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Birds of madagascar and the indian ocean islands

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For these reasons and more, this region has a high ranking on the must-visit lists of most birders. Open on the new tabDownload slide and for those birders who make the trip, there is a clear selection of field guides: this new guide helms by Hawkins et al. Not that the market is crowded—there is only one other field guide covering the entire region, Ian Sinclair and Olivier Langrand's (2013) *Birds of the Indian Ocean Islands*, and alternatives to Madagascar are now terribly out of date. Sinclair and Langrand's guide is certainly useful and served as the main source of my field for most of the decade I lived in Madagascar, but this extremely annoying habit of unilaterally raising specific subspecies to whole species such as the mohley subspecies of madagascar green pigeon (*Treron australis griveaudi*) and the subspecies of Black Madagascar Swift (*Apus barbatus balstoni*)—despite the lack of research. Not only did it create unnecessary taxonomic confusion, it also left one that questioned the authority of everything else the book said. We can be sure of one thing about Helm's new guide: it's authoritative. For this is not only a field guide but also actually an offshoot of a much greater, mammoth 1,024-page Bible project in avifauna region, *Birds of Africa*, Volume VIII: Malagasy Region (Safford & Hawkins 2013). The volume edited with the species accounts for many birds written by the current authorities on the species in question, it was the first time our knowledge of all the birds in the region had been gathered, and that's really a surprise. But at 4.7 kilograms, it's also one for the library, so the publication of this tracking field guide is particularly welcome. While the guide draws on the expertise of region ornithologists in a way that few others ever do, wise writers avoid trying to stuff too much information of larger volumes into it. Nevertheless, they provide useful and comprehensive text for any well-thought-out and only covers the key elements of identification, sound, status, habitat and habits needed to positively identify a bird in this area. Color plates, in most cases, improve on those in Sinclair and Langrand, providing a greater number of illustrations in each species (e.g., different races, plumbing, and behavior) and more life-like poses that better catch some of the basis of birds. Thus said, the color of many brighter species, such as madagascar's red food (*Foudia madagascariensis*), Madagascar's Flycatcher Paradise (*Terpsiphone mutata*), and the common Sunbird Asity (*chipboardanis coruscans*), are a little more drab and diode in the plates than birds tend to appear in the field. In most cases, the book follows the standard field-guide format, with text and a map for any opposite of relevant illustrations. Its great innovation is in the order in which birds are presented, for here it veers from the standard taxonomic sequence and arranges the birds of each island group separately, in effect producing a separate field guide for each destination. While this may seem like a strange way to get things done and take a few moments to get used to, it quickly becomes clear that this is a subtle solution to a vexing problem when a book covers a few discrete bird communities. Quite simply, it's annoying for a bird in the granic seyll (20 earth bird species) or Mauritius (25) to sift through the plates and plates of Malagasy birds to find a few species related to them at the time; separating them by the island prevents this. The guide is thus divided into three parts. The first basically covers nonpasserines (bluebirds, seabirds, raptors, and game birds), many of which are widely distributed through the region, thus occurring in many groups on the island. This section is located in the whole region. The second part covers passerines and is divided by the island group - Madagascar, the Granite Seychel, the Coral Seychel, comoros, Mauritius and Rodriguez, Reunion, and the islands outside the Mozambique Canal—each color coded and therefore easy to find in haste. In the final part, vagrants are again presented for the region as a whole; no wonder (given the region's geographical spread and its proximity to Africa), they seem to make up a huge portion of the region's birds. While there is a cost to this system - a few widely introduced species such as Madagascar Red Fody and Sparrow House (*Passer domesticus*) are repeated in a few island groups- I'm sure it will pay a small price for birders using books outside Of Madagascar. Don't want to seem too uncivable, I'm looking for weaknesses in the guide, but overall this is good book. Perhaps one area that can be improved is distribution maps: while these show seasonality and (usefully) make a difference between core distribution zones and areas where a species occurs at a lower density, they are all produced on a large scale so that while they show a species occurring on which islands, there is no information about its distribution inside. Not every island offers. Of course, introductory chapters provide logical comprehensive background information about each island and its habitats including a map, and these give a good indication of the possible distribution of any species, but it's always good to have accurate distribution information on the species account page. The introductory chapters also contain fascinating and up-to-the-case background information about the region's bird biogeography and a brief description of each family and native genus (including a list of putative genera-in-waiting), while the appendixes include a checklist that covers numerous subspecies and is code-coded to highlight the status of each taxon in any island group. Recent taxonomic changes to many malagazzi native species and genera meant that a new field guide for birds in the region was late. The New Helm Guide not only clearly presents and explains these changes, but also does so in a beautifully illustrated, cleverly designed, compact book—and most importantly, a detailed scientific book. This guide is essential to any resident or bird visit and will prove, I'm sure, long recognized as the gold standard area. The literature mentioned, and, . The *Birds of Africa*, volume VIII: The Malagasy Region: Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros, Mascarenes, . And *Birds of the Indian Ocean Islands*, third edition, . Madagascar's book review is renowned for its unique, and often bizarre, biological wonders. In fact, along with its island neighbors in the Western Indies Ocean, it has the second-largest vertebrate animals distinguished from the seven zoogeography regions of the world, despite being much smaller than the rest. Although bird animals are not particularly rich, only 382 species occur regularly, their extraordinary 41% are native either to the region or to the solitary islands within it. Endemic is equally shocking at higher levels of taxonomy, with fewer than 6 indigenous families (containing 32 extant genera and 45 species) and 18 other native genera (containing 43 species). Two of these families, known as roller cuckoos and copperites, are so ancient and distinctive that they are now known as leptosomiforms and mesilourantiforms as their orders. For these reasons and more, this region has a high ranking on the must-visit lists of most birders. And for those birds that make the journey, there's a clear choice of field guide: this new Helm guide by Hawkins and his colleagues. Not that. Bustling—there is only one other field guide covering the entire region, Ian Sinclair and Olivier Langrand's (2013) *Birds of the Indian Ocean Islands*, and alternatives to Madagascar are now terribly out of date. Sinclair and Langrand's guide is certainly useful and served as the main source of my field for most of the decade I lived in Madagascar, but this extremely annoying habit of unilaterally raising specific subspecies to whole species such as the mohley subspecies of madagascar green pigeon (*Treron australis griveaudi*) and the subspecies of Black Madagascar Swift (*Apus barbatus balstoni*)—despite the lack of research. 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Peter Marra and Bruce Biebler of the Smithsonian Institution co-chaired the local organizing committee, and Courtney Conway of the University of Idaho chaired the Scientific Programs Committee. Kim Sullivan represented the Cooper Society on the NAOC VI Planning Committee along with representatives from other communities. There were more than 2,100 registered naoc vi. The program included 4 public lectures, 398 articles in 39 hampuzi and 1,074 participatory articles (675 oral articles and 399 posters). Next year's annual meeting of the newly convened American Ornithology Society will be held at the Klag Hotel and Conference Center at Michigan State University. Through online voting, members of the association elected Ellie Bridges, Helen James and Kim Sullivan to three-year term as board members. Thanks many going into the retirement of board members Alice Boyle, Kevin McGraw, and John Rotenberry. At board meetings, the following members are elected or continue to take office: President-elect Martin J. Raphael; President-elect Anna Colfon; Secretary of State Abby Powell; T. J. Fontaine, Assistant Secretary; Barbara Kos,

Treasurer; Mary Whitfield, Assistant Treasurer; and Phil Stoffer as editor of Conder and Kate Hoyworth as editor of Avianeh Biology Studies. The new honorary members are Carla Cicero and Jeff Kelly. See separate article of new honorary members in this issue. The Cooper Ornithology Association and the American Ornithologists Union announced their decision to bring together their membership as the American Ornithology Association (AOS) in the very near future. In recent years, the two communities have actively collaborated as separate organizations: meeting together, jointly publishing our journals, and working together to benefit from bird protection. After a year of fact-finding and because of effort, and in response to tremendous positive feedback from membership, the two community voted decisively for integration. AOU Fellowship approved the merger plan with COS on August 16 following a vote by COS members on August 2. Communities announced the news august 17 at the naoc vi's inaugural general meeting to more than 20 participants, including ornithologists and bird specialists from the Academy, government, nonprofits, industry, students and citizen scientists. The message was clear: a single, Society better serves ornithologists and advances ornithology by combining our assets - human, financial, and intellectual. Honorary membership in COS is given to those who have made significant donations to the association and urentology. On the occasion of the COS–AOU Annual Joint Meeting in Washington, D.C. In 2016, C was awarded honorary membership of Carla Cicero and Jeff Kelly. See separate article in this issue about new honorary members. COS honorary membership may, by a majority vote of the directors present at each board meeting, be about members of the association who provide outstanding services to the community. Honorary members shall receive a certificate of form determined by the Board of Directors and signed by the President, shall be exempt from all due date, and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of the members paying the fee. The secretary reported the names of the newly decetited members: George T. Austin, Floyd Blackmore, Richard J. Biddleman, Edward Jed Barrett, Jean Cohen, Ronald L. Garrett, Luke Hoffman, Brianna Cassel, Fritz Knaupov, James R. North, James Schayrez and James R. Stewart, Jr. was first presented in 2009, the Young Professional Award of the Association of Early Professional Researchers for outstanding scientific research and assistance. In 2016, the Association awarded young professional awards to Princeton University's Daniel Baldasara, whose winning talk was about connecting patterns and processes in studying sampling; and to Peter Hosner, University of Florida, who presented on Evolution of vagility and convergent island gigantism in quail (Aves: Coturnix). See a separate article in this issue about young professional donors.The Kathma Association Award for a landmark article related to urentology that offers unconventional ideas or innovative approaches, supported by well-reasoned arguments, went to Mohammad Asghar, Denis Hasselquist, Bengt Hansson, Pavel Zehtindjiev, Helena Westerdahl, and Stephen Benesh for their article Hidden Costs of Infection : Chronic malaria accelerates telomere degradation and sensitivity in wild birds that appeared in Science (347:436–438) in 2015. See a separate article in this issue on the Kathma Awards.The Association's Levi and Alden Miller Research Award for Lifelong Achievement in Urentology Research was presented to Walter Di Quenig for his influential work in behavioral ecology and sociology of the Acorn Woodpeckers. See a separate article in this issue about the Miller Award.The Joseph Grinnell Student Research Award association went to Sheela Turbek of the University of Colorado for her paper The Relative Importance of Immigration and Sex to support the initial research efforts of PhD graduate students in the first or second year of their enrollment, with a cash prize. In gene streams are reproduced throughout hybrid regions. His work aims to combine experimental approaches with biochemical markers (stable isotope) and sensor tracking (geoluctor tags for identifying migratory pathways) to explore the role of immigrant behavior and its effect on classified mating, resulting in prototoping, in the two Asian breeds of Presto Barne. He is a sophomanic student at the Rebecca Safran Laboratory in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado.The Mywaldt King Awards Association for supporting research in any field of urentology related to bird conservation, which includes a cash prize, went to Ian Ausprey, who works exclusively in local campesino communities in high-altitude cloud forests in Peru to establish Linking their science through environmental education and forest preservation support development programs (www.avesmontanos.org); and to Bradley Woodworth, who is combining perennial tracking data with a 26-year demographic study of an migratory bird-songwriter to assess the relative effects of density and climate dependence on breeding and population-specific winter lands on population growth rates (woodworw@uoguelph.ca). The Association's Student Presentation Awards for Outstanding Oral Presentations or Posters at the Annual Meeting, which includes a cash prize and book, were awarded as follows: The Brazier Howell Award to Kathy LaBarbera, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UC Berkeley, for field work and computer simulation shows the diversity of Ramsay's life history along the height gradient at Junco Dark Eye in California; Francis F. Roberts Award to Richard Hadley, UCLA, for whether to make more matching songs. Evidence from a sophisticated reader; And board awards to Michelle Peach, SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry, for single-visit dynamic occupation models: approach to incomplete detection accounts with Atlas data, and Andy Boyce, Montana Co-op Wildlife Research Unit, University of Montana, for Fast Living and Young Death?-Does resting metabolic rates explain diversity in the likelihood of adult survival in and across latitudes? The Joint Committee (COS and AOU) on student travel awards for the 2016 annual meeting gave 250 student travel awards to help defy transportation costs. COS members who received awards were Jenna McCullow, Christopher Moser-Purdy, Jenny Munoz, Catherine Monroe, Lucas Mosher, Brian Myers, Gretchen Narev, Libby Natola, Shelby Salt, Claire Nemes, Nicholas Newbury, Gretchen Newbury, Janet Ng, Kay Samantha Nichols, Veronica Norbury, Ryan O'Connor, Sean O'Daniels, Brennan Obermayer, Emily Otero, Christa Oswald, Juan Otiza, Joel Owen, O'Wad Paris, Nicholas Pattinson, Nadine Paul, Michelle Peach, Lake Pedersen, Teresa Pegan, Marie Perkins, Lori Petraevsky, Alice Pintrick, Henry Polok, Michael Ahva Potticary, Sean Power, Kaiya Provost, Tonya Rahinsky, Vijay Ramesh, Daniel Ramsden, Jeannine Randall, Douglas Raybuck, Jessie Reese, and Carrick Rice.For details about all awards' requirements and eligibility, go to americanornithology.org. Page 3 of the Cooper Urentology Association (COS) is pleased to give honorary membership to Dr Carla Cicero, for her outstanding service to the Association and to Urentology. Carla Cicero is the head of bird staff at the Vertebrate Zoological Museum, University of California, Berkeley. He holds both a B.S. and a Ph.D. at UC Berkeley. His research uses morphological, molecular, vocal, and GIS data to examine patterns and processes of secondary detection and contact in bird populations in western North America. He also uses molecular physiological methods to investigate the evolution of behavioral and ecological traits on the surface of species. In addition to research, Carla is also active in biodiversity informatics. He served as a principal investigator on the National Science Foundation Project (NSF) for the Development of ORNIS (), an online network of data distributed on aviane biodiversity from museum collections and observational data sets—as well as in a project related to the NSF's budget, VertNet (), which brings ORNIS, along with other vertebrate biodiversity networks, to a cloud computing platform. Carla has authored or co-authored more than 52 articles in a diverse array of journals, including Bedor, Aveke, Orentological Monographs, Evolution, Molecular Physiology and Evolution, and Molecular Ecology. He wrote a monograph (University of California Press in Zoology) and collaborated on a volume of ornithological monographs. He has also regularly presented articles and posters at professional meetings. Carla joined the COS as a graduate student and served on the board (2012–15). He also served COS on the Pinton Award committee and as cos representative on the Selection Committee of Participants of the Travel Award to the 2010 International Congress of Urentology in Brazil. While serving on the board in 2014, Carla stepped forward to lead the initiative to run the cos joint website and the American Ornithologists americanornithology.org Union (AOU). After months of work that included coordination between communities, our members and a website development firm, americanornithology.org announced. The website is a colorful, dynamic, and informative resource for our members and for others to seek information about our communities. Since its launch it has continued to mature and serve our communities. Carla's leadership was effective in the success of this COS and AOU joint venture. In addition to its services to the COS, Carla served as a elective council to the AOU, as well as on AOU committees, including The Birds of North America Liaison (current), nominations of fellowships and elected members, classification and naming (current), bird collections (current), websites, early professionals, and student awards. Although Carla does not formally advise students, she has served on the Canadian and Guatemalan Graduate Thesis Committee and trained more than 75 undergraduate students in museum treatment, biodiversity informatics, archival and audio digitization, field collection methods, sample preparation, molecular research, and voice recording analysis. Throughout her career, Carla has committed to engaging students in urentology. Thus, the COS is proud to award honorary membership to Dr. Carla Cicero for her outstanding donations to the Association and Urentology. The Cooper Urentology Association is happy to offer honorary membership to Dr. Jeffrey F. Kelly, for his outstanding past services to the Association and Urentology. Jeff is director of the Oklahoma Bio-Survey and professor of biology at the University of Oklahoma. He received his BS from the University of Maine, MS from Oklahoma State University, and a Ph.D. from Colorado State University. Jeff also held positions as a heritage zoologist with the Oklahoma Bio-Survey, a post-adtactor researcher with the USDA Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station, and a biology instructor at Colorado State University. His major research focus continues to be the ecology of migratory songbirds (AnimalMigration.org). In the late 1990s, he began using stable isotopes to understand large-scale vocal bird movements, migratory connectivity and diets, and the investigation continues. His new research emphasis is on the emerging discipline of aeorecology, and he is engaged in interdisciplinary research that uses radar remote sensing to understand large-scale changes in phenology, distribution, and frequency of vocal bird migration in response to global change. He has authored or written 65 peer-to-peer arbitration publications, including four in The Candor Journal. The NSF, the USDA Agricultural and Food Research Initiative, and the USGS are currently funding their research, and he is working with an interdisciplinary team to train graduate students on this interface through the NSF-funded National Research Internship Program in Aervacology. Jeff teaches courses in population biology and bio conservation, and he is the chief investigator of the Department of Education's alliance to provide graduate assistance in the areas of national need for graduate students of ecology and evolutionary biology at Oklahoma University. Jeff has been a leader in the forum, As Treasurer (2012–14), on the Board of Directors (2014–17), as review editor for Kedmore (2011–13), at the Aviani Biology Studies Review Board (2009–13), and on the Publishing Committee (2011–13). He served as chairman of the local committee for the 2015 joint COS-AOU meeting held on the University of Oklahoma campus, and was very active in organizing the 2001 COS summit in Albuquerque, New Mexico, serving on local and scientific committees and correlated a meeting on meadow birds. Another recognition of his support for urentology includes his selection as AOU's fellow editor and his service as a partner editor of Auk and the Journal of Wildlife Management and a bulletin fellow at the Oklahoma Society of Urentology. Page 4 of the Cooper Ornithology Society is pleased to recognize Dr. Daniel Baldasara and Dr. Peter Hussner as recipients of the Young Professionals Award (YPA) in 2016. First awarded in 2009, YPA recognizes early professional researchers for their outstanding scientific research and assistance to the ornithology profession. Daniel Baldasara studies the intersection between behavioral ecology and protocoities. He received a PhD from Cornell University in 2014, where he studied how sexual selection affects prototyping dynamics in red-backed Pryorne. The research included demographic studies of mating behavior in several wild populations, experimental manipulations and genomic analysis. The project revealed strong sexual selection on divergent plumbing paint and tracks between 2 subsoma, leading to complex genomic patterns of divergence and introspetion. Afterwards, Dan received an NSF postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Miami to study the evolution of blood nutrition in the Galapagos vampire finch. For this research, he is quantitativeizing ecological, behavioral and genomic diversity among blood-feeding and non-heme-feeding populations. He recently accepted a position as a post-ocotra fellow at the Rail Laboratory at Princeton University's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and is planning a project that is investigating phenotypic plasticity in Phainopepla's desert and forest breeding populations in Southern California. Dan's research is often motivated by a strange natural history that inevitably drives him to exciting and fruitful research projects. Daniel Baldasara on Darwin Island in the Galapagos. Photo credit: Kurt GielowYPA Award Talk abstract: Connecting pattern and process in the study of avian speciation. A longstanding question in evolutionary biology is whether divergence in sexual signals leads to prototodiography. Traditionally, researchers have countered the use of this question Extensive phylogenetic framework. A more powerful approach is to examine the close-up taxtas at a midpoint along the sample continuity and combine physiological and behavioral analyses to clarify both the pattern and the process. Red-backed Pryorne (Malurus melanocephalus) is a native of Australia classified as 2 subsurfix based on variations in male plumbing paint and tracks. I will present a pattern of genomic and morphological variation between subsuival, and I will examine the results of the contribution of field experiments to how sexual selection affects those patterns. I used spatial modeling and genomic techniques to analyze divergence and gene flow between subsyos. I then carried out plumbing manipulation and provided mountain testing to examine how male and female responses to these multifaceted signals might explain wider patterns. The results indicate that the two sexes respond differently to the divergent signal set and a father outside the placenta plays a strong role in the development of reproductive isolation. I suggest that divergence in sexual signals doesn't always lead to proto protoization, and it can actually increase gene flow and produce complex physiological patterns that may be more common throughout Taksa. Peter Husner explores how geographical, environmental, and ecological factors limit air distributions and how these factors affect diversity patterns. To understand the geography of bird diversity, Peter infers evolutionary relationships and population history of bird species/populations with genomic data for prediction testing of geological models, ecological niche modeling, and phenotypic assessments in comparative frameworks. His projects take several scales, from higher-level projects on large-level radiation from birds to small-scale studies of nearly related species/populations. For his Ph.D. at the University of Kansas, Peter examined the relative roles of geological, marine and environmental factors in isolating the diversity of bird populations in the Philippine archipelago. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Florida, where he uses DNA sequences of incredibly extensive genome elements to resolve Landfoll phylogenetics. Peter's research projects are sample-based, utilizing new materials collected during field exploration expeditions completed with historical materials collected by previous generations of museum biologists. He has led and conducted field work in 12 countries across the Americas and Asia. These field expeditions have resulted in 2 newly described bird species to date, one from Peru and one from the Philippines. YPA Award Discussion Review: Diversity of Birds in the Philippine Archipelago. The island archipelago are natural laboratories that disproportionately contribute to human understanding of evolution. In large body animals and mobile phones such as birds, subsets populate throughout the complex Scenery is regular. In contrast, in the oceanic archipelago it is thought that new populations are formed only by dispersing into unoccupied islands. Here, I show that divergence within the earth is everywhere in the maritime ranks native to the Philippine archipelago. Phylogenies distributed at the population level of 20 such common groups indicate that the primary geographical isolation and then formation of symbiotic families evolves within single islands. Prototootic driving processes are not unique or separate in continental and incolar protocoities. On islands, such as continents, climate change and geographic mold function to isolate populations, while ecological expertise regulates their coexistence across environmental gradients. Many diversity of Philippine bird species is not recognized at the species level, obscure these patterns and hide dire conservation needs. Two YPA awards are chosen annually to present their work at the General Meeting of the Young Professionals Award, which is held at the annual meeting. The two awards also receive cash prizes, travel support to the meeting, and are guests of honor in a reception attended by the COS chairman and other officers and the YPA Committee. For eligibility criteria and how to apply, the 5 Kathma Awards from the Cooper Oriental Society are intended to encourage the formulation of new ideas that could change the course of thinking about bird biology. The award, proposed and sponsored by Dr. Robert W. Stover, is to be given to the author(s) of a landmark article on urentology that offers unconventional ideas or innovative approaches supported by a good argumentative argument. Cooper Ornithology Association of 2016 Kathma Awards to Dr. Mohammad Asghar, Infectious Diseases Unit, Solena Medical Group, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm Sweden; Dr. Denis Haslquist, Department of Biology, Lond University, Lond, Sweden; Dr. Bengt Hansson, Department of Biology, Lond University; Dr. Pavel Zehtindjiev, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Academy of Sciences Bulgaria, Sofia, Bulgaria; For decades, ornithologists have determined that the parasites and diseases they cause are an important evolutionary force. For example, bright feather staining of birds is suggested to evolve in response to parasites, and parasites can shape the range of birds. With much focus on aeronnia and such a broad basis of knowledge on how interactions with birds, data and insights provided by Asghar, Hasselqvist, Hansson, Zehtindjiev, Westerdahl, and Benesh are shocking in their novelty and repercussions. The authors analyzed life history data from a long-term study of Greater Reed Warblers (Acrocephalus arundinaceus) in Sweden, including in particular the fitness costs of malaria infection by prosthesus parasites Plasmodium spp. and hemoproteus spp. A large portion of the bird population on Earth deals with malaria infections, so the consequences of such a study are potentially out of reach. The results reported by Asghar and his colleagues challenge conventional thinking that low-level and chronic malaria infections in birds have no fitness consequences. They found that low-level infection by malaria parasites had significant negative effects on reproduction and longevity. Also, they provided data showing that the mechanism by which malaria infection affects survival and reproduction is through negative effects on telomeres, the nucleus structures of the iproin that affect the ends of chromosomes. The 2016 Katma Award is awarded to Asghar and his colleagues for their exquisite approaches to studying the subtle effects of poultry malaria on songbirds. Their study challenges conventional thinking about the fitness outcomes of low-level parasite infections, with huge implications for Aviani's theory of life history. The Kathma Award, sponsored by Dr. Robert W. Stourer, is intended to encourage the formulation of new ideas that could change the course of thinking about bird biology. It is given to the author(s) of research papers, short communication, or commentaries (as such, editorials, reviews) of any length, published in any scientific place, which provide unconventional ideas or innovative approaches, backed by well-reasoned arguments. The Kathma Prize is only given when it is worthy, and more than once a year. The award is made up of about \$2,500 plus certificates and is given at the Cooper Society of Ornithology annual meeting. Kathma funds may also be used for activities that match the award, such as public speeches, confederates, and publication support. The 2016 Kathma Prize winners: (left to right) Mohammad Asghar, Dennis Hasselquist, Bengt Hansson, Pavel Zehtindjiev, Helena Westerdahl, and Staffan Bensch.Page 6The Miller Award Committee of the Cooper Ornithological Society is pleased to honor Walt Koenig as the recipient of the Loye and Alden Miller Research Award for 2016. The award is presented for lifelong achievement in ornithology research. Walter (Walt) Quenig attended Stanford University, where he studied biology. After that, Walt moved across the San Francisco Bay to earn a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, where he was a student. Frank Pitlka (himself a former Mill Research Award). It was during this time that Walt opened his studies of the Acorn woodpeckers as the subject of his thesis. He remained at Berkeley as a post-lawyer colleague, moved for a short time to the faculty at Occidental College, and returned to Berkeley as a research zoologist based at the Hastings Natural History Reserve, a position he held for more than a quarter of a century. In 2008, Walt moved to Cornell University as a senior scientist at the Urentology Laboratory and department of neurobiology and behavior. He retired from cornell in 2016 but remains fully active in research at Hostingers and in many of his projects elsewhere. Walt is a broad thought with a love of rigorous, hypothesis-driven science that is deeply informed by the clever observations of natural history. His scientific output includes more than 200 peer-to-peer arbitration papers and four scientific books on cooperative breeding—one per decade—each helping to set a research agenda on animal sociology for successive behavioral ecologists around the world. He has also written many public articles for both scientific and popular audiences. Walt has coached and inspired dozens of undergraduate students through his field of internships at Hostings, and he has led many service and leadership roles in professional communities such as the American Urentologists Union (AOU) and the International Association of Behavioral Ecology. Many of his donations to the Cooper Ornithology Society include his editor-in-chief of the film Candor from 1995 to 20. Walt is a fellow of both the AOU and the California Academy of Sciences, recipient of the 19th Brewster Memorial Award from AOU, and honorary member of the Cooper Oriental Society.Walt has made basic donations to urentology, ecology, and behavioral ecology through his career, often uniting these related disciplines and disciplines through integrated and interdisciplinary research of birds and their environments. Many of Walt's insights have been sparked by his long-term study of the Acorn woodpeckers at the Hosting Reserve in the beautiful hills of Monterey County, California. The research, which he continues to lead after more than four decades of continuous review, is among the most influential of such studies, partly because it has continued to evolve as new generations of field and laboratory techniques have provided opportunities to ask new questions at all levels of the biological organization, from proximity to final. His work, which in Walt's intimate acquaintance of the Acorn woodpeckers and the creatures they interact with, has illuminated intimate details of the behavioral ecology and sociology of these birds, opening the door to understanding the ecological and evolutionary forces that have molded other animal communities. This effect remains a touchstone All researchers are interested in sociality and cooperative breeding. Walt's studies of woodpeckers inspired a series of complementary studies of seminal annual cycles in a wide range of other organisms. Although this effect may be less familiar to many urologists, Walt has made important theoretical and empirical assistance in our understanding of masting cycles in oaks and other plants, periodicity in Sicadas, and similar spatial and time reproduction cycles in other groups. He is the founder and leader of a volunteer-based program called the California Oak Survey, which censuses the oak crop of oak species annually at 19 sites across California. In addition to his studies of woodpeckers, Walt has worked extensively on other birds, which has many articles on topics related to dispersal and migration, disease ecology, sexual selection, and population ecology. In each of these areas, one of the hallmarks of Walt's contributions is his generation of both original research papers and artificial reviews that help frame these broader topics. This is for top donations and other long-term donations made in a long, productive career, and continues that the Cooper Ornithology Association is proud to present the Miller Research Award in 2016 to Walter D. Koenig. Photo Credit: Bruce LyonPage 7 We now conclude our third full year as Condor: Ornithological Applications. Our peer reviewers are the foundation of our scientific integrity. Despite little personal gains, 214 colleagues owed their expertise in favor of our magazine and our discipline during the period that Volume 118 was preparing. Individuals identified with specially dedicated asterisks; They reviewed two, three or even four manuscripts. On behalf of Condor: Orentological applications thank them all for their timely work and conscience. Referee management is mostly the work of associate editors, named after the magazine's masterhead. Their work, combined with the efforts of our two good editors and tireless professional staff at the Urentology Publishing Headquarters (COPO), allows us to be proud of the magazine we produce collectively. David A. AbornRaf AertsTomas AltamiranoRoberto AmbrosiniFred AmidonAngela D. AndersMichael Jacob AndersenRindy AndersonTodd Arnold *Larissa BaileyCristina Banks-LeiteJesse BarberFrederick Keith BarkerJeffrey L. BeckThomas J. Benson *Erik John BlombergThomas BonnotEsteban D. BoteroReed Bowman *W. Alice BoyleJames V. BriskieNathan BrouwerEnrique BucherFranny BudermanJoanna BurgerJan Oves BustnesAndrew CampanozizJay D. Carlisle *Richard ChandlerScott ChiavacciDiane Colombelli-NegrelMark ColwellJohn W. Connell aonghais CookJacob Christian Cooper *Will CresswellClare DeathManuela de LucasThilina de SilvaTravis L. DeVaultMario DiazAndrew Charles DollColleen T. DownsHope DraheimTom DudleyKatie M. DuggerMurray آل السيسون. Todd EngstromAlberto Farnelli *Adrian H. 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