

INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS 2022

INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION



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<https://iou2022.com/>



Prof. Dominique G. Homberger
President of the International Ornithologists' Union (IOU) and
28th International Ornithological Congress™ (IOCongress™)



Dear Colleagues and Fellow Ornithologists,

I am looking forward to seeing you at the 28th International Ornithological Congress (IOCongress) in Durban (South Africa) in August 2022, which will be very different from its many predecessors. Institutions that are rich in traditions, such as the IOCongresses, need to renew themselves in order to remain relevant. While previous IOCongresses were focused on research in avian biology itself, it has become apparent that related subject areas have not only gained interest over time but have also become more interrelated and intertwined. While avian biology, or ornithology, could be characterized as fundamental science in contrast to applied science (e.g. conservation biology, avian medicine, etc.), the critical condition of the natural environment demand a close collaboration and interaction among all areas that are concerned with the biology and survival of birds. The IOCongress2022, hence, will provide a scientific and cultural program that will be broadly attractive and is arranged around symposia, plenary lectures, workshops, poster and oral presentations, and round-table discussions dedicated to the latest ornithological research as well as avian medicine, education in ornithology, citizen science, and the role of birds in international affairs. In this vein, BirdLife will also contribute to the IOCongress2022, thereby resuming a tradition that was interrupted 32 years ago and strengthening the cooperation and mutual support of the two global organizations dedicated to birds.

External circumstances that themselves are due to the critical condition of our environment, namely the Covid-19 pandemic, pushed the preparations of the IOCongress2022 towards additional innovations. In order to be prepared for all foreseeable eventualities, the IOCongress2022 was conceived for a smaller in-person participation than previously conceived while leaving open a larger participation depending on the development of the pandemic. At the same time, the IOCongress2022 will be accessible in its virtual version that may be especially welcome to the many ornithologists and students who may not be able to travel.

The IOCongress2022 is the latest congress in the oldest series of international scientific congresses with the first IOCongress having been convened in Vienna (Austria, then the Austro-Hungarian Empire) in 1884. Since 1950, the IOCongresses have meet quadrennially in different locations on all continents, except Antarctica. They are the only international congresses that are dedicated to a single class of vertebrates, namely birds, and that attract a global community of experts. The IOCongresses are known and cherished as events where one can learn about the latest advances in avian biology through oral and poster presentations as well as review broader topics through carefully organized symposia, workshops, and round-table discussions. A special attraction are the plenary talks given by prominent leaders in the field of avian biology from all corners of the world. To support the work and efforts by the IOU in continuing to organize future IOCongresses, please consider becoming a member of the IOU at <http://www.internationalornithology.org/membership.html>

The Congress Convener of the IOCongress2022, Professor Colleen Downs of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, has assembled an able team to prepare a congress that will be integrated into various public events to showcase ornithology as a science that is accessible to the broad public and is closely connected with advances in monitoring and preserving our natural environment for the benefit of all. The IOCongress2022 is also part of the Durban Research Action Partnership, and BirdLife SA Avitourism Programme and Community Bird Guide Initiatives. These contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, education, and social upliftment. As an additional attraction, the IOCongress2022 will also offer a wide array of daily birding trips, as well as pre-and post-congress tours of various lengths and to various places of the African continent led by expert ornithologists.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming you personally at the IOCongress 2022!

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