

MEET YOUR NEW
IOU COUNCIL
MEMBERS!



THE FLUTTER

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I N S I D E

**IOCongress2022
REPORT BACK**
THE WORLD WELCOMES
A NEW BIRD SPECIES!
ALBATROSS DIVORCE, PENGUINS
AND VULTURES ON THE BRINK,
AND MUCH MORE!



T H E O F F I C I A L N E W S L E T T E R O F T H E
I N T E R N A T I O N A L O R N I T H O L O G I S T S ' U N I O N

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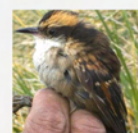
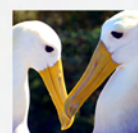
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T H E I O U F L U T T E R

MEET THE NEW IOU TEAM!



THIS ISSUE OF THE FLUTTER introduces and welcomes the newly elected members of the IOU Council (2022-2026), the governing body of the International Ornithologists' Union (IOU).



The positions of Congress Convener and Scientific Program Committee Chair will be filled by the IOU President when the location of the IOCongress2026 has been decided.

ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION (2022 - 2026)



PRESIDENT
Lei Fu-min
(China)



VICE PRESIDENT
Juan Carlos Rebores
(Argentina)



SECRETARY
Sandi Willows-Munro
(South Africa)



TREASURER
Eli Bridge
(USA)



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
Patricia Escalante
(Mexico)



MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Frank E Rheindt
(Singapore)



MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Wolfgang Fiedler
(Germany)



PAST PRESIDENT
Dominique G
Homberger (USA)

FORMER COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION (2018 - 2022)



PRESIDENT
Dominique G
Homberger (USA)



VICE PRESIDENT
Lei Fu-min
(China)



TREASURER
Eli Bridge
(USA)



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
Patricia Escalante
(Mexico)



CONGRESS CONVENER
Colleen Downs
(South Africa)



**SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM
COMMITTEE CHAIR**
Will Cresswell (UK)



MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Frank E Rheindt
(Singapore)



MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Adams A Chaskda
(Nigeria)



HONORARY PRESIDENT
Elizabeth Hofling
(Brazil)



PAST PRESIDENT
Lucia Liu-Severinghaus
(Taiwan)

The members of the past IOU Council (2018-2022) thank their successors for their willingness to dedicate their time and effort to global ornithology and wish them success and satisfaction in doing so.

The IOU also welcomes its newly elected IOU Fellows. We applaud their outstanding contributions to ornithology and are looking forward to their contributions to the IOU and global ornithology.

MERITORIOUS ORNITHOLOGISTS ELECTED TO THE HONOR OF IOU FELLOW (2022)



Daniel Carlos
Cadena
(Colombia)



Cristina Isabel
Castro
(New Zealand)



Nikita
Chernetsov
(Russia)



Anusuya
Chinsamy-Turan
(South Africa)



Les
Christidis
(Australia)



Jamie
Cornelius
(UK)



Luiz Dos
Anjos
(Brazil)



Samuel
Ivande
(Nigeria)



Praveen
Jayadeen
(India)



Jón Einar
Jónsson
(Iceland)



Martin
Kornan
(Slovakia)



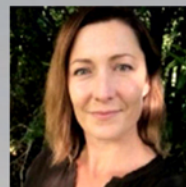
Jin-Wong
Lee
(South Korea)



Yang
Liu
(China)



Irby J
Lovette
(USA)



Martine
Maron
(Australia)



Chima
Nwaogu
(South Africa)



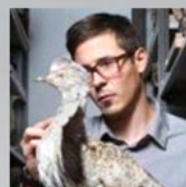
Aleksandra
Panyutina
(Russia)



João
Piratelli
(Brazil)



Frank E
Rheindt
(Singapore)



Manuel
Schweizer
(Switzerland)



Xingfeng
Si
(China)



Thomas N
Tully
(USA)



Lucia
Turáoková-Rubáňová
(Slovakia)



Yutaka
Watanuki
(Japan)



Heather
Watts
(USA)



Hilaire
Yaokokoré-Béibro
(Côte d'Ivoire)



Zhonghe
Zhou
(China)

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IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

THIS ISSUE OF *The Flutter* is the first after the virtual IOCongress2022 and after the election of a new IOU Council (2022-2026) and new IOU Fellows. It is also the first issue in which I am wearing a new hat, namely that of the IOU Immediate Past-President and a member of the newly elected IOU Council for 2022-2026.

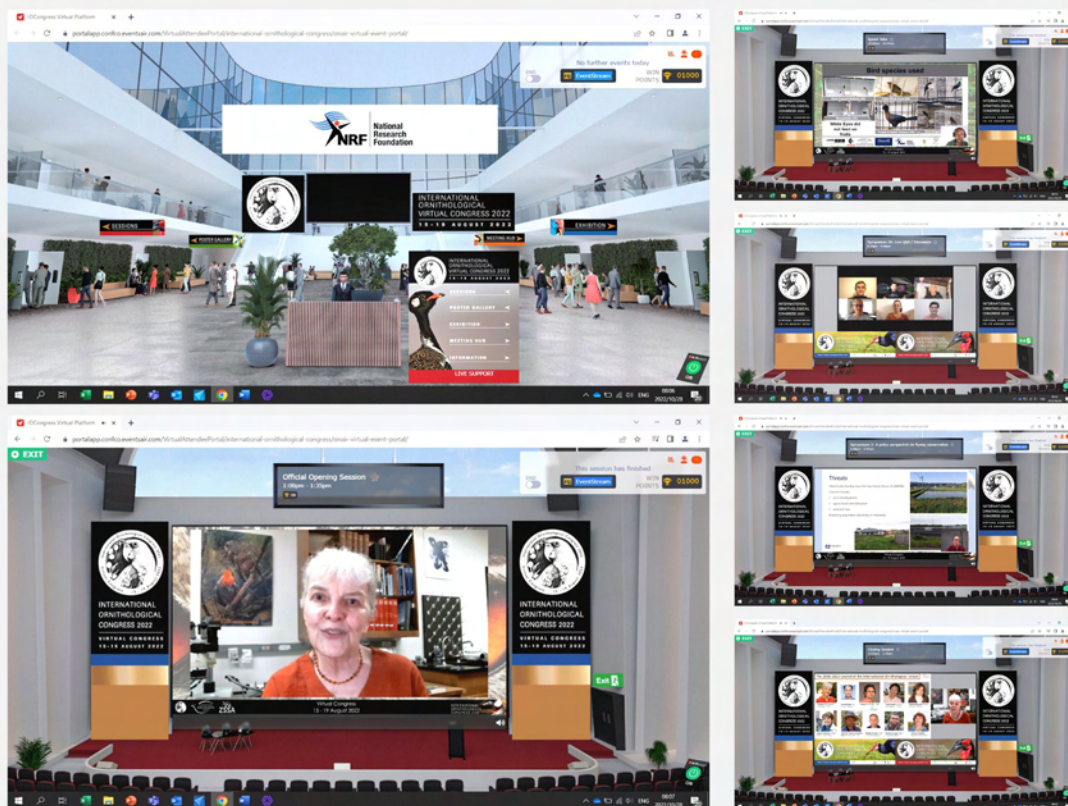
This issue is the last issue to be edited by David Bird. David has served as *The Flutter*'s editor for the last three years since the first issue of the second volume (see https://www.internationalornithology.org/sites/default/files/IOU_Newsletter_The%20Flutter.pdf). During his tenure, he has realized a vision for *The Flutter* that far surpasses what is expected from an organization's newsletter. The IOU and, I am sure, the readership of *The Flutter*, are expressing their appreciation for David's foundational work and are wishing him well as he embarks on another phase of his life. We are also grateful to David for his willingness to work with his successor to ensure a smooth transition in the editorship of *The Flutter*.

Much has happened in the past four years with many "firsts". The foremost event and main task of the IOU was the recent IOCongress2022 which, among other things, demonstrated that the IOCongresses have retained their capacity and nimbleness to adapt to changing times even on short notice, thereby making them one of the oldest, if not the oldest, continuously held international scientific conferences. Credit for this feat goes to the individuals who have generously given their time and energy to ensure the continuity of ornithology at the international level for more than a century (see also <https://www.internationalornithology.org/past-events>). In the case of the 28th IOCongress, Colleen Downs, with her usual aplomb, calmly and decisively assumed the leadership position as Congress Convener to turn the IOCongress2022 from a goal into reality with the help of the outstanding members of the Local Organizing Committee. Nina Freysen-Pretorius, the CEO of The Conference Company and the PCO for the IOCongress2022, and her staff not only managed to pivot mid-stream from organizing a large in-person IOCongress2022 to organizing the first virtual IOCongress™, but also reorganized the IOU's membership management with the assistance of the IOU's membership chair, Patricia Escalante. As an innovation in the organizing of an IOCongress™, a finance committee comprised of members of both the IOCongress2022 and IOU was established and met monthly. I believe that this close, friendly and mutually supportive cooperation between the IOU as the congress host and the on-site congress organizers



DOMINIQUE G. HOMBERGER
IOU Immediate Past-President

"The IOCongress is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, continuously held international scientific conferences."



Virtual scenes from the IOCongress2022.

eased the obstacle course (pandemic, as well as economic and geopolitical crises) towards the realization of the IOCongress2022.

Many participants of the IOCongress2022 have taken the time to answer an exit questionnaire. While most of the feedback was by and large positive, the congress organizers are especially grateful for the many constructive criticisms and suggestions that will be taken into account for the organization of the IOCongress2026. Interestingly, the respondents were about equally divided in their preference for a virtual or an in-person format. The advantages of an in-person conference are well known, such as meeting friends, seeing new sights, breaking up the daily routine, going on excursions, etc. But, until very recently, we were unaware of the many advantages of virtual conferences, such as a smaller ecological footprint, greatly lessened travel and hotel costs, much more accessibility for students in general and for participants from low- and middle-income countries, the option of seeing all or at least most of the presentations at one's own time, lowered threshold for non-English-speaking presenters who can practice their talk and submit only the perfectly polished version, more easily assembled conference proceedings, etc. The organizers of future IOCongresses will face the challenge of organizing an IOCongress whose format will satisfy all ornithologists.

Another first was the electronic voting process during which IOU members could cast their votes for the 2022-2026 IOU governing Council members and during which the current IOU Fellows could elect meritorious ornithologists for this honor irrespective of their attendance at an IOCongress. The IOU congratulates and welcomes its newly elected Council members and IOU Fellows.

The newly elected IOU President, Lei Fumin (the Chinese naming convention places the family name first) has had a long association with the IOU and has served it in multiple functions. He has attended all IOCongresses since the IOCongress1998 in Durban at which he was elected an IOU Fellow. He was involved in organizing the IOCongress2022 in Beijing (China) and was a moving force at the foundational meeting of the IOU Working Group Asian Ornithology (WGAO) at the IOCongress2010 (see the picture on page 6) and serves currently as its chair. Lei Fumin also recently organized the very successful First Asian Ornithological Conference <https://www.internationalornithology.org/asian-ornithology> in November 2021 under the aegis of the WGAO. By also having served as Vice President of the IOU (2014-2022), Lei Fumin has a solid understanding of the IOU's mission and vision as a "mini-version" of the United Nations in service of ornithological research and conservation.



IOU Working Group Asian Ornithology at the IOCongress 28 August 2010. From left to right: Back row: Zhijun Ma, Ping Ding, Zhegwang Zhang, Fugo Takasu, Keisuke Ueda, Fu-Min Lei, Hisashi Nagata, Masaaki Takagi; Front row: Ken Ishida, Isao Nishiumi, Tsukasa Nakamura, Lucia Severinghaus, Dominique Homberger, Hiroyoshi Hiiguchi.

To conclude this message, let me, if I may, briefly reminisce about my involvement in the IOU - with an ulterior motive, as will become clear at the end.

The first thing I did after my election as IOU president at the 27th IOCongress™ in Vancouver in 2018 was to allow myself an escape and participate in the post-congress excursion to Columbia, which was expertly organized by Eagle-Eye Tours <https://www.eagle-eye.com/> and most professionally lead by local ornithologists. I had long hoped for an opportunity to examine for myself whether and how the rising Andes have been serving as refugia for the temperate-adapted Gondwanan flora and fauna during the northward move of the South American continent. Those two weeks provided me with much food for thought and a deep appreciation (in fact, may I say “love”) for cloud forests.

I had hardly reached home to start the fall semester with my teaching and research obligations that the full weight of my responsibilities for the IOU landed on my shoulders. It was the beginning of the obstacle course mentioned earlier towards the realization of the IOCongress2022 and the managing and building of the IOU as a membership-supported international organization. Occasionally, the new challenges and hurdles were so improbable and seemingly insurmountable at first view that they were deemed “ridiculous”. But one hurdle after the other was addressed and turned out to be “surmountable” after all with the help of colleagues, IOU Fellows, and IOU Council members, all of whom being dedicated to ornithology at the global level. The life of an academic teacher and researcher and two decades as the secretary of the IOU had prepared me for unexpected difficulties and the need of constant learning and adapting.

When, during the IOCongress1994 in Vienna, I was asked by then IOU President Peter Berthold whether I would be willing to serve as a candidate for the position of IOU secretary, I reluctantly agreed. As a fundamentally shy person, I felt unsure of my competence in international affairs and diplomacy. It just so happened, however, that at that time the Association for Women in Science (AWIS <https://awis.org/>) was looking for someone to chair its international committee. Encouraged by a student, I applied - to test my abilities. The next years in this position were the best training in international diplomacy I could have imagined. Senior AWIS members and officers took me under their wings, so to speak, and I learned from their example and invaluable advice. Through AWIS, I was also invited to join delegations to other countries (e.g., Russia, China) organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS <https://www.aaas.org/>). Hence, when I was elected as IOU secretary at the IOCongress1998 in Durban (South Africa), I felt somewhat less underprepared for the position.

“If invited by the IOU to become involved in supporting ornithology and ornithologists at a global level, please accept the invitation... and do not hesitate to volunteer and apply on your own - I am glad I did!”

Why am I sharing my past experience in international service in this issue of *The Flutter*? Part of my service as IOU president was to ensure the continuity of the IOU and its services to the global community of ornithologists, and this entailed also the recruitment of the next generation of IOU officers and volunteers. I have very much enjoyed this aspect of my work as it has allowed me to learn new information and skills, to meet new people, and to forge new friendships. It has also been part of the unspoken pact between my own mentors and myself, namely that I will pass on the gifts I received from them.

We are often told that the only thing that counts in our professional life is the number of publications and the amount of funds received. However, we also increasingly realize that a rich mix of tasks and projects, which includes service to the community, leads to an interesting, satisfying and rewarding professional life.

Hence, if invited by the IOU to become involved in supporting ornithology and ornithologists at a global level, please accept the invitation - I am glad I did. And do not hesitate to volunteer and apply on your own - I am glad I did.

With my very best wishes and warm regards,



DOMINIQUE G. HOMBERGER
Immediate Past-President (2022 - 2026)
International Ornithologists' Union
<https://www.internationalornithology.org>



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear IOU members and colleagues

IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE to serve as the new president of the International Ornithologists' Union (IOU). Thank you for your support and trust!

The IOU is a world-wide and well-known non-profit organization. It has a long history and has held 28 International Ornithological Congresses™ (IOCongresses™) in 19 countries since the first congress in 1884. The IOU has an active Council, several committees, a webpage, a newsletter (*The Flutter*), nine Working Groups, awards (i.e., the East and Southeast Asia Travel Fund and the Walter J. Bock Travel Fellowship), and a pronunciation guide of scientific bird names. During the past eight years, as the Vice-President serving under the leadership of Presidents Lucia Liu Severinghaus and Dominique G. Homberger, I very much enjoyed working for the IOU with all the Council members.

In particular, we owe a deep gratitude to Dominique for her contributions to the IOU for 20 years as the IOU Secretary (1998-2018), and more recently for the last four years as the IOU President (2018-2022). Thankfully, she will continue her involvement in the organization during the next four years as the Immediate Past-President. I also extend my congratulations to the newly elected IOU Fellows and Council members.



FUMIN LEI
IOU President

“The IOU needs all the support you can give by maintaining your IOU membership, getting involved in our various committees and Working Groups, giving donations, helping to organize and attend the congresses and spreading news about the IOU and its congresses via social media.”

Speaking of the most recent IOCongress2022, we are all very grateful to Colleen Downs, Will Cresswell, Sandi Willows-Munro, Alan Lee and their team for organizing such a successful 28th IOCongress in Durban. This is the first time that the IOCongress has been held 'virtually' as a result of the COVID pandemic all over the world. There were no less than 10 plenary talks, 195 symposium talks, 158 oral presentations, 23 speed talks, 14 Round-Table Discussions, and 56 posters, along with an innovative speed talk session and e-posters. Again, allow me to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your immense contributions to a successful IOCongress2022, especially to those who worked in the supporting organizations, the Local Organizing Committee, the International Scientific Program Committee, the sponsors, and The Conference Company.



*Fumin Lei during a Qinghai-Tibet Plateau field exploration, 2014.
(Photo: Supplied)*



Fumin Lei tracking and counting birds on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, 2010. (Photo: Supplied)

The IOU needs all the support you can give by maintaining your IOU membership, getting involved with our various committees and Working Groups, giving donations, helping to organize and attend the congresses, and spreading the news about the IOU and the congresses by social media. It has certainly been my great pleasure to work for the IOU and the Congress in past years, and I look forward to the next four years as the IOU President (2022-2026). It is also my fervent hope that we can maintain close friendship and cooperation with each other in the field of ornithology for the future and that we again are able to demonstrate our excellent achievements in the coming IOCongress in 2026!

Lei Fumin

FUMIN LEI

President

International Ornithologists' Union

<https://www.internationalornithology.org>



FROM THE EDITOR



Dear IOU members

I WILL NEVER FORGET THE FEELING of that falcon eggshell in my hand; it was just like thin paper tissue. It was the spring of 1981, and we had purposefully dosed a number of American kestrels in my captive colony maintained at McGill University with DDE, the storage form of DDT. The idea was to determine how DDT affected certain enzymes in the birds' oviducts to cause the thin eggshells in birds of prey, which easily broke under the weight of the incubating parent. But that's not what got DDT and related organochlorine chemicals banned in the U.S. in 1972 and elsewhere in the world shortly thereafter. It was their persistence in the environment. Half of any amount applied to a farm field or marsh to kill mosquitoes would still remain in the ecosystem fifty years later and, as early as the 1960s, residues were showing up in the breast milk of nursing mothers.

So, the chemical industry invented a suite of replacement pesticides known as organophosphates (OPs) and carbamates to kill off injurious insects causing disease and ravaging crops. While not lasting nearly as long in the environment, they turned out to be acutely toxic to wildlife, especially birds. Granular carbofuran, one of the more toxic carbamates, was implicated in several huge die-offs of songbirds in North America and, in 1996, over 6,000 Swainson's hawks were found dead in a farm field in Argentina as a result of poisoning by Monocrotophos, one of the organophosphates designed to kill grasshoppers. Worse, the insects were developing resistance to OPs and carbamates and, by 1990, this generation of pesticides also began to see the curtain fall on them one by one.

But just when you thought that things could not get any worse, we now have 'neonics', arguably the most devastating suite of



EMERITUS PROF. DAVID M BIRD
Editor



Crop spraying. (Photo: Eric Brehm, Unsplash)

In 1996, over 6,000 Swainson's hawks were found dead on a farm in Argentina as a result of organophosphate poisoning, a chemical designed to kill grasshoppers.

chemical pesticides ever to be unleashed upon the earth. Apparently, they are 7,000 times more toxic to insects than organochlorines! In 1994, the first neonicotinoid to be approved was imidacloprid, which is now the most commonly used insecticide in the world and not just for agriculture but also in residential gardens and pet treatments for lice and fleas. Their use is highly prevalent in corn, soybean, wheat and cotton crops. Thus far though, it has been almost impossible to keep track of their use on a global basis, and, as a result, we do not really know how much of these chemicals are being used in the world.

Here's how they work. Coating the seeds with a neonic product basically leads to the chemical eventually pervading every part of the plant including roots, leaves, stems, flowers, fruit, and even pollen and nectar. Insects consuming any of these parts become paralyzed via their nervous systems and quickly die. In the case of honeybees which collect only pollen and nectar, the impact is more subtle, wreaking havoc with their navigation, flight, and reproduction and leading to the collapse of whole colonies. And just like the organophosphates and the organochlorines before them, neonics are also affecting our birds in myriad ways. Besides killing off a valuable food resource for our declining insectivorous grassland birds and, even more notable, our aerial insectivores like swallows, swifts, and nighthawks, seed-eating birds are attracted to spillage of the brightly coloured seed as it is applied to farm fields. Captive white-throated sparrows fed minute amounts of imidacloprid (e.g., the equivalent of four canola seeds) over a three-day period suffered lethargy, loss of motion control, an inability to store fat, and a failure to orient correctly for migration. Radio-tracked white-crowned sparrows dosed with half as much of the chemical ate less food, accrued less body fat, and departed for migration later than normal. Today, neonic pesticides are found in the stomachs of partridges in Europe, on the feathers of house sparrows and hummingbirds, and in the blood of honey buzzards. In short, being water-soluble and persisting in the soil for as yet untold numbers of years, they are now everywhere in the food chain and all over the planet.

Thankfully, the growing amount of scientific evidence condemning neonicotinoids is not being ignored. The last five years have seen more and more restrictive regulations being imposed upon their use worldwide from municipal, state and provincial government levels to as high up as the European Union. But even if all applications of these insidious chemicals were halted today, we would still see their

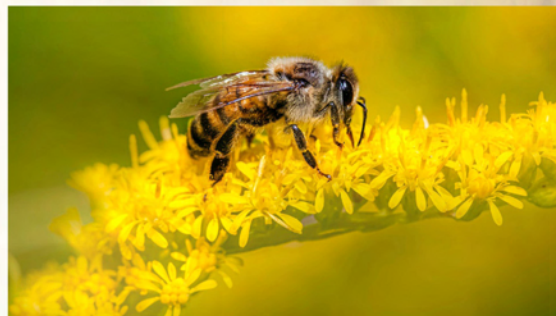
“Today, neonic pesticides are everywhere in the food chain and all over the planet.”



*Pesticides used on canola fields, Kerala, India.
(Photo: Shad Arefin Sanchoy, Unsplash)*



*Neonics are decimating bird and bee populations across the globe.
(Photo above: Aaron Vansieleghem; below: Erik Karits, Unsplash)*



impacts on the populations of our birds and other wildlife for decades to come. So, as responsible ornithologists who care about the birds we study, let us all do all we can to urge members of the general public, when deciding upon a pesticide to use in their yards or on their pets, to take a close look at the label and make sure that it is not based upon neonicotinoids.

Now on to less serious things. As I announced in my last Editor's Message, this is my last newsletter. It is time for someone else to carry the torch. Two new grandsons and a growing desire to enter the world of fiction by writing the Great American Novel (as a tool to educate members of the public who do not read nature books) have now become my priorities. To ensure a smooth transition, I am happy to offer my guidance to the incoming editor. I do hope that you have enjoyed reading at least some of the reports in past editions of *The Flutter* and that you found the newsletter useful in some way. And it bears repeating that the eye-catching polish of the newsletter is in no small way due to the hard work of Nina Freysen-Pretorius, the CEO of The Conference Company, and her staff, and the eagle-eye copy editing and sage advice by Dominique Homberger. I am grateful to them all. I hope that there is someone out there among IOU members who is interested in taking on such an enjoyable role, one that I truly felt honoured to fulfil in my life.

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

“As responsible ornithologists who care about the birds we study, let us all do all we can to urge members of the general public, when deciding upon a pesticide to use, to take a close look at the label and make sure that it is not based upon neonicotinoids.”



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!

PROF. DR. HILAIRE YAOKOKORÉ-BÉIBRO

Advancing ornithological studies in Africa

AS AN ORNITHOLOGIST AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST, Hilaire Yaokokoré-Béibro holds a master's degree in Zoology and animal biology (1994) and a diploma in tropical ecology (ethnozoology 1995) obtained at the University Felix Houphouet-Boigny (UFHB) in Côte d'Ivoire. He undertook his doctoral thesis collecting data on forest birds in an integrated forest management program from June 1995 to July 1998.

Hilaire worked for Wetlands International, Africa Programme, as the Officer in charge of water bird conservation and was responsible for the international water bird counts in Africa from June 1998 to April 2001 in Dakar, Senegal. He then defended his doctoral thesis in November 2001 at the UFHB. He was later recruited by this university as a lecturer, and in 2016 he became Full Professor of Zoology-Ornithology and Ecology in the Biosciences training and research unit.

Over the past 20 years, Hilaire significantly contributed to the creation of the new research unit of Conservation Biology and Wildlife Management (CBWM) and, in 2012, he established a Masters' degree program which for the first time allowed students to take courses in ornithology. Hilaire has trained about 12 PhD and 50 Masters/Diplomat students in ornithology, mammalogy, herpetology, and ethnozoology. To date, he has authored or co-authored more than 60 publications in popular and peer-reviewed publications, as well as written technical reports in English and French. Since 2012 Hilaire still serves as the Head of the CBWM and its associated Masters' program.



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Taï Forest, Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa.

(Photo: <https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/landscapes/cavally-cote-divoire/>)

“Hilaire’s main research work focuses on the ecology of forest birds, agricultural ornithology, ethnoornithology, urban ornithology, and water bird ecology.”

THE IOU IN THE NEWS



REPORT BACK: IOCongress2022

THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL in South Africa held the 28th International Ornithological Congress from 15 to 19 August 2022. Professor Colleen T. Downs, National Research Foundation SARCHI Research Chair, from the Centre for Functional Biodiversity in the School of Life Sciences, served as convenor of the event. The IOCongress2022 was to be hosted in person in the city of Durban; however, with the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, a decision was made to instead host it virtually. The IOCongress had never been virtual before, and this was only the second time the Congress was hosted in Africa; the first was almost 25 years ago in 1998 with the 22nd IOCongress.



Sadly, with the change to a virtual event, a quarter of delegates withdrew their abstracts and attendance. Most of these were established researchers from the global north. Despite this, there was a total of 599 attendees from 65 countries, with 153 being students. The Leventis Conservation Foundation and the Oppenheimer Trust sponsored 75 and 38 registrations, respectively. These included students and early career researchers from 29 countries. The IOCongress2022 also sponsored non-academic delegates, who work in conservation and ornithology, to attend.

Professor William Cresswell, from The University of St Andrews in the UK, served as the chair of the Scientific Program Committee. A total of 431 abstracts and 34 symposia were in the final congress programme. There were also pre- and post-congress workshops. The virtual format allowed more delegates from lower-income countries to attend, representing 38% of contributions to symposia, 44% of oral presentations, 51% of poster presentations, and 59% of speed talks. Female researchers were also well-represented with five of the 10 invited plenary talks, 37% of contributions to symposia, 35% of oral presentations, 47% of poster presentations, and 50% of speed talks.

One of the major challenges with a virtual congress was to improve the virtual experience and make it more interactive instead of a typical webinar. This was achieved by a mix of live and recorded plenaries, as well as live question and discussion sessions, and interactive round tables. The platform also listed challenges and goals, for example, “visit the poster gallery”, which awarded points that ultimately gained prizes to inspire participation. An embedded social media feature on Event Stream, the platform which ran the Congress, allowed live chats among delegates. Posting about yourself, research and sharing pictures was encouraged. A photograph competition was also run via the feature, and a prize was awarded at the end.

The main disadvantage of switching to a virtual congress was the loss of planned birding tours and outings, leaving many disappointed. The overall benefits of the virtual Congress were a reduction in carbon footprint, and the inclusion of early career researchers and students from lower-income countries. Since all presentations were pre-recorded, the general quality of talks was good and allowed delegates to view them at a later time, up to two months after the end of the Congress. Hosting the virtual event was a sharp learning-curve for both the organizing committee and delegates, but the lessons learned will enhance future IOCongresses.

Prepared by Preshnee Singh and Sandi Willows-Munro of the Local Organising Committee and Colleen Downs, Convenor of the IOCongress 2022 and Chairperson of the Local Organising Committee.



IOU WEBINAR SERIES



"Having a Bird Brain"

by Suzana Herculano-Houzel

PRESENTED ON 28 OCTOBER 2022

BIRDS HAVE LONG BEEN POOPOED for having tiny brains compared to mighty mammals. But bird friends, rejoice! It turns out that those small bird brains hide primate-like numbers of neurons in their

cortices - yes cortices. This talk addressed the very latest discoveries about what bird brains are made of, how they came to be that way, and what difference does it all make. Suzana Herculano-Houzel, Ph.D., is a biologist and neuroscientist at Vanderbilt University, where she is Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychology and Biological Sciences. Her research focuses on understanding the roots and consequences of brain diversity, e.g., what different brains are made of, what that matters in terms of cognition, energy cost, and longevity, and how the human brain is remarkable, but not special, in its makeup. A major lesson learned from her work is that brains are not optimized machines "perfected" through evolution; to her, the multiple ways how brains of birds, primates, and all other sorts of mammals tiny and large are put together are evidence that evolution is not "improvement by adaptation through natural selection", but rather "ever-increasing diversity through whatever works". She spoke at TEDGlobal 2013 and TEDxNashville 2018 and is an avid communicator of science to the general public.



To view past presentations or for more information on these events

[CLICK HERE](#)

DON'T MISS THE NEXT LECTURE!!



"Plasticosis"

by Professor Branson Ritchie

21 NOVEMBER 2022

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

BRANSON RITCHIE IS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED for his contributions to the

diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease in avian and exotic companion animal species. His two textbooks, *Avian Medicine: Principles and Applications* and *Avian Viruses: Function and Control*, are highly praised and widely used by ornithologists and pathologists throughout the world. Dr. Ritchie's research team has developed serological tests and DNA probes for beak-and-feather disease and polyoma diseases as well as diagnostic tests for avian adenovirus. He has isolated and characterized the viruses that cause psittacine beak-and-feather disease and PVD disease. His research group also developed a vaccine for Pacheco's disease, chlamydia, and polyomavirus, which cause a fatal disease in psittacine birds. His recent research is on the world-wide problem of plasticosis for birds. He presented a symposium contribution on this topic at the virtual IOCongress2022 in August of this year.



**SAVE
THE DATE!**

PROGRESS
UPDATEWORKING GROUP ON
AVIAN CHECKLISTS (WGAC)

AS OF AUGUST 2022, the WGAC Taxonomic group has assembled a team, developed a process, implemented a technical tool (via the GitHub) to post issues, vote on them, summarize decisions, and preserve the exchanges and data so they can be permanently archived as part of the process. We have also completely integrated the draft taxonomy with Avibase in order to easily make comparisons with any published taxonomy and version.

MILESTONES

The team started formal voting in February 2021. For the first 7 months it voted on small groups of taxa averaging about 15 decisions per month. Since September 2021, that number climbed to about 33 issues/month. Over the past 19 months, the team has assessed 23 milestones of approximately 30 cases each, including 651 proposals (79 more are in progress for July and August). Among 455 implemented proposals, we have completed the taxonomic treatment for 625 taxa at the species level or above.

This means that we have finalized our taxonomic treatment across 178 families with 5 more being worked on currently (July and August milestones).

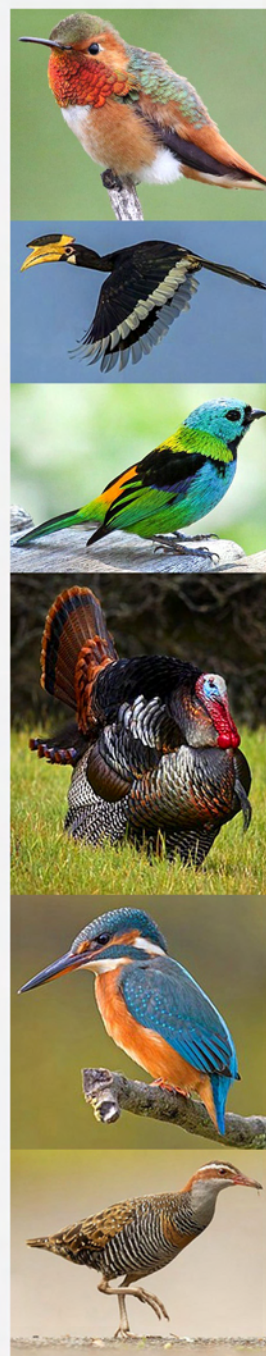
As of July 2022, we have tackled a couple of very speciose families, including Thraupidae, and we are approaching completion of 55% of the world's birds.

These taxonomic assessments are the core part of the WGAC-Taxonomic Group's work and have included representatives from the IOC World Bird List, the BirdLife Taxonomic Working Group, eBird/Clements team, AOS-NACC, AOS-SACC, former members of the Howard and Moore team, and other authorities.

eBird/Clements and IOC have begun adopting WGAC decisions with upcoming revisions of completed families in order to facilitate the full transitioning to WGAC soon after the first public release. BirdLife also plans to adopt many of these decisions but must move more slowly because of integration with the IUCN Red List and their Data Zone. The proposal and supplement publication process for AOS-NACC has been highly aligned with WGAC, with proposals for most North American WGAC issues being put before the AOS-NACC and upcoming proposals for North American taxa currently being prepared; see for example Trochilidae, Accipitridae, Tytonidae, and Strigidae in this set of proposals, most of which were outgrowths of the WGAC process: <https://americanornithology.org/nacc/current-prior-proposals/2022-proposals/>

Our draft list includes decisions up to June 2022 and recognizes 2379 genera and 11053 species. This includes all decisions made by WGAC to date, overlaid on the baseline taxonomy of the IOC. Subspecies are not being assessed in detail at this stage, but the list currently includes 19,902 subspecies, most in compliance with the IOC taxonomy.

“We are approaching completion of 55% of the world's birds.”



(Photos from top: AllAboutBirds, Wikimedia Commons (4), JJ Harrison CC BY-SA 4.0)

As of August 2022, the WGAC Bibliographic group has assembled a team and developed a process to assess bibliographic discrepancies and to ensure accurate bibliographic data for all taxa in the WGAC taxonomy. The team has worked with Denis Lepage to develop a database tool to make changes to key bibliographic fields in a process that is integrated with the taxonomic work.

It has also:

- 1) completely reviewed the author names and publication names and adopted standards for those;
- 2) prepared a draft WGAC list, with bibliographic information and taxonomic decisions (taxonomic review for more than half of world's birds now assessed in full) to date; and,
- 3) assembled a panel of WGAN (Working Group Avian Nomenclature) members to begin assessing difficult nomenclatural questions. The same process is used now by WGAN and the WGAC Taxonomic groups to post, archive, and resolve discussions and the decision-making process. The team is in the process of reviewing the full citations (author, year, and publication) for all taxa on the WGAC list.

Finally, the WGAC Bibliographic group has linked the WGAC taxonomy with Avibase bibliographic data, which will allow over time assessing more specific information including protonym, type locality, and more, the majority of which already exists in Avibase.

Reviews of Families completed (180) to date include:

Acanthisittidae	Cettiidae	Hylocitridae	Oreocidae	Rhynchotidae
Acanthizidae	Chaetopidae	Hypocoliidae	Orthonychidae	Rostratulidae
Accipitridae	Chionidae	Ibidorhynchidae	Pandionidae	Sagittariidae
Acrocephalidae	Ciconiidae	Icteridae	Panuridae	Sapayoidae
Aegithalidae	Cinclidae	Ifritidae	Paradoxornithidae	Sarothruridae
Aegithinidae	Cisticolidae	Indicatoridae	Parulidae	Scopidae
Aegothelidae	Climacteridae	Jacaniidae	Pardalotidae	Scotocercidae
Alaudidae	Coliidae	Laniidae	Pedionomidae	Semnornithidae
Alcedinidae	Columbidae	Leiothrichidae	Pelecanidae	Spheniscidae
Alcidae	Conopophagidae	Leptosomidae	Peucedramidae	Spindalidae
Alcippeidae	Coraciidae	Locustellidae	Phaenicophilidae	Steatornithidae
Anatidae	Corcoracidae	Machaerirhynchidae	Phaethontidae	Stenostiridae
Anhimidae	Cotingidae	Macrosphenidae	Phasianidae	Strigidae
Anhingidae	Cracidae	Malacotidae	Philepittidae	Strigopidae
Anseranatidae	Dasyornithidae	Megapodiidae	Phoenicopteridae	Struthionidae
Apterygidae	Donacobiidae	Melanopareidae	Phoeniculidae	Sturnidae
Aramidae	Dromadidae	Menuridae	Phylloscopidae	Sulidae
Atrichornithidae	Dulidae	Meropidae	Picathartidae	Sylviidae
Balaenicipitidae	Elachuridae	Mesitornithidae	Pipridae	Teretistridae
Bernieridae	Emberizidae	Mimidae	Pityriasisidae	Thinocoridae
Bombycillidae	Erythroceridae	Mitrospingidae	Platysteiridae	Thraupidae
Brachypteraciidae	Estrildidae	Modulatricidae	Ploceidae	Threskiornithidae
Bucconidae	Eulacestomatidae	Mohoidae	Pluvianellidae	Tichodromidae
Bucorvidae	Eupetidae	Mohouidae	Pluvianidae	Timaliidae
Buphagidae	Eurypygidae	Momotidae	Pnoepygidae	Tinamidae
Burhinidae	Falconidae	Motacillidae	Podargidae	Todidae
Calcariidae	Falcunculidae	Muscicapidae	Podicipedidae	Trochilidae
Callaeidae	Formicariidae	Neosittidae	Promeropidae	Turdidae
Calyptomenidae	Fregatidae	Nesospingidae	Prunellidae	Tyrannidae
Calyptophilidae	Galbulidae	Nicatoridae	Psophiidae	Tytonidae
Capitonidae	Gaviidae	Notiomystidae	Pteroclididae	Upupidae
Caprimulgidae	Gruidae	Numididae	Ptiliogonatidae	Urocynchramidae
Cariamidae	Heliornithidae	Nyctibiidae	Regulidae	Vangidae
Casuariidae	Hemiprocidae	Oceanitidae	Rhagologidae	Viduidae
Cathartidae	Hyliidae	Odontophoridae	Rheidae	Vireonidae
Certhiidae	Hyliotidae	Opisthocomidae	Rhodocichlidae	Zeledoniidae

In Progress (3):

Psittaculidae	Psittacidae	Cacatuidae
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Remaining (69):

Apodidae	Diomedidae	Megalaimidae	Passeridae	Recurvirostridae
Ardeidae	Eurylaimidae	Melampittidae	Pellorneidae	Remizidae
Artamidae	Fringillidae	Melanocharitidae	Petroicidae	Rhinocryptidae
Bucerotidae	Furnariidae	Meliphagidae	Phalacrocoracidae	Rhipiduridae
Campephagidae	Glareolidae	Monarchidae	Picidae	Scolopacidae
Cardinalidae	Grallariidae	Musophagidae	Pittidae	Sittidae
Charadriidae	Haematopodidae	Nectariniidae	Poliophtidae	Stercorariidae
Chloropseidae	Hirundinidae	Oriolidae	Pomatostomidae	Thamnophilidae
Cinlosomatidae	Hydrobatidae	Otididae	Procellariidae	Tityridae
Cnemophilidae	Icteriidae	Pachycephalidae	Psophodidae	Troglodytidae
Corvidae	Irenidae	Paradisaeidae	Ptilonorhynchidae	Trogonidae
Cuculidae	Laridae	Paramythiidae	Pycnonotidae	Turnicidae
Dicaeidae	Lybiidae	Paridae	Rallidae	Zosteropidae
Dicruridae	Maluridae	Passerellidae	Ramphastidae	

LOOKING AHEAD...

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

Lund 2023



XIV European Ornithologists' Union Congress 21-25 AUGUST 2023

THE 14TH EOU CONGRESS 2023 will be hosted by the
Department of Biology at Lund University, Sweden.

The congress is the biennial forum of the European Ornithologist Union.
We welcome everyone who is interested in European Ornithology.



Lund University (Photo: Wikipedia)

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

<https://eounion.org/latest-news/annoucement-xiv-european-ornithologists-union-congress-in-lund/>

Anders Brodin on behalf of the organizers

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Editor's Note: This newsletter exists to assist IOU members.
If you need assistance with a project of some kind, please forward a
brief version for me to post.

OPINIONS · LETTERS · ARTICLES

DEAD-END
for penguins?

“A low evolutionary rate and climate change-related habitat loss could mean the final nail in the coffin.”

THE WORLD'S PENGUINS ARE RUNNING OUT OF PLACES TO GO.... and I am not just talking about that frozen continent that they live upon. A new study just published in a prestigious scientific journal called *Nature Communications* by a team headed by Theresa Cole of the University of Copenhagen has shown that penguins and their relatives, the petrels and albatrosses, have the lowest evolutionary rates yet detected in birds. What this means in plain language is that penguins have evolved just about as far they can go and may be hitting that dead end that we term as extinction. The research team used sophisticated and comprehensive DNA analyses on 17 different orders of birds which suggested that birds with an aquatic lifestyle and birds that live in cooler climates have lower evolutionary rates than terrestrial bird groups. That means that turkeys and chickens have a higher evolutionary rate than pelicans, cormorants, and waterfowl. And since the flightless penguins enjoy an exclusively aquatic lifestyle in arguably the coldest part of the world, that places them right at the bottom of the list.



African penguin. (Photo: Chris Curry, Unsplash)

Interestingly, the researchers reveal that penguins lost their ability to fly in favour of becoming perhaps the most efficient underwater swimmers of all birds some sixty million years ago. The ancestor to today's modern penguins was the Crown Penguin which existed on the earth about 14 million years ago. Sadly, half of today's penguin species are listed as either Endangered or Vulnerable on the official Red List of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. With such a low evolutionary rate driving them to adapt and evolve, the warming of planet earth at such an alarming pace leading to the loss of their icy habitat may well mean the last nail in the coffin for these amazing, lovable birds.

DAVID M BIRD

Editor, *The IOU Flutter*

Popular Article: Cockerill, J. *ScienceAlert*, July 1, 2022. <https://www.sciencealert.com/penguins-slow-to-evolve-in-rapidly-changing-climates>

Original Paper: Cole, T.L., Zhou, C., Fang, M. et al. Genomic insights into the secondary aquatic transition of penguins. *Nat Commun* 13, 3912 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-31508-9>



Emperor penguin colony. (Photo: Birdlife International)

“Bird Brains”

Why **BIGGER** does not necessarily mean **SMARTER**



*Both of these birds have plenty of neurons in their pallia, but really... which birds are the smartest?
(Photos: AllAboutBirds, Cornell University and Wikipedia)*

OVER THE YEARS, I have read, written and taught about bird brains, especially about the controversy over which birds are smarter...corvids or parrots. Whatever is true, one thing is certain - both of these avian groups are highly intelligent, equalling primates in solving puzzles. According to some studies, it might come down to the number of neurons in the birds' forebrains, some songbirds and parrots having even more than monkeys. But is cognitive performance really linked to the total number of neurons? One recent paper comparing primates, corvids and pigeons suggests this not to be the case, while other studies argue that having a greater number of neurons in the pallium, which is a specific part of the avian forebrain, is linked to better capabilities in memory, learning, reasoning, and problem-solving. But the most recent study, just published in *Nature Ecology and Evolution* by a research team headed by Daniel Sol of the Centre for Ecological Research and Applied Forestries in Catalonia, Spain, raises some new questions. For instance, what is really important - the relative number of neurons or the absolute number? In other words, does being big-bodied and, thus, having a larger brain translate into being smarter?

“Big-bodied birds with larger brains were not necessarily smarter.”

To seek an answer, the research team estimated the number of neurons in the pallia of 111 species of birds and then related the numbers to over 4,400 ways that the birds feed themselves. Here is what they concluded in a nutshell...errrr eggshell. First, while higher numbers of neurons in the pallium did relate to greater innovative behaviour, the more important aspect was how those neurons were connected to various networks in the brain overall. Second, the big-bodied birds with larger brains were not necessarily smarter. Third, the longer the young of a given bird species spends developing in the nest, the more neurons get deposited in the pallium. And the young of both the larger corvids and parrots fall into that category. But it still begs the question - which group of birds is smarter?!

DAVID M BIRD
Editor, The IOU Flutter

Popular Article: Casella, C. *ScienceAlert*, August 7, 2022. <https://www.sciencealert.com/these-are-the-traits-that-make-some-birds-smarter-than-others>

Original Paper: Sol, D., Olkowitz, S., Sayol, F. et al. Neuron numbers link innovativeness with both absolute and relative brain size in birds. *Nat Ecol Evol* 6, 1381-1389 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-022-01815-x>

EDITOR'S CHOICE



RECENTLY PUBLISHED PAPERS



Hummingbird Crossdressers

*A White-necked Jacobin...
...but is it a male or a female?*

(Photo: Zdenek Machacek, Unsplash)

MOST ORNITHOLOGISTS ARE AWARE of the concept that in most avian species, the males are quite colourful for attracting mates and fending off competitors, while the females are more drab-coloured and camouflaged for constructing nests and later tending eggs and young at those nests. Crossdressing or plumage transvestism has been recorded in at least two bird species, the ruff and the American redstart, but now some species of hummingbirds have been caught in the act of engaging in this rather bizarre form of morphology! A portion of females in some species adorn themselves in male-like colouring and plumage patterns such that they are virtually indistinguishable from males.

Jay Falk, formerly at Cornell University and now a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Washington and at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), became intrigued by this phenomenon after examining museum specimens and next headed a team of scientists to study the white-necked jacobin in the field in Panama for four years. This relatively common medium-sized hummingbird ranges widely throughout Central and northern South America. Like all hummingbirds, the white-necked jacobin feeds on nectar, and males use plenty of energy to aggressively drive off male competitors. And also like most hummingbirds, the males are highly colourful, while the females are generally drab. However, Falk's team soon discovered that roughly a fifth of the adult females in the population look identical to adult males and retain the look throughout their lives. Despite looking like males, these crossdressing females were slightly smaller in size and less aggressive. Also, the juveniles of both sexes resemble adult males. As a result of their findings, Falk and associates have hypothesized that they do so to avoid most of the costs of male aggression and harassment while feeding. In short, juveniles and adult females with male-like plumage can feed from flowers and hummingbird feeders longer without being bullied. It is a form of deceptive mimicry and may indeed be the first known example discovered within a species.

Popular Article: Walling, J. Why do some female hummingbirds crossdress? *Innovation*, September 30, 2022.
<https://biz.crastr.net/why-do-some-female-hummingbirds-crossdress/>

Original Paper: Falk, J., D. R. Rubenstein, A. Rico-Guevara and M. S. Webster. 2022. Intersexual social dominance mimicry drives female hummingbird polymorphism. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 20220332.
<https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2022.0332>



(Photo: Nareeta Martin, Unsplash)

LOVE ON THE ROCKS

What's driving Albatrosses' DIVORCE?

“Rogue males aggressively break up pairs to gain a mate.”

IN THE LAST TWO DECADES OR SO divorce among bird pairs is being found to be more and more prevalent. For example, it has been known for decades that one in ten geese pairs break up to find new mates each year. Today the phenomenon has now been discovered in a number of bird species, including warblers, sparrows, and even swans. The concept of mating for life has mainly been attributed to large seabirds, like penguins and albatrosses, but recent research by Ruijiao Sun and Stephanie Jenouvrier and others of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute provides new evidence that all is not well in the idyllic world of the albatrosses. In their study in the remote Crozet Archipelago in the Indian Ocean, the team found that 13 percent of wandering albatrosses divorce during their lifetime not just because of low numbers of females but also due to aggressive “home-wrecking” males!

Some bird species, like penguins, have been known to engage in adaptive divorce to ostensibly gain a better mate and produce more offspring. However, this most recent study in albatrosses did not find that divorcing one's mate ended up in a greater production of young, which supports the idea that the birds are not actually choosing to divorce. In fact, couples are being driven apart in what is perceived to be “forced divorce” by aggressive males, something never seen before in the bird world. In a series of behavioural response tests, Sun and associates found that old females were no more likely to divorce than timid ones, but that shyer males had higher divorce rates, suggesting that bolder males may be forcing the more timid males to break their pair bonds. The phenomenon may partly be driven by the skewed sex ratio of the albatrosses in this remote population. Unpaired females are rare because apparently more birds of this sex die being trapped in fishing equipment and, thus, the population is skewed toward males, including a few rogues which aggressively break up pairs to gain a mate.



Even the albatrosses, with their legendary long pair bonds, can face divorce (Photo: Wikipedia)



(Photo: Mac Gaither, Unsplash)

Popular Article: Patrick, S. *The Conversation*. September 23, 2022. <https://theconversation.com/why-wandering-albatrosses-get-divorced-new-research-190474>

Original Paper: Sun, R., C. Barbraud, H. Weimerskirch, K. Delord, S.C. Patrick, H. Caswell, and S. Jenouvrier. 2022. Causes and life history consequences of pair-bond disruption in a sex-skewed population of a long-lived monogamous seabird. *Online Ecological Monographs*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecm.1522>

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.

Woodpeckers and Songbirds:

- speaking the same language?

WHEN IT COMES TO COMMUNICATION for purposes like establishing a territory, showing dominance, and attracting a mate, songbirds, as their name suggests, generally use learned vocalizations in the form of singing and calling. Scientists studying the development of human language in individuals pay close attention to studies done on young songbirds because, like humans, songbirds learn their language while young, and also develop the complex muscle movements to make the required sounds. But there is also a neurological link in the form of a protein called parvalbumin (PV) found in neurons in those specialized regions in the brain associated with learning their respective languages.

A team led by Matthew Fuxhager, a senior scientist at Brown University at Providence, Rhode Island, has discovered the PV protein in regions of the brains of woodpeckers that match those of songbirds for learning and producing song. However, it has not been found in any bird species that does not learn its vocalizations, such as emus, ducks, or penguins. Moreover, these PV regions in the woodpecker's brains become activated by the birds' drumming behaviour rather than by their vocalizations. This suggests that woodpeckers are using drumming in the same way that songbirds use song. But, as Fuxhager points out, the study does not provide enough evidence to prove that woodpeckers actually learn their drumming, but it certainly does suggest it.



(Photos: National Audubon Society)



“Some birds drum, while others prefer singing, but all for the same purpose!”

Popular Article: Kenyon, C. *Cosmos*, September 27, 2022. <https://cosmosmagazine.com/science/drumming-woodpecker-same-as-singing/>

Original Paper: Schuppe, E.R., L. Cantin, M. Chakraborty, M.T. Biegler, E.R. Jarvis, C.-C. Chen, E. Hara, M.F. Bertelsen, C.C. Witt, E.D. Jarvis, and M.J. Fuxjager. 2022. Forebrain nuclei linked to woodpecker territorial drum displays mirror those that enable vocal learning in songbirds. *PLoS Biol* 20(9): e3001751. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3001751>

OUTWIT ! OUTGROW ! OUTLAST !



Cowbird chicks' survival tactics

Cowbird nestlings do best in nests with two prothonotary warbler nestlings. (Photo: Illinois News Bureau, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS are generalist brood parasites, laying their eggs in the nests of many other bird species and letting the host parents raise their young. But what happens when a cowbird hatches into a nest with different numbers of host nestlings? A team of scientists at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign led by Nicholas Antonson, a Ph.D. candidate of Mark Hauber, sought an answer to this intriguing question by attempting to understand the strategies cowbird nestlings employ to survive in the nests of prothonotary warblers bearing different numbers of nestlings. What generally happens is the following. If a cowbird ends up in a prothonotary warbler's nest containing four of the host's nestlings, the cowbird either dies or the number of warbler nestlings drops to two. Unlike common cuckoos, cowbird nestlings do not eject eggs or directly kill the young of the host species. What they do instead is actively outcompete their nest mates by hatching out earlier, raising their heads higher, and begging more loudly and continuously. And because they generally grow larger than their host's young, the cowbirds require more food.

Setting up a carefully controlled nest box study in a southern Illinois swamp, Antonson's team manipulated parasitized nests of prothonotary warblers by translocating eggs and young to form nests with zero, two or four warbler nest mates. They then quantified how many cowbirds survived in each of the three scenarios and found that cowbirds survive best in nests shared with two host nestlings. Apparently, the cowbirds somehow manage to reduce the host brood sizes down to two, perhaps by stealing food from their nest mates, a topic for a future study. Antonson and associates believe this to be a form of "niche construction", a term coined by Charles Darwin. It means that the cowbird is modifying its environment to enhance its own survival.



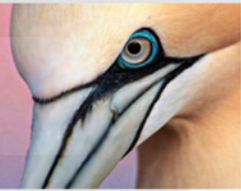
Adult brown-headed cowbird. (Photo: Joshua J Cotten, Unsplash)

Popular Article: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. September 13, 2022. <https://phys.org/news/2022-09-cowbird-chicks-warbler-matesnot.html>

Original Paper: Antonson, N.D., W.M. Schelsky, D. Tolman, R.M. Kilner, and M.E. Hauber. 2022. Niche construction through a Goldilocks principle maximizes fitness for a nest-sharing brood parasite. *Proc. R. Soc. B*. 2892022122320221223 <http://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2022.1223>

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

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.

WITH MOUNTING PRESSURE to compensate for a pending loss of nuclear power, coal plants, and Russian gas, Germany is banking more and more on green energy like wind turbines. But creating large fields of wind turbines in appropriately windy regions can come with a cost - the killing of large birds which also depend on the wind. For instance, lesser spotted eagles, down to only 130 breeding pairs left in Germany, commonly ride the thermals over the flatlands now chosen for a mass expansion of onshore windfarms. However, because the eagles' eyes are usually focused on the landscape below in search of mice and lizards, they do not perceive the danger of the spinning blades on these vertical obstacles until it is too late. Since 2002, at least eight specimens have been found dead near the turbines. While the number might seem small, it can be significant to the overall population of the lesser spotted eagle. Equally important, citizens opposed to wind farms for other reasons has learned to use the eagles' plight as a weapon to argue against their expansion.

Enter Artificial Intelligence, commonly referred to as AI. Software engineers, employed by a company called IdentiFlight in Colorado to create an anti-collision system, have fed hundreds of thousands of images of the lesser spotted eagle into an algorithm and linked it into a field camera system placed on top of a 10-metre tower. The camera is expected to detect eagles approaching from a distance of up to 750 metres and then electronically alert a given turbine. The turbine then takes 20-40 seconds to slow down about two rotations a minute, which gives the eagle lots of time to pass safely between the slower moving blades. So far, the system has worked well by recognizing and classifying more than 90 percent of approaching red kites, the first test bird studied in Germany.

Can artificial intelligence stop birds colliding with wind turbines?

Turbine companies hope to employ IdentiFlight for lesser spotted eagles in 2023, the first of 15 bird species targeted. With the world turning increasingly more to wind energy, let us hope that this new technology to prevent bird collisions works well.

Popular Article: Oltermann, P. *The Guardian*, September 20, 2022. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/sep/20/germany-hopes-ai-can-stop-rare-eagles-flying-into-wind-turbines>

IdentiFlight's use of AI makes wind turbines safer for birds. (Photo: National Audubon Society)



Chinese camera-laser technology aimed at reducing airport bird strikes

“Some 20 000 bird strike incidents are reported annually.”

(Photo: Wikipedia Commons)

IN AIRPORTS ALL OVER THE WORLD, airplanes taking off and landing have to contend with the possibility of collisions with birds. Some 20,000 incidents are reported annually. While the vast majority result in only minor damage to the aircraft, there have been cases where a strike by one or more large-bodied birds have taken down an aircraft. Most of these incidents occur very near the runway just under a hundred feet off the ground. These strikes have spawned the creation of numerous companies focusing on the control of nuisance birds at airports and have included a plethora of technology, including speakers playing distress or predator calls, large noisemakers, more recently, drones designed to look like raptors. Many airports hire falconers to fly trained raptors to scare off birds, while others simply resort to having staff kill the birds with shotguns much to the displeasure of the general public. The latest technological solution, recently published in the journal *Laser & Optoelectronics Progress*, involves lasers. Professor Zhao Fan from Xian University of Technology in the province of Shaanxi, China, led a team of scientists to design and construct a robotic system which can be placed on the airport boundaries and which uses cameras coupled with lasers, non-lethal but painful beams, to track and repel the birds. The camera detects and tracks the movement of birds in the runway area; once the target is locked in, a laser emitter in concert with a reflective mirror, fires off a beam. The system still has some bugs. The average accuracy rate is just above 50 percent, and some experts have understandably expressed concerns about accidental impacts on the pilots.



“A strike by a large-bodied birds can take down an aircraft.”

A camera-laser system developed by Chinese scientists might reduce bird strikes at airports (Photo: Guangzhou Neerg Eco Technologies Ltd.)

Popular Article: <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3187105/chinese-scientists-build-bird-zapping-laser-guard-airports>

SPOTLIGHT ON CONSERVATION



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

NEW RESEARCH

Birds with *EXTREME FEATURES* most likely to face *EXTINCTION*

WHAT WOULD OUR WORLD BE LIKE if we were to lose the ostrich, the world's largest bird, and the hummingbirds, the world's smallest birds? Or perhaps even the vultures? In other words, those species with the most unique features, both morphologically and/or ecologically. It is not an implausible outcome, according to a recent study published in *Current Biology* by Emma Hughes of the University of Sheffield and associates. The world's biodiversity, including our birds, is facing a global extinction crisis, and the first species to disappear may well be those with the most extreme features, including not only referring to their physical attributes but also to the ecological services they provide to the planet. According to the authors of the study, the process, called morphological and phylogenetic homogenization, means that the world is moving toward bird species evolving to become more and more alike. In short, the variety of birds on the planet will simply become more alike and thus, less interesting.

“The world cannot afford to lose these feathered sanitary engineers!”

Hughes and her team analysed a set of continuous morphological traits from 8,455 bird species found in museum collections. Next, they methodically removed species in order from most to least at risk of extinction. Their analysis showed a disturbing pattern of 'homogenization' that may well become widespread, affecting ecosystems all over the world. It was not just the birds with the most extreme physical features, such as size or special bill shapes, which are in critical danger of going extinct but also those birds which perform special services to the ecosystem. A good example of the latter is the vulture family. The study found that the Himalayan uplands and lowlands contain the highest levels of homogenization, partly driven by its loss of vultures. Vultures are widely known for their important ecosystem services by removing decaying carcasses, and their extinction would likely lead to an increase in the transmission of infectious diseases not just for birds but humans too. As lead author Hughes puts it, we are not only losing bird species at an unprecedented rate, but also “unique traits and morphological history”. With the consequences for humanity being largely unknown, are we ready for a browner or more vanilla world with our birds?

Popular Article: Renault, M. *The New York Times*, July 21, 2022.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/21/science/birds-extinction-diversity.html>

Original Paper: Hughes, E.C., D.P. Edwards, and G.H. Thomas. 2022. The homogenization of avian morphological and phylogenetic diversity under the global extinction crisis. *Current Biology*, July 21, 2022. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2022.06.018>

A variety of vulture species. (Photos: Unsplash, AllAboutBirds, ISO Republic, Pixabay)



Thinking globally, acting locally...

A village model for white stork conservation



(Photo: Erik Karits, Unsplash)

HAVING SEEN FIRST-HAND the pairs of breeding white storks as part of the rewilding efforts on the impressive Knepp Wildland property in the UK last summer, it is easy to understand the passion that humans feel for these magnificent big white birds. Certainly, this is the case for Ilka Beermann who oversees the European Stork Villages Network known as ESVN, which is a collection of 15 villages from 15 different European countries. Over the last hundred years or so, white stork populations have precipitously declined all over Europe. According to Beermann, the ESVN was created to use the villages as a model for white stork conservation at the national level. Such an effort would not work for black storks because they tend to be more private and avoid human contact.

“Storks bring people together from all over the world.”

But the white storks readily seek out humans, building their nests on roofs and visiting people's gardens on a daily basis. Each year from late February to March, the storks return from migration to spend about six months raising their young. In September, they head south to spend the winter in Africa. But when the storks show up in spring to breed, there is palpable excitement among the folks in each village. They have grown very attached to the birds and treat them just like friends, even giving them meaningful names. Whether the village is located in Turkey, Hungary, Serbia, or Croatia and whether the relationship involves children or seniors, the story is the same. For instance, in one Turkish village, every nest is assigned to the family living nearest it, and the youngest of the family becomes the symbolic host of the nest. The storks need all the help they can get, too, from fatally striking electric cables and skyscrapers, being shot by hunters, getting caught in extreme weather conditions, or being electrocuted. Best of all for birds and humans alike, and with no small thanks to social media, the storks bring people together from all over the world.



(Photo: Pixabay)

Popular Article: Fadiloglulari, Y. *EuroNews Green*, September 26, 2002. <https://www.euronews.com/green/2022/09/25/meet-the-villagers-who-have-formed-deep-bonds-with-migrating-white-storks>

“More and more, a common sight in European villages... thanks to caring humans!”



(Photo: Wikimedia Commons)

The world welcomes its newest bird species

THE Subantarctic rayadito!

With so many bird species facing imminent extinction in the world today for multitudinous reasons, it is refreshing to hear that the number of bird species on our planet has recently increased by one!

A NEW BIRD SPECIES called the Subantarctic rayadito has been discovered living among the Diego Ramirez Islands in the southernmost part of South America, specifically 100 kilometers from southern Chile's Cape Horn.

The investigation spanned six years during which a team of scientists headed by Ricardo Rossi of the Cape Horn International Center of the Universidad de Magallanes, Puerto Williams, Chile, captured and measured 13 specimens of the new bird.

“Who knows what other species may be found there!?”

While it does resemble a cavity-nesting rayadito species that inhabits the forests of southern Patagonia, the heavier Subantarctic rayadito sports a longer and wider bill and longer tarsi, but a significantly shorter tail. What was especially surprising to Rossi and his team was that this particular rayadito is nesting in a habitat with literally no woody plants, such as bushes or trees. It is literally existing on a somewhat bare island archipelago with a harsh tundra-like climate in the middle of the ocean!

The really good news though is two-fold - there are no mammalian predators, and the bird's island habitat is enveloped by the 140,000 square kilometers of the Diego Ramírez Islands-Drake Passage Marine Park created in 2017. And, as Rossi points out, who knows what other species, birds or otherwise, new to humankind may be found there!?

Popular Article: <https://www.dw.com/en/scientists-find-new-bird-species-in-untouched-outpost-of-south-america/a-62948489>

Original Paper: Rozzi, R., Quilodrán, C.S., Botero-Delgadillo, E. et al. The Subantarctic Rayadito (*Aphrastura subantarctica*), a new bird species on the southernmost islands of the Americas. *Sci Rep* 12, 13957 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-17985-4>



From top: Subantarctic rayadito (Photo: Omar Barroso, Sci Rep ISSN 2045-2322 (2); Aves de Chile); the inhospitable terrain of the Diego Ramirez Islands (Photo: Omar Barroso (3); tussock habitat with mist net, Gonzalo Island, Diego Ramirez Archipelago, (Omar Barroso, Sci Rep ISSN 2045-2322); Diego Ramirez Islands-Drake Passage Marine Park (Graham Robertson, ACAP).

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

NOTICEBOARD

FILMS AND VIDEOS

Golden Eagles: Witnesses to a changing West

Produced by Wildlife Excellence Films

THIS 57-MINUTE DOCUMENTARY takes you in the field with eagle researchers in Wyoming as they strive to discover how the birds are adapting to the many challenges facing them, from climate change to sprawl, lead poisoning to energy development. Viewers get to rappel into eagle nests, go behind the scenes at wildlife rehabilitation centers, and hear stories of Indigenous peoples' connections to the magnificent golden eagle. The production focuses on the story of Dr. Charles Preston, the golden eagles of the Bighorn Basin, and Native American traditions and beliefs centering around the raptor. World-renowned author and naturalist Kenn Kaufman narrates the film. "Golden Eagles: Witnesses to a Changing West" weaves together science, history, and Native Americans' connection to the golden eagle to reach the hearts and minds of viewers, compelling people to care about golden eagles, their habitat, and conservation in the West.



(Photos: Wildlife Excellence Films)

All That Breathes

Directed by Shaunak Sen (2022)

THIS OSCAR-CONTENDING DOCUMENTARY soars with a story of two Delhi Brothers and the birds they rescue. As legions of birds fall from New Delhi's skies and the city smoulders with social unrest, two brothers race to save one of the casualties: a majestic black kite, a bird of prey essential to their city's ecosystem.

<https://deadline.com/video/all-that-breathes-documentary-trailer-premiere-hbo-submarine-deluxe-director-shaunak-sen-news/>



(Photos: @allthatbreathes)

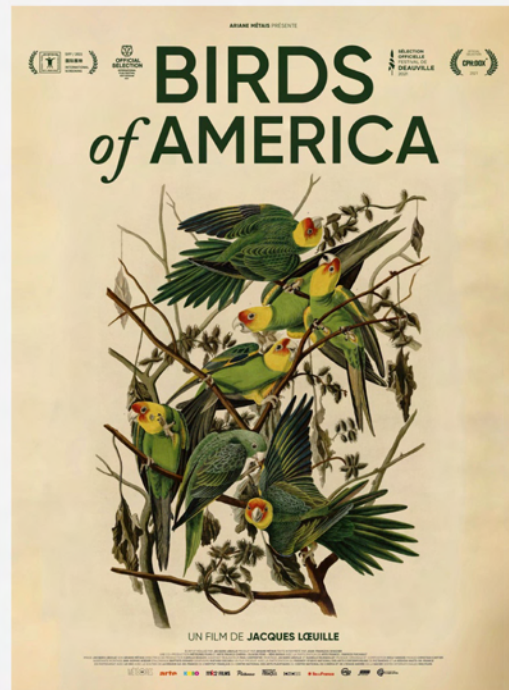


Birds of America

Directed by Jacques Loeuille
(2022 - Documentary)

IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY, the French ornithologist Jean-Jacques Audubon travelled to America to depict birdlife along the Mississippi River. Audubon was also a gifted painter. His life's work in the form of the classic book *Birds of America* is an invaluable documentation of both extinct species and an entire world of imagination. During the same period, early industrialisation and the expulsion of indigenous peoples was in full swing. This gorgeous film traces Audubon's path around the South today. The displaced people's descendants welcome us and retell history, while the deserted vistas of heavy industry stretch across the horizon. The magnificent, broad images in Jacques Loeuille's atmospheric, modern adventure reminds us at the same time how little - and yet how much - is left of the nature that Audubon travelled around in. His paintings of the colourful birdlife of the South still belong to the most beautiful things you can imagine.

<https://www.themoviedb.org/movie/816357-birds-of-america>



(Photos: <https://www.unifrance.org/film/49366/birds-of-america#>)

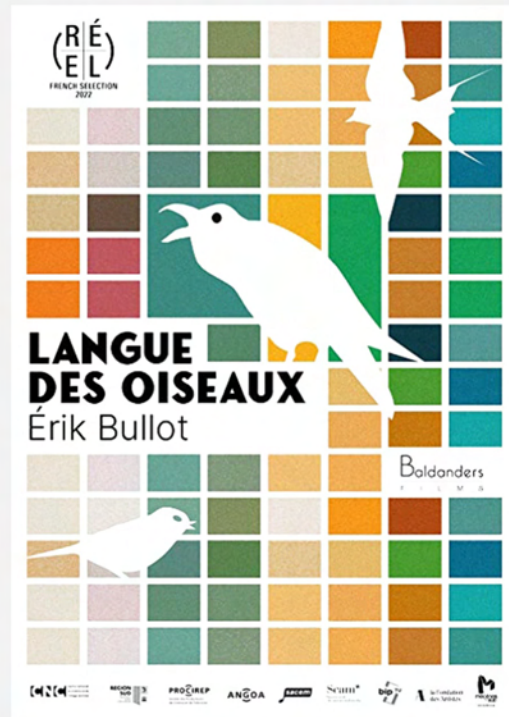
Langue des Oiseaux

Directed by Érik Bullot
(2022)

COMPOSED OF SERIOUS AND FUNNY musical scenes, an exploration of the virtues of translation and desire for communication between humans and birds. Told by a narrator from the future, after the sixth mass extinction, an observation of the attempts made to establish a possible exchange.



(Photos - left to right: Cinema du Reel, IMDb)



NB:

It is always worth mentioning the following interesting web sites that provide synopses of feature films and documentaries focusing on birds that are still worth watching today:

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

CONFERENCES

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. Events are subject to change so it is always best to check the actual web site for the conference you are planning to attend.

2022		
	EVENT	FOR MORE INFORMATION
13 - 18 NOVEMBER	SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY (SETAC) - 43RD ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN MEETING , Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Visit the SETAC website for future international meetings. NB: Other SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY (SETAC) meetings are planned internationally for 2022 and beyond. Please see website for more information.	https://pittsburgh.setac.org/ https://www.setac.org/events/event_list.asp
21 - 25 NOVEMBER	PAN-AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS - 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 - London, UK	https://waset.org/wildlife-ecology-biodiversity-conservation-and-management-conference-in-january-2023-in-london
30 JAN - 2 FEB	SECOND ALL-RUSSIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS - St. Petersburg, Russia.	http://birdcongress.ru/
15 - 17 FEBRUARY	50TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP - Theme: <i>Boundary Currents in Borderless Oceans</i> .	https://pacificseabirdgroup.org/annual-meeting/
25 - 26 FEBRUARY	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AVIAN BIOLOGY (ICAB) - Sydney, Australia.	https://waset.org/avian-biology-conference-in-february-2023-in-sydney
10 - 11 MARCH	8TH IRISH ORNITHOLOGICAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE - Cork, Ireland.	https://www.ucc.ie/en/corc2023/
20 - 24 MARCH	NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE - St. Louis, Missouri.	https://wildlifemanagement.institute/conference/future-locations
22 - 23 MARCH	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AVIAN BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY - Dubai.	https://waset.org/avian-biology-and-ecology-conference
4 APRIL	BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION ANNUAL MEETING - <i>Evolutionary Responses</i> , Nottingham, UK	https://bou.org.uk/event/citizen-science-and-birds-bouasm22/
30 APRIL - 4 MAY	SETAC EUROPE 33RD ANNUAL MEETING - Dublin, Ireland.	https://europe2023.setac.org/
11 - 12 MAY	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECOLOGY, BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENT - Berlin, Germany.	https://www.clocate.com/icebe-international-conference-on-ecology-biodiversity-and-environment/51133/
24 - 28 MAY	BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FITZPATRICK INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGY - <i>6th Learn About Birds (LAB) Conference</i> , Wilderness, South Africa.	https://www.birdlife.org.za/support-us/events/learn-about-birds-lab-conference/
3 - 5 JUNE	2023 NZ BIRD CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BIRDS NEW ZEALAND - Taranaki, New Zealand.	https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/other-events/#!event/2023/6/3/nz-bird-conference-2023

2023 continued		
DATE	EVENT	FOR MORE INFORMATION
14 - 15 JUNE	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WILDLIFE BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION -Montreal, Canada.	https://waset.org/wildlife-biology-and-conservation-conference-in-june-2023-in-montreal
20 - 23 JUNE	WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY - Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania.	https://wilsonsociety.org/events/future-meetings/
1 - 4 AUGUST	2ND ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS OF THE AMERICAS - JOINT MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS, AVES ARGENTINAS, BOLIVIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, NEOTROPICAL ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, SOCIEDADE BRASILEIRA DE ORNITOLOGIA - Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.	https://afonet.org/events/oca/
6 - 11 AUGUST	THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA - 108th Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon.	https://www.esa.org/events/meetings/future-esa-meetings/
7 - 12 AUGUST	JOINT MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS- SOCIÉTÉ DES ORNITHOLOGISTES DU CANADA - London, Ontario.	https://americanornithology.org/meetings/annual-meeting/
14 - 20 AUGUST	INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY - La Jolla, California. Bielefeld, Germany.	https://www.unibielefeld.de/fakultaeten/biologie/forschung/veranstaltungen/behaviour2023/
21 - 25 AUGUST	14TH EUROPEAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION CONGRESS - Lund University, Sweden.	https://eounion.org/latest-news/announcement-xiv-european-ornithologists-union-congress-in-lund/
FALL	16TH NORTH AMERICAN CRANE WORKSHOP - Baraboo, Wisconsin. (More details to follow in the next edition of <i>The Flutter</i>).	https://www.nacwg.org/workshops.html
17 - 22 OCTOBER	RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING, Albuquerque, New Mexico.	https://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/conferences/
23 - 27 OCTOBER	THE WORLD OWL CONFERENCE - Onalaska/La Crosse, Wisconsin, USA.	https://www.worldowlconference.com/
5 - 9 NOVEMBER	THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY 30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Louisville, Kentucky.	https://10times.com/tws-annual-conference-louisville
6 - 8 DECEMBER	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN BIRDERS - Kisumu, Kampala, Uganda.	https://worldbirdfairs.com/birding-event/international-conference-for-women-birders/
2024		
DATE	EVENT	FOR MORE INFORMATION
3 - 4 APRIL	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY -Venice, Italy.	https://waset.org/behavioral-ecology-and-conservation-biology-conference-in-april-2024-in-venice
11 APRIL	BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION ANNUAL MEETING: <i>Urban Birds</i> - Nottingham, UK.	https://bou.org.uk/event/urban-birds-bou2024/
19 - 24 JULY	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EVOLUTIONARY ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION - Toronto, Canada.	https://waset.org/evolutionary-ecology-and-conservation-conference-in-july-2024-in-toronto
3 - 9 AUGUST	THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, 109TH ANNUAL MEETING - Long Beach, California.	https://www.esa.org/events/meetings/future-esa-meetings/
27 SEPT - 2 OCT	19TH INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY CONGRESS - Melbourne, Australia.	https://www.applied-ethology.org/Int_Soc_Behav_Ecol.html
19 - 23 OCTOBER	THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY 31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Baltimore, Maryland.	https://10times.com/e1sr-1628-rgpg

COURSES & 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://fatbirder.com/ornithology-courses/
EDITOR'S NOTE: For more online courses in ornithology	https://www.coursef.com/ornithology-online-programs



(Photo: Ryan Magsino, Unsplash)

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>

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - BRENDA AND TONY GIBBS AWARD: £20,000 is offered for research on tracking and migration studies, including the use of new technologies.

Read more: <https://bou.org.uk/funding/brenda-and-tony-gibbs-award/>

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 worldwide 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: <https://ideawild.org/grants/>

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://hctf.ca/now-accepting-conservation-grant-proposals-for-2022-2023/>

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

Read more: <https://apply.ruffordsmallgrants.org/#:~:text=The%20Rufford%20Foundation%20provides%20startup,that%20successfully%20complete%20each%20stage>

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/research-grants>

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. **Deadlines: end of June and end of October 2023.**

Read more: <https://www.africanbirdclub.org/apply-for-an-award/>

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

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

Asian

ORIENTAL BIRD CLUB: provides both large and small grants through its Conservation Fund to researchers working in the Oriental region.

Read more: www.orientalbirdclub.org

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

Read more: <https://abcbirds.org/program/science/>

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: www.americanornithology.org

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: <https://www.birdscanada.org/about-us/funding-opportunities/>

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/>

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 also partner with Zeiss UK and British Birds Rarities Committee to offer Zeiss Young Birders Awards for birders between the age of 16 - 18.

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

NORTH AMERICAN CRANE WORKING GROUP: LH WALKINSHAW CRANE CONSERVATION AWARD: This award recognizes those individuals whose efforts have advanced our ability to conserve a species, subspecies, or population of cranes in North America.

Read more: <https://www.nacwg.org/awards.html#:~:text=~%20L.%20H.%20Walkinshaw%20Crane%20Conservation%20Award%20~&text=The%20purpose%20of%20this%20award,of%20cranes%20in%20North%20America>

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: <https://wilsonsociety.org/awards/>

Neotropics

NEOTROPICAL BIRD CLUB AWARDS AND GRANTS: for conservation work or research that has an intended conservation benefit. **Deadline: July 2023.**

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 2023.**

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

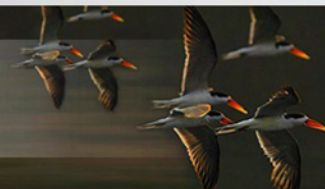
Oceania

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/>

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

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.

Thankfully, to our knowledge, no IOU members or IOU Fellows have passed since the last issue of The Flutter.

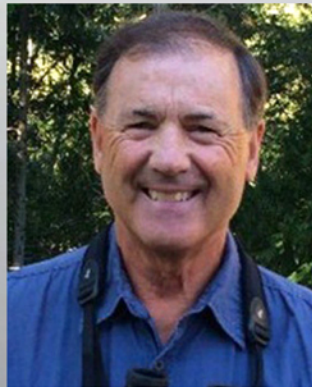
T H E I O U F L U T T E R

CONTACT US

For feedback or more information on this newsletter or to provide information to be included in the next issue of *The Flutter*, you can contact me at the address below and I will pass it on to the next editor:

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The next deadline for IOU members' submissions for *The Flutter* is
15 APRIL 2023



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www.internationalornithology.org





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