

The Waterbird Society

Officers

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David Shealer,
Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, USA

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Canadian Wildlife Service-Environment Canada, Toronto, ON, Canada

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WATERBIRDS EDITOR

Outgoing: Keith Hobson, Canadian Wildlife Service-Environment Canada,
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Incoming: (effective January 2009) Robert Elner, Environment Canada
Pacific Wildlife Research Centre, Delta, British Columbia

ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

2006-2008: Garry Donaldson, Susan Elbin, Emil Urban
2007-2009: Xavier Ruiz (deceased), Jennifer Stucker, Ricardo Zambrano
2008-2010: John Coulson, Becky Harris, Linda Wires

PAST PRESIDENTS

E.A. Schreiber, Francesca J. Cuthbert

The Waterbird Society

Local Committee

Clay Green, Chair
Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas, USA

Bart Ballard
Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University - Kingsville,
Texas, USA

Mary Gustafson
Rio Grande Joint Venture, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Mission, Texas, USA

David Newstead
Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA

Shane Pierce
Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas, USA

Elizabeth Smith
Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, Texas, USA

Ruth Taylor
Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas, USA

Scientific Program

Chip Weseloh, Chair
Canadian Wildlife Service-Environment Canada, Toronto, ON, Canada

Liane O'Keefe
Canadian Wildlife Service-Environment Canada, Toronto, ON, Canada

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE WATERBIRD SOCIETY

Welcome to the 32nd annual meeting of the Waterbird Society and the first meeting on U.S. soil in the past three years. The annual meeting is the highlight of the year for our society, and we are delighted that you chose to join us this year on South Padre Island. Since its inception in 1976, the Waterbird Society has grown in membership and its journal has grown in scientific stature to become one of the leading ornithological journals in the world. Over the years, our organization has remained committed to our goals of 1) facilitating the development and communication of scientific information on waterbirds through our journal and annual meetings, and 2) contributing to the management and conservation of waterbirds.

Whether you are a long-time member or a new recruit, our annual meeting has something to offer everyone. This year's meeting, in particular, includes a great diversity of scientific sessions, social events and field trips. Be assured that your participation in this meeting will add importantly to the exchange of information and ideas that make a conference worthwhile for all. Welcome to South Padre Island, and best wishes for an enjoyable and productive meeting!

Dave Shealer, President
Waterbird Society

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

After holding successful recent annual meetings in Mexico (2006) and Spain (2007), the Waterbird Society (WbS) is eagerly returning to the U.S. for its 32nd annual meeting at South Padre Island, Texas, from 5-8 November 2008. This year's scientific program is comprised of 142 oral presentations (of which 33, or 23%, are by students), 28 poster presentations (of which 13, or 46%, are by students), and two plenary presentations. Seven symposia are featured as part of the program, including a two-part symposium on Waterbird Conservation Plans and Joint Ventures. Symposium topics include: 1. Secretive Marsh Birds in a Changing Environment, 2. Status and Implementation of Regional-scale Conservation Plans in Place for Waterbirds, 3. Conservation and Ecology of Neotropical Migrant Shorebirds, 4. Waterbird Studies on the North American Great Plains, 5. Which way did they go? Considerations for Tracking Colonial Waterbirds, 6. Ecology and Conservation of the Reddish Egret, and 7. Climate Change and Aquatic Environments: Impacts and Adaptation Strategies for Birds. In addition, there are seven sessions of Contributed Papers on a range of topics, including another 13 papers on shorebirds! The program is rounded out with two plenary addresses: the first by Professor Erica Nol on climate change and shorebirds and the second by Dr. Felipe Chavez-Ramirez on conservation issues for Whooping Cranes, which is very appropriate given the location of our conference.

The WbS also extends a special welcome to all the student participants in the scientific program, many of whom are presenting for the first time at an international meeting. Students have always been an integral part of our society, and student contributions to the scientific programs and to our journal over the past 30 years have helped to enhance the quality and reputation of the Waterbird Society among the scientific community. We hope that you enjoy your experiences at this meeting and that you consider joining our society if you are not already a member.

Finally, I wish to express a sincere "Thank You" to Clay Green, other members of the local organizing committee, and my intern, Liane O'Keefe, for their assistance in assembling the scientific program.

Chip Weseloh
Chair, Scientific Program

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

As Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, it brings me great pleasure to welcome you to the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Waterbird Society and to beautiful South Padre Island, Texas. South Padre Island, a 34 mile long stretch of pristine white beach bordered by the Laguna Madre hypersaline lagoon and the Gulf of Mexico, is situated at the southerly tip of Texas near the border with Mexico. The area is known for its white sand beaches, numerous water sports, fishing, sailing, and most importantly, birding. South Padre Island and south Texas are world renowned destinations for birding; over 500 species have been documented in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Over 100 species of waterbirds occur as resident or wintering birds on South Padre Island alone. Texas has a multitude of avian and wetland scientists, including numerous waterbird scientists and managers that comprise the Texas Colonial Waterbird Society.

I want to express my gratitude to all the members of the Local Organizing Committee, but in particular to Shane Pierce, who has put in countless hours handling all the issues concerning pre-registration and account management. I would also like to thank Aggie Hebbe, Sarah McDonald and Ruth Taylor of the Biology Department at Texas State for much logistical and administrative assistance. I would also like to thank Mary Gustafson for her countless hours spent organizing the variety of field trips we have to offer both through our meeting and with the Rio Grande Birding Festival.

Also, I am grateful to David Shealer, President of the Waterbird Society and Chip Weseloh, Chair of the Scientific Program for their support and help during the long process of planning and organizing an annual meeting. I am particularly grateful for Chip's help and for the outstanding job he has done in putting together a great scientific program of which I think all of you will thoroughly enjoy over these next few days.

I want to acknowledge Texas Parks and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Texas Audubon, and Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries for their financial support of the meeting. Their generous support will help ensure the success of this meeting.

And finally, after several hurricanes and the birth of our 3rd son in 2008, I want to thank my wife and family for putting up with me working long hours and being gone way too often.

Clay Green, Chair
Local Organizing Committee

Meeting at a Glance

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

- WbS 2020 – (1200 – 1800, November 4; La Quinta)
- Shorebird – Contact: Brad Andres (0900 – 1600, November 5; La Quinta)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

- Registration (1200 – 1800; 4th floor foyer - La Quinta)
- Waterbird Society Executive Council Meeting (0830 - 1700; Orchid Room - La Quinta)
- Welcome Reception (1800 – 2000; Orchid/Oleander Room – La Quinta)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

- Registration (0730 – 1600; SPI Convention Center South Foyer/Hallway)
- Plenary Session, “Are arctic-breeding shorebirds resilient or vulnerable to a changing climate?”, Dr. Erica Nol (0800-0900, SPICC Conference Theatre)
- Morning Sessions and Symposia: 1. Marsh Birds, 2. Habitat/Natal Origins, 3. Gulls/Terns, 4. Physiology/Contaminants (0910-1210, SPICC rooms 101, 102, 104)
- Afternoon Sessions and Symposia: 1. Marsh Birds, 2. Regional Waterbird Plans, 3. Physiology/ Contaminants and 4. Migrant Shorebird Ecology (1330-1720; SPICC rooms 101, 102, 104)
- Poster Social (1830-2030, SPICC South Hallway/Conference Theatre)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

- Registration (0730 – 1600; SPICC South Foyer/Hallway)
- Morning Sessions and Symposia: 1. Great Plains Waterbirds, 2. Conservation/ Abundance (0800-1210, SPICC rooms 101, 104)
- Afternoon Sessions and Symposia: 1. Tracking Waterbirds, 2. Joint Ventures, 3. Long-legged Waders, 4. Bird Impacts (1330-1720, SPICC rooms 101, 102, 104)
- Texas Colonial Waterbird Society Board Meeting (1330-1530, SPICC room 103)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

- Registration (0730 – 1200; SPICC South Foyer/Hallway)
- Plenary Session, “Wild Whooping Cranes: Current and emerging conservation issues”, Dr. Felipe Chavez-Ramirez (0800-0900, SPICC Conference Theatre)
- Morning Sessions and Symposia: 1. Reddish Egret, 2. Shorebirds (0910-1210, SPICC rooms 101, Conference Theatre)
- Afternoon Sessions and Symposia: 1. Reddish Egret, 2. Climate Change, 3. Shorebirds (1330-1510, SPICC rooms 101, Conference Theatre)
- Waterbird Society Business Meeting (1530-1630, SPICC Conference Theatre)
- Waterbird Society Silent Auction (1800-1900, SPICC Room 101)
- Waterbird Society 2008 Banquet (1900-2200, SPICC Rooms 101-104)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

- Field Trips: Pelagic tour of Gulf of Mexico, Bahia Grande, Southmost Preserve (see page *ix* for more details)

General Information

REGISTRATION

Registration for the Waterbird Society annual meeting includes registration for the meeting and covers the cost of 3 evening socials (welcome reception, poster social, banquet) as well as daily lunch buffets (Thursday through Saturday) and morning/afternoon coffee breaks. In addition, please note that the cost of your regular registration helps to subsidize the lowered costs of student registration.

The Waterbird Society has established two convenient methods of registration for the 32nd Annual Meeting: pre-registration through the meeting website (<http://www.bio.txstate.edu/wbs2008>) and on-site registration in South Padre Island.

On-site registration for new registrants as well as check-in for those who have pre-registered will be available at the following times and locations.

Wednesday, November 5: 1200-1830, La Quinta Inn and Suites 4th Floor Foyer
Thursday & Friday, November 6 & 7: 0730-1630, South Padre Island Convention Center
Saturday, November 8: 0730-1200, South Padre Island Convention Center

WATERBIRD SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

If you are a non-member of the Waterbird Society at the time of registration, please note that the increased price of registering as a non-member for the society is exactly the same as annual membership dues for the society. By registering for the meeting as a non-member you will automatically be enrolled as a member effective January 1, 2009 and will receive the journal, *Waterbirds*.

REFUND POLICY

Cancellations received in writing (e-mail) by October 17, 2008 are eligible for full refund. Cancellations received after October 17, 2008 will be subjected to \$75 charge. No refunds will be honored after November 5, 2008.

BREAKS AND MEALS.

All of the following coffee breaks and meals (except Friday supper) are included in cost of registration.

A.M. Coffee Break	1000 - 1030	Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
Buffet Lunch	1210 - 1330	Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
P.M. Coffee Break	1510 - 1540	Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
Poster Session Social	1830 - 2030	Thursday
Banquet	1900 - 2200	Saturday

Food and beverages for the coffee breaks will be served in the hallway adjoining rooms 101-104 of the South Padre Island Convention Center. Thursday and Friday lunches will be served in Orchid/Oleander rooms of the La Quinta Inn and Suites.

Saturday lunch and the closing Banquet will be served in Rooms 102-104 of the South Padre Island Convention Center.

INTERNET

Free wireless internet is available both at the La Quinta Inn and the South Padre Island Convention Center. The La Quinta also has a business center with computers and a printer available.

SOCIAL PROGRAM

Attendees and their registered guests are invited to participate in a variety of social functions scheduled during the 32nd Annual Meeting on South Padre Island. All social events with the exception of the Friday evening activity are included in the cost of registration.

Wednesday, November 5

Welcome Reception will begin at 1800 at the La Quinta Inn and Suites Orchid/Oleander Rooms. Brief introductory announcements/welcoming will be given at approximately 1900. Light supper fare and cash bar will be served. Food and beverages will be available until 2000.

Thursday, November 6

Poster social will begin at 1830 in the South Hallway and Conference Theatre of the South Padre Island Convention Center. Authors should be present at their posters between 1830 and 2030 to discuss their work. A light supper buffet and cash bar will be available from 1830-2030.

Friday, November 7

Come join us on an evening cruise in the Laguna Madre with Breakaway Cruises. The boat will leave the pier promptly at 1800 for 1-hour cruise. There is a cash bar and snacks available onboard. Upon returning to the pier, we will eat dinner and be entertained with live music at the Shrimp Haus. Total cost for boat ride and dinner is \$26/person. There is limited number of tickets, so call 956-761-2212 or 956-459-7588 for reservations. You can also pick up tickets from the concierge at both the La Quinta and Holiday Inn.

Saturday, November 8

Waterbird Society Silent Auction will begin at 1800 and end by 2000. We invite you to attend this important event featuring donated auction items from society members and local businesses. All proceeds from the silent auction go to benefit the Student Travel Award Fund. Prizewinners will be announced at the end of the Annual Banquet on Saturday night. Prizes may be claimed with a check or a major credit card.

Waterbird Society Banquet and Awards Ceremony will begin at 1900 in rooms 102-104 of the South Padre Island Convention Center. The banquet is open to all registrants and included in the cost of registration. A full course meal will be served with vegetarian option available. Cash bar will also be available along with complimentary margaritas!

FIELD TRIPS

RIO GRANDE BIRDING FESTIVAL

Registration for field trips is underway! Please go to the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival (<http://www.rgvbirdfest.com>) webpage to register for birding field trips (click under Registration). Pre-registration of RGV Birding Festival field trips must be received by Friday, October 24. The organizers of the WbS meeting are working to arrange transportation to/from the La Quinta Inn to Harlingen Convention Center where each birding trip begins. Please contact Mary Gustafson (live4birds@aol.com) to arrange transportation.

GULF OF MEXICO PELAGIC TRIP

Sunday, 4:45 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Pelagic species possible in the Gulf of Mexico include a wide variety of tropical and temperate seabirds. There is still a lot to be learned about the status of seabirds in the Gulf! It's been several years since we had a November pelagic trip out of South Padre Island, but trips were run in 2004 and 2005. On Nov. 6, 2004, the pelagic birds included Audubon's Shearwater, Masked Booby, probable Northern Gannet, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, **South Polar Skua**, and Bridled Tern. On Nov. 5, 2004 pelagic birds included Cory's Shearwater, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, and Bridled Tern. Of course, we'll be looking for a wide variety of marine life including sea turtles and spotted Atlantic dolphins, as well as coastal species on the way out and back in. Other species possible but rare in late October and early November include **Yellow-nosed Albatross, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Manx Shearwater, Red-billed Tropicbird, Brown Booby**, and Magnificent Frigatebird. *Species names in **bold** are review species in Texas.*

NOTE:

In case of adverse conditions, the Captain will decide if the trip goes or not. The trip is more likely to be cancelled due to wind than rain, so bring rain gear, a lens cloth for optics, sunscreen, and drinking water. If you have never been on a boat, taking medication to prevent seasickness is advisable. Breakfast and a box lunch are for sale at the dock upon our arrival, or bring your own food. No food is furnished by the festival. Those attending the Waterbird Society Meeting on SPI: Please register through the RGV Birding Festival and please car pool to dock and arrive around 5:30 a.m. (Contact Mary Gustafson for information, live4birds@aol.com).

Fee: \$150

BAHIA GRANDE

We are planning a trip to the newly restored Bahia Grande for Sunday, November 9 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bahia Grande is a 6,000+ acre shallow basin that was inundated prior to the construction of the Brownsville Ship Channel in the 1930s and the subsequent construction of Highway 48 from Port Isabel to Brownsville. For the past 70 years, the basin has been dry and has become a tremendous source of airborne dust in surrounding areas. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has recently acquired the Bahia Grande property and in July 2005 re-flooded the area.

Hydrological restoration is occurring through the construction of channels designed to take advantage of the normal tidal regime in the area and permit adequate tidal exchange of salt water to maximize water circulation as well as allow migration of marine organisms into and out of the basin. These actions will significantly increase

productivity of this currently dry and barren system by providing important nursery grounds for recreationally and commercially important aquatic species such as shrimp, crabs, and finfish which are important to both consumptive and non-consumptive users. Engineering and hydrological studies indicate that under favorable conditions, water may inundate approximately 6,500 acres of the Bahia Grande. A topographic survey has determined that much of the Bahia Grande basin lies below mean sea level and would be inundated with seawater during low tides. Additional acreage would be inundated by high tides, storm surges or periods of high rainfall. With the help of local and federal governments, private foundations and even local school kids, Bahia Grande will be returned to what it once was: A saltwater nursery for fish and shellfish... a rich habitat for wildlife... a future haven for sports fishermen, kayakers... and a sparkling highlight in the natural beauty that is South Texas. Cost will be \$10/person. Please contact Mary Gustafson at live4birds@aol.com to reserve your spot.

SOUTHMOST PRESERVE

Self-guided field trip to the southernmost point of Texas! David Benn, a local naturalist, will be available at the Nature Conservancy's Southmost Preserve for questions. You may come and go at the preserve on Sunday, November 9, between 7:30 am and 12:00 pm. There is no entrance fee but you must provide your own transportation. For more information, please contact Mary Gustafson at live4birds@aol.com.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

LOCATIONS

Symposia and concurrent sessions will be held in the rooms 101-104 and the plenary sessions will be held in the Conference Theatre of the South Padre Island Convention Center.

POSTERS

The poster session will be held on Thursday, November 6, in the South Hallway and Conference Theater of the South Padre Island Convention Center from 18:30 – 20:30. Light supper fare and cash bar will be available for the duration of the poster session.

Posters must be hung up by Thursday, November 6, at 13:30. Posters should be no greater than 48 x 48 inches and hanging materials (putty, tape) will be available at the registration desk. Please ensure posters are placed next to the assigned number on the wall. Posters may remain up through 12:00 on Saturday, November 8.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

All presentations will be limited to 20-minute time period. Session chairs will be strict in enforcing time limits for each presentation to facilitate the adequate progress of the schedule. Please plan your talk for about 15-17 minutes which will allow adequate time for questions.

All session rooms will be equipped with a laptop computer and a LCD projector. Bring your presentation on a CD/DVD or USB drive. ***All presentations are to be loaded on the room assigned laptop upon registration.*** To aid in organizing the talks on the laptops, please name the PowerPoint file using the following format Day_Time_Last Name (ex. Sat_0910_Green).

Notice to all attendees: to facilitate collegiality and communication, we request all registrants to wear their name badges to all sessions and events. Please turn off all cellular phones while attending the meeting and workshops.

BIOGRAPHIES ON PLENARY SPEAKERS

Dr. Erica Nol, Professor of Biology, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario. Her primary research interests are in shorebird biology with special emphasis on the ecology and conservation of genus *Charadrius* (the plovers). Her research includes habitat selection, and reproductive ecology of arctic-nesting shorebirds, long-term population dynamics, and foraging behaviour. She has studied shorebirds on their breeding grounds in the eastern and western arctic regions of North America, as well as on the South American wintering grounds. Dr. Nol also has research interests in the conservation of forest birds. Dr. Nol has written more than 60 research articles in conservation, ecological and ornithological journals, published several book chapters and mentored over 40 current and past graduate students. Dr. Nol received her Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Toronto investigating the reproductive strategies of American Oystercatcher. She was a founding member of the American Oystercatcher Working Group, is currently the Chair of the Publications Committee of the Waterbird Society and sits on numerous scientific advisory panels.

Dr. Felipe Chavez-Ramirez is the Executive Director of the Platte River Whooping Crane Trust and Graduate Faculty Member at The University of Nebraska. His research program has included work on the biology of Whooping Cranes on their wintering grounds along the coast of Texas. Dr. Chavez-Ramirez's research investigated the relationships between water qualities, blue crab availability, and crane survival and reproduction. He has also mentored Cuban colleagues in their studies of the endangered Cuban Sandhill Crane. Dr. Chavez-Ramirez's research is broad-based and has included the conservation and ecology of migratory birds especially Whooping Cranes, Cuban sandhill cranes, and grassland birds. Chavez-Ramirez has written more than 30 research articles in conservation and ornithological journals and presented more than 50 professional seminars and presentations. Prior to joining the Whooping Crane Trust, Dr. Chavez-Ramirez held faculty positions at Texas A&M University and Texas A&M University-Kingsville and was Director of the Chihuahuan Desert Ecoregion Program for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Dr. Chavez-Ramirez is a member of the US-Canada Whooping Crane Recovery Team and a member of IUCN's Species Survival Commission, Crane Specialist Group.

Daily Summary: Plenaries, Posters, Symposia and Contributed Paper Sessions

Thursday – 6 November 2008

800-900 Plenary Address – Dr. Erica Nol “Are arctic-breeding shorebirds resilient or vulnerable to a changing climate?” Conference Theatre

Room 101

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910-1430 Symposium:
Secretive Marsh Birds
in a Changing Environ-
ment. Scott Rush, Chair

1430-1700 Session:
Marsh Birds.
Dave Shealer, Chair

Room 102

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910-1130 Session:
Habitat and Natal
Origin. Keith Hobson,
Chair

1130-1720 Symposium:
Status and Implementation
of Regional-scale Conser-
vation Plans in Place for
Waterbirds. Jennifer
Wheeler, Chair

Room 104

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910-1110 Session:
Gulls, Terns and a
Penguin.
Ian Nisbet, Chair

1110-1350 Session:
Physiology, Contaminants
and DNA. Tom Custer, Chair

1350-1720 Symposium:
Conservation and Ecology of
Neotropical Migrant
Shorebirds. Erica Nol, Chair

1830-2030 Poster Session, SPICC Hallway/Conference Theatre

Friday – 7 November 2008

Room 101

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800-1130 Symposium:
Waterbird Studies on
the North American
Great Plains.
Christopher Somers, Chair

1130-1700 Symposium:
Which Way Did They Go?
Considerations for
Tracking Colonial Water-
birds. Susan Elbin and
Tommy King, Co-chairs

Room 102

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1330-1510 Session:
Long-legged Waders
John Brzorad and Alan
Maccarone, Co-chairs

1540-1720 Session:
Impacts to Birds.
Gail Fraser, Chair

Room 104

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800-1210 Session:
Conservation and
Species Abundance.
Judy Pierce and
Mike Erwin, Co-chairs

**1330-1700 Discussion
Forum:** Joint Venture
Approaches to Habitat
Objectives for Waterbirds.
Jennifer Wheeler and
Neal Niemuth, Co-leaders.

Saturday – 8 November 2008

800-900 Plenary Address - Dr. Felipe Chavez-Ramirez “Wild Whooping Cranes: Current and Emerging Conservation Issues” Conference Theatre

Room 101

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910-1210 Symposium:
Ecology and Conservation
of the Reddish Egret.
Stefani Melvin, Chair

1330-1600 Symposium:
Climate Change and
Aquatic Environments:
Impacts and Adaptation
Strategies for Birds.
Katharine Parsons, Chair

Conference Theatre

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910-1510 Session:
Shorebirds.
Caitlin Robinson and
Scott Demers, Co-Chairs

Thursday, 6 November, 2008

- 0800 Theatre Plenary Address – **Dr. Erica Nol** ““Are arctic-breeding shorebirds resilient or vulnerable to a changing climate?”
- 0910 Room 101 **I. Kay** - Active Management of Light-footed Clapper Rail in Mission Bay, San Diego, California
Room 102 Presentation withdrawn
Room 104 **J. Stucker** - Morphometric Discrimination of Sexes in Least Terns
- 0930 Room 101 **C. Gailband** - Captive Propagation and Release of Light-footed Clapper Rails *Rallus longirostris levipes*
Room 102 **D.L. Detwiler IV*** - Foraging Habitats, Movements, and Behavioural Interactions of a Mixed Species Heronry in Pennsylvania
Room 104 **S.A. Oswald** – Heat Stress in Waterbirds: Trade-offs with Foraging and Nest Attendance
- 0950 Room 101 **S.H. Schweitzer** - Frequency of Occurrence and Site Selection of Clapper and King Rails in Coastal South Carolina
Room 102 **A. Perry*** - Burrow Distribution and Habitat Parameters in Leach’s Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)
Room 104 **A.C. Torrell*** - Sit and Wait: Living on Predictability
- 1010-1030 BREAK
- 1030 Room 101 **M. Seamans** - Secretive Marsh Bird Survey for the United States: Pilot Study First Year Results
Room 102 **C. Leumas*** - Social Facilitation and Predation Risk as Factors in New Colony Formation by Seabirds on Louisiana Barrier Islands
Room 104 **E.J. Raynor*** - Breeding Waterbird Use and Hatching Success of Three Colonial Seabirds on Louisiana’s Barrier Islands
- 1050 Room 101 **A.J. Darrah** - Site Occupancy and Habitat Use of Three Marsh Bird Species in the Illinois and Upper Mississippi Valleys
Room 102 **J. Lamberson** - Patterns of Intertidal Habitat Use by Birds in an Oregon Coastal Estuary
Room 104 **I.C.T. Nisbet** - Reproductive Performance of Little Penguins in Relation to Year, Age, Pair-bond Duration, Breeding Date and Individual Quality
- 1110 Room 101 **C.A. Drew** - Bayesian Belief Network Model of King Rail Occupancy of Marsh Habitats
Room 102 **K. Hobson** - Natal Origins of Harvested Lesser Scaup: Making Connections Using Stable Isotope Analysis
Room 104 **J.M. Arnold** – Bugs, Birds and Blood: Comparing Field Methods of Blood Sampling for Baseline Corticosterone Analysis
- 1130 Room 101 **S.A. Rush*** - Hydrologic Condition and Predator-prey Interactions Influence Clapper Rail Populations in Two Northern Gulf of Mexico Estuarine Systems

- Room 102 **J. Wheeler** - What Has All This Planning Done for Waterbirds? A Review of the Waterbird Conservation for the Americas Initiative
- Room 104 **F. Hailer** - Mitochondrial DNA and Phenotypic Variation Among Populations of Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Boobies
- 1150 Room 101 **C.P. Nadeau*** - Modelling Marsh Bird Habitat Suitability in the Lower 48 States: The First Step in Evaluating the Effects of Climate Change on Marsh Birds
- Room 102 **N.D. Niemuth** - Implementation of the Northern Prairie and Parkland Waterbird Conservation Plan
- Room 104 **C.M. Custer** - Perfluorinated Compounds in Great Blue Heron Eggs Collected in the Mississippi River near St. Paul, Minnesota
- 1210-1330 LUNCH – La Quinta Orchid/Oleander rooms
- 1330 Room 101 **S.L. King** - A Synthesis of Breeding and Wintering King Rail Research in Louisiana
- Room 102 **N.W.H. Seto** – Status of Waterbird Conservation in the West Intermountain Region
- Room 104 **T. Custer** – Perfluorinated Compounds and Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers in Great Blue Heron Eggs from Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana
- 1350 Room 101 **B.A. Pickens*** – Conservation Planning for the Rice Region of Southwestern Louisiana
- Room 102 **C.J. Beardmore** – Waterbird Planning and Conservation in the Sonoran Joint Venture: Northwestern Mexico and Southwestern United States
- Room 104 **P.A. Smith*** – Predator Abundance and Incubation Behaviour Explain Interannual and Interspecific Patterns of Nest Success for Arctic Breeding Shorebirds
- 1410 Room 101 **D.G. Kremantz** – A Synthesis of Research on Migratory King Rails in the Mississippi Flyway
- Room 102 **E. Palacios** – Waterbird Conservation in Northwest Mexico
- Room 104 **B.K. Sandercock** – A Long-term Population Study of the Upland Sandpiper: Seasonal Demography of a Migratory Shorebird
- 1430 Room 101 **E. Beck*** – Marsh Birds in Oklahoma: A Review of Distributions and Records of Secretive Marsh Birds in Oklahoma
- Room 102 **S.L. Melvin** – Status of Southeast United States Waterbird Planning
- Room 104 **C. Gratto-Trevor** – Accuracy of Survival Estimates in Saskatchewan Piping Plovers: Implications for Population Viability Analysis
- 1450 Room 101 **M.E. Erickson*** – Western Grebes in Alberta: an Evaluation of Habitat Alteration and Species Abundance

- Room 102 **K.C. Parsons** – Waterbird Conservation Planning and Implementation in the Mid-Atlantic/New England/Maritimes Regions of the US and Canada
- Room 104 **K. Forgues*** – Making the Connection Between Shorebirds and Off-Road Vehicles
- 1510-1540 BREAK
- 1540 Room 101 **J.J. Valente*** – Habitat Characteristics Associated with Breeding Secretive Marsh Birds in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Louisiana
- Room 102 **A.F. O’Connell** - Development of a Relational Database and Predictive Modeling of Seabird Occurrence for the Western Atlantic Ocean Between Maine and Florida
- Room 104 **B.A. Andres** – Piecing Together the Annual Cycle Puzzle for North American Whimbrels and Hudsonian Godwits
- 1600 Room 101 **E.A. Rigby*** – Female Survival and Nesting Propensity of Mottled Ducks on the Upper Texas Gulf Coast
- Room 102 **L.R. Wires** – Status of Waterbird Conservation in the Upper Mississippi Valley/Great Lakes Region
- Room 104 **L.X. Payne** – Conservation of Shorebirds that Disperse During Migration
- 1620 Room 101 **S. Lor** – Habitat Use and Home Range of American Bitterns (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) and Monitoring of Inconspicuous Marsh Birds in Northwest Minnesota
- Room 102 **G. Donaldson** – Waterbird Planning and Waterbird Conservation Action in Boreal and Arctic Canada
- Room 104 **R. Elner** – Evidence and Implications of Biofilm Grazing in Shorebirds
- 1640 Room 101 **M. Ledwoń*** – Females of Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* Swindle Food from Alien Males
- Room 102 **J. Wheeler, chair** - Status and Implementation of Regional-Scale Conservation Plans in Place for Waterbirds Wrap-up
- Room 104 **D.B. Lank** – Using Intrinsic Markers to Develop Management Tools for Migratory Shorebirds
- 1700 Room 101 **D.A. Shealer** – Differential Effects of Flooding on Two Sympatric Marsh-nesting Terns
- Room 104 **E. Nol, chair** - Conservation and Ecology of Neotropical Migrant Shorebirds Wrap-up

Friday, 7 November, 2008

- 0800 Room 101 **C. Somers** – Sharing Water in a Dry Land: Examining Overlap in Lake Use by Fish-eating Birds and Humans on the Northern Great Plains
Room 104 **D. Newstead** – Development of a Coastal Colonial Waterbird Census of Tamaulipas, Mexico
- 0820 Room 101 **J. Doucette*** – Food Web Interactions Among Double-crested Cormorants and Top Predator Fish Species
Room 104 **E. Weir** – Bird Richness and Abundance in the Olivitos Wildlife Refuge and Fishing Reserve, Zulia State, West Venezuela
- 0840 Room 101 **M. Pink*** – The Role of Changing Aquatic Ecosystems on Avian Predators: Do Forster’s Terns Respond to the Aquatic Environment as well as to Change in Prey Abundance?
Room 104 **D. Semere** – Status of Breeding Seabirds and Waterbirds on the Eritrean Red Sea Islands
- 0900 Room 101 **M.A. Sovada*** – Weather and West Nile Virus Impact American White Pelican Productivity
Room 104 **A.H. Claassen*** - Abundance, Productivity and Conservation of Sandbar-nesting River Birds in Northeastern Cambodia
- 0920 Room 101 **D.T. King** – Migratory Movements and Summer Ranges of American White Pelicans Captured in the Southeastern United States
Room 104 **G.V. Gopi*** - Ecology and Conservation of Colonial Nesting Waterbirds at India’s Largest Heronry in a Mangrove Ecosystem, Eastern India
- 0940 Room 101 Presentation cancelled
Room 104 **J. Pierce** – Eradication of *Rattus rattus* and *Rattus norvegicus* on Offshore Cays in the U.S. Virgin Islands
- 1000-1030 BREAK
- 1030 Room 101 **D. Granfors** – Development of Spatially Explicit Decision Support Tools for Secretive Marsh Birds
Room 104 **E. Weir** – Bird Richness and Abundance Analysis of North American Breeding Bird Surveys (NABBS) and Christmas Bird Counts (CBC): Historical Data at Central Platte River Nebraska
- 1050 Room 101 **C. Found** - Selection of Lake Habitats by Waterbirds in the Boreal Transition Zone of Northeastern Alberta
Room 104 **N.D. Niemuth** - Developing and Using Spatial Models to Guide Conservation of Waterbirds in the U.S. Prairie Pothole Region
- 1110 Room 101 **C. Somers, chair** - Waterbird Studies on the North American Great Plains Wrap-up
Room 104 **C.E. Moulton** – Monitoring Idaho’s Waterbird Species of Greatest Conservation Need: Role of the Idaho Bird Inventory and Survey

- 1130 Room 101 **S.B. Elbin** – Considerations for Capture Techniques of Waterbirds at Nesting and Foraging Sites
Room 104 **S. Johnston** – The Atlantic Marine Bird Conservation Cooperative
- 1150 Room 101 **S. Lemmons** – Three Techniques for Capturing Piscivorous Birds
Room 104 **R.M. Erwin** – Chesapeake Bay Waterbirds: A Good News-Bad News Scenario
- 1210-1330 LUNCH – La Quinta Orchid/Oleander Room
- 1330 Room 101 **K.N. Fischer** – Satellite Tagging Double-crested Cormorants at East Sand Island, Oregon: An Evaluation of Tagging Techniques and Development of a Novel Low-disturbance Technique for Capturing Individual Nesters
Room 102 **A.Hanna** – Long-term Trends of the Roseate Spoonbill Population in Texas
Room 104 **J. Wheeler** – Discussion Forum: Joint Venture Approaches to Habitat Objectives for Waterbirds (Continues until 1700)
- 1350 Room 101 **A.J. Bernick** – Using Radiotelemetry to Assess Black-crowned Night-Heron Foraging Habitat Use in New York City
Room 102 **L. Miranda-Castro** – Prey Utilization by Wading Birds and Nursery Potential in a Tropical Mangrove Swamp
- 1410 Room 101 **J. Stucker** – Tracking Small Waterbirds: Insights from Use of Radio Transmitters and Remote Stationary Dataloggers with Least Terns
Room 102 **J.N. Brzorad** – Foraging Behavior and Energetics of Great Egrets and Snowy Egrets at Interior Rivers and Weirs
- 1430 Room 101 **D.V.C. Weseloh** – Satellite Tracking of Breeding Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) from Eastern Lake Ontario
Room 102 **A.D. Maccarone** – Characteristics and Energetics of Great Egret and Snowy Egret Foraging Flights
- 1450 Room 101 **S. Hatch** – Satellite (PTT) and GPS Tracking of Seasonal Movements by Alaska Seabirds
Room 102 **L. Hoover*** – Nest-activity Patterns and Food-provisioning Rates by Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*)
- 1510-1540 BREAK
- 1540 Room 101 **J.Y. Adkins** – Post-breeding Distribution of Double-crested Cormorants from the Columbia River Estuary: Satellite Telemetry Contributes Information to a Current Pacific Coast Status Agreement
Room 102 **J.G.T. Anderson** – Impact of Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* Recovery on Seabird Colonies in the Northeastern United States

- 1600 Room 101 **H. Scherr** – Redistribution of Breeding Double-crested Cormorants in Response to Disturbance
 Room 102 **J.B. Demers** – California Gulls in San Francisco Bay: Landfill Use, Impacts on Breeding Waterbirds, and Implications for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project
- 1620 Room 101 **J.T.H. Coleman** – Double-crested Cormorant Diving Behavior and Foraging Effort at Three New York Colonies
 Room 102 **T.H. Below** – Coastal Waterbirds, Hurricane Wilma and the Subsequent Three Nesting Seasons
- 1640 Room 101 **S. Elbin and T. King, Co-chairs** – Which Way Did they Go? Considerations for Tracking Colonial Waterbirds Wrap-up
 Room 102 **M.G. Bellio*** - Impacts of Irrigated Agriculture and Trade-off for Waterbirds Conservation at a Ramsar Site in Sri Lanka
- 1700 Room 102 **B. Taylor*** – Ground-nesting Double-crested Cormorants at a Colony in Lake Ontario: Does Egg Oiling Change Nest Attendance Behaviour?

Saturday, 8 November, 2008

- 0800 Theatre Plenary Address - **Dr. Felipe Chavez-Ramirez** “Wild Whooping Cranes: Current and Emerging Conservation Issues”
- 0910 Room 101 **M.C. Green** – Status and Update of the Reddish Egret Based on Rangewide Surveys Conducted During 2007-2008
 Theatre **C. Robinson** – Western Snowy Plover Use of Managed Salt Ponds in the South San Francisco Bay
- 0930 Room 101 **W.G. Vermillion** – Gulf Coast Joint Venture Conservation Planning for Reddish Egret
 Theatre **S.T. Saalfeld*** - Success and Temperature Fluctuation of Snowy Plover Nests in the Southern High Plains of Texas
- 0950 Room 101 **E.M. Bates** – Genetic Diversity and Population Structure of Reddish Egrets in Texas
 Theatre **C. Edwards*** – Snowy Plover Nesting Success and Nest Density at Great Salt Lake, UT
- 1010-1030 BREAK
- 1030 Room 101 **Z. Holderby*** – Reproductive Ecology, Colony Site and Polymorphism in Reddish Egrets *Egretta rufescens*
 Theatre **L. Sauma-Castillo*** - Abundance and Habitat Use of Three Nonbreeding Shorebird Species in the Estero De Urias, Sinaloa, Mexico
- 1050 Room 101 **A.B. Hodgson** – Preliminary Evaluations of the Reddish Egret Population in the Florida Keys
 Theatre **S.P. Murphy*** - Investigating the Demographics of a Shorebird Near the Northern Limit of its Range

- 1110 Room 101 **A. Hill*** – The Relationship of Foraging Habitat Availability and Nest Site Selection for the Reddish Egret in the Florida Keys
Theatre **S.E. Franks*** – Variability in the Timing of Annual Cycle Events in Three Long-distance Migrant Sandpiper Species
- 1130 Room 101 **E. Palacios** – Status and Distribution of the Reddish Egret in Western Mexico
Theatre **D.H. Catlin*** – Piping Plover Chick Survival on Natural and Engineered Sandbars: The Effects of a Large-scale Experiment
- 1150 Room 101 **S. Melvin, chair** – Ecology and Conservation of the Reddish Egret Symposium Wrap-up
Theatre **J.H. Felio*** - Piping Plover Nest-site Selection and Nest Survival on Natural and Engineered Sandbar Habitat in the Missouri River
- 1210-1330 LUNCH – SPICC Rooms 102-104
- 1330 Room 101 **H. Galbraith** – Shorebird Vulnerability to Climate Change-disruption of Long-distance Migration Systems
Theatre **D.H. Catlin*** - Variation in Growth Rates of Piping Plover Chicks on the Missouri River
- 1350 Room 101 **M.C. Green** – In Over their Heads: Sea Level Rise and Coastal Storms Effects on Wading Birds
Theatre **J.D. Fraser** – The Importance of Laguna Madre and South Padre Island to Wintering Great Plains Piping Plovers
- 1410 Room 101 **L. Sorenson** – Impacts of Climate Change on Wetlands and Aquatic Birds in the Caribbean
Theatre **J. Cohen** – Red Knot Stopover in Virginia, Delaware, and New Jersey: Numbers, Phenology, and Interchange
- 1430 Room 101 **T.L. Master** – Potential Effects of Global Warming on Stream-dependent Birds
Theatre **C. Taylor** – Estimating Site Fidelity Using Local Dispersal Data
- 1450 Room 101 **R.R. Veit** – Timescales of Response by Pelagic Seabirds to Global Climate Change
Theatre **S.A. Demers** – A Spatial Analysis of Co-existing Resident and Migrant Shorebirds: American Avocets in San Francisco Bay
- 1510-1540 BREAK
- 1540 Room 101 **K. Parsons, chair** – Climate Change and Aquatic Environments: Impacts and Adaptation Strategies for Birds Symposium Wrap-up

Poster #1

LONG-TERM ADAPTIVE MONITORING OF BIRD HABITATS FOR SALT POND RESTORATION IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY, CA

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Poster #2

SURVIVAL AND MOVEMENT OF JUVENILE REDDISH EGRETS

Elizabeth M. Bates*, lizmb2001@yahoo.com and **Bart M. Ballard**, bart.ballard@tamuk.edu
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Poster #3

NEST HABITAT OVERLAP BETWEEN LARGE GULLS (LARUS SPP.) AND BLACK GUILLEMOTS (CEPPHUS GRYLLE)

Adrianna Beaudette* and **Clare Anderson**, Island Research Center, College of the Atlantic, 105 Eden St. Bar Harbor ME 04609 USA. abeaudette@coa.edu.

Poster #4

BEHAVIORAL RESPONSES IN HERRING GULLS LARUS ARGENTATUS TO LOBSTER FISHING IN THE EASTERN GULF OF MAINE

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Poster #5

LITTLE DUCK OR GREAT DUCK? EIDER DUCK!

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Poster #6

HABITAT SELECTION BY FORSTER'S TERNS IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY: THE IMPORTANCE OF SALT PONDS

Jill Bluso Demers, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (jdemers@sfbbo.org), **Josh Ackerman**, US Geological Survey, Davis Field Station (jackerman@usgs.gov), **John Takekawa**, US Geological Survey, San Francisco Bay Estuary Field Station (john_takekawa@usgs.gov).

Poster #7

THE SOUTH BAY SALT POND RESTORATION PROJECT

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Poster #8

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND THE SOUTH BAY SALT POND RESTORATION PROJECT

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Poster #9

THE ECOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF MARSH MANAGEMENT TO WETLAND BIRDS

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Poster #10

WHOOPING CRANE FORAGING ECOLOGY: GAINS, COSTS, AND PROFITABILITY OF FORAGING DURING WINTER

Danielle Greer*, Texas A&M University.

Poster #11

USING MOLECULAR GENETICS TECHNIQUES FOR POPULATION STRUCTURE AND LIFE HISTORY OF REDDISH EGRETS

Austin Hill*, Texas State University, ah1418@txstate.edu; and **Clay Green**, Texas State University, claygreen@txstate.edu.

Poster #12

**REDUCTION IN THE BREEDING RANGE OF NEWELL'S SHEARWATERS
PUFFINUS NEWELLI ON KAUAI, HAWAII: EVIDENCE AND INSIGHTS FROM
FIELD SURVEYS AND GIS MODELLING**

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Poster #13

**BIAS AND ERROR IN RESIGHTING COLOR AND METAL BAND
COMBINATIONS ON STAGING FLOCKS OF ROSEATE TERNS**

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Poster # 14

THE ATLANTIC MARINE BIRD CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE (Poster)

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Poster #15

WHOOPING CRANE FOOD AVAILABILITY IN DIFFERENT MARSH TYPES

Sung-Ryong Kang, School of Renewable Natural Resources, LSU AgCenter, skang1@lsu.edu; and **Sammy King**, USGS Louisiana Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, School of Renewable Natural Resources, LSU AgCenter, sking16@lsu.edu.

Poster #16

**FORAGING SEGREGATION OF ARCTIC, COMMON, AND ROSEATE TERNS IN
THE GULF OF MAINE**

Jeff Kimmons*, University of Arkansas, jkimmon@uark.edu; and **Scott Hall**, National Audubon Society's Seabird Restoration Program, shall@audubon.org.

Poster #17

**TEMPORAL PATTERNS OF RACCOON PREDATION ON BREEDING BLACK-
CROWNED NIGHT HERONS AND DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS AT A
COLONY IN LAKE ONTARIO**

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Poster #18

SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE DEVICES TO MEASURE HEART RATE OF INCUBATING BIRDS

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Poster #19

REACTIONS OF COMMON TERN CHICKS TO FEATHER SAMPLE REMOVAL

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Poster #20

THE PURPLE SWAMPHEN (PORPHYRIO PORPHYRIO) IN SOUTH FLORIDA: AN INVASIVE EXOTIC

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Poster #21

FLUCTUATING MISSOURI RIVER WATER LEVELS: POTENTIAL LINKAGES BETWEEN HABITAT QUALITY, NEST SURVIVAL AND ADULT DISTRIBUTION OF PIPING PLOVERS

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Poster #22

GENE FLOW AMONG COMMON TERN POPULATIONS IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

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Poster #23

ABUNDANCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF FORAGING COLONIAL WATERBIRDS IN THE NY/NJ HARBOR

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Poster #24

INTEGRATED WATERBIRD USE OF MOIST SOIL UNITS

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Poster #25

WHIMBREL TRACKED WITH SATELLITE TRANSMITTER ON MIGRATORY FLIGHT ACROSS NORTH AMERICA

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Poster #26

EFFECTS OF CHANGES IN GARBAGE MANAGEMENT ON GLAUCOUS GULL DIET AT BARROW, ALASKA

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Poster #27

FEEDING ECOLOGY OF LONG-TAILED DUCKS CLANGULA HYEMALIS WINTERING ON THE NANTUCKET SHOALS

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Poster #28

DIET COMPOSITION AND CHANGES IN BODY COMPONENTS OF AMERICAN COOTS WINTERING IN SOUTHWESTERN ARKANSAS

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Poster #29

BREEDING ECOLOGY OF WILSON'S PLOVERS (*CHARADRIUS WILSONIA*) AT MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA.

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