

Circular of Information

AOU2009

One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Stated
Meeting of the American Ornithologists'
Union

12 – 15 August 2009 at the University of
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Co-hosted by Villanova University and the University of
Pennsylvania



The 127th Stated Meeting of the AOU will be held in Philadelphia, PA, from Wednesday through Saturday, 12 – 15 August 2009. All information about the meeting can be found at the AOU2009 website:

<http://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/>.

Most conference activities, including symposia, workshops, paper and poster sessions, council and business meetings, student events, and the opening reception will take place on the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) campus. A special evening at the Philadelphia Zoo will take place on Thursday, 13 August 2009. The closing reception, banquet, and AOU Awards ceremony will take place adjacent to campus on Saturday, 15 August.

Philadelphia is very accessible with excellent airline rates and connections, a major AMTRAK rail station, and direct links to Interstate highways. The city offers inexpensive ground transportation.

Attendees are encouraged to register early for the meeting via the online, secure registration site at: https://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/start_process2.htm. Registrations made online (or postmarked) on or before 15 May 2009, will be \$370 professionals, \$210 students, and \$120 spouse/guest. Registration fees include admission plus food and beverages for evening events on Wednesday and Thursday (and, for Professional and Student registrants, Friday also). From 16 May until 15 June 2009, the registration fee will be \$470 professionals, \$270 students, and \$155 spouse/guest. Registrations after 15 June 2009 will be \$590 professionals, \$330 students, and \$190 spouse/guest. Early registration is highly recommended not only for the financial benefits and to assist in conference planning, but because space is limited for some events. For more details about registration, see page 13 of this circular or the conference web site. For information about accommodations (including UPenn dormitories and hotels) see page 12 below, or the conference web site. The **registration desk** will be open at Houston Hall, UPenn, from 16:00 – 19:00 Wednesday, 12 August; 07:30 – 20:00 Thursday and Friday, 13 – 14 August; and 07:30 – 17:30 Saturday, 15 August.

The deadline for submission of abstracts for inclusion in the Scientific Program will be **15 May 2009**. See page 4 of this circular or the conference web site for more details.

Students and post-docs applying for travel or presentation awards must meet an earlier deadline of **17 April 2009**. See page 5 of this circular or the conference web site for more details.

HOST CITY: PHILADELPHIA

“The City of Brotherly Love” is the largest city in Pennsylvania and it ranks sixth in population among cities in the United States with over 1.4 million residents. The Greater Philadelphia metropolitan area has a population of 5.8 million people.

Philadelphia was once the second-largest city in the British Empire (after London), and it was the social and geographical center of the original 13 American colonies. The city served as the nation's first capital during much of the Revolutionary War and after. Following the ratification of the U.S. Constitution, it was the temporary national capital from 1790 to 1800 while Washington, DC, was under construction.

The city remains known for its many historical monuments and buildings, including the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, National Constitution Center, Betsy Ross House, and other features of Old City. The region's other historically significant sites include: Valley Forge National Historical Park, Brandywine and other Revolutionary War battlefields and, in the broader region, Gettysburg National Historical Park. The region is also home to the famous Amish and Mennonite communities of Lancaster County, PA, Princeton, NJ, and beyond.

Modern Philadelphia is a commercial, cultural, and educational center. Museums are among the city's treasures, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Rodin Museum, the Franklin Institute, the Barnes Museum, the Mutter Museum, and the Academy of Natural Sciences, to name just a few. The city and surrounding suburbs boast more than 80 institutions of higher learning, and a student population of nearly 300,000. The University of Pennsylvania, the primary venue for AOU2009, is the fourth-oldest institution of higher education in the United States (founded in 1740) and was the nation's first university. Villanova University, co-host for AOU2009, was founded in 1842 and is the nation's leading Augustinian university.

Birthplace of American Ornithology

Philadelphia has had a long and enduring influence on the development of ornithology in the U.S. and the Western Hemisphere. The names of ornithologists and other naturalists contributing to ornithology whose work was based in the city or region, or who had roots of one kind or another in the area, is long and illustrious, including: William Bartram, Alexander Wilson, John James Audubon, Thomas Say, Spencer Fullerton Baird, and John Kirk Townsend. In the 20th century, the ornithological tradition continued through the work of Witmer Stone, Rudolph Meyer De Schauensee, James Bond, Robert MacArthur, Frank Gill, Fred Sheldon, Robert Ridgley, Mark Robbins, and Leo Joseph. Many of these ornithologists were associated with the Academy of Natural Sciences, one of the nation's oldest scientific institutions (founded in 1812).

AOU2009—the 9th meeting of the AOU in Philadelphia since the inception of the Union, second only to New York City—will celebrate the historical roots of American ornithology in the region. The last meeting in Philadelphia proper was in 1942, and the last in the metropolitan area took place at Haverford College in 1976.

BUSINESS SESSIONS

Tuesday, 11 August

18:00 – 22:20 AOU Council Meeting

Wednesday, 12 August

08:00 – 15:30 AOU Council Meeting

15:45 – 17:00 Meeting of AOU Fellows

Friday, 14 August

12:00 – 12:30 AOU Business Meeting

Saturday, 15 August

20:00 – 22:00 AOU Awards Ceremony, during the closing Banquet

Other Business

Committees or groups desiring to meet should contact Helen Schneider Lemay (helens@sgmeet.com) prior to the meeting or at the registration desk at the meeting for time and space availability.

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

Scientific session will take place in UPenn's Houston Hall and in academic buildings within and adjacent to the Perelman Quadrangle. Meeting attendees will receive a paper copy of the program upon arrival at UPenn. In addition, all attendees will be sent daily emails during the meeting with updated announcements for the day, including paper/poster changes/cancellations. The meeting website will also post these announcements on a daily basis during the meeting.

Plenary Session

This session (Thursday, 13 August) at 08:00 in the UPenn's elegant Irvine Auditorium, will begin with welcoming remarks. Writer and ornithologist Scott Weidensaul will then present an Opening Lecture highlighting Philadelphia's important role in the early history of American ornithology. The morning session will be capped off by a Plenary Lecture by Dr. Robert E. Ricklefs of the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

Keynote Sessions

Scientific sessions on Friday, 14 August, and Saturday, 15 August, will begin with three concurrent Keynote Presentations by invited speakers each morning. The Keynote talks will cover a wide range of topics in ornithology, from evolution to neurobiology, from the perspective of junior as well as senior investigators. Scheduled speakers include:

- Dr. Erich D. Jarvis (Duke University)
- Dr. Trevor D. Price (University of Chicago)
- Dr. Bridget Stutchbury (York University)
- Dr. Gail Patricelli (University of California, Davis)
- Dr. A. Marm Kilpatrick (University of California, Santa Cruz)
- Dr. W. John Smith (University of Pennsylvania)

Space in each Keynote session will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. We will ask conference attendees to move to another of the Keynote sessions should the venue for any particular session become full.

Lecture and Poster Sessions

Concurrent paper sessions will be held at the UPenn campus. Session and room assignments will be determined in May and will be found on the AOU2009 website.

Posters sessions will be held 18:30 – 22:00 on Friday, 14 August in Houston Hall. A Regular Poster Session and a Special Poster Session, intended for work in progress and proposed research, will be held concurrently.

Symposia

Topics and participants include (with organizers listed):

- Shorebird stopover ecology in Delaware Bay: from catastrophe to recovery. Amanda Dey, Larry Niles, and David Mizrahi.
- A commemoration of 100 years of avian research on USFS Experimental Forests. Scott H. Stoleson, David I. King.
- Communication in birds and brains: how songbirds learn, produce and perceive songs. Sarah Woolley.
- Movers and shakers in the mountains: New research on tropical altitudinal migration. Kevin Fraser.
- Ecology and conservation of a rare, declining species, Bicknell's Thrush. Christopher C. Rimmer and Kent P. McFarland.
- Golden-winged Warbler Conservation Initiative symposium. David Buehler.
- From phylogeny to physiology: integrative studies of starlings and mockingbirds. Dustin Rubenstein and Robert Curry.

- Conservation reliant birds our new relationship with nature. Dr. J. Michael Scott and Dr. J Michael Reed.
- Environmental challenges for colonial waterbirds of the northeastern seaboard. Susan B. Elbin, Katharine Parsons, and Nellie Tsipoura.
- Phylogeography of Australian birds: Spatio-temporal insights and methodological testing ground. Leo Joseph and Scott Edwards.
- State of the Birds 2009: the first collaborative assessment for bird populations of the United States. John R. Sauer, Gregory S. Butcher, Robert P. Ford, Kenneth V. Rosenberg.

Workshops

Two pre-meeting workshops will be held on Wednesday, 12 August, from 13:00 – 17:00.

- Get the most out of your data through proper archiving and sharing. Organized by Ellen Paul and the Ornithological Council.
- Innovative Teaching in Ornithology. Organized by the AOU Student Affairs Committee and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Audio-Visual Materials

All lecture halls will be equipped with PowerPoint 2007 on Windows PC computers. Presenters should bring files on CD, a USB thumb drive, or a flash drive to upload their presentation file in advance of scheduled sessions. Specific instructions for preparing and loading presentations will be sent by e-mail to authors of accepted abstracts and will also be available on the meeting website. Slide projectors and other AV equipment will NOT be available unless requested in advance when submitting an abstract.

A preview room will be available, as will a location to preload presentations. Full details on procedures will be available at http://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/pres_guide.htm.

Internet access

Internet access will not be available in the lecture rooms, but if you are staying in the UPenn housing, you can purchase PennKey access for a small administrative charge for internet access on campus. The Sheraton University City Hotel has free wireless access available throughout the hotel including all guest rooms. The Hilton Hotel has wireless in the guest rooms at a daily charge of \$12.95 with limited complimentary access in some areas of the hotel lobby.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Members of the AOU and other ornithologists are invited to contribute to the scientific session. To apply for a place on the program, follow instructions for online submission found on the AOU2009 website (https://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/start_process.htm); abstracts will not be accepted by fax or e-mail.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ABSTRACTS BY THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE IS 15 MAY 2009. This is also the early deadline for discounted registration rates.

Proposals for oral presentations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until the schedule is full. The Scientific Program Committee will select and organize papers in appropriate sessions based on scientific content of the abstract. Abstracts should summarize findings, not methods. Indicate preference for either lecture or poster presentation. If all paper sessions are filled, it may be necessary to accept for poster presentation some abstracts submitted for oral presentation. Oral presentations will be limited to 15 minutes including time for questions and technical difficulties; the Program Committee encourages speakers to aim for 12 minute presentations.

There will be two distinct but concurrent poster sessions at AOU2009. Authors must indicate their preferred poster session at the time of abstract submission.

- 1) Regular Poster Session, Hall of Flags. Spaces will be reserved for presentations emphasizing completed projects and explicit research findings. The session will be divided into two halves, with odd-numbered posters presented in the first half (6:30 – 8:15 pm) and even-numbered posters presented in the second half (8:15 – 10:00 pm).

Boards for the Regular Poster Session will measure 4' x 8' (122 cm x 244 cm) with two posters side-by-side on each board face. Allowing room for the edges of the boards, standard posters should be no larger than 46" x 46" (117 cm x 117 cm); pins will be provided for mounting.

- 2) Special Poster Session, Bodek Lounge. This session will provide an opportunity for presenting "works in progress" or ideas for proposed research. These posters are intended to allow presenters to get feedback on preliminary results, project design, or both. While this format is expected to attract undergraduates and beginning graduate students, ornithologists at all levels are welcome to present. The session will be divided into two halves, with odd-numbered posters presented in the first half (6:30 – 8:15 pm) and even-numbered posters presented in the second half (8:15 – 10:00 pm).

Boards for the Special Poster Session will measure only 4' x 6' (122 cm x 183 cm) with two posters side-by-side on each board face. Allowing room for the edges of the boards, "works in progress" posters should be no larger than 46" tall x 34" (117 cm x 86 cm); pins will be provided for mounting.

STUDENT AND POSTDOCTORAL AWARDS

Numerous travel awards (for students and post-docs) and presentation awards (for students) are available. In addition to application materials described below for each award program, students must also submit standard abstract materials by 15 May 2009 to the Program Coordinator to receive a place on the scientific program.

Application Procedures

The application deadline for all student and postdoctoral travel and presentation awards is **17 April 2009**. Late applications will not be accepted. Note: The purpose of the advanced deadline for the awards application is to allow the selection committee to inform applicants of funding decisions about Travel Awards *before* the deadline for early registration and program abstracts.

Submit only ONE application, even if eligible for multiple awards; indicate on the cover sheet (see application instructions below) whether you are applying for a travel award, presentation award, or both. Submit the following items via e-mail (as a single pdf attachment) to Rebecca Kimball (rkimball@ufl.edu; use the same email address for questions about any of the awards):

- The Student and Postdoctoral Award Cover Sheet (MS Word), including confirmation of AOU membership (available at http://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/files/AOU2009_travelandpresentationawards_cover.doc)
- 1-page curriculum vitae
- An expanded abstract (double-spaced with 12-point font, 3-page maximum including any references, tables, and figures). The expanded abstract should state objectives, methods, major results, and scientific significance.
- Applicants for Student Travel Awards and Student Presentation Awards should have their academic advisor send a brief e-mail (1 – 3 sentences) stating that the applicant is a student in good academic standing (longer letters of support are not required).
- Applicants for Postdoctoral Travel Awards should include a short paragraph explaining the financial need for the travel award, the professional benefit of attending the AOU meeting, and what type of contribution the applicant has made or is making to the AOU (e.g., serving on committees, moderating sessions, planning events). No recommendation letter is needed for postdoctoral travel award applicants.

Marcia Brady Tucker Student Travel Awards***Eligibility:***

- Full-time undergraduate and graduate students are eligible.
- Students graduating the semester/quarter prior to the meeting are eligible. Postdocs are eligible only if the degree was awarded in the semester/quarter prior to the meeting.
- Undergraduate students are eligible for travel awards, though preference will be given to advanced graduate students.
- Students giving either oral or poster presentations are eligible for travel awards.
- The applicant must be the sole or lead author and must also present the poster or oral paper.
- Applicants for student travel awards must be members of the AOU.

Restrictions:

- Marcia Brady Tucker Travel Awards are limited to two per lifetime.
- Travel award funds cover transportation costs only. Students should not expect to use award funds for registration, accommodation, or meal expenses.

Award criteria:

- Applications will be judged based on quality of research/abstract and also standing of student: students close to completion of a degree program will be given preference over students at earlier stages in a program.
- The award is contingent on eventual acceptance of the abstract by the Scientific Program Committee (see Call for Papers, above). Students may receive both a research award and a travel award in the same year.
- We cannot predict the size of the awards at this time. The size of each award will depend on the number of applications funded.

Postdoctoral Travel Awards***Eligibility:***

- Post-docs giving either oral or poster presentations are eligible for travel awards. Funds for these awards come from AOU Council, above and beyond funding for the Marcia Brady Tucker student travel awards program.
- Applicants for post-doc travel awards must be members of the AOU.
- The applicant must be the sole or lead author and must also present the poster or oral paper.
- Individuals are eligible for the AOU Post-doc Travel Award even if they have previously received two Marcia Brady Tucker Travel Awards as students.

Restrictions:

- Travel award funds cover transportation costs only. Applicants should not expect to use award funds for registration, accommodation, or meal expenses.
- Individuals eligible for the post-doc travel awards generally would not meet the eligibility criteria for the Marcia Brady Tucker Student Travel Awards nor the Student Presentation Awards.

Award criteria:

- Applications will be judged on quality of the research presented in the expanded abstract.

- Travel awards are contingent on eventual acceptance of the abstract by the Scientific Program Committee (see Call for Papers, above).
- Individuals may receive both a research award and a travel award in the same year.
- We cannot predict the size of the awards at this time. The size of each award will depend on the number of applications funded.

Student Presentation Awards

Four student oral presentation awards will be given. In addition, there will be a separate competition for best student presentation in the Regular Poster Session. AOU Presentation Awards have a limit of once per lifetime.

Eligibility:

- Full-time undergraduate and graduate students are eligible and are encouraged to participate.
- Students graduating the semester/quarter prior to the meeting are eligible. Postdocs are eligible only if the degree was awarded in the semester/quarter immediately preceding the meeting.
- The applicant must be the sole or lead author and must also present the poster or oral paper.
- Applicants for student presentation awards must be members of the AOU.

Restrictions:

- Students presenting in symposia are ineligible.
- AOU Presentation Awards have a limit of one per lifetime.
- Students presenting posters in the Special Poster Session are ineligible.

Award criteria:

- Awards will be made based on quality of research and presentation, and preference will be given to students presenting a substantial body of work rather than early progress reports.
- The research focus for most awards is open; however, the Robert B. Berry Student Award is specified for the most outstanding presentation on research pertaining to avian conservation.
- Applicants should not specify a particular award; all eligible submissions will be considered for the appropriate awards.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, 12 August

17:15 – 18:45 No-host reception and dinner for AOU Council, Fellows, and their invited guests

19:00 – 21:00 Opening Reception

Thursday, 13 August

18:30 – 22:00 Philadelphia Zoo Night

19:30 – 21:30 Student Quiz Bowl, Peacock Pavilion, Philadelphia Zoo

Friday, 14 August

18:30 – 22:00 Poster Sessions and Reception

Saturday, 15 August

18:00 – 22:00 Closing Reception and Banquet, Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel. Announcement of Silent Auction results

SILENT AUCTION

Proceeds from a Silent Auction of donated items will fund student travel to future AOU meetings. **We need auction items!** Suggested donation items include, but are not limited to: books and field guides (new and used, vintage, hard-to-get, out of print, or autographed books are especially welcome); binoculars or other optics; tripods; field supplies; education materials; services (e.g. statistics, bird identifications, etc.); trips; and jewelry, art, decorations, photos, prints, software, or DVDs.

This is the perfect opportunity to support students and recycle those unused, but valuable/interesting items! If you have suitable items to donate, or have questions, please contact Stephanie Wright (stephanie.wright@villanova.edu). We can make arrangements to give receipts for donated items, for donors who may wish to take a tax deduction.

EVENING AT THE PHILADELPHIA ZOO

We invite all registrants for AOU2009 to join us for an open house and picnic at the Philadelphia Zoo on Thursday, 13 August, 18:00 – 22:00. The event includes transportation, dinner (with vegetarian options), and limited beverages including beer and wine; all costs are included in the conference registration fees. Tickets for the event for additional guests—including transportation, food, and limited beverages—will be available for \$35 (adults) and \$20 (children).

McNeil Avian Center

The Zoo event will include an open house and demonstrations in the McNeil Avian Center. The neoclassical Bird House was originally built in 1916. Reconstruction of this facility is now in progress. Grand re-opening of the redesigned exhibit is planned for Spring 2009. For more information—including opportunities for supporting the bird house renovations—visit <http://www.philadelphiazoo.org/>

Quiz Bowl

The 5th annual student Quiz Bowl will take place from 19:30 – 21:30 in the Peacock Pavilion at the Zoo during the evening event. Admission to the Quiz Bowl is included in the registration fee for all conference attendees, and in the event ticket price for guests.

Logistics

Bus transportation between UPenn and the Zoo will be provided. Buses will begin departing from campus immediately following the end of the day's general sessions.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

AOU2009 will include two events focused on students participating in the conference. The first will be an expanded version of the Student-Mentor lunch program that has been included in the last several AOU conferences. In 2009, this event will take place 12:30 – 14:00 on Thursday, 13 August, and will incorporate elements of the Student-Professional Social of previous years. Details will be announced on the conference web site (http://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/student_social.htm).

The second student-focused event at AOU2009 will be the 5th Annual Quiz Bowl. This fun and exciting component of the conference will take place in conjunction with the evening event at the Philadelphia Zoo, 19:30 - 21:30 on Thursday, 13 August, free to all registered conference attendees.

ALL-OUT OSTRICH UPROAR

Yo, Adrian! The All-Out Ostrich Uproar 5 Km run will be held Friday, 14 August (tentative plans; any change will be noted on the conference web site). Join runners and walkers for this great morning outing that benefits student awards, with a triumphant finish on Rocky's Art Museum steps! Meet at the AOU2009 registration desk at 06:30. There is a \$20 registration fee that includes a souvenir t-shirt. For details, consult the AOU2009 website or contact John Sauer (jsauer@usgs.gov).

CLOSING BANQUET

The closing banquet will be held at the Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel on Saturday, 15 August. Space for the event will be somewhat limited, so we encourage conference attendees to request banquet tickets when they register. The cost is \$48 per professional or guest and \$35 per student. At least three meal options will be available, and there will be a cash bar.

FIELD TRIPS

Conference attendees will have multiple opportunities to participate in field trips associated with AOU2009. The trips will be organized and led by members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, one of the world's oldest birding groups.

Pre-conference and Post-conference Field Trips

Late summer is in general a slow phase of the avian annual cycle, but not for shorebirds! The conference timing coincides with a peak period in the annual southward migration of shorebirds, with hotspots in the Delaware Bay and along the New Jersey shore. Several of our field trips will showcase this spectacular phenomenon, while another will feature a world-famous raptor monitoring locality. Plans are under development for:

- Cape May, New Jersey, and associated sites. Emphasis at this world-famous migration hotspot will be on passerines, shorebirds, and raptors. Wednesday, 12 August, and Sunday, 16 August
- Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and nearby localities. Emphasis on migrant shorebirds along Delaware Bay. Wednesday, 12 August, and Sunday, 16 August
- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove. Tour of world-famous migration monitoring station on the second day of the annual raptor count, along with tours of the Acopian Center for Conservation Learning at HMS and of the Audubon Center en route. Sunday, 16 August

Details about logistics and costs for the field trips will be available on the conference web site. Conference attendees will be able to register and pay for trips through the web site after completing registration for the conference itself.

Early Morning Bird Walks

While August is not an ideal time for birdwatching in Philadelphia itself, we will offer opportunities to visit spots near UPenn on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings to observe resident and migrant species. Localities include:

- John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum
- Bartram's Garden (home of naturalists John and William Bartram)
- Fairmount Park

Local Information

Information about things to do and see in and around Philadelphia is available at the official visitor's web site at <http://www.gophila.com/>. The conference web site will also provide links to many specific individual attractions, including:

- National Constitution Center
- Independence National Park
- Academy of Natural Sciences
- Philadelphia Museum of Art
- Rodin Museum
- Mütter Museum
- The Franklin (Franklin Institute)
- Barnes Museum
- Valley Forge National Historical Park
- J. J. Audubon house, Mill Grove

Conference attendees bringing family members along, or staying in the region beyond the dates of the conference itself, may wish to explore other regional highlights, including:

- New Jersey and Delaware coastal vacation areas ("down the shore")
- Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains vacation area and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- Cape May State Park and Cape May Bird Observatory, NJ
- Six Flags Great Adventure and Wild Safari, Jackson, NJ
- Gettysburg National Historical Park
- Atlantic City casinos
- "Pennsylvania Dutch" country, Lancaster County, PA

Unfortunately, the 2008 World Series Champion Philadelphia Phillies are not playing any home baseball games at beautiful Citizen's Bank Park during AOU2009. For people arriving in the area prior to the conference or staying afterward who may be interested in catching a game, the team's schedule can be accessed at <http://philadelphia.phillies.mlb.com>. The Philadelphia Eagles pre-season football schedule is not yet available.

CLIMATE

Weather in Philadelphia in early August is generally hot and humid. Daily maximum temperatures for the meeting dates average 85°F and overnight lows average 70°F. Rainfall for the month of August averages 3.8" with much of the precipitation occurring during thundershowers.

AIR TRAVEL

The primary airport for the region is Philadelphia International Airport (PHL). PHL is just a few miles from UPenn and Center City, and it is accessible by public transportation. Air Canada, AirTran, American, Continental, Delta, Midwest, Southwest, United, and USAirways, as well as several international carriers service PHL; the airport is a major hub for USAirways.

Special Airline Rates (Valid Travel Dates: 8 Aug 2009 to 18 Aug 2009)

American Airlines has been designated the official airline carrier for AOU2009 and has offered a 5% discount on published airline fares or a negotiated set price between states for this meeting. Contact American Airlines at 800-433-7300 and mention the Star File Number A3189AD.

You may also contact Allen Samuels House of Travel at 800-874-4731 or by e-mail (kyle@houseoftravelwaco.com) for assistance with your travel plans.

Ground Transportation Center at PHL

The baggage claim and pickup areas for taxis, town cars, long-haul shuttles, hotel vans and parking lot shuttle buses are located on the west end of the terminal. From all arrival gates, travelers should walk past the security and ticketing areas and proceed through the elevated walkways that cross above the entrance roadway and SEPTA rail tracks before descending to ground level by stairs or elevator to the baggage claim area. Ground transportation pick-up is adjacent to the baggage claim area.

Other regional airports

Conference attendees may want to consider travel to Philadelphia using other regional airports in association with public transportation or car rental. Other nearby airports that may offer service or cost advantages include:

- Baltimore-Washington (BWI), with connecting AMTRAK service to Philadelphia
- Newark (EWR), with connecting AMTRAK service to Philadelphia.
- Allentown, PA (ABE)

Caveat about air travel during August

Most airports in the Northeast Corridor (Washington, DC, to Boston) are vulnerable in the summer months to delays and other service disruptions associated with thunderstorms; PHL is certainly no exception. We encourage conference attendees to anticipate potential delays in their travel arrangements.

LOCAL TRAVEL

Philadelphia is served by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), which operates regional rail, trolleys, and buses.

For more information on getting to campus from the Philadelphia International Airport or if you are arriving by Amtrak or SEPTA trains, the following web site includes very helpful information:

<http://www.destinationpenn.com/philly/around.asp>

Public transportation between PHL and UPenn

Transportation between the Philadelphia International Airport and UPenn is available on SEPTA's R1 train, which operates every 30 minutes from 05:25 until 23:25 daily. The R1 train stops at University City, south of the conference venue, and at AMTRAK's 30th Street Station, northeast of the campus. SEPTA trolley service is available between 30th Street and UPenn, with a stop just two blocks from the conference venue and the campus dormitories. We will later provide information about purchasing SEPTA passes good for the duration of the conference.

Lady Liberty Transportation

Lady Liberty Transportation is a Philadelphia-based company that provides airport shuttle service to and from the Philadelphia International Airport to the University of Pennsylvania, the Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel, and the Inn at Penn Hilton Hotel. Rates are \$10.00 per person each way.

Lady Liberty Transportation Co., Inc.

1242 South 47th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19143

Phone: 215-724-8888

Fax: 215-724-7777

<http://www.ladylibertyshuttle.com>

Car Rental

Avis has been designated the official car rental company for AOU2009. Special meeting rates and discounts are available on a wide selection of GM and other fine cars at the Philadelphia International Airport. To receive these special rates, be sure to mention your Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number, J996259 when you call. Call Avis direct at 1-800-331-1600 or go to the Avis Web Page

(https://www.avis.com/AvisWeb/reservation/ReservationsInitializer?&AWD_NUMBER=J996259) to receive the best car rental rates available. The discount will be effective 4 – 22 August 2009.

Construction note

One of the major routes connecting the UPenn campus, on the west bank of the Schuylkill River, and Center City, on the east bank, is the South Street Bridge. This bridge is undergoing major reconstruction and will be closed throughout the conference and beyond. Drivers needing to move between UPenn and Center City should use the 30th Street Bridge, and should anticipate delays. To assist you in traveling to and from Penn during the City of Philadelphia's reconstruction of the South Street Bridge, please visit the following web site:

<http://www.publicsafety.upenn.edu/ssbridge/>. If traveling by car during the temporary closing, use this site to plan travel routes in advance.

RAIL TRAVEL***AMTRAK service to Philadelphia***

AMTRAK's 30th Street Station (PHL in AMTRAK's system, but not be confused with Philadelphia International Airport) is just a mile from the UPenn campus, the venue for the conference. We encourage attendees to consider traveling to the conference by train, for the sake of minimizing travel costs, containing environmental impact, and avoiding potential delays associated with air travel during the summer thunderstorm season.

AMTRAK routes servicing 30th Street Station include those originating in the northeast (Boston/New York/Newark), south (Washington/Baltimore), and west (Chicago/Pittsburgh/Harrisburg).

Public transportation between 30th Street and UPenn

UPenn's location in West Philadelphia is well serviced by an excellent public transportation network. SEPTA trolley service is available between 30th Street and UPenn, with a stop just two blocks from the conference venue and the campus dormitories. We will later provide information about purchasing SEPTA passes good for the duration of the conference.

PARKING

Parking facilities close to UPenn are limited and expensive. For attendees driving to Philadelphia for the conference, free long-term parking will be available at Villanova University, 12 miles west of UPenn. Villanova can be accessed easily using the SEPTA R5 train originating at 30th Street; this line has a convenient stop in the center of Villanova's campus. Details about parking arrangements will be provided on the conference web site.

ACCOMMODATIONS***Dormitory accommodation at UPenn***

Convenient and reasonable accommodations will be available in a Penn residence hall and we encourage you to stay on campus. Dining options are also available as well as a small number of hotel rooms off-campus.

Rooms feature an extra long twin bed, dresser, desk and chair. All rooms include linen and a complimentary welcome kit. There are 2 room types that you may choose from:

- 1) Private bedroom in a shared living space (guests will share living room and bathroom areas) at a rate of \$65.00 per night, per person, plus 14% occupancy tax.
- 2) Shared bedroom in a shared living space (guests will share living room and bathroom areas) at a rate of \$55.00 per night, per person, plus 14% occupancy tax.

There is a 3 night minimum stay. Rooms are available for two nights prior and after the start of the conference should you wish to spend some additional time in Philadelphia. To make UPenn housing reservation online, use the secure link available at <http://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/dorms.htm>.

If you are in need of any special needs or requirements, please contact Holly Marrone or Kristin Heasley at UPenn at 215-573-8631 or hollld@upenn.edu.

Hotel accommodations

The Inn at Penn - A Hilton Hotel

3600 Sansom St.

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Rates: \$219.00 Single/Double

Sheraton Philadelphia City Hotel

3549 Chestnut St.

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Rates: \$179.00 Single/Double/Triple/Quad

To book rooms in either of these hotels at AOU group rates, use links on the hotel web page within the AOU2009 web site (<http://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/hotels.htm>).

Should you need special assistance or have special needs, please contact the conference management office (254-776-3550 or susanj@sgmeet.com) and/or the hotel direct. We will make every effort to accommodate your needs.

Meals

The University of Pennsylvania offers many options for dining on campus including several dining halls.

The premiere dining hall, 1920 Commons, is located on Locust Walk near the residence hall. 1920 Commons features all you care to eat buffet style dining. Breakfast (\$6.75 per person), lunch (\$10.35 per person), and dinner (\$14.00 per person) are served during the week and brunch (\$10.35 per person) and dinner (\$14.00 per person) on the weekends. Cash is accepted and hours of operation can be found on the door of the building.

While in the conference venue Houston Hall, check out Houston Market located on the ground floor of the building. Houston Market features several options including, cheese steaks, burgers, sandwiches, flat breads (think pizza), sushi and salads. They are open daily for lunch and dinner. Prices vary. Cash and credit cards are accepted.

For breakfast, check out Einstein Bagel located just next to Houston Market on the ground floor. Einstein is open by 07:00 and serves great coffee, breakfast, and lunch. Cash and credit cards are accepted.

Numerous options for lunch will be available. In addition to the Houston Market food court, University City (the home of the UPenn Campus) attracts dozens of street vendors offering quick and inexpensive food—including offerings from around the world—along Spruce Street and other nearby locations.

Want to dine off campus? University City features some of the city's greatest restaurants including: POD, Penne, and The White Dog. There are also two Starbucks and a Dunkin' Donuts. No trip can be complete without a trip to the convenience store Wawa. Visit <http://www.ucityphila.org/> for more information on dining in University City.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

You can register electronically on the conference web site (https://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/start_process2.htm). Electronic registration must include complete credit card information. Charges will appear on your credit card statement to The Schneider Group. If registration by electronic means is not possible, please complete the registration form included at the end of this Circular and send it to the address listed below with payment or charge card information.

AOU 2009
 5400 Bosque Boulevard, Suite 680
 Waco, TX 76710-4446

Please make checks payable to: AOU 2009. All payments must be in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank. Registrations complete with purchase order or credit card information (not accompanying an abstract submission) can be faxed to: 254-776-3767.

Regular Registration

Registration fees are stated in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Professional and Student registration categories include: registration materials (program, badge, event tickets); admission to all scientific sessions and associated coffee breaks; admission to evening events (Welcome Reception, Zoo Night, and Poster Sessions) *including* transportation (for Zoo Night), food, and limited beverages that will include beer and wine; and eligibility for participation in the scientific program. Guest/Spouse category provides admission to the Welcome Reception on Wednesday, 12 August, and to the Plenary session and the evening event at the Zoo (including transportation, food, and beverages) on Thursday, 13 August, to the Poster sessions and reception on Friday, 14 August, and to the AOU Business meeting on Friday, 14 August, but not access to other scientific sessions, nor participation in the scientific program.

Category	On or before 15 May 2009	16 May – 15 June 2009	After 15 June 2009
Professional	\$370	\$470	\$590
Student	\$210	\$270	\$330
Guest/Spouse Registration	\$120	\$155	\$190

Registration fees must be paid in advance. Registration is not considered guaranteed until a check, money order, purchase order, or charge card information is received. Fax registrations must include complete credit card information, including number, expiration date, and cardholder name. VISA, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted. Organizations can be billed only if a purchase order accompanies the registration by fax or by mail.

Special Registration Categories

Two special registration categories will be available for AOU2009:

Category	Description	Fee
Welcome & Plenary session	Admission to morning session only on Thursday, 13 August, including Welcome Lecture (Weidensaul), Plenary Lecture (Ricklefs), and coffee break (Irvine Auditorium). Does not include same-day Symposia or Contributed Paper Sessions nor evening event (Zoo night). Does not include eligibility to submit an abstract for the scientific program.	\$50
Single-day registration	Daily admission to daytime scientific sessions on Friday, 14 August, or Saturday, 15 August. Includes Keynote sessions and same-day Symposia or Contributed Paper Sessions, and associated coffee breaks. Does not include evening events. Does not include eligibility to submit an abstract as a presenting author for the scientific program.	\$100

Guest Tickets and Special Events

Prices for special events are as follows:

- Fellows Dinner, Wednesday 12 August: \$45 per person (Fellows and Guests)
- Zoo Night, Thursday 13 August, Guest tickets: \$35 (adults), \$20 (children under 16)
- Closing Reception and Banquet, Saturday, 15 August: \$48 Professionals and Guests, \$35 students
- All-Out Ostrich Uproar, Friday, 14 August: \$20 per person (includes t-shirt)

Substitutions or Cancellations

We understand that occasionally other responsibilities or personal obligations prevent you from attending a meeting for which you have registered. If you find that you will not be able to attend the meeting, we encourage you to send a substitute. Substitutions can be made at any time, even on-site at the conference. If you find it necessary to cancel after you have already paid, we can refund your conference fee minus a \$50 processing fee. To provide cancellation notice and request a refund, please send a letter to: Susan Jones, 2009 AOU, 5400 Bosque Boulevard, Suite 680, Waco, Texas 76710-4446, fax your request to 254-776-3767, or e-mail the information to susanj@sgmeet.com.

NON-U.S. ATTENDEES

Under the Visa Waiver Program, citizens of 27 countries in Europe and the Far East may visit the U.S. for up to 90 days without a visa if the attendee has a passport with a computer-readable bar code. However, international travelers who are seeking to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program are now subject to enhanced security requirements, and all eligible travelers who wish to travel under the program must apply for authorization on-line as part of the new Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). The authorization is valid for two years or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. If you have not done so already, visit <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta> to apply for entry. The program does not apply to travelers entering by land from Canada and Mexico. Attendees from these countries are reminded to bring a valid passport to cross into the U.S. Please note that authorization does not guarantee entry into the U.S. Answers to questions regarding international travel can be found at the U.S. Department of State visa website at http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html or contact your local consulate. If you need a letter of invitation, contact Lysia Zavala at: lysiaz@sgmeet.com.

EXHIBITS AND ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A vendor area will be set up in the Bodek Lounge of Houston Hall, with easy access for all participants at the meeting. Commercial and non-profit vendors are encouraged to participate. The cost for a vendor table is \$350.

Opportunities are available for sponsorship of various breaks, receptions, and other functions throughout the meeting; please contact the Exhibits/Sponsorship Coordinator at the conference management office at 254-776-3550 or lesl@sgmeet.com if you would like more information.

AOU2009 will offer other opportunities for exhibitors and other vendors. We are seeking donations for prizes for the student quiz bowl, auction items for student travel award funding, and student presentation award prizes

MESSAGE BOARD AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS

A message board will be maintained throughout the conference in the Houston Hall registration area. A telephone number for emergency contact will be established; the number will be posted on the conference web site, and will be sent to registrants by email.

NEXT MEETING

128th Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, 7 - 11 February 2010, San Diego, California. This will be a joint meeting with the Cooper Ornithological Society, and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists - Société des Ornithologistes du Canada.

SPONSORS

We are grateful to the following organizations for their support of this meeting. Please contact Robert L. Curry (robert.curry@villanova.edu) about adding your organization to this list.

- University of Pennsylvania
- Villanova University, including the Cognitive Science Program
- Franklin and Marshall University
- Philadelphia Zoological Society
- The Academy of Natural Sciences

AOU 2009 Meeting Registration Form

If you are unable to register electronically on the web at <http://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/>, please mail completed registration form and payment to: AOU 2009, OSNA Business Office, 5400 Bosque Blvd, Suite 680, Waco, Texas 76710-4446, USA. Registrations complete with purchase order or credit card information that are not accompanying an abstract submission can be faxed to: 254-776-3767. Please make checks payable in U.S. dollars and drawn on a U.S. bank to: **AOU2009**. Please print or type.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	
NAME FOR BADGE			
INSTITUTE OR ORGANIZATION			
DEPARTMENT OR FIRST ADDRESS LINE			
SECOND ADDRESS LINE			
CITY	STATE/PROVINCE	ZIP	COUNTRY
E-MAIL	PHONE	FAX	
SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS			

Registration Fees (in U.S. dollars and per person):

Professional (\$370.00 on or before 15 May 2009; \$470.00 between 16 May – 15 June 2009; \$590.00 after 15 June 2009)..... = _____

Student (\$210.00 on or before 15 May 2009; \$270.00 between 16 May – 15 June 2009; \$330.00 after 15 June 2009)..... = _____

Spouse/Guest (\$120.00 on or before 15 May 2009; \$155.00 between 16 May – 15 June 2009; \$190.00 after 15 June 2009)..... = _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Welcome/Plenary (\$50. Admittance to the morning session only on Thursday, 13 August 2009.) = _____

Single-day Friday (\$100, for Friday 14 August 2009 only.) = _____

Single-day Saturday (\$100, for Saturday 15 August 2009 only.) = _____

Optional Events (in U.S. dollars and per person):

One Zoo Night ticket is included with a professional, student or spouse/guest registration.

Fellows Dinner _____ tickets@ \$45.00 USD per ticket= _____

Additional Zoo Night Ticket: Adults _____ tickets@ \$45.00 USD per ticket= _____

Additional Zoo Night Ticket: Children under 16..... _____ tickets@ \$20.00 USD per ticket= _____

Closing Banquet : Professionals and Guests..... _____ tickets@ \$48.00 USD per ticket= _____

Closing Banquet: Students..... _____ tickets@ \$35.00 USD per ticket= _____

All-Out Ostrich Up roar..... _____ entries@ \$20.00 USD per entry= _____

T-shirt(s) (One per entry). Specify size: _____ Small, _____ Medium, _____ Large, _____ X-large

Total in U.S. Dollars _____

Payment:

Amount Enclosed (Make checks payable in U.S. dollars and drawn on a U.S. bank to: **AOU2009**.)

Bill My Organization. (You must submit a purchase order.)

Credit Card Payment: Visa MasterCard American Express

NAME ON CARD

CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE

Room Sharing Information:

Yes, I would like information about finding a roommate or available dorm rooms and understand that I will be contacted to make these arrangements.

Special Needs:

If you have a disability or limitation that may require special consideration in order to fully participate, please contact the meeting's planning organization to see how we can accommodate your needs. Call 254-776-3550 (All other countries) or contact via e-mail at helens@sgmeet.com