

XXI International Ornithological Congress

Officers and Committees, 1990–1994

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Report of the Secretary

The 21st International Ornithological Congress (IOC) was held in Vienna, Austria, 20–25 August 1994, 110 years after the 1st International Ornithological Congress was convened by Crown Prince Rudolf in that city in 1884. The central goal for the organization of the initial ornithological congress was to establish a system for the collection and analysis of data on avian migration—a truly international activity. The ornithological congresses developed rapidly into a forum for the exchange of information in all aspects of avian biology among ornithologists from the entire world. The scientific

programme of the 21st congress included 10 plenary lectures, 52 symposia, 60 round table discussions and well over 500 poster papers. The congress met in the Hofburg in the heart of Vienna with over 1300 members from 70 countries, representing quite an increase from the 1st congress in 1884. Members of the 21st congress included Wilhelm Meise (Germany), Max Nicholson (U.K.) and Ernst Mayr (U.S.A.), whose attendance at ornithological congresses dates back to at least the 7th congress in 1930 if not the 6th congress in 1926, well before most members of the 21st congress were born. It should also be noted that these three members had passed their 90th birthdays and are the oldest members of the IOC to attend this congress.

Organization for the 21st congress started well before the 19th congress in Ottawa in 1986. Walter Bock visited Vienna several times to discuss the organization and facilities for the congress with Hans Winkler, Kurt Bauer, John Dittami and other Austrian ornithologists. The official invitation was delivered to Charles Sibley, President of the 20th congress, and accepted by the IOC at their meeting in Christchurch in 1990.

Soon after the 20th congress, President Perrins appointed the Scientific Program Committee which began its work immediately. The SPC met in Austria in late August 1991 with John C. Wingfield (Chair) presiding. Decisions were reached on the basic format of the congress, and on the symposia and their conveners. The SPC agreed to have 10 plenary lectures, including the presidential address, to better cover the ever-widening spectrum of research areas in avian biology.

The 21st congress opened in the Arcades of the University with the informal greetings of representatives from the city and state governments, the Secretary-General and the President, followed by a buffet supper. A music programme by a string quartet and pianist provided enjoyable background music.

Notably, Professor Ernst Mayr received an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Vienna and the Godman-Salvin Medal from the British Ornithologists Union (see *Ibis*, 137:279–280; 1995). It should also be mentioned that immediately prior to the congress, the Selection Committee of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science chose Professor Mayr to be the recipient of the 1994 International Prize for Biology; he received this award in November 1994.

Prizes were presented for the best poster papers in a formal session at the close of congress, and the site of the 22nd congress in 1998, the new officers, executive committee and new members of the International Ornithological Committee were announced. Members of the congress expressed their appreciation to all local workers whose efforts were instrumental to the success of the congress. A reception and evening meal at the Vienna Zoo at Schönbrunn followed the formal closing. All members present will remember the sudden and steep drop in temperature (after the hot days spent sitting in lecture halls) caused by a strong cold front that passed through Vienna in the late afternoon, a short electrical power outage, and the gate, through which members had entered Schönbrunn, that was locked before the end of the festivities, forcing members into an exploratory mission through the darkened grounds of Schönbrunn to an alternative means of exit. Hopefully all members suc-

cessfully found their way out of Schönbrunn before the next morning.

Many members of the congress enjoyed a full series of pre- and post-congress tours, including longer post-congress tours to Poland, the Danube delta and Turkey.

Meetings of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC) held two meetings during the 21st congress, the first an all day meeting on Saturday, 20 August and the second a shorter meeting on Tuesday, 23 August. With the exception of E. Kurochkin (Russia), who unfortunately was unable to attend the congress, all members of the Executive Committee attended these meetings.

- (A) The first meeting opened with short reports from the President, Secretary-General and Secretary with requests for any additional items not listed on the agenda for discussion by the EC.
- (B) An amendment to the By-laws to increase the number of IOC members from the current limit of 140 to 175 was approved to be forwarded to the IOC for their action.
- (C) Aldo Berruti and his colleagues from South Africa presented an invitation to host the 22nd International Ornithological Congress in Durban, South Africa, 16–22 August 1998. It was stressed that this invitation should be considered to be from southern African ornithologists, not simply from South African ornithologists. Some history of this invitation should be given. Walter Bock had been in contact with several South African ornithologists, especially with Tim Crowe, since the 20th congress in Christchurch on political and other developments in South Africa. As soon as it became clear in 1991 that South Africa was moving to a new government based on general elections with voting by all citizens, discussions on the possibility for a congress in South Africa were intensified. Suggestions were made in November 1992 to hold the congress in Durban with Aldo Berruti as Secretary-General. Contacts were established with Aldo Berruti and arrangements were made for Walter Bock to visit South Africa in early May 1993. During this trip, Bock held talks with city officials, members of the convention center and Durban Chamber of Commerce, and representatives of the African National Congress and Inkatha Freedom Party, as well as seeing the proposed site for the congress, the city of Durban and several national parks in Natal representative of localities for congress tours. Following Durban, Bock visited Cape Town to discuss the possibility of the congress with ornithologists there as well as meeting with officers of the Southern African Ornithological Society. Following this trip, close contacts were maintained with Aldo Berruti and other South African ornithologists as the invitation was being prepared. Aldo Berruti submitted the official invitation on behalf of southern African ornithologists to President C. Perrins early in 1994.

Questions about visas for congress members visiting South Africa were raised. Visas are still required for citizens from a number of countries, but no problems were foreseen for anyone obtaining a visa. Further, it is expected that visa requirements will be reduced greatly by 1998 and hopefully be eliminated for congress members. No problems of security were foreseen.

No other invitations had been received for the 1998 congress. After a full discussion of the South African invitation, the EC voted to present it to the IOC with their recommendation.

- (D) A number of problems associated with congress organization, exchange of information and organization of the IOC were then discussed as follows:

- (1) Greater responsibility and authority should be given to the SPC following its single meeting, usually held 3 years prior to the congress, for the overall organization and the detailed decisions on the content of the scientific programme of the congress. SPC meetings that establish the general format of the scientific programme and decide on plenary lectures and symposia have been most successful for the past several congresses, but the SPC should be charged with the detailed work of developing the scientific programme rather than leaving this work to the Secretary-General and local committee.
- (2) Timing of Application deadlines for a place on the programme, including contributed papers and round table discussions, as well as other deadlines for symposia abstracts, etc. was discussed. Members felt that deadlines established for the current congress were much too close to the congress date.
- (3) The need to increase information to and especially from members of the IOC to the officers and the local committee was discussed. Perhaps the last announcement from the Secretary to IOC members was unclear, but the response from IOC members was very poor. This was especially true regarding nominations for new members of the IOC.
- (4) It is still necessary to obtain some idea of the relative ornithological activity in different countries, which is required under the Statutes and By-laws, to establish representation of different countries on the IOC.
- (5) Members from developing countries and others continue to experience difficulties raising funds for travel and other costs connected with attending the congress. This is a most serious problem and one that should not be left to the S-G and local committee of each congress, as has been done in the past. It is urged that a special committee be established to investigate the question of raising such funds. In addition, allocation of funds to attend ornithological congresses should not be left only to the S-G and local committee, but should have input from the IOC through its EC. Further discussion of these funding matters was postponed to a later time in the meeting.
- (6) Relationships with BirdLife International (the former ICBP) and the IOC, including the ornithological congress, are still in need of improvement. Great efforts were made to maximize interactions between these two organizations for the 21st congress, but with less than desired success. It may be desirable to establish formal liaisons between the IOC and BirdLife International.
- (7) Several specific problems arose from the past several congresses.
 - (a) Difficulties of individual members obtaining visas. In spite of assurances obtained by the local committees

from their government, some individual congress members have experienced difficulties obtaining visas.

- (b) Letters of invitation to potential members to attend the congress was discussed. Although such letters are unnecessary, as all avian biologists are invited to become members of International Ornithological Congresses, they are needed by some workers in applying for travel funds. Requests for these letters of invitation are sometimes not fulfilled or not promptly fulfilled. Requests for letters of invitation should be dealt with immediately, and should include instructions for getting visas. Moreover, these letters should include a definite statement on the IUBS requirement regarding freedom of travel for all biologists interested in attending congress. Further, these "official invitations" should not contain any statements on support for travel and attendance at the congress or lack thereof that could result in difficulties for the congress members from consulates of the host country.

It is suggested that a general letter of invitation be sent out to potential members of the next congress as soon as each ornithologist writes to the Secretary-General and expresses interest in registering for the congress. The Secretary will assist the S-G of the next congress to develop such a letter, which could be put in a computer file and sent out as soon as the potential member's name and address is inserted into the computer.

In association with this problem, a system will be developed by the Secretary to send a formal letter of invitation for each congress to every member of the IOC.

- (c) The lack of travel funds and other support for congress members unable to raise funds from their home countries continues to be a major problem for the host country. The strong consensus of the EC is that raising funds for support of congress members should not be the responsibility of the Secretary-General and local committee, but should be dealt with by the IOC. Clearly some countries have been most successful in their efforts to raise these funds. But it is equally clear that this matter is viewed as a major task by ornithologists in many countries and may well be the deciding factor against issuing a congress invitation. The EC agreed that efforts to raise funds to support congress members should be assumed by the IOC (see below).

- (E) Possible invitations for the 23rd congress in 2002 were discussed. Walter Bock has been in close contact with Indian ornithologists who have expressed much interest in issuing an invitation for the 23rd congress. These discussions will continue. In addition, Israeli ornithologists have expressed some interest in issuing an invitation for this congress, but there has been much less contact with Secretary Bock. Efforts to obtain an invitation from a Neotropical country (or combination of several Neotropical countries) have not met with much success to date. However Bock will continue his efforts to generate interest in hosting an ornithological congress somewhere in the Neotropics, possibly for the 24th congress in 2006.

The results of the questionnaire sent to members of the IOC indicate that the month of August is the best time of the year

for International Ornithological Congresses. The worst time for the largest number of ornithologists is May through July because of field work during the breeding season of Northern Hemisphere birds. It is recommended that future congress organizers consider these results in thinking about congress dates.

A detailed set of instructions on the preparation of an invitation for an International Ornithological Congress is available to any interested ornithologists. Contact Walter Bock immediately if interested in the 23rd or 24th congresses. It is also recommended that any group of ornithologists interested in preparing a congress invitation should arrange a visit by the IOC Secretary to their country as early as possible to discuss the details of developing the invitation, to examine potential congress sites, to meet with the core group of ornithologists, and to meet with governmental and business leaders. Such a visit is quite critical to successfully develop a congress invitation and to avoid later problems.

- (F) Nominations for officers and members of the EC followed. A slate of nominations for officers and members of the EC was agreed on. This slate was presented to the IOC at their second meeting.
- (G) The EC discussed the establishment of an Endowment Fund to support members of future congresses. To date the IOC has operated on a completely voluntary basis with officers, members of standing committees and other ornithologists working for the IOC assuming all costs for their activities. It may not be possible to continue IOC operation on this voluntary basis.

Several major points were raised. First, if the IOC decides to establish an Endowment Fund and/or establish dues for ornithologists attending congresses (separate from registration fees), then the IOC must establish itself in some country as a tax-exempt organization. It should be noted that local committees for previous congresses have either attached themselves to the national ornithological society, thereby using their tax-exempt status, or established themselves as independent tax-exempt organizations. If the IOC is established as a tax-exempt organization, changes will have to be made in the Statutes depending on the laws of the country, and it may be necessary to establish the office of treasurer.

Second, a committee or committees would have to be established to solicit funds and to invest these funds. A few members of this committee should be members of the IOC, but most members should be persons interested in birds who are in business or other professions and are knowledgeable in money matters.

- (H) Nominations of new members of the IOC. A committee chaired by Henri Ouellet (Canada) was established to gather names of nominees for the IOC. Special attention was given to countries not represented in the IOC. Secretary Bock provided information of IOC members who passed the age of 65 years or resigned for various reasons. The major problem continues to be establishing a foundation on which to decide relative representation on the IOC as required by the Statutes (Art. II.2). Bock attempted to survey members of the IOC on their understanding of relative ornithological activity in represented countries but received very few replies, and the results were most inconclusive.

Dr Ouellet presented the report of his committee, and the

names of proposed members were discussed. Some confusion arose about the requirement for membership. President Perrins stated that at the 19th congress in Ottawa in 1986, he proposed that the Statutes be modified to read that the requirement for membership be attendance in at least one IOC, which could be the congress at which the person was elected. Several others agreed with Perrins that this change in the Statutes was passed by the IOC; however no indications could be found that this change was actually made. The EC agreed, nevertheless, to apply generally this requirement for the nominations recommended to the IOC.

- (I) With its work at the XXI International Ornithological Congress completed, the Executive Committee was adjourned.

Meetings of the International Ornithological Committee

The International Ornithological Committee (IOC) held two evening meetings during the 21st congress, the first on Monday, 22 August and the second on 25 August. These meetings were exceptionally well attended with more members (about 110) of the IOC present than at any previous congress. Professor Dominique Homberger (U.S.A.) recorded the minutes of the two IOC meetings.

- (A) The agenda was changed slightly to permit presentation of the formal invitation for the 22nd congress in 1998 by the South African delegation. Professor Gordon Maclean (Chair, South African Local Committee) and Dr. Aldo Berruti (proposed Secretary-General) presented the details of the South African invitation, including a video tape on the proposed congress venue of Durban and on some of the National Parks in Natal for congress excursions. The congress would be scheduled during the third week of August 1998. The South African ambassador to Austria presented a short address welcoming the IOC to South Africa and providing information on visas and other official matters. Dr. Berruti asked about the possibility of using part of the registration fee to establish a Developmental Fund for ornithological studies.

No other invitations for the 1998 congress had been received. The EC presented its recommendation in favor of accepting the invitation from South Africa. Following a brief discussion the IOC voted to accept the South African invitation with no negative votes.

- (B) President Perrins read a brief letter from Honorary President Karel Voous, who apologized for not being able to attend for health reasons and wished all congress members a successful and enjoyable congress.
- (C) President Perrins asked IOC members to stand in memorial while he read the names of IOC members and other internationally known ornithologists who died since the 1990 congress.
- (D) President Perrins, Secretary-General Dittami, Professor Wingfield (Chair of the Scientific Program Committee) and Secretary Bock presented their reports. Suggestions were made by Wingfield on the content and timing of instructions to symposium conveners. The instructions have to be more detailed and should be sent 1–2 years, rather than 3 years, before the congress. In the discussion, Allen Keast (Canada) asked about the content of the proceedings volume. He recommended that future con-

gress proceedings contain all symposia as was done for the past two congresses.

Secretary Bock pointed out the need to send official invitations, which are often essential in obtaining travel funds, to all potential congress members and suggested that this be done automatically by the Secretary-General. He will send invitations to all IOC members well before the 1998 congress.

- (E) The EC reported one proposed change in Article I of the By-laws to increase the membership of the IOC from 140 to 175. This increase would take effect only after the close of the 21st congress and hence has to be passed at this congress to have sufficient places available to elect IOC members from additional countries at the 1998 congress. This change in the By-laws was passed.
- (F) Secretary Bock reported his activities with respect to invitations for the 23rd congress in 2002. The major discussions have been with Indian ornithologists, who have express great interest in hosting the 2002 congress. In addition, he has had discussions with Israel ornithologists and with ornithologists in several Neotropical countries. Any ornithologists interested in developing an invitation for the 2002 congress or other future congresses should contact Secretary Bock without delay. A detailed set of instructions on organizing ornithological congresses and preparing invitations is available and can be obtained from Secretary Bock.
- (G) The EC reported its discussions on the establishment of an Endowment Fund to support members attending future congresses. It was emphasized that local committees could not be expected to raise these funds, and that having to raise travel funds for congress members could be a barrier for ornithologists in many countries when they consider hosting a congress. Some suggestions were made on international agencies that could provide travel funds. It was urged that the president of the 22nd congress appoint a committee to explore the possibilities of establishing an Endowment Fund and to approach potential donors. Secretary Bock pointed out that, to date, the work of officers and members of the IOC had been on a strictly voluntary basis with these persons using university, research and other funds to cover whatever expenses they incurred. The IOC itself does not have any funds or a budget. If an Endowment Fund were established, it would be essential for the IOC to establish itself as a non-profit organization under the tax laws of some country. Moreover, Secretary Bock pointed out that there are no provisions in the Statutes and By-Laws to authorize the establishment of an Endowment Fund or to establish the IOC as a non-profit organization. He moved that the IOC give the officers and the EC the necessary authorization to take whatever steps are necessary to establish the IOC as a non-profit organization and to establish an Endowment Fund. The necessary changes in the Statutes will be acted on during the 22nd congress. This motion was seconded and passed.

[The first meeting of the IOC was adjourned at this point, with the second meeting scheduled for the evening of 25 August.]

- (H) The chairs of several standing committees presented their reports, which follow this report (see Appendix 1).

The major problem was the Standing Committee on English Names for Birds of the World. Burt Monroe, who was seriously ill for several years and died on 14 May 1994, chaired this committee. Unfortunately no report on the activities of this committee could be obtained. The Standing Committee on French Names for Birds of the World completed its work and published its list in 1993 (P. Devillers and H. Ouellet, eds, *Nomes Français des Oiseaux du Monde avec les Équivalents Latins et Anglais*. Éditions MultiMondes Inc., 930 Pouliot, Sainte-Foy, Québec G1V 3N8 Canada) (see review, *Auk*, 110:960–961; 1993). Ornithologists in several other countries have or are planning to publish similar lists in Italian, Spanish, Russian and German. Secretary Bock asked permission to re-establish the Standing Committee on English Names, as well as similar standing committees for names of birds in other languages, along with a mechanism to coordinate their work; this permission was given. [To date such committees have been continued or established for English, French, Italian and German names.]

- (I) The EC presented its nominations for officers for the 1998 congress as follows: Honorary President: Tso-Hsin Cheng (People's Republic of China), President: Peter Berthold (Germany), Vice President: Janet Kear (U.K.), Secretary: Walter Bock (U.S.A.). These officers were elected.
- (J) The EC presented its nominations for elected members of the Executive Committee as follows: Alexander V. Andreev* (Russia), Jacques Blondel (France), Cynthia Carey (U.S.A.), Asha Chandola-Saklani (India), Hiroyuki Morioka (Japan), Manuel Nores* (Argentina), Henri Ouellet (Canada), W. Roy Siegfried (South Africa), Tomasz Wesołowski* (Poland), Murray Williams (New Zealand). Members elected for the first term are marked with an *. In addition, John Dittami (Australia, *ex officio*), Christopher M. Perrins (U.K., *ex officio*), Aldo Berruti (South Africa, *ex officio*), and the current officers will serve on the Executive Committee.
- (K) The EC presented its nominations for new members of the IOC based on the work of the Nomination Committee chaired by Henri Ouellet (Canada). The following persons were nominated: Vladimir Ivanovsky (Belarus), Erik Matthysen (Belgium), Hans Blokpoel (Canada), Peter Boag (Canada), Nancy Benavides (Ecuador), Vilju Lilleleht (Estonia), Alexander V. Abuladze (Georgia), Eberhard Curio (Germany), Siegfried Eck (Germany), Yaa Ntiama-Baidu (Ghana), Yussi Lesham (Israel), Silcano Benvenuti (Italy), Susumu Ishii (Japan), Satoshi Yamagishi (Japan), Janis Viksne (Latvia), A.I. Kurlavicius (Lithuania), Patricia Escalante-Pliego (Mexico), Christopher J. Brown (Namibia), Franciscos Delgado (Panama), Evgeny Panov (Russia), Nee Kang (Singapore), Gordon Maclean (Union of South Africa), Juan Moreno (Spain), Manuel Soler (Spain), Bengt Silverin (Sweden), Chistine Dranzoa (Urgana), Valentin V. Serebryakov (Ukraine), Chris Feare (U.K.), David T. Parkin (U.K.), Michael Rands (U.K.), Mary E. Murphy (U.S.A.), Robert Ricklefs (U.S.A.), Raul Vaz-Ferreira (Uruguay), and Carlos Bosque (Venezuela). This slate of nominations to the IOC was moved, seconded and elected, and hence increases the number of countries represented in the IOC by 10 to a total of 57. Aldo Berruti (South Africa), with his expected appointment as Secretary-General of the 22nd International Ornithological Congress, will automatically become a

permanent member of the IOC. (See Appendix 2 for the current composition of the IOC.)

- (L) Several resolutions were presented to the IOC and adopted. These are:
 - (1) An expression of appreciation from the Eastern European ornithologists for the support they received to attend the 21st congress in Vienna.
 - (2) A resolution from the Round Table Discussion on Ornithological Collections stressing the importance of these collections in the ongoing work on the biodiversity of the earth and deploring the lack of support of these collections in many countries. In addition, it was requested that a Standing Committee on Ornithological Collections be formed to monitor the status and support of these collections. (The Secretary will work with persons interested in this problem to establish the proposed standing committee.)
 - (3) A resolution urging that the proceedings of future congresses include papers from all symposia presented at the congress. (It was pointed out that the Statutes specify that the Secretary-General of a congress has the sole authority to decide on the contents of the congress proceedings with the specification that the "Actions of the IOC are communicated to the congress and published either in the proceedings of the congress or in some other publication, as approved by the Executive Committee". [Article II(9)].)
 - (4) A resolution expressing concern that attractiveness rather than scientific content served as the basis for decisions on prizes for poster papers.
 - (5) A resolution expressing concern about competition from the several regional congresses, such as the Pan-African Congress and the Neotropical Congress, with the International Ornithological Congress. It is hoped that the regional congresses will schedule their meetings in a year midway between International Ornithological Congresses, as are the Pan-African Congresses.

With its work at the XXI International Ornithological Congress completed, the International Ornithological Committee was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted for the XXI International Ornithological Committee.

Walter J. Bock, Secretary, IOC

APPENDIX 1

Report of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature

The Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature (SCON) is the oldest standing committee within the IOC, being organized at the 1950 congress in Uppsala as a result of the congress presentation by Professor F. Salomonson on the nomenclatural problem associated with the generic name *Colymbus* Linnaeus, 1758. Col. R. Meinelertzhagen was the first chair of this committee. This committee was reappointed after the 1954 Basel congress with Professor E. Stresemann as chair. The SCON serves to review nomenclatural questions associated with avian names, to assist ornithologists in

preparing applications to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) and to serve as a specialist committee on matters of ornithological nomenclature for the ICZN. Walter Bock, who has served as chair of the SCON since 1981 following the death of the then chair, E. Eisenmann, was elected as a commissioner of the ICZN in October 1988 and serves as the liaison between the SCON and the ICZN.

The deaths of two members of the SCON, Dr Burt Monroe (U.S.A.) and Dr Hans Wolters (Germany), were announced. Dr Wolters provided most valuable assistance to the project on avian family-group names. Dr Monroe also served as chair of the Standing Committee on English Names for Birds of the World.

At the 18th International Ornithological Congress (Moscow, 1982), the SCON passed a resolution to begin work on a historical analysis of avian family-group names for Recent birds. This project was essential because the changes in the rules of the 1961 Code of Zoological Nomenclature threatened continuity of several well-established avian family-group names. The SCON had discussed the conflict between the new rules and well established avian family-group names since the 1962 congress but did not establish a mechanism to deal with the problem until the 1982 congress. Walter Bock announced that this project was completed and made a copy of the proofs available to interested ornithologists. This work was published on 28 September 1994 as "History and nomenclature of avian family-group names" Bulletin American Museum of Natural History, 222:1–281 and can be ordered from the AMNH Library, Department D, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024, U.S.A. An application will be made to the ICZN to establish the list of avian family-group names in this publication as the base-line list for family-group names of Recent birds.

With avian family-group names completed, the SCON discussed the possibility of establishing a project to prepare a base-line list of generic names for Recent birds. Mr. Murray Bruce had begun such a project and made available a list of avian generic names. The SCON agreed to undertake this project and established a committee consisting of Murray Bruce, Richard Schodde, Alan Peterson, Carlo Violani and Walter Bock to formulate this project and to begin work collecting information on avian generic names.

Richard Schodde presented a series of nomenclatural problems that arose in the course of his analyses of the systematics and nomenclature of Australian birds. He presented each case for discussion. Recommendations for further action of each case were reached by vote of members of the SCON. Schodde was requested to prepare the necessary applications to the ICZN. No other pending nomenclatural cases were discussed at this meeting. However, during the congress, J. Haffer discussed the question of preference of the names *Passer hispaniolensis* (Temminck, 1820) and *Passer italiae* (Vieillot, 1817). Following the congress Bock and Haffer prepared an application to the ICZN to give *Passer hispaniolensis* (Temminck, 1820) preference over *Passer italiae* (Vieillot, 1817) when both names apply to the same taxon.

Members of the SCON were informed that the draft for the fourth edition of the *Code of Zoological Nomenclature* would be available from the ICZN Secretariat during the fall or winter 1994, and all were urged to obtain a copy and to send their corrections and recommendations to the ICZN well before the deadline date. This edition of the Code will contain rules that favor the preservation of well

established names when threatened by long-forgotten senior synonyms.

The SCON considered new members and agreed to ask Dr Carlo Violani (Italy) and Dr Alan Peterson (U.S.A.) to join the committee for the 1994–1998 period. This invitation was extended to them during the congress and both accepted.

Members of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature for the 1994–1998 period (those names indicated with an * were present at the Vienna congress) are: Walter J. Bock (U.S.A.), Chairman*; Murray D. Bruce (Australia)*; David Holyoak (U.K.); Ernst Mayr (U.S.A.)*; Gerlof F. Mees (Netherlands/Australia); Hiroyuki Morioka (Japan)*; Henri Ouellet (Canada)*; D. Stefan Peters (Germany); Alan P. Peterson (U.S.A.)*; Richard Schodde (Australia)*; L. S. Stepanyan (Russia); Dr. Carlo Violani (Italy)*; Karel H. Voous (Netherlands).

Respectfully submitted to the XXI International Ornithological Committee for the Standing Committee for Ornithological Nomenclature.

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Report of the Standing Committee for Seabird Research

The Standing Committee for Seabird Research (SCSR), formerly called the Standing Committee for the Coordination of Seabird Research, of the International Ornithological Committee (IOC) was established in 1966 at the 14th International Ornithological Congress held in Oxford, England. It comprises an international group of marine bird biologists responsible for the almost 280 species that occupy all of the world's oceans. The principal aim of the committee is to serve as a mechanism for enhanced information exchange and integration of the study of seabirds worldwide. Traditionally this liaison function has been achieved by the organization of discussion groups at each congress addressing topics of concern to the community of seabird researchers at large, followed by a special symposium presented as part of the IOC scientific programme. Since the 19th congress, the committee has also placed emphasis on the assignment of certain high-priority and achievable activities to be pursued between congresses. Decisions agreed upon during the 20th congress resulted in a number of tasks being assigned to the SCSR, including: (1) initial planning for the establishment of a computerized world database of seabird sites; (2) development and execution of a cooperative international banding program for *Uria lomvia* (Thick-billed Murre/Brunnich's Guillemot) in the Central and Northwest Atlantic; (3) preparation and publication of review documents on seabirds highlighting future research and management needs; (4) continued preparation of bibliographies on Procellariiformes and seabirds at sea and (5) identification of priority items to include as discussion topics at the 21st congress in Vienna.

After receiving several proposals for discussion topics, which included computerized seabird colony databases and the development of an internationally accepted world list of seabirds, the Committee decided to undertake an examination of three subject areas essential to the increase in collaboration between seabird workers that will

act to provide widespread scientific guidance to all components of the seabird community. In summary, the SCSR aimed to evaluate progress in all study areas identified at the 20th congress as requiring priority attention during the intercongress period. Thus, four SCSR Round Table Discussions (RTDs) were included in the formal 21st congress scientific programme: (1) SCSR members meeting; (2) future needs, information transfer and coordination; (3) seabird nomenclature and systematics—problems and solutions and (4) seabird database management systems—the national and global need. The following summarizes briefly the intent of these four RTDs, subject areas of two “mini-symposia”, and the activities and accomplishments of the Standing Committee for Seabird Research during the review period of 1990–1994.

XXI Congress activities

IOC-SCSR: members meeting (RTD 1). A closed working group meeting of members of the Standing Committee was held on 22 August 1994 to finalize and approve the agenda for the IOC-SCSR Open Meeting and RTD workshops; business items were reviewed and discussed, and 1994–1998 action plans ratified and agreed upon. The meeting was convened by the SCSR Chair and Secretary, and chaired by D.N. Nettleship.

IOC-SCSR: future needs, information transfer and coordination (RTD 2). An open business meeting comprising committee members, seabird biologists, and other interested parties convened on 23 August 1994 with the overall aim to review current projects and allow informal discussion of a wide range of seabird research topics. The Chair presented a short summary report of 1990–1994 committee activities highlighting major accomplishments. Emphasis was placed on discussion of topics identified by seabird biologists in attendance and those submitted for discussion in advance, including initiatives, problems and research/management priorities. Considerable discussion focused on the need to expand representation on the committee both geographically and by subject area. It was agreed that the committee should be restructured to include expertise in all fundamental divisions of seabird biology to formulate a more effective means of promoting seabird research worldwide and making meaningful progress on projects between congresses. The meeting was well attended with considerable participation by all members present.

IOC-SCSR: seabird taxonomy and nomenclature—problems and solutions (RTD 3). This special workshop on 24 August 1994, convened by P.A. Buckley (Chair) and D.N. Nettleship (Co-chair), represented the first meeting by the IOC-SCSR to discuss the possible production of an annotated taxonomic checklist of the seabirds of the world. In P.A. Buckley's absence, D.N. Nettleship chaired the workshop with P. Devillers serving as Co-chair. The principal aim of this informal workshop was to review and assess the proposal for the establishment of a subcommittee of the SCSR with the aim to identify, discuss and find solutions to common problems including: (a) definition of “seabird” by taxonomic group; (b) identification of the species concept used; i.e., biological species concept modified by modern genetic findings; (c) development of an international list of official English names and a secondary companion list of regional/local names; (d) delimitation of principles used to determine English names avoiding

“neologisms”; (e) agreement, if possible, on the order of higher categories and species within them and (f) identification of seabird taxa requiring further work. The objective is to produce an English name, associated with the correct scientific name, for all taxa of seabirds, including subspecies in anticipation of renewed splitting of allopatric/allochronic taxa.

The overall purposes of the Taxonomy and Nomenclature Subcommittee would be to: (1) develop a “Check-list of the World's Seabirds” with recommended scientific, and uniform, mutually exclusive formal and proper, English names; (2) publish such a “World List” in a widely distributed international ornithological journal; and (3) thereby establish a standard taxonomy and English language vernacular names for use throughout the English-speaking literature, both scientific and popular. The proposal to establish such a subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Dr P.A. Buckley, to review details of the “Check-list of the World's Seabirds” was approved unanimously. The chair was charged with the responsibility to call for nominations to the subcommittee, to oversee the selection of members, to review the proposal in detail and to submit a feasibility report to the SCSR Chair by December 1995.

IOC-SCSR: seabird database management systems—the regional and global need (RTD 4). A joint informal workshop by the IOC-SCSR and the Seabird Specialist Group of BirdLife International (BLI-SSG) was convened by D.N. Nettleship (Chair, IOC-SCSR) and D.C. Duffy (Chair, BLI-SSG) and held on 24 August 1994. In general, the workshop was intended to bring interested parties together to review recent advances in the development of regional and national computerized data management systems for seabirds made by governmental and non-governmental organizations worldwide. The principal aim was to focus attention on the need for a global approach to research and management of seabird populations, and for an easy exchange of information and ideas leading to an interactive network spanning the world's oceans. The long-term objective is to provide a mechanism that will allow seabird researchers and their agencies to develop a more unified approach in key areas of seabird research, management and conservation.

IOC-SCSR: subject areas. Two “mini-symposia” RTDs associated with the SCSR were also held: (1) “The ecology and behavior of non-breeders at seabird colonies” organized and convened by Dr N.I. Klomp and Dr R.W. Furness, 22 August 1994 and (2) “The adaptive significance of reproductive strategies in terns” organized and convened by Dr P.H. Becker and Dr P. Monahan, 25 August 1994.

Intercongress projects and accomplishments

Activities of the SCSR during the intercongress period 1991–1994 were varied and significant. Events on the international scene have moved rapidly. As agreed upon by SCSR members at the 20th congress in late 1990 (for details, see above), the following six areas received priority attention:

(1) *World database of seabird sites.* After receiving two major presentations in 1990 on computerized seabird colony databases, the committee decided to encourage further software development of regional and national data management systems. Considerable progress was achieved. The CWS-SCR V5.0 database program was de-

veloped in Canada by the Canadian Wildlife Service (see below, Publications: Nettleship 1994) and adopted by Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Iceland, New Zealand and the United States, and co-ordinated with Norway (Norwegian Polar Institute) and the United Kingdom. The software program and input specifications are also being considered by Australia and Japan, and are expected to form the basis for the seabird databases being organized by CAFF (Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna) and BirdLife International for their circumpolar and global systems, respectively. The Norwegian Polar Institute has also continued its software development and database establishment of seabirds in Svalbard under the direction of Dr F. Mehlum (see below, Publications: Mehlum & Bakken 1994).

(2) *International Uria lomvia (Thick-billed Murre/Brunnich's Guillemot) program*. A cooperative program was proposed and adopted by the SCSR in 1990 to examine the fall exodus and migratory movements during winter of the Thick-billed Murre/Brunnich's Guillemot in the central and northwest Atlantic in relation to hunting activities in Greenland and eastern Canada. The aim was twofold: (1) banding/ringing project—to be initiated in the high and low arctic of eastern Canada, Greenland (Denmark) and Svalbard, with later expansion to Greenland (Home Rule) and Iceland and (2) breeding studies—reproductive performance and productivity parameters to be monitored at representative breeding locations in the northwest Atlantic with baseline studies to be established in Greenland, Iceland and Svalbard, and continued in Arctic Canada. The banding project was executed in summer 1993 with a total of 12,862 birds banded comprising 4,301 high arctic (Coburg Island) and 7,561 low arctic (Akpatok Island, Coats Island, Eastern Digges Island) in Canada and about 1,000 in Svalbard. Efforts to band in northwest Greenland were made but failed owing to insufficient logistic and financial support. Recoveries will assist in assessing the implications of overhunting in Greenland and Atlantic Canada to the northwest Atlantic population of Thick-billed Murre (see below, Publications: Kampp *et al.* 1994, Mehlum & Bakken 1994). No detailed breeding studies were undertaken between 1991 and 1994, though plans to do so remain active, particularly in Greenland where populations are known to have declined recently by 35–50% (see below, Publications: Kampp *et al.* 1994).

(3) *Publications*. The IOC-SCSR has been active in the preparation and publication of items considered important internationally toward the attainment of a unified approach to future research and management of the world's seabirds.

"Seabirds as monitors of changing marine environments" (R.W. Furness & D.N. Nettleship, eds. 1991. Proceedings of the International Ornithological Congress 20:2237–2279).

"Seabird management and future research" (D.N. Nettleship. 1991. Colonial Waterbirds 14:77–84).

"Seabird populations" (D.N. Nettleship & D.C. Duffy, eds. 1992. Pages 523–632 in *BirdLife 2001: Populations* [D.R. McCullough & R.H. Barrett, general eds], London and New York: Elsevier Applied Sciences).

"Seabirds: management problems and research opportunities" (D.C. Duffy & D.N. Nettleship. 1992. Pages 525–546 in *Wildlife 2001: Populations* [D.R. McCullough & R.H. Barrett, general eds], London and New York: Elsevier Applied Sciences).

Birds as Monitors of Environmental Change (R.W. Furness & J.J.D. Greenwood, eds. 1993. London: Chapman & Hall, 356 pp.).

"CWS Seabird Colony Registry: a computerized data management system for access to seabird colony data" (D.N. Nettleship. 1994. Pages 27–30 in *Science Review 1992 & 1993* [A. Fiander, ed.], Dartmouth: Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada).

"Seabirds on islands: threats, case studies and action plans" (D.N. Nettleship, J. Burger & M. Gochfeld, eds. 1994. *BirdLife Conservation Series No. 1*. Cambridge: BirdLife International, 318 pp.).

"Seabird-fishery interactions: a manager's guide" (D.C. Duffy & D.C. Schneider. 1994. Pages 26–38 in "Seabirds on islands: threats, case studies and action plans" [D.N. Nettleship, J. Burger & M. Gochfeld, eds.], *BirdLife Conservation Series No. 1*, Cambridge: BirdLife International).

"Thick-billed Murres of Greenland: status and prospects" (K. Kampp, D.N. Nettleship & P.G.H. Evans. 1994. Pages 133–154 in "Seabirds on islands: threats, case studies and action plans" [D.N. Nettleship, J. Burger & M. Gochfeld, eds.], *BirdLife Conservation Series No. 1*, Cambridge: BirdLife International).

"Seabirds in Svalbard (Norway): status, recent changes and management" (F. Mehlum & V. Bakken. 1994. Pages 155–171 in "Seabirds on islands: threats, case studies and action plans" [D.N. Nettleship, J. Burger & M. Gochfeld, eds.], *BirdLife Conservation Series No. 1*, Cambridge: BirdLife International).

The SCSR will compile and distribute a complete publication list at its next meeting.

(4) *Bibliographies*. The two major bibliographic projects undertaken in 1986 and reviewed in 1990 are nearing completion. The first, "A bibliography of the Procellariiformes" being prepared by Dr J. Warham, has developed further since the 20th congress, now having 10,700+ fully key-worded citations (July 1994). The plan is to conclude this bibliography once the second volume of Dr Warham's *The Petrels* (London: Academic Press) has gone to press, and to make it available in electronic (via Internet, etc.) and hardcopy forms. The major task remaining is in the extraction of information in early materials such as the Scandinavian *Svenska Foglarna*, Vol. 3 (1885) and Russian *Fauna de la Russe* (1913), as well as the many, mainly minor, references in local natural history society publications. The development of the second compilation, "The pelagic ecology of seabirds", has continued since 1990 with restructuring of the existing working group underway owing to Dr R.G.B. Brown's (principal compiler) retirement in April 1993. A replacement compiler is expected to be appointed in 1995, at which time work will resume.

(5) *Restructuring the Standing Committee for Seabird Research*. A consensus was reached in 1990 on the need for the Committee to undergo expansion in size (number of members), geographic representation (member countries), and species groups (seabird taxa). The restructuring process began in 1992 and continues. Retirements and new appointments have been made during the intercongress period as required to ensure continued progress with ongoing projects. The redesign of the Committee's composition is moving forward, albeit slowly. Amending the SCSR must be done with care to meet its principal objective of creating a single body that will increase collaboration and scientific guidance to all components of international investigation and management of seabirds worldwide. Ac-

companying this change in membership form and structure is a review of existing *ad hoc* working groups to assess progress and to identify the potential for the formation of new groups to undertake recommendations of SCSR members. Examples of possible new working groups discussed include: (a) review of seabird databases—identify existing regional, national and global seabird databases (colonies and birds at sea) and their structure and input specifications; (b) purified DNA databases worldwide—identify and coordinate activities and collections; (c) tissue banks for seabirds—identify, catalog and exchange information to avoid duplication, etc. and (d) e-mail network for seabirds—further development worldwide and coordination via individual investigators and their regional seabird groups, agencies and organizations.

(6) *XXII International Ornithological Congress, Durban, South Africa, August 1998*. Preliminary plans for the development of a SCSR program submission to the SPC of the 22nd congress were discussed briefly. Members were asked to forward written proposals of topics for symposia, workshops and special interest groups to the SCSR Chair and Secretary as soon as possible.

Members of the Standing Committee for Seabird Research during the period 1990–1994 (21st congress) were as follows: P.H. Becker (Germany), Brian D. Bell (New Zealand), W.R.P. Bourne (U.K.), R.G.B. Brown* (Canada), P.A. Buckley (U.S.A.), A.E. Burger (Canada), J. Cooper (South Africa), J.C. Coulson (U.K.), J.P. Croxall (Secretary, U.K.), P. Devillers (Belgium), A.W. Diamond (Canada), D.C. Duffy (U.S.A.), P.G.H. Evans (U.K.), R.W. Furness (U.K.), A.N. Golovkin (Russia), W. Hsu [Xu Weishu] (China), G.L. Hunt (U.S.A.), C. Jouanin (France), N. Kuroda (Japan), F. Mehlum (Norway), J.L. Mougou (France), D.N. Nettleship (Chair, Canada), C.J.R. Robertson (New Zealand), R.P. Schlatter (Chile), D.C. Schneider (Canada), D. Siegel-Causey (U.S.A.), W.R. Siegfried (South Africa), K. Vermeer* (Canada), J. Warham (New Zealand), V. Zubakin (Russia).

IOC-SCSR members for the period 1990–1994 and the 21st congress were appointed by IOC President Christopher M. Perrins in 1991 with additions made later by the Committee Chair owing to resignations (*) and the committee expansion process. Dr F. Mehlum served as Acting Secretary during the 21st congress, replacing Secretary J.P. Croxall who was unable to attend.

Respectfully submitted to the XXI International Ornithological Committee for the Standing Committee for Seabird Research.

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Report of the Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology

Report of the Executive

The Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology (SCAO) was set up at the International Ornithological Congress in Ottawa in 1986 partly as a forum for contacts between scientists in countries with different political systems. It was left to the members to decide what was

included in "applied ornithology" and what the SCAO should try to do. Before the International Ornithological Congress in New Zealand in 1990, the SCAO clarified its views on what it should do and these were broadly approved in New Zealand. In substance it was agreed that SCAO has the following tasks in areas where birds cause problems to human interests:

- to advise the SPC of the IOC on topics and suggest speakers for symposia and round table discussions in the area of applied ornithology;
- to improve communication between pure and applied ornithologists; and
- to make relevant ornithological information more available to non-ornithologist users.

The following working groups were set up: Bird Damage to Agriculture (Dr Dolbeer, Chairman), Global Contaminant Problems in Birds (Dr Brisbin), Birds as Indicators of Environmental Change (Dr Furness), Diseases Transmitted by Birds to People and Livestock (Dr Cooper), and Bird Hazards to Aircraft (Mr Buurma).

The SCAO encouraged the development of four symposium proposals and submitted them to the SPC in a letter dated 9 July 1991. The SCAO also endorsed a fifth symposium proposal submitted by two members directly to the SPC. These proposals have resulted in two symposia and three RTDs at the 1994 International Ornithological Congress. In addition there was an RTD on the roles and future of the SCAO.

The chairmen of the five working groups prepared brief overviews of developments during 1994–1998 in their respective areas of expertise. In some cases they covered work not reported in primary scientific journals but nevertheless of potential interest to pure ornithologists. Their reports are presented below under their own names.

The executive, the working group chairmen and several members of the existing SCAO are prepared to serve for the 1994–1998 term pending approval by SCAO membership and the IOC President.

H. Blokpoel,
Co-chairman
V. Ilychev,
Co-chairman
J. Temple Lang,
Co-secretary
V. Jacoby, Co-secretary

Report of Working Group on Bird Damage to Agriculture

This working group had its origins at the ornithological congress in Ottawa, Canada, in 1986 when a symposium was held on "Birds in Agriculture". The working group was actually formed after the IOC in New Zealand in 1990 and has developed through correspondence. Members include: Thierry Aubin (France); Larry Clark (U.S.A.); Richard Dolbeer (U.S.A.); Clive Elliot (Rome-UNFAO); Chris Feare (U.K.); Jan Pinowski (Poland); P. Syamsunder Rao (India); Ethyl Rodriguez (Uruguay).

Because the human population is currently growing at the rate of over 80 million people per year, there are increased conflicts world-wide between agricultural interests and birds. Large-scale killing of crop-depredating birds or the destruction of their habitat

is usually not an acceptable or desirable means of resolving conflicts. Therefore, considerable research has been conducted in recent years to develop and evaluate avian repellents; this will be the topic of a round table discussion at the 21st congress in Vienna. Some significant developments during the past 4 years regarding repellents or other nonlethal approaches for birds in agriculture, as passed on by members of the working group, follow.

The All India Coordinated Research Project on Agricultural Ornithology (AICRPAO) published a document in 1992 summarizing the research activities at five research stations in India over the preceding 8 years. The 18-page document is well illustrated with color photographs and provides an excellent account of the beneficial and pest bird species associated with agriculture and research on management techniques. One interesting area of research has been the use of botanically derived repellents for reducing bird feeding on sprouting and ripening grain crops. Extracts from the neem tree show particular promise. For more information, contact Dr P. Syamsunder Rao (AICRPAO, Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030 India) or Dr B.M. Parasharya (AICRP on Economic Ornithology, Gujarat Agricultural University, ANANDA-388 110 India).

Along these lines, recent research done in the U.K. with cinnamic acid derivatives as birds repellents for agricultural crops shows promise. For more information, contact David Crocker (Central Science Laboratory, Worplesdon, Surrey GU3 3LQ, UK). Also, Larry Clark (Monell Chemical Senses Center, 3500 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA) has done some very interesting work on chemical structures predictive of bird repellency.

A new chemical bird repellent, containing methyl anthranilate (MA) as the active ingredient, has been developed by a private company (PMC Specialties Group, 501 Murray Road, Cincinnati, OH 45217, USA) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). MA is a food flavoring approved in the U.S.A. for human consumption. However, birds are averse to the taste. Initial uses for the material are to repel birds from standing water at airports, garbage at landfills, and ripening fruit. The company also hopes to develop formulations that can be applied to turf to discourage geese from feeding.

Richard Dolbeer, USDA, travelled to the Sahelian region of Chad in August–September 1992 and 1993 and noted widespread and sometimes significant damage to ripening millet and sorghum by several species of birds. In an area near Lake Chad, flocks of Golden Sparrows (*Passer luteus*) were frequently seen in millet fields. One field had over 60% of the grain removed by birds. Flagging made from strips of discarded paper or plastic, attached to millet plants, was the most common scaring device employed. Children were also deployed in the fields with noisemakers and slingshots to frighten the birds. Research is sorely needed to develop more effective means of reducing damage by birds in this food-short area of Africa. One promising avenue is the development of varieties of millet that have long bristles or awns on the seed heads that inhibit feeding by birds. In related research on crop-varietal resistance, Thadeo Tarimo from Tanzania has been conducting research at the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (Purdue University, IN 47907, USA) on bird resistance in sorghum related to tannins.

Ethyl Rodriguez of Uruguay is completing her PhD dissertation on the use of visual cues to enhance chemical repellents for birds

in grain crops. She determined in field trials in Uruguay that applying visual cues such as white calcium carbonate can result in much lower levels of chemical repellents being required to reduce bird damage. Ethyl Rodriguez can be reached c/o Director Sanidad Vegetal Av. Millan 4703, Montevideo, Uruguay.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration gave approval in 1992 for USDA to begin using Alpha Chloralose (AC) in the U.S.A. to capture nuisance or crop-damaging waterfowl and pigeons. Laboratory and field tests over the past 4 years have shown AC, incorporated into baits of bread or corn, to be an effective, safe and humane means of capturing pest birds. Captured birds can either be euthanized or relocated to other areas.

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Report of Working Group on Global Contaminant Problems in Birds

The symposium on "Birds as Indicators of Global Change" at the 20th congress in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1990 marked the beginning of a formalized expression of concern for the issue of global contamination problems in birds on the part of the international ornithological community. At that congress, the SCAO created within its structure the Working Group on Global Contamination Problems in Birds. This working group has been charged with addressing issues associated with the three major classes of environmental contaminants of birds: radionuclides, heavy metals and organic contaminants. Of these three, the latter has almost certainly received the greatest attention, both historically as well as during the past 4 years. Most of these efforts, however, have taken place within the developed nations (particularly North America and the U.K.). In the latter country, efforts continue to document the recovery of many bird populations following decreases in the use of various agricultural chemicals.

In North America, the formation of the Avian Effects Dialogue Group under the auspices of the Conservation Foundation in Washington, D.C., has provided a focus for research and discussions in this area of contaminant concern. As indicated in their annual report (Avian Effects Dialogue Group 1989), this organization brings together a diverse group of individuals representing academia, environmental advocacy groups, the pesticide manufacturing industry and governmental regulatory agencies. Many of the members of this group also participated in an important symposium, "The population ecology and wildlife toxicology of agricultural pesticides use: a modelling initiative for avian species", the proceedings of which are now available in published form (Kendall & Lacher 1994). The convening of this symposium and the publication of its proceedings were sponsored by the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), a professional scientific organization formed in the late 1970s of over 3,000 members, whose annual meetings in North America have now become a primary focus for the presentation of research papers and discussions of issues relating to contaminants and their effects on birds. More recently SETAC has be-

come global in its focus, with an international meeting held in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1993. Plans for the further expansion of organized SETAC activities in a number of countries throughout the world now provides what is probably the best hope at the present time to expand both the interest and focus of the global scientific community with regard to contamination problems in birds.

Another North American organization that has shown an interest in this area of concern is the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU). Under the umbrella of its Conservation Committee, the AOU now has a special subcommittee charged with bringing issues related to contaminant problems in birds before its membership. One of the approaches this subcommittee has considered in regard to contaminants is the writing of a "white paper" which would be submitted for publication in the AOU's quarterly scientific journal, *Auk*. Plans to recruit authors and draft an outline of this paper will be undertaken as part of the activities of the Working Group on Global Contamination Problems in Birds (under the auspices of the SCAO) at the 21st congress in Vienna, Austria. Related activities at this IOC included a symposium, "The use of birds as indicators of pollution", which was convened by Drs I.L. Brisbin of the U.S.A. and R.W. Furness of the U.K., and included presentations from workers in Canada, Israel and Latvia.

During the past several years, production has gone forward on two important volumes which provide important sources of information and an overview of a variety of global aspects of contamination problems and their effects on birds. The book *Birds as Monitors of Environmental Change* (Furness & Greenwood 1993) contains several chapters pertinent to these concerns and was produced in co-ordination with the activities of the IOC/SCAO Working Group on Birds as Indicators of Environmental Change as explained in the report of the activities of that group elsewhere in this volume. Another book *Nestling Mortality of Granivorous Birds Due to Microorganisms and Toxic Substances: A Synthesis* (Pinowski, Kavanagh & Gorski 1991) provided a particularly comprehensive overview of the effects of heavy metal and urban/industrial contaminants on bird populations in eastern Europe. This latter volume is the second on this subject to be produced by the Working Group on Granivorous Birds of the International Association for Ecology (INTECOL). The extensive efforts of Dr Jan Pinowski, Chairman of the Working Group on Granivorous Birds, have been particularly effective over the past years in bringing the issue of contaminant problems in birds to the attention of the global network represented by the INTECOL organization (Pinowski *et al.* 1991).

Although radionuclides have generally been less well studied than other forms of contaminants of bird populations, this situation began to change following the Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Ukraine in 1986. The consequences of this accident for bird populations of that region either have been or will be the subject of special discussions or symposium presentations at each (19th, 20th and 21st) congress since that accident. This renewed focus on radioactive contamination of birds has now become even more urgent with the disclosure of other past nuclear accidents in the countries of the former Soviet Union (FSU), some of which might even exceed that at the Chernobyl site in terms of scope and impact. Of particular concern has been the potential for the radioactive contamination of seabirds along the Russian arctic coast. While basic radioecological data have been scarce for bird populations in the FSU, there are

encouraging signs that research attention is now beginning to turn in this direction—particularly in the studies of Dr Z.A. Krams of the Daugavpils Pedagogiska University in Latvia and those of researchers with the Institute of Zoology of the Belarusian Academy of Science.

Finally, as is so often the case with many global ornithological issues, information and expertise is badly needed for many of the developing nations of Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Neotropics. Although the expanding global efforts of the SETAC organization, as described above, will hopefully eventually provide coverage of these regions, further efforts will be needed in the years to come to make ornithologists of all countries better aware of the potential problems of the effects of contaminants facing the world's bird populations.

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Report of Working Group on Birds as Indicators of Environmental Change

This working group was set up at the 1990 ornithological congress in New Zealand with initial membership of Dr Bob Furness, Glasgow (Chair); Professor Stephen Davies, Murdoch; and Dr Hito Higuchi, Tokyo. Close contact has been maintained with Dr I.L. Brisbin who chairs the Working Group on Global Contaminant Problems in Birds, as one obvious area of common interest is in the use of birds as monitors of pollutants.

The working group has developed through correspondence and bilateral meetings. Responses to requests for information on current research into birds as indicators of environmental change, published in a wide variety of journals, showed that there are many exciting developments in this field. This led to the decision to draw together appropriate reviews into a single volume. Review chapters "Can birds be used to monitor the environment" by Furness, Greenwood & Jarvis, "Environmental changes" by Jarvis, "Birds as monitors of

¹ Participation supported in part by a contract (DE-AC09-76SSR00-81 9) between the United States Dept. of Energy and the University of Georgia.

pollutants" by Furness, "Birds as monitors of radionuclide contamination" by Brisbin, "Birds as indicators of changes in water quality" by Ormerod & Tyer, "Birds as indicators of change in marine prey stocks" by Montevicchi and "Integrated population monitoring: detecting the effects of diverse changes" by Greenwood, Baillie Crick, Marchant & Peach, formed a book *Birds as Monitors of Environmental Change* edited by R.W. Furness & J.J.D. Greenwood and published in 1993 by Chapman & Hall.

Jon Shepherd of Ocean Grove, Victoria, Australia, reported the development of an educational initiative at the high school level using birds as examples of effects of environmental deterioration in Australia. Similar educational initiatives exist in a variety of countries but would benefit greatly from support that could be provided by an umbrella organization.

The use of restricted-range bird species as indicators of global patterns in biodiversity with regard to conservation strategic planning, as proposed by Bird Life International (=former International Council for Bird Protection, ICBP) (Bibby *et al.* 1992. *Putting Biodiversity on the Map: Priority Areas for Global Conservation*. Cambridge: ICBP) provides another extremely important example of the use of birds as indicators of environmental quality.

The working group proposed to the Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology "The use of birds as indicators of pollution" as a symposium topic and "Methods for evaluating responses of birds to environmental contaminant stress" as a round table discussion at the Vienna congress. Both these topics have been incorporated into the program.

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Report of Working Group on Diseases Transmitted by Birds to People and Livestock

The working group was established in January 1991. Three scientists were invited to join the Chairman, Professor J.E. Cooper, as members of the group: Professor J. Pinowski (Poland), Dr B.M. Parasharya (India) and Dr M. Hochleithner (Austria). With the Chairman's move from Britain to Africa (Tanzania, later Rwanda) the group extended its representation from two to three continents—no mean feat for four people.

A decision was made at an early stage to restrict the membership to four in order to facilitate contact and communication at this early stage of the working group's existence. In due course the policy will be reviewed.

Over the past 3 years the group has primarily concentrated on organizing its round table discussion for the 21st International Ornithological Congress in August 1994. Seven talks were arranged by speakers from five different countries, and the session was well publicized in national and international ornithological, veterinary and medical journals.

Other activities by the working group are planned. Dr Parasharya suggested in 1991 that SCAO should produce a newsletter or bulletin, and if this proposal is accepted it is hoped that the publication could serve both as a means of communication between members

of the group and as a way of informing the IOC about developments in applied ornithology.

The specific area covered by the working group continues to attract attention and interest amongst scientists and the general public. During the period 1991–1994 reports and publications appeared linking diseases of humans and domestic animals with birds. Much of the public concern relates to zoonoses that can be contracted from captive birds, especially those that have been transported from one country to another for trade. The threat to domestic fowl from such birds has continued to occupy the minds of veterinary and agriculture officials and quarantine procedures have as a consequence often been tightened. Medical and veterinary personnel have become increasingly aware of the danger that free-living birds might pose, especially in view of the changes in land usage, climate and habitat that are taking place on a large scale in so many parts of the world. These factors, coupled with demographic changes, are likely to make the possibility of the spread of disease an important issue and one in which collaboration between ornithologists and members of other scientific disciplines will be vital.

The Working Group on Diseases Transmitted to People and Livestock is still in an embryonic stage. Nevertheless, it is viable, showing increasing signs of activity, and developing fast. It is the Chairman's hope and intention that over the next year it will mature and start to differentiate. Close contact with others in the ornithological world will help to ensure establishment of this new working group.

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Report of Working Group on Bird Hazards to Aircraft

In many countries concerns related to bird hazards to aircraft are being addressed in multi-disciplinary bird strike committees. At the regional level, bird strike problems are dealt with by the regional offices of ICAO and, in Europe, by Bird Strike Committee Europe (BSCE). During the IOC in New Zealand in 1990 it was concluded that ornithologists contribute to the solution of the bird strike problem in a wide variety of ways. However, this applied field does not now generate mutual benefits to the same extent that it did in the past, especially in Europe and Canada. Ornithological scientists could easily help to improve the quality of discussions of aviation safety (and the reports on such discussions) and simultaneously find funding for applied research with fundamental spin-off.

The working group felt there was no need to create a new organization to deal with global bird strike problems. Instead, efforts should focus on improving the functioning of existing organizations and networks. Within BSCE (the oldest "open market" for airport managers, pilots, flight safety people, insurance officials and not enough biologists), on behalf of SCAO, it was agreed to improve quality and contacts with general ornithology in four ways. (1) The biannual BSCE meeting will be held in conjunction with the 1994 Vienna congress. (2) A newsletter has been set up by the BSCE board through the Chairman, Mr. John Thorpe (Safety Promotion Section, Civil Aviation Authority, Aviation House, Gatwick Airport RH6 OYR, UK), who invites ornithologists working in related fields to contribute short activity descriptions. (3) The periodical meetings on BSCE will

be partly rearranged around certain issues such as "species becoming superabundant" and "wetland development". (4) The editing of papers and proceedings should be improved and their existence should be more widely promulgated.

Within the Americas the number of multidisciplinary meetings concerning bird hazards to aircraft recently increased, culminating in the formation of Bird Strike Committee U.S.A. under the Chairmanship of Mr. Jim Forbes, State Director, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Damage Control, PO Box 97, Albany, NY 12201, USA. The U.S. Air Force (Mr. Jeff Short, 259 Eutaw Forester Drive, Waldorf, MD 20603-4015, USA) is building up an annotated bibliography on bird hazards to aircraft available on diskette.

The working group prepared, on behalf of the SCAO, a symposium "Remote sensing of spatio-temporal patterns in bird migration and its application in aviation and bird protection" and a round table discussion "Identification of bird remains: the diagnostic value of taxonomic characters". Both found a place on the program of the 1994 ornithological congress in Vienna.

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Respectfully submitted to the XXI International Ornithological Committee for the Standing Committee for Applied Ornithology.

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APPENDIX 2

International Ornithological Committee, 1994–1998

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President: Peter Berthold (Germany)
Vice President: Janet Kear (U.K.)
Secretary: Walter J. Bock (U.S.A.)
Secretary-General: Aldo Berruti (South Africa)

Executive Committee

Alexander V. Andreev (Russia), Jacques Blondel (France), Cynthia Carey (U.S.A.), Asha Chandola-Saklani (India), John Dittami (Austria, *ex officio*), Hiroyuki Morioka (Japan), Manuel Nores (Argentina), Henri Ouellet (Canada), Christopher M. Perrins (U.K. *ex officio*), W. Roy Siegfried (South Africa), Tomasz Wesołowski (Poland), Murray Williams (New Zealand).

Past Presidents

Ernst Mayr (1958–1962), Jean Dorst (1970–1974), Lars von Haartman (1978–1982), Charles G. Sibley (1986–1990), Christopher M. Perrins (1990–1994).

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