birds on the planet depends on the coming generations! Children eventually become voters and our birds need their voices to elect politicians who care about wildlife conservation and serious threats like pollution, habitat loss, invasive species and climate change, to name but a few issues. Some children will undoubtedly go on to become biologists in academia, all levels of government and the private sector. Every one of us in the field of ornithology today was, at some point, influenced by someone in the beginning. It is time for a little payback. And time is of the essence!

As always, my very best to all of you.....stay safe....and stay sane!

DAVID M BIRD Emeritus Prof.
Editor, *The IOU Flutter*
david.bird@mcgill.ca



MEMBER PROFILES



EDITOR'S NOTE: In each newsletter, we feature a brief profile on the hard-working volunteers who make the International Ornithologists' Union an effective and useful organization for ornithologists all over the world. If you are a past or present officer or Council member or simply an active member in the IOU, please send me a brief profile (250 words or so) of yourself written in first or third person, as well as a photo just like the one below!

DR JESSICA LEE*Extending species' protection and recovery***JESSICA CONSIDERS HERSELF A CONSERVATION ORNITHOLOGIST**

with a para-veterinary background. Her journey started in 2007, in the academic field of avian conservation biology, health and management - studying how conservation may be integrated into production land-use to extend species protection and recovery beyond protected areas and reserves. She went on to work for BirdLife Australia and managed the threatened black cockatoo conservation program in Western Australia.



Helmeted Hornbill (Rhinoplax vigil) (Photo: Doug Janson, Wikimedia Commons)

**DR JESSICA LEE**

*Head, Avian Species Programs & Partnerships,
Mandai Nature Coordinator,
IUCN-SSC Asian Songbird Trade
Specialist Group Coordinator,
IUCN-SSC Helmeted Hornbill
Working Group*

Member of:

*The IUCN SSC Hornbill Specialist
Group Steering Committee,
The International Ornithological
Union,
The Working Group Asian
Ornithology,
The Scientific Program
Committee, IOCongress2022 in
Durban (South Africa)*

*“ Jessica believes
in building
conservation
competency ”*

In 2015, she moved back to Singapore and now leads the Avian Species Programs and Partnerships at Mandai Nature. Her role may be described as multi-levelled: she facilitates local and regional conservation research projects supported by Mandai Nature, as well as Mandai Wildlife Group, which includes building the network and capacity of conservation partners in ways that maximizes impact on the ground. She collaborates on conservation research initiatives with local and regional stakeholders, having supervised over 15 students and published over 30 scientific papers, conservation reports and action plans, with the aim of making them evidence-based and more applicable and effective for biodiversity conservation.

She is interested in topics that:

- (i) revolve around the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation management of threatened birds,
- (ii) address key threats (e.g., habitat loss and the illegal and unsustainable bird trade),
- (iii) enhance the conservation value of urban landscapes, and
- (iv) reduce demand for wildlife products.

She is fascinated by the biogeographical and phylogenetic elements around the cryptic diversity observed in Southeast Asian bird species, and how we may decipher it using newer technologies, such as genomics and museumomics.

Wherever possible, she volunteers at bird rescue and banding programs, and visits field sites across Southeast Asia to assist with conservation efforts, or to carry out training workshops for various conservation stakeholders.

In her external roles as co-coordinator for the IUCN-SSC Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group, the IUCN-SSC Helmeted Hornbill Working Group, and a steering committee member of the IUCN-SSC Hornbill Specialist Group, she helps to align, facilitate, coordinate, and implement efforts of existing regional and national conservation action plans across the region, as well as track and ensure conservation progress.

Jessica believes in building conservation competency and, apart from being an IOU member, she also supports the IOU's Working Group for Asian Ornithology and is a member of the Scientific Program Committee of the 2022 International Ornithological Congress.



Oriental Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) (Photo: Mark Stoop, Unsplash)

THE IOU IN THE NEWS



EDITOR'S NOTE: This newsletter exists to help IOU members. If you need some help with a project of some kind, please forward a brief version for me to post.

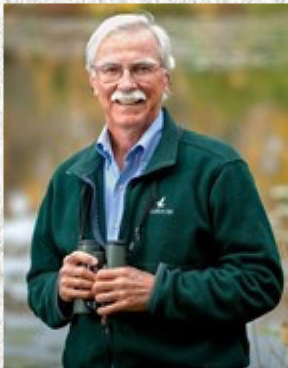
IOU WEBINAR SERIES - A roaring success!

DON'T MISS THE NEXT LECTURE!!

***"Twenty Years of eBird: How Birds and Birders
Power the World's Largest Citizen Science Project"***

by Professor John Fitzpatrick and colleagues

23 MARCH 2022 @ 04:00PM Johannesburg



JOHN FITZPATRICK

*Director Emeritus
The Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Ph.D., Princeton University
B.A., Harvard University*

As Executive Director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology from 1995–2021, I oversaw all aspects of the Lab's affairs and conducted research as a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Since stepping down from the directorship in July 2021, I am still closely involved in Lab affairs and also active in a variety of research projects including my long-term project on the ecology, landscape genetics and conservation of the Florida Scrub-Jay.

I was privileged to grow up in rural Minnesota during the 1950s and 60s where I fell in love with birds at a very early age. Several of my parents' friends were birdwatchers and one was even an avid bird-bander (Jane Olyphant). Our neighbor across the pond was a famous wildlife artist (Francis Lee Jaques) who became my childhood hero. I remain a passionate birder, and occasional bird-painter, to this day.

John Fitzpatrick



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**SAVE
THE DATE!**

If you would like to nominate someone or volunteer yourself to present an IOU Distinguished Speaker Webinar, please send a brief message to:

Dominique Homberger at zodhomb@lsu.edu

OPINIONS · LETTERS · ARTICLES



Are all Redpolls the same?

“Way back in 1861, the legendary ornithologist, Elliott Coues, described no less than eight different kinds of redpolls.”



Are these two species the same bird? (Photos: AllAboutBirds)

SO...WILL WE BE LOSING ANOTHER TWO BIRD SPECIES in the not-too-distant future? I am referring to the recently published paper by two ornithologists at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, which stated that the Common, Hoary and Lesser Redpolls might, in fact, be the same species. Allow me to explain. Way back in 1861, Elliott Coues, a legend among ornithologists today, described no less than eight different kinds of redpolls. Over the years, the list was knocked down to the three current redpoll species in the world. For North American birders, there is the Common Redpoll and the much more difficult to see Hoary Redpoll. The main differentiation is the colour of their breasts - the Common Redpoll's is brown-streaked and the Hoary's is snow-white.

The two researchers delved into the DNA of the two North American species, and even into that of the Lesser Redpoll in Europe and found that the three birds sharing basically the same genes and, therefore, could be considered to belong to the same species. They explain their conclusion in terms of human hair colour - two individuals might have the same gene for brown hair, but one might have a lighter brown than the other. They have presented their case for lumping the three redpolls together to the American Ornithological Society's North American Classification Committee. While the Cornell scientists claim that their finding makes the redpoll a more interesting bird, I am not so sure that those birdwatchers who worked hard to get the Hoary Redpoll on their lists will find it so amusing. And it does make one wonder what else is coming down the pike in terms of lumping and splitting species as scientists resort more and more to the use of DNA-based analyses.

DAVID M BIRD

Editor

Popular Article: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/from-many-one-how-many-species-of-redpolls-are-there/>

Are we being unfair to non-feeder birds in our yards?



“ If we suddenly banned bird feeding all over the world, will folks care about the birds with as much enthusiasm? ”

It is not easy to put a price on the feeding of backyard birds by the public (Photo: AllAboutBirds)

I RECENTLY READ A BBC STORY about the possible unintended negative consequences of backyard bird feeding in the UK. For those of you unaware of the issue, the premise of the article, based on a recent study of garden songbirds in the UK, is that some bird species that gain food supplementation by frequenting bird feeders are outcompeting similar non-feeder species for important things like nest sites. In other words, bird-feeding could be upsetting the balance among the various songbird species living in suburban environments. And to be truthful, the study and its ensuing results do make some sense to me as a scientist, and, moreover, it could be happening in other countries, too (e.g., Canada and the U.S.)

Looking at the bigger picture, I am also aware of previously published papers concluding that feeding birds can help spread disease among birds, at least among feeder operations that do not practice good hygiene. All of which begs the question...should we basically prohibit the feeding of birds everywhere?! Well, it is not that simple. Here is my take on it.

While the issues mentioned above might certainly represent legitimate concerns, no study, at least to my knowledge, has yet addressed the impact of feeding our feathered friends on overall societal attitudes toward birds. This billion-dollar growth industry brings incalculable hours of pleasure to humans putting out feeders. If we suddenly banned bird feeding all over the world, will folks care about the birds with as much enthusiasm? I think not. Also, recently published papers have concluded that having a variety of birds in one's surroundings can have positive influences on health, well-being and even longevity. If one takes away that simple pleasure of bringing in birds close to enjoy their company, I suspect that much of the public will just lose interest in them. And that will be far more damaging to our avifauna than a handful of bird species impacted negatively by bird feeding.

Finally, I am also a big believer in the adaptive behaviour of birds, and I will not be surprised to learn in the future that those non-feeder species are already finding ways to adapt somehow and remain competitive with the feeder birds. Anyway, for now, that is my current opinion.

DAVID M BIRD
Editor

Popular Article: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-58346043>

Original Paper: Shutt, J.D. and A.C. Lee. 2021. Killing with kindness: Does widespread generalised provisioning of wildlife help or hinder biodiversity conservation efforts? *Biological Conservation* 261: 109295.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2021.109295>

EDITOR'S CHOICE



RECENTLY PUBLISHED PAPERS

There's an old Neanderthal saying... "A bird in the hand is worth two in a cave"



Early Hominids were likely the first to bake four and twenty choughs in a pie! (Photo: Frontiers Science News)

WHAT IF YOU WOKE UP IN A FUTURE WORLD only to discover that the only things left to eat on the planet were birds... and worse, only birds that could fly. How would you catch them? And not a far-fetched concept either... It turns out that some Spanish scientists discovered that ancient caves in the Iberian Peninsula frequented by Neanderthal humans actually contained the remains of choughs, or crow-like birds that were captured for consumption. Since these birds are members of the highly intelligent *corvid* family and also well known for their speedy, agile flight, the scientists wanted to know how the Neanderthal hunter actually caught these birds, likely no easy task. But when I searched for the original study published on the internet, imagine my total surprise to learn that one of the authors on the paper is Juan Jose Negro, a former post-doctoral student of mine and a dear friend! I guess that I should not have really been surprised because Juan always did think outside the box.

So, Juan Jose and his two co-researchers actually took on the challenge of capturing some red-billed choughs, a common bird in Eurasia particularly prone to sheltering in caves even after being constantly disturbed. Sometimes over 700 birds can be found in one cave. They discovered that large numbers of choughs can be easily captured without resorting to highly sophisticated tools at night. Use of butterfly nets after dazzling the birds with flashlights did the trick, but some of the birds were caught by bare hands when dazzled and cornered. All in all, over 5,500 birds were captured in 70 different sites and released unharmed. This strongly suggests that early hominids could have used a combination of flaming torches and bare hands to capture choughs for the purpose of eating them. The scientists reckoned that about 2 to 3 choughs would make a nice supper for one Neanderthal.

Popular Article: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/scientists-simulated-neanderthal-behaviors-by-catching-birds-with-their-bare-hands-180978737/>

Original Paper: Blanco, G., A. Sanchez-Marco and J. J. Negro. 2021. Night Capture of Roosting Cave Birds by Neanderthals: An Actualistic Approach. *Front. Ecol. Evol.*, 09 September 2021 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2021.733062>

BIRDS IN THE NEWS



EDITOR'S NOTE: If you have some late-breaking news on some exciting ornithological research that you would like to share with IOU members, send along a summary and a photo if you wish for inclusion in the next issue of The Flutter.

Not one, but *TWO* immaculate conceptions in endangered California Condors!

PERHAPS NO OTHER BIRD SPECIES has been watched and tracked by biologists as much as the California condor. Once down to a mere 22 individuals left in the wild, all of them were trapped and placed into a captive breeding and reintroduction program. Naturally, the mating success of each and every individual has been recorded in a studbook, e.g., matings, production of offspring, release into the wild, and so on. DNA paternity tests are now routine with almost all captive breeding projects involving endangered species, and California condors are no exception. When examining the condor DNA data recently, a team of biologists headed by Oliver Ryder, the Kleberg Endowed Director of Conservation Genetics of the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, got a wee surprise upon discovering that two condors, SB260 and SB517, had not been sired by a father and instead, had acquired all of their DNA from their respective mothers!

After considering various explanations, the biologists could settle on only one option - the two female condors had basically fertilized their eggs without any donor sperm from a male. Apparently, parthenogenesis also occurs in chickens (as frequently as 40 percent in one variety bred specifically for that purpose), and it has been documented in lizards and snakes, as well as sharks, rays and other bony fish, in both captive and wild environments. Not in mammals though, because we need both a sperm and an egg to join together to produce an embryo. To be honest, parthenogenesis is not the best way to be born or hatched. Neither of those two male condors lived very long; one was small even as an adult and the other had spinal and related walking issues. But it does make one wonder what other wild bird females among the roughly 1,100 bird species out there in the world are able to produce young without suffering through all the trouble that mating with a male can present!

Parthenogenesis or fertilization without a male, previously known only in poultry, can be achieved by endangered California Condors
(Photo: AllAboutBirds)

Popular Article: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/parthenogenesis-in-california-condors-stuns-scientists/>

Original Paper: Ryder, O.A., et al. 2021. Facultative parthenogenesis in California condors. *Journal of Heredity* 112 : 569-574 <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhered/esab052>



IT'S CONFIRMED - migratory bird species like to travel 'light'!

WHEN MY WIFE AND I HEAD DOWN TO SUNNIER CLIMES for the winter, we usually avoid packing clothing with dark colours like black and dark blue and brown, preferring instead white or light khaki colours so as to reflect heat and not absorb it. It turns out that we are actually mimicking the birds! A recently published study by researchers from the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Germany revealed that migratory birds tend to be lighter-coloured than non-migratory species. And the more they migrate, the lighter coloured they are.

“Lighter coloured plumage reduces the risk of overheating when birds are exposed to a lot of sunlight”

The clever scientists quantified the overall plumage lightness, zero meaning black and 100 meaning white, in all of the bird species in the Handbook of the Birds of the World. Next, they compared the data on colouration with the species' migratory behaviour, while controlling for other factors known to affect plumage colour. They found that resident non-migratory birds tend to be darker than short-distance migrants and that the latter are darker than those bird species which travel farther. What was really cool was that their results were consistent among birds large and small, as well as water birds and land birds. The explanation makes sense too - lighter coloured plumage is advantageous to migratory species because it reduces the risk of overheating when the birds are exposed to a lot of sunshine. With our planet becoming hotter and hotter, it will be interesting to see how things play out further in terms of bird colouration.

Popular Article: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/feathers-light-color-migrating-birds-cool-long-flights>

Original Article: Delhey, Kaspar, James Dale, Mihai Valcu, and Bart Kempenaers. "Migratory birds are lighter coloured." *Current Biology* 31, no. 23 (2021): R1511-R1512.



The more migratory a bird species, the more likely it will feature light colours, as seen in this Willet (Photo: AllAboutBirds)

Hummingbirds can smell danger!



The more migratory a bird species, the more likely it will feature light colours, as seen in this Willet (Photo: AllAboutBirds)

WE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN that hummingbirds use visual cues to locate flowers and collect their nectar. And they can even use their amazing spatial memories to remember what flowers they have visited. But who would have thought that they also use smell?! Ashley Kim and her co-investigators at the University of California at Riverside decided to put this to the test by offering over 100 hummingbirds a choice between two feeders, one with just sugar water and another with added scents indicating the presence of certain insects. You see, bees, wasps and ants not only drain the nectar in flowers they visit, but they can also repel hummingbirds from flowers they occupy. Wasps physically chase them off, whereas ants deposit irritating formic acid. Because these creatures sometimes deposit chemical cues during foraging and agonistic interactions, the researchers wanted to find out whether bees use smell as part of their procedure to avoid wasting time on flowers already visited by other nectar-seekers, or worse, being physically repelled by competitors. The results were interesting. Kim and her team found that

their hummingbirds did indeed avoid flowers with the scent of two kinds of ants, but not that of the less harmful honeybees.

“Would hummingbirds also avoid feeders on which wasps or ants had left chemical cues?”

But would that mean that hummingbirds would also avoid sugar water feeders if wasps and/or ants had left chemical cues on them? While the scientists did not test that hypothesis, I am guessing that the hummers will not avoid them for several reasons. First, I am not sure that wasps and ants can leave chemical cues on a smooth plastic feeder. Second, unlike flowers, feeders are only limited in the nectar they supply by how often we fill them. Third, I do not believe that hummingbirds use the same foraging strategies with our feeders. If the wasps and ants are not present on a given feeder, that should mean open season for any hummingbird.

Popular Article: <https://news.ucr.edu/articles/2021/09/06/hummingbirds-can-smell-their-way-out-danger>

Original Article: Kim, A.Y., Rankin, D.T. & Rankin, E.E.W. 2021. “What is that smell? Hummingbirds avoid foraging on resources with defensive insect compounds.” *Behav Ecol Sociobiol* 75, 132 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00265-021-03067-4>

RESEARCH & CONSERVATION TOOLS



EDITOR'S NOTE: If you have some late-breaking news on a new ornithological research tool that you would like to share with IOU members, send along a summary and a photo if you wish for inclusion in the next issue of The Flutter.

Wildlife Drones: Global drone use pioneer in bird tracking

WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S BIRDS too small to be tracked using GPS or satellite tags, our understanding of the movements of small birds is often limited to radio-tracking which is incredibly challenging, especially within rugged or inaccessible areas. This has implications for the conservation of a variety of threatened bird species, limiting the amount of data that can be collected to enact more effective conservation management.

However, this often-daunting task of keeping track of radio-tagged birds is now made much easier by using *Wildlife Drones* to detect signals of multiple animals simultaneously, and search larger areas more confidently, dynamically and rapidly than ever before. This enables positive outcomes for a wide diversity bird species ranging from flightless parrots to Pink-footed Shearwaters. For example, drones have saved immense time and effort in tracking Kakapo on rugged, inaccessible and densely vegetated New Zealand islands. Drone use has also enabled the comprehensive monitoring of captive-bred Orange-bellied Parrots released into Australia's swampy salt marsh flats. Plains Wanderers (Australia) and Bobwhites (USA) are now also less challenging to track given that the drone creates a high point wherever needed to maximise signal detectability across vast grasslands. Using drones to keep up with tagged critically endangered Swift Parrots within Australia's iconic eucalypt woodlands and forests has, for the first time, enabled direct conservation intervention for a species which is at risk of extinction within the next 10 years.

This technology is equally valuable when applied to tracking invasive predators that have devastated bird populations. This includes feral cats in Australia, feral swine in the US and feral coatimundis on Robinson Crusoe Island, Chile. By being able to better track and understand the movements and habitat use of these highly destructive species, control and eradication measures can be vastly improved, and bird populations will be enabled to once again thrive.

Email *Wildlife Drones* founder Debbie Saunders at debbie@wildlifedrones.net or visit wildlifedrones.net



Wildlife Drones are being deployed to better monitor and manage both threatened birds and invasive predators.
(Photo: Debbie Saunders)



SPOTLIGHT ON CONSERVATION



EDITOR'S NOTE: Please forward any conservation issues or ongoing efforts for inclusion in the next issue of The Flutter.

Bees sting endangered Penguins to death



Some of the penguins killed by a swarm of bees (Photo: gizmodo.com)

WELL, HERE IS SOMETHING THAT YOU DON'T HEAR ABOUT OFTEN! This past September a swarm of bees apparently killed 63 endangered African penguins at Simon's Town, a popular tourist destination south of Cape Town in South Africa. The birds, part of a protected colony in a national park that I had visited myself several years ago, were found dead on the beach at Boulders, and a veterinarian for the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds observed multiple bee stings, as many as twenty per bird, around the penguins' eyes but no other obvious physical injuries. Many dead bees were also found on the scene. Known as Cape honeybees, they are considered to be a normal part of the ecosystem there.

While the incident was regarded as a fluke, the population of African penguins can certainly do without it. Native to the coasts of South Africa and Namibia, there used to be more than a million of these small penguins at the beginning of the 20th century, but in 2010, their numbers were

down to 55,000. They are now considered to be an endangered species.

Bees, hornets, and wasps can be a nuisance to birds in general, especially hummingbirds competing with wasps for access to sugar water feeders, but one seldom hears of a case of a bird being killed by one or more of the stinging insects. A bird's dense feathery plumage and its ability to fly away quickly makes this a rare occurrence. But other than taking to the water by foot, penguins do not have the latter ability and their facial areas, i.e., their eyes, would certainly be vulnerable to stings by these insects.

Ironically, there are birds in Africa, aptly named bee-eaters, who actually feast upon bees.... too bad that they do not live near that penguin colony! The motive for the fatal bee attack is still being investigated.

Popular article:
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/20/bees-kill-63-endangered-penguins-in-south-africa>

When will the world see an end to oil spills like this?!

IF THE WILDFIRES ARE NOT BAD ENOUGH

for California's birds and other wildlife, a serious oil spill off Southern California this past fall has coated shorelines and marine life, including water birds, in black tar. The cause was apparently a cargo ship's anchor snagging an oil pipeline and causing a rupture in it, unleashing a slick of about 3,400 barrels of oil over an area comprising just over eight thousand acres somewhere between Huntingdon Beach and Dana Point. Comparing it to the Deepwater Horizon spill of two million barrels and the Exxon Valdez spill of 260,000 barrels, experts are referring to this oil spill as modest in size. But it is more complicated than that.

The Deepwater oil was light sweet crude, almost like a cooking oil, and it was 50 miles offshore, giving plenty of time to prepare for cleaning operations. In contrast, this latest California spill is a very heavy, dense oil containing the more toxic asphaltenes, and it reached the beaches before anyone even knew there was a spill. So, for the birds, this particular oil spill poses two major problems. The oil contains polycyclic

aromatic compounds, which can be toxic and also carcinogenic. Because the oiled birds find it difficult to regulate their body temperature, they fluff out their feathers and preen them with their beaks. Naturally, they ingest the oil. Some even breathe the oil into their lungs and circulatory system. So, even though some birds get the oil cleaned off with special detergents by legions of caring environmentalists, their prognosis for survival is not good. Worse, this oil is likely to enter various estuaries and marshes in the area, where it cannot even be cleaned up. We do not yet know how many birds have been and will be affected by the spill, but we do know that its impact on the birds, both residents and migrants, will be felt for decades.

Popular article:

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/california/story/2021-10-03/major-oil-spill-off-southern-california-fouls-beaches>

“The recent oil spill in California will have long-term consequences for both local and migratory birds”



(Photo: San Diego Union-Tribune)

UPDATE:

Millions of birds killed by the olive industry



Birds are paying a steep price at the hands of the olive industry! (Photo: Olive Oil Times)

“ It is claimed that harvesting at night provides fresher, better-tasting olives, yet millions of roosting birds meet their end when sucked into the vacuum harvesting machines ”

YOU MAY RECALL that I wrote about this horrific practice a couple of years ago, and so, I thought that it might be worthwhile to revisit it to see if the public outcry has resulted in any positive movement toward a resolution.

I am referring to the millions of birds that are killed during the harvesting of olives by being sucked up in huge vacuum machines at night while they are roosting in the trees. It is claimed that harvesting in the cool of the night provides fresher, better-tasting olives.

The most recent mortality figures I could find were about 2.6 million birds in the Andalusia region of Spain and 96,000 in Portugal per year. This cruel, super-intensive harvesting procedure is also used in Italy and France, but no mortality data are available. The latest news that I could find on halting night-time harvesting was in 2020. Both Spain and Portugal have agreed to a temporary ban with the former country undertaking studies to examine the impact of the practice on migratory bird populations and the latter country reassessing the ban on a yearly basis.

Hopefully these temporary bans in those two countries might influence France and Italy to follow suit. Greece claims that it does not employ this harvesting method, instead relying on traditional procedures. Whether it has an impact or not on populations, I think that we can all agree that it is a very inhumane way for any bird to die, and it must be banned permanently everywhere.

How can you help?

Insist upon buying organic olives that are not harvested in this manner. For a partial list of some good brands to buy and which ones to avoid, take a peek at the table in the web site: www.ethicalconsumer.org and search for bird deaths and olive harvesting under food and drink.

“ Do your bit - insist on organic olives that are ethically harvested ”

NOTICEBOARD



EDITOR'S NOTE: This list is by no means exhaustive. If I am missing some noteworthy events, please let me know so that I can include them in the next issue. Also, note that, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, some meetings are being cancelled, some are being postponed, some are being done online, and some are still under consideration. Thus, since things are rapidly evolving, it is always best to check the actual web site for the conference you are planning to attend.

CONFERENCES

2022		
DATE	EVENT	FOR MORE INFORMATION
15 - 16 FEBRUARY	The 10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT will be held in London, UK	https://waset.org/biodiversity-conservation-and-sustainable-development-conference-in-february-2021-in-london
24 - 26 FEBRUARY	The PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP is holding its annual meeting in La Jolla, CA.	https://pacificseabirdgroup.org/annual-meeting/
14 - 18 MARCH	The NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE will be held in Spokane, Washington.	https://wildlifemanagement.institute/conference/future-locations
14 - 18 MARCH	The EUROPEAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION will hold its annual meeting at the University of Giessen, Germany.	https://conference.eouunion.org/2022/
30 MARCH - 1 APRIL	The BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION annual conference themed upon " <i>Avian Reproduction</i> " will meet in Nottingham, UK.	https://www.bou.org.uk/bou-conferences/
27 JUNE - 1 JULY	The AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY will hold its 140th stated meeting and BIRDS CARIBBEAN will hold its 23rd International Conference jointly in San Juan, Puerto Rico.	https://americanornithology.org/meetings/ https://www.birdscaribbean.org/get-involved/stay-informed/
14 - 22 AUGUST	The INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL UNION will hold the 2022 IOCongress™ virtually.	https://www.internationalornithology.org/iocongress-2022
14 - 19 AUGUST	The ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA hold its 107th annual meeting in Montreal, Canada.	https://www.esa.org/events/meetings/future-esa-meetings/
11 - 16 SEPTEMBER	The 18TH INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY CONGRESS will be hosted in Melbourne, Australia.	http://www.behavecol.com/meetings-conferences/
17 - 21 SEPTEMBER	The WORLD OWL CONFERENCE will be held in Onalaska/La Crosse, Wisconsin, USA.	https://www.worldowlconference.com/
4 - 9 OCTOBER	The RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC and the FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY will hold a joint meeting in Fort Lauderdale.	https://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/conferences/
10 - 12 OCTOBER	The ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS is holding its annual meeting in Plymouth, MA.	https://afonet.org/meetings/
6 - 10 NOVEMBER	THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY will hold its 29th Annual Conference in Spokane, Washington.	https://wildlife.org/learn/conferences-2/
13 - 18 NOVEMBER	The SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY (SETAC) will hold its 43rd annual North American meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Visit the SETAC website for future international meetings.	https://pittsburgh.setac.org/ https://www.setac.org/events/event_list.asp
21 - 25 NOVEMBER	The PAN-AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS will be held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.	https://www.paoc15.org/

2023		
DATE	EVENT	FOR MORE INFORMATION
21 - 22 JANUARY	THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WILDLIFE ECOLOGY, BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT will be held in London, UK	https://waset.org/wildlife-ecology-biodiversity-conservation-and-management-conference-in-january-2023-in-london
20 - 24 MARCH	The NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE will be held in St. Louis, Missouri.	https://wildlifemanagement.institute/conference/future-locations
20 - 24 MARCH	The BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION hold an in-person international conference on Evolutionary Responses at Nottingham, UK	https://bou.org.uk/event/bou2023-evolutionary-responses/
14 - 15 JUNE	The INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WILDLIFE BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION will be held in Montreal, Canada.	https://waset.org/wildlife-biology-and-conservation-conference-in-june-2023-in-montreal
6 - 11 AUGUST	THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA will hold its 108th annual meeting in Portland, Oregon.	https://www.esa.org/events/meetings/future-esa-meetings/
17 - 22 OCTOBER	The annual meeting of the RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION will take place in Albuquerque, New Mexico.	https://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/conferences/

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Workshops that benefit ornithologists are not easy to locate on the internet and they are often buried in the web site of an upcoming conference. If you know of any upcoming courses or workshops of interest to our members anywhere in the world, please forward the information to the editor.

Courses and workshops for PhD students, postdocs, professional researchers and those wishing to become ornithologists

VENUE & COURSE / WORKSHOP DETAILS	FOR MORE INFORMATION
The CORNELL LABORATORY OF ORNITHOLOGY based in Ithaca, New York, offers outstanding courses and workshops on ornithology that may be useful to those interested in improving their skills in the study and conservation of birds on both a professional basis and for citizen science.	https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/education/
The BRITISH TRUST FOR ORNITHOLOGY offers a wide range of courses each year around the country in a variety of venues and habitats, for beginner birders, developing surveyors and conservation professionals.	https://bto.org/develop-your-skills/training-courses

Courses and workshops for those wishing to become ornithologists:

VENUE & COURSE / WORKSHOP DETAILS	FOR MORE INFORMATION
ONLINE COURSE: How to Become an Ornithologist EnvironmentalScience.org	https://www.environmentalscience.org/career/ornithologist
Online Ornithology Courses - Fat Birder Top fatbirder.com	https://www.coursef.com/ornithology-online-programs?rid=5e8fb68b8dcd2c6600c988a7
EDITOR'S NOTE: For more online courses in ornithology	https://www.coursef.com/ornithology-online-programs

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS AND POSITIONS

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you know of other opportunities for ornithological grants, fellowships, internships and positions, please forward them to me for posting. The editor is also posting other databases rather than duplicating all pertinent listings in The Flutter.

General Grants and Awards Databases:

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a reasonably up-to-date database of recurring grants, awards, prizes, scholarships, fellowships, etc. in the field of ornithology. While it does include some of the opportunities listed below, there are other useful ones. For more information, visit <https://ornithologyexchange.org/funding/grants/>

Worldwide

BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY TRAINING & TRAVEL GRANTS: These grants help Ph.D. students and postgraduate research assistants to meet the costs of specialist field training courses and to network and publicise their research by presenting their work at workshops and conferences.

Read more: <https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/funding/training-travel-grants/>

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: small research grants of up to £2,000 per project aimed at supporting small projects outright or to part-fund medium-sized research programmes.

Read more: <https://mailchi.mp/bou.org.uk/funding-ornithology-july-564053?e=1cb38bcd10>

CAPTAIN DAVID SIMPSON AWARD: The Royal Navy Birdwatching Society administers a fund left by the late Captain David Simpson, MN for a scholarship in his name. A budget for research grants and conservation work is set each year at the annual meeting. Researchers are encouraged to apply for grant funding in support of scientific seabird studies with clear aims and objectives.

Contact: the General Secretary at secretary@rnbws.org.uk for details.

Read more: <http://www.rnbws.org.uk/about-us/>

CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AWARDS: The awards were created in 2005 by the Board of Trustees of the Chicago Zoological Society to honour the lifelong legacy of animal welfare and the worldwide conservation leadership of George Rabb.

Read more: <https://www.czs.org/Chicago-Zoological-Society/Conservation-Leadership/Conservation-Awards>

DARWIN INITIATIVE FUNDING FOR BIODIVERSITY: The Darwin Initiative is a UK government grants scheme that helps to protect biodiversity and the natural environment through locally based projects worldwide.

Read more: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/darwin-initiative-applying-for-main-project-funding>

FRANK M. CHAPMAN COLLECTION STUDY GRANT, FRANK M. CHAPMAN FELLOWSHIP, FRANK M. CHAPMAN GRANT, AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY: comprise several continuous grant schemes aimed to assist ornithological research.

Read more: <https://www.amnh.org/our-research/vertebrate-zoology/ornithology/grants>

HAWK MOUNTAIN, GRADUATE STUDENT PROGRAM: internship programs and competitive grants for graduate students working on raptors at major universities throughout the United States and elsewhere.

Read more: <https://www.hawkmountain.org/about/careers/graduate-student-programs>

HOLOHIL GRANT PROGRAM: supports endangered species research and educational work world-wide that makes significant use of Holohil transmitters for data collection.

Read more: <http://www.holohil.com/grant-program/>

IDEA WILD EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE: grants for the acquisition of field equipment. IDEA WILD encourages the use and reuse of equipment and gives preference to proposals that clearly explain how the equipment will be used when the project is finished.

Read more: <http://www.ideawild.org/apply.html>

INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - PARTICIPATION SUPPORT FOR IOCONGRESS2022: For low- and middle-income students at all levels as well as post-docs who received their terminal degree after 15 August 2017 as well as established scientists, funding is available thanks to generous assistance from the Walter Bock Travel Fellowship, the Asia and Southeast Asia Fellowship and the National Science Foundation.

Deadline: 1 April @11:59pm UTC. To apply visit: https://ousurvey.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eYdUYhGxSJ5QLpY

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS, WORLD WILDLIFE FUND: Professional Development Grants (PDGs) provide support for mid-career conservationists to pursue short-term, non-degree training to upgrade their knowledge and skills through short courses, workshops, symposiums, conferences, and professional exchanges.

Read more:

https://c402277.ssl.cf1.rackcdn.com/publications/1095/files/original/PDG_Guidelines_2020.pdf?1568057598

SMALL GRANTS FOR NATURE CONSERVATION, THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION: funds nature conservation projects across the developing world.

Read more: <https://www.rufford.org/rsg/>

SOPHIE DANFORTH CONSERVATION BIOLOGY FUNDS: supports conservation programs that protect threatened wildlife and habitats worldwide.

Read more: <http://rwpzoo.org/danforth-conservation-grants>

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.: The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. offers several grants to amateurs and students with limited access to alternative funding to support research on birds of prey and also gives out several awards annually to deserving individuals contributing to the biology and conservation of raptors worldwide.

Read more: www.raptorresearchfoundation.org

THE INTERNATIONAL OSPREY FOUNDATION: research grants awarded annually for osprey and other raptor-related research in the United States and worldwide.

Read more: <https://www.ospreys.com/styled-4/index.html>

WATERBIRD SOCIETY: various grants to support projects producing significant scientific advances in the biology, ecology or conservation biology of wading birds (i.e. herons, storks, ibises, and their taxonomic allies).

Read more: <https://waterbirds.org/awards/>

YOUNG EXPLORERS GRANTS, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC: currently offering Explorers a variety of funding opportunities in the fields of conservation, education, research, storytelling, and technology, including birds.

Read more: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/funding-opportunities/grants/>

Africa

AFRICAN BIRD CLUB CONSERVATION AND EXPEDITION AWARDS: The ABC's Conservation Programme supports small- to medium-sized conservation and expedition projects in Africa. For Undergraduate Students, Masters Students, Doctoral Students, Postdoctoral, Early Professionals, and Established Professionals. *Next deadlines: end of June and end of October.*

Read more: <https://www.africanbirdclub.org/conservation-fund-awards>

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.: Leslie Brown Memorial Grants offered specifically for research on birds of prey in Africa.

Read more: <https://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/grants-and-awards/leslie-brown-memorial-grant/>

Australasia

AUSTRALIAN BIRD STUDY ASSOCIATION RESEARCH FUND: Each year, the Association awards grants to its members to support specific projects that increase our knowledge of Australian birds. Usually, two grants are awarded. The purpose of the grants is to fund equipment purchases to enable new projects to get started, or to sustain long-term projects.

Read more: <https://www.absa.asn.au/grants-2/fund-for-avian-research/>

BIRDS QUEENSLAND RESEARCH GRANT: Each year Birds Queensland offers small grants for research relating to the conservation of birds and their habitats in Queensland, especially those under threat.

Read more: http://birdsqueensland.org.au/research_grants.php

Nearctic

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY SOCIETY: a variety of research and travel awards aimed at student and post-docs and various prestigious awards for professionals, publications, service and presentations.

Read more: <http://www.americanornithology.org>

AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY: offers job opportunities for ornithologists in the area of bird conservation in the US.

Read more: <https://abcbirds.org/about/employment/>

BIRDS CANADA: jobs for ornithologists at all levels, as well as plenty of opportunities for citizen scientists dealing with birds; also offer annually two main research grants, one for Canadian-based species and another dedicated to murre populations.

Read more: <http://www.birdscanada.org>

CORNELL LABORATORY OF ORNITHOLOGY: for those seeking jobs and volunteer positions as well as opportunities for students.

Visit: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/jobs/>

They are also once again offering one UK Birder between the age of 16 - 18 the opportunity to win the Cameron Bespolka Scholarship to attend Cornell Lab of Ornithology Bird Event, in Ithaca, New York in 2021.

For more information visit: <https://www.cameronbespolka.com/sponsorship-to-attend-cornell-university-ornithology-event>

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB GRANTS: The CBC provides grants to support research, education and conservation of birds of the Carolinas and their habitats. Grant applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. The CBC Grants Committee meets quarterly to review applications.

Read more: <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/grants/>

DELAWARE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, COLLECTION RESEARCH GRANTS: The Collections & Research Division of the Delaware Museum of Natural History announces the availability of graduate student grants in support of research in the Museum's collections.

Read more: <http://www.delmnh.org/collections-research/collection-research-grants/>

SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS: Each year, the SCO-SOC offers both prestigious professional awards and a variety of research awards to students.

Read more: <https://www.sco-soc.ca/awards>

WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY: a variety of research and travel awards aimed at students and various prestigious awards for professionals, publications, service, and presentations.

Read more: <http://www.wilsonsociety.org>

Neotropics

NEOTROPICAL BIRD CLUB AWARDS AND GRANTS: for conservation work or research that has an intended conservation benefit. **Next deadline: July.**

Read more: <https://www.neotropicalbirdclub.org/conservation/conservation-fund/conservation-fund-guidelines/>

PAMELA AND ALEXANDER F. SKUTCH RESEARCH AWARD, ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS: supports minimally invasive research into the life histories, especially social relations and reproduction, of little-known birds of the continental Neotropics, including Trinidad and Tobago. **Deadline: 15 July.**

Read more: http://afonet.org/wp_english/grants-awards/skutch-award/

Oceania

PACIFIC SEABIRD CRAIG S. HARRISON CONSERVATION FUND, PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP: The Conservation Fund makes grants for conservation of seabirds in the Pacific Ocean, and for expanding seabird expertise in developing countries within or bordering the Pacific Ocean.

Read more: <https://pacificseabirdgroup.org/grants/>

FILMS AND VIDEOS

There is no shortage of beautiful footage of birds on YouTube, but here are a couple worth pointing out:

***Bird's Planet:
Most Beautiful Birds On Planet Earth***
- Short Movie 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCYBdAMtXuA>



***The 2021 Audubon
Photography Awards:***
- Top Ten Videos

<https://www.audubon.org/news/the-2021-audubon-photography-awards-top-10-videos>

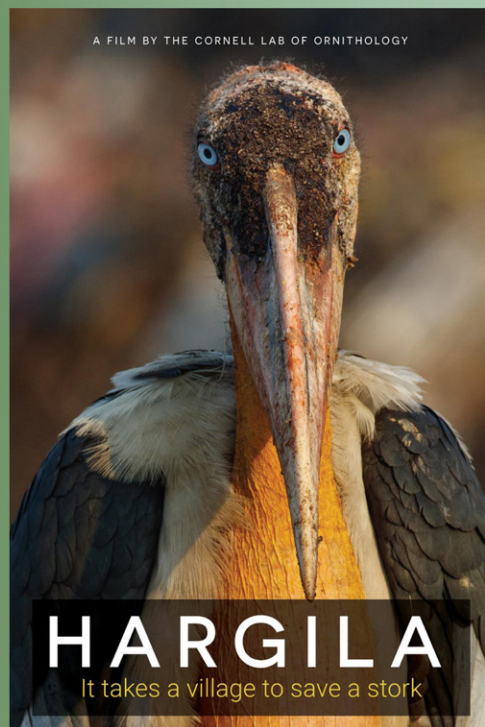
*Amateur Category - 5th Place:
Sandhill Crane by Sonja Pedersen
(Source: www.audubon.org)*



***Hargila - A community rallies to save a
misunderstood stork - Short Movie***

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology brings to our attention a 28-minute film called *Hargila* about how a community comes together to save a stork. Most of the 1,200 Greater Adjutant storks in the world are confined to a last stronghold in Assam, India, where they rely on a single garbage dump for food and two nearby villages for nesting. *Hargila* tells the story of the world's rarest stork, revealing its unique life history and spotlighting the women in the Assamese villages who helped the birds gain the admiration and support of their human neighbors. For more information, visit:

https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/hargila-film-save-greater-adjutant/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=6f7d73c6b5-Cornell-Lab-eNews-January-2022&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-6f7d73c6b5-308472681



Finally, here is an interesting web site that provides synopses of fifteen feature films and documentaries focusing on birds worth watching in 2021:

<https://opticsmag.com/bird-documentaries-and-movies/>

OBITUARIES



EDITOR'S NOTE: If you wish to include an obituary, tribute or memorial piece for some individual who has made contributions to ornithology and/or bird conservation in some meaningful way, please submit no more than 1,000 words and an accompanying photograph.

THE IOU HAS SADLY LOST A NUMBER OF IOU FELLOWS in the last five years and it is important that they be remembered in *The Flutter* for their tireless important contributions to the field of ornithology and to bird conservation. If you know of other IOU Fellows, please inform David M. Bird at david.bird@mcgill.ca

I N M E M O R I A M

JIRO KIKKAWA (Australia) died 30 May 2016

<https://academic.oup.com/auk/article/137/1/ukz065/5606821>

FRANÇOIS VUILLEUMIER (U.S.) died 11 January 2017

<https://sora.unm.edu/sites/default/files/brush-2017.pdf>

HERBERT SCHIFTER (Austria) died 7 February 2017

https://happyhappybirthday.net/en/age/herbert-schifter-person_yeaxxafe

KAREL HUDEC (Czechoslovakia) died 10 November 2017

https://www.xwhos.com/person/karel_hudec-whois.html

https://www.ivb.cz/wp-content/uploads/57_199-200.pdf

DAVID BOAG (Canada) died 6 December 2017

<https://academic.oup.com/auk/article/136/2/ukz013/5470841>

DIMITAR NIKOLAV NANKINOV (Bulgaria) died 24 July 2018

NICOLA SAINO (Italy) died July 2019

<https://www.avocetta.org/articles/vol-43-2-euk-obituary-prof-nicola-saino/>

PYONG-OH WON (Korea) died 9 April 2020

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Won_Pyong-oh

EBERHARD CURIO (Germany) died 11 September 2020

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eberhard_Curio

ALEXANDER ANDREEV (Russia) died 7 December 2020

<https://cms.geese.org/sites/default/files/GSG/documents/bulletins/Goose%20Bulletin%202026.pdf>



I N M E M O R I A M

Walter J. Bock

(20 November 1933 - 27 January 2022)



Walter J. Bock at the IOCongress2002 in Beijing,
5 December 2002.

WALTER J. BOCK was a prominent and well-known presence at American, European, and international conferences in ornithology and evolutionary biology and an appreciated and respected colleague and mentor to established and aspiring ornithologists.

At the time of his death, Walter Bock was a Professor emeritus in the Dept. of Biological Sciences at Columbia University and a Research Associate at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City; a Corresponding Member of the British Ornithologists' Union and the Senckenberg Naturforschende Gesellschaft; a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Ornithologists' Union, the Zoological Society, Kolkata (India), and the International Ornithologists' Union (IOU); and an Honorary Member of the Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft.

Walter Bock was a recipient of the Elliot Coues Award of the American Ornithologists' Union. After having earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University titled "*The palatine process of the*

premaxilla in the Passeres" under his advisor Professor Ernst Mayr, he spent two years as a post-doctoral fellow at the Anatomisches Institut der Universität in Frankfurt am Main with Professor Dietrich Starck. It was during this time that his lifelong friendships and collaborations with colleagues in Europe were established. His research and over 300 publications influenced diverse scientific areas, such as biomechanics and functional morphology, systematics and nomenclature, ecomorphology, evolution, and philosophy and history of science.

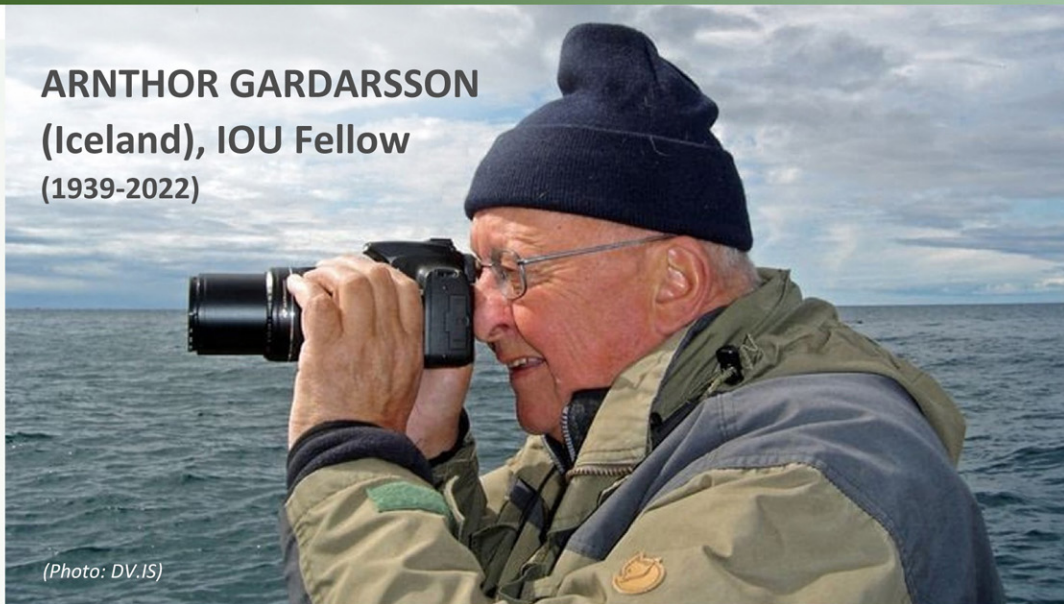
Walter Bock devoted much time and energy in service to build and promote international ornithology as Permanent Secretary (1978-1998) of the International Ornithological Committee (the precursor organization of the IOU) and President of the 23rd International Ornithological Congress in Beijing in 2002.

An extensive obituary will be published later.

Tax-deductible donations in honor of Walter Bock may be made at:

<https://www.internationalornithology.org/donate-0>

ARNTHOR GARDARSSON (Iceland), IOU Fellow (1939-2022)



ARNTHOR GARDARSSON, Professor Emeritus of the University of Iceland, passed away 1 January 2022 at the age of 83 years. Arnthor was known to the waterfowl community through his work on duck populations, especially the Eurasian Wigeons breeding at Lake Mývatn.

Arnthor completed his B.Sc. at the University of Bristol in 1962 and his Ph.D. from the University of Berkeley on the population cycles of ptarmigan in 1971. He was appointed professor of zoology at the University of Iceland in 1974, where he became the third biology professor at the newly founded Biology Department.

His research spanned many fields. He studied polychaetes in shallow inshore waters, led ecological research at Thjorsarver prior to hydropower development and then founded the monitoring program of the unique and waterfowl-rich Lake Mývatn Ecosystem. Later in his career he shifted his focus towards the seabird populations of Iceland and laid the foundations of the present-day monitoring program. In addition to his scientific publications, he took numerous photographs of all the bird cliffs in Iceland, which have proven invaluable in evaluating population changes of the last decades.

Arnthor remained active in research until his very final years. He was a unique and memorable teacher. He mentored me and most of my Icelandic colleagues in the fields of ecology and zoology. He always had the time for us, and his advice and insights were unique. He was well liked and was known to be a kind and remarkable man.

Arnthor held many positions in his career. He chaired the Biology Department at UI 1978-1980,

was president of the Faculty of Sciences from 1987 to 1989 and served as chairman of the Icelandic Society for Natural History from 1972 to 1976. He was also invaluable in nature conservation, twice a member of the board of Nature Conservation and its chairman from 1990 to 1996. He campaigned for the protection of wetlands and the official status of both the Thjorsarver and the Lake Mývatn-Laxá River ecosystems. Arnthor received many honors late in his career from most of our institutions and societies dealing with nature conservation and natural research.

I first met Arnthor when I was a biology student in 1995, when I took his zoology class and later participated in duck counts at Lake Mývatn. I worked for him from 1997 to 2000 as an RA and did my master's thesis under his supervision. We went on many long but unforgettable field trips and his words often come back to me when I drive these same paths today. He counted birds on land and from the air and thanks to that, I have seen much of Iceland from a low-flying airplane. Later, we collaborated on research on common eider and cormorant. Those who attended probably remember his plenary talk on the Mývatn research at the Seaduck conference in Reykjavík in 2014.

May he rest in peace

JÓN EINAR JÓNSSON

Vísindamaður / Research Professor
Rannsóknasetur Háskóla Íslands á Snæfellsnesi /
University of Iceland's Research Center at
Snæfellsnes
Hafnargata 3
340 Stykkishólmur
Iceland



The loss of three iconic Naturalists



From left to right: Richard Leakey, Edward O. Wilson and Thomas Lovejoy

WHILE THEY MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF THE IOU, it is worth noting the recent passing of three of the world's leading naturalists within a few days of one another.

Thomas Lovejoy, a conservation biologist credited with popularising the term “biodiversity” and a passionate defender of the Amazon, died on 25 December 2021. A day later, Edward O. Wilson, known to many as the “modern-day Darwin”, died in Burlington, Massachusetts. On 2 January 2022, Richard Leakey, a world-renowned Kenyan conservationist who helped establish Africa as the birthplace of humankind, died at his home in Nairobi.

Thousands of people all over the world ranging from nation leaders to undergraduate students, and the print and electronic media, are paying tribute to these great men, whose achievements range from developing theories on forest and island ecosystems to reforming the Kenyan civil service and devising proposals to protect half the planet for nature.

Without any doubt, it would be an understatement to say that each and all of these men had some sort of positive impact on the lives and careers of many members of the IOU, deceased or still living today. Such humans are simply irreplaceable!

“Thousands of people all over the world are paying tribute to these great men”



T H E I O U F L U T T E R

CONTACT US



For feedback or for more information, or to provide submissions for the next issue of *The Flutter*, please contact the editor at:

DAVID M. BIRD, Ph.D.

Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology, McGill University
c/o 10980 Dunne Road, North Saanich, British Columbia, Canada V8L 5J1

01-1-778-351-0352

david.bird@mcgill.ca

www.askprofessorbird.com



The next deadline for IOU members'
submissions is
15 APRIL 2022





THE
FLUTTER