

2009 Circular of Information

Tucson 09

Seventy-ninth Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society 16-18 April 2009 at the Tucson Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park

This annual meeting will be held in Tucson, Arizona, from Thursday through Saturday, 16-18 April 2009. An opening reception will start the meeting on the evening of Thursday, 16 April 2009, and scientific sessions will take place on Friday and Saturday (17-18 April). Workshops and student activities will be held on Thursday, 16 April. Lunch will be provided on-site and is included in the registration costs both days (Friday and Saturday) of the scientific sessions. On Saturday, this on-site lunch will be a way to increase student interactions with professionals. All information about the meeting can be found on the meeting website: <http://www.birdmeetings.org/cos2009>

All conference activities, including symposia, workshops, paper and poster sessions, council and business meetings, student events, social events, the opening reception and closing banquet, will take place at the Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park, located at 445 S. Alvernon Way in Tucson. Tucson is very accessible with excellent airline rates and connections. More than 250 species of birds have been recorded in southern Arizona, and April is an excellent time to see most of them, with many beginning breeding activities.

Members are encouraged to register early for the meeting using the online system. Early registration will be accepted until 30 January 2009; late registrations and/or on-site registrations will be accepted after 31 January 2009. Registrations made online (or postmarked) on or before 30 January 2009 will be \$250 for regular professional registrations, \$200 for students, and \$100 for spouse/guest. After 30 January 2009, the registration fee will be \$300 (regular), \$250 (students), and \$150 (spouse/guest). After 23 March, registration will be \$350 (regular). Students will remain \$250. One-day registration will be available for \$150. 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.

Registration desk – The registration desk will be open at the Doubletree, 445 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona from 13:00-19:00 Thursday, 16 April; 07:30 to 20:00 Friday, 17 April, and 07:30 to 10:30 Saturday, 18 April.

Hotel reservations -- Hotel reservations can be made by contacting the Doubletree directly by phone. Call 520-881-4200 or 800-222-8733 Please ask for the group rate for Cooper Ornithological Society. In order to receive this rate, reservations must be made by Monday, 2 March 2009. A roommate finder system can also be found on the meeting website. Roommate information should be included on your conference registration.

Host City – Tucson is a vibrant city with many activities and restaurants for all ages and tastes. Tucson is a growing metropolis of 1,000,000 that keeps getting better and better. The city's [geography](#) is a postcard image of cactus forests, rolling hills and awe-inspiring mountains. Downtown Tucson has easy public transportation via free rides on T.I.C.E.T., the Tucson Inner City Express Transit.

Symposia – Symposia topics and convenors for this year's meeting are currently being finalized.

Workshops: Two pre-meeting workshops will be held on Thursday, 16 April. More information on these workshops will be posted at a later date.

BUSINESS SESSIONS

Wednesday, 15 April

12:00 - 21:30 First Board of Directors and Officers Meeting

Thursday, 16 April

08:00 - 15:30 Second Meeting of Board of Directors and Officers

Friday, 17 April

07:00-07:45 Breakfast with Young Professional Award finalist plenary speakers, COS president, and members of the Student Award Committee [Please note: This event has not yet been finalized.]

12:00 – 13:30 COS Business Meeting and Luncheon - All members welcome!

Saturday, 18 April

12:00 - 14:00 Editorial Board meeting

12:00 – 13:30 Student-professional lunch with opportunities for networking and other small group discussions (Lunch provided to all registered attendees.)

Other Business – Information on all meeting and meeting rooms will be available at registration and on the meeting website. 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. Information on business meetings not listed here will be updated on the meeting website.

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

Meeting attendees will receive a paper copy of the program upon arrival at the Doubletree. Paper/poster changes/cancellations will be provided as an addendum and announced each morning. The meeting website will also post these announcements during the meeting.

Plenary Sessions – Plenary sessions are scheduled for Friday and Saturday at 08:30. This year's speakers include: Alexander Badyaev, Associate Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, The University of Arizona, on Friday morning, and three Young Professional Award speakers on Saturday morning who will speak for 20 minutes each with a five-minute Q&A period.

Lecture and Poster Sessions – Concurrent paper sessions will be held at the Doubletree with assignments to be made at a later date and found on the meeting website:

<http://www.birdmeetings.org/cos2009>. Posters sessions will be held 19:00 - 22:00 on Friday, 17 April, at the Doubletree.

AUDIO –VISUAL MATERIALS

All lecture halls will be equipped with PowerPoint on PC computers. Bring files on a CD, a USB thumb drive, or a flash drive. Use caution if including non-standard sound or video files in PowerPoint presentations as these may not work. If you are using a MAC to create your PowerPoint, you will need to convert to a PC format. Regardless of operating the system, presenters should bring their PowerPoint files in “PowerPoint Package” file format. Specific instructions for loading your presentation in advance of your session will be sent by email and also will 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 your presentation. Full details on procedures are available at <http://www.birdmeetings.org/cos2009>

Internet access will not be available in the lecture rooms but will be available in the Doubletree lobby and in the guest rooms at no charge.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Ornithologists are invited to contribute to the scientific session. To apply for a place on the program and to submit abstracts, follow the instructions found on the meeting website.

THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ABSTRACTS BY THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE IS 30 JANUARY 2009. This is also the early registration 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 presentations in appropriate sessions based on the scientific content of the abstract. Abstracts should summarize findings, not methods. Please make sure you indicate your preference for either oral or poster presentation. Oral presentations will be limited to 15 minutes including questions and technical difficulties. Posters should not exceed 122 cm wide by 122 cm high. Please note: Abstracts will not be accepted by fax or e-mail. If all oral presentation sessions are filled, it may be necessary to accept some abstracts for poster presentations instead of oral presentations.

Exhibits and Additional Sponsorship Opportunities

An exhibit area will be set up with easy access for all participants at the meeting. Commercial and non-profit exhibitors are encouraged to participate. The cost for both commercial and non-profit exhibit booths is \$150.

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 by calling 254.776.3550 or helens@sgmeet.com if you would like more information. The meeting will offer other opportunities for exhibitors and vendors. We are seeking donations for student presentation award prizes.

STUDENT AWARDS: Deadline is 30 January 2009

Student Travel Awards: Travel awards are available to help defray the cost of attending the COS annual meeting. Applicants must be COS members and must present an oral or poster presentation for which they are the sole or lead author at the meeting (although they need not enter the student paper competition). Award amounts vary depending upon transportation costs and the number of students applying. Typically, travel awards cover only part of the travel expenses and do not cover meals, lodging or registration fees.

NEW! Young Professional Award: The Young Professional Award recognizes early-career ornithological researchers for their outstanding contributions to ornithology. Those eligible for this award should be in the final year of their graduate program or be within one year following graduation. Three finalists will be selected to deliver talks at the Young Professional plenary session held at the annual meeting and will be given 25 minutes each to present their research (20 minutes for presentation, 5 minutes for questions). The plenary session will be held on the second morning of the meeting with no other concurrent sessions, allowing students to highlight their work to all participants. The three finalists are guaranteed travel awards and will be invited to an event attended by the COS president, officers, and the chair of the student participation committee on the day prior to the plenary session. Recipients of the award will receive a cash prize. Finalists who do not receive an award will receive honorable mention in the Condor but will not qualify for any other student presentation awards during the year they compete as Young Professional presenters. The three finalists will be notified at least six weeks prior to the annual meeting. Applicants not selected as finalists will automatically be considered for other student presentation awards.

Presentation Awards: Three presentation awards, in addition to the Young Professional Award, will be given to those students who present worthy papers or posters at the annual meeting. These awards come with a cash award, one year paid membership in COS, and a book on some ornithological topic.

Student Award Application Procedures

Application deadline is **30 January**; late applications will not be accepted. In addition to the award application materials described below, students also must submit standard abstract materials to the Program Coordinator to receive a place on the program. Submit only ONE student award application. Indicate on the cover sheet whether you are applying for a travel award, presentation award, or both. (See application instructions below.) To apply for either type of award, submit the following items via email (as a single .pdf attachment) to Barbara Kus (barbara_kus@usgs.gov):

1. Completed cover sheet available on the following website:
<http://www.cooper.org/membership/membership.htm#benies> under Student Information.
2. One-page curriculum vitae, including information on COS membership.
3. 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.
4. A brief e-mail (one to three sentences) from the academic advisor stating that the applicant is a student in good academic standing.
5. Students also must submit standard abstracts to the Program Committee Chair to receive a place on the program. (See conference website for details.)

Applicants for Young Professional Award:

1. Submit items 1, 4, and 5 above.
2. Instead of item 2, submit a two-page curriculum vitae.
3. Instead of item 3, submit a mini-paper following the guidelines of paper submission outlined in *Nature*. (Click here for guidelines: <http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/gta/#a1.2>). Body of text (abstract through discussion) should not exceed 1500 words; literature cited, tables, figures, and figure captions are not included in the word count, but figures and tables are limited to four total (figures plus tables) elements.

Questions may be directed to Barbara Kus (barbara_kus@usgs.gov) or Rolf Koford (rkoford@iastate.edu)

Eligibility:

- Full-time undergraduate and graduate students are eligible.
- Students graduating within one year since the previous COS annual meeting are eligible.
- Applicants for the Young Professional Award must be in their final year of graduate studies or have graduated within one year of the previous annual meeting
- Undergraduates are encouraged to participate.
- Both oral presentations and poster presentations are eligible for these awards.
- 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 COS. Students who are not currently members are encouraged to join to become eligible for student awards. Check the COS web site at <http://www.cooper.org/membership/membership.htm#benies> for information about student memberships. COS offers reduced-rate memberships for students and some no-cost memberships may be available.

Restrictions:

- Students presenting in symposia are ineligible for presentation awards.
- Travel awards are issued only after the Scientific Program Committee has accepted the paper. (See *Call for Papers* above).
- Travel awards have a limit of two per person over their career.
- Frances F. Roberts and Board of Directors awards have a limit of one per person.
- The Young Professional Award has a limit of one per person.

Award criteria:

- Travel applications will be judged based on quality of research/abstract and also standing of student (e.g., whether nearing graduation or not).
- Presentation awards will be made based on quality of research, abstract, and presentation, and preference will be given to students in the final phases of completing their research as opposed to those presenting preliminary findings.
- Students are encouraged to consult the tips for effective presentations at: <http://www.birdmeetings.org/cos2009>

SPECIAL EVENTS—All events will be held at the Doubletree unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, 16 April

19:00 - 22:00 Opening Reception

Friday, 17 April

Saturday, 18 April

18:00 - 19:00 Pre-banquet reception

19:00 - 22:00 Banquet

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Cooper Ornithological Society is initiating a program of events at COS annual meetings designed by students for students. A **grant-writing workshop** will be held **Thursday, 16 April from 14:00 – 15:00**. This workshop will address key issues in writing competitive grant applications by harnessing the expert knowledge of successful grant writers with attendees in an open seminar-like forum. A **brown-bag student-professional lunch** on **Saturday, 18 April**, will give students a chance to interact with some of the established ornithologists in attendance in the relaxed and collegial atmosphere that characterizes COS meetings. Students interested in planning and organizing these and future student events are encouraged to get involved with the new COS student activities committee. Your input will help other students get the most out of these and future events! More details are available on the meeting website or by contacting Dan Barton (daniel.barton@umontana.edu).

CLOSING BANQUET

The closing banquet will be held at the Doubletree on Saturday, 18 April. Don't miss it! The cost is \$40 per professional and \$20 per student.

BIRDING TRIPS

Early morning bird walks and Tucson area tours are currently being planned. More information including prices and forms to register will be available on the web site soon.

CLIMATE

April weather is outstanding in Tucson. The average high is 81°F and the average low, 51°F. Rainfall averages 0.28" for the entire month of April.

TRAVEL

Travel to Tucson is easy. Currently, Tucson International Airport (TUS) is served by 11 airlines with non-stop service to Tucson from 26 cities. The Tucson Airport is 8 miles from the Doubletree. Airlines serving Tucson International Airport include: AeroMéxico Connect, Alaska, American, Continental, Delta, ExpressJet, Southwest, Frontier, Northwest, United, and US Airways.

Car Rental: Should you wish to rent a car, AVIS has been designated the official car rental company for the 2009 Cooper Ornithological Society Meeting. Special meeting rates and discounts are available on a wide selection of GM and other fine cars at the Tucson, Arizona, Airport. To receive these special rates, be sure to mention your Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number, J626049, when you call. Call Avis directly at 1-800-331-1600 to receive the best car rental rates available. The discount will be effective 9-23 April 2009.

Airport Ground Transportation: The Doubletree has complimentary van service from the airport to the hotel, but delays may occur with the large number of people arriving. Additional options include the following:

Arizona Stagecoach operates shared-ride van service after each arriving flight. A reservation desk is located in baggage claim inside the terminal in the center. Service to the Doubletree runs roughly \$23 one way and \$43 round trip. Call Arizona Stagecoach at 520-889-1000 or visit their website at www.azstagecoach.com

Sun Tran, Tucson's public bus system, provides services to/from the airport every half hour. Current schedules are available in baggage claim at the Airport Information Centers. Call Sun Tran at 520-792-9222 or visit them on their web site at www.suntran.com

Rail Transportation and Driving to Tucson: Amtrak passenger service and major bus lines, such as Greyhound, give you non-flying options for traveling to Tucson. For drivers, Tucson is on Interstate 10, the main highway between California and Florida.

Getting Around Tucson: Tucson's transportation system will get you where you need to go. In the city, call SunTran, the public bus system, at 520-792-9222 for route maps and schedules. In the downtown area, catch a free ride on T.I.C.E.T., the Tucson Inner City Express Transit.

Parking: Parking is free at the Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park, the site of this year's meeting.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The meeting will take place at the Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park, 445 S. Alvernon Way, in downtown Tucson. Situated on 14-acres of lushly landscaped grounds, this mid-town, "resort style" hotel offers spectacular views of the Tucson Mountains and city lights. They are in close proximity to the Tucson airport (8 miles), downtown, University of Arizona, area attractions, great shopping and dining. The rate for the meeting is \$129 per night single or double occupancy, plus taxes. This is a great rate for Tucson in the spring. Consider sharing a room with a colleague or sign up for the roommate service provided when you register online. Up to four people may share a room. The rate is \$139 for three occupants and \$149 for four occupants.

To make your hotel reservation, contact the Doubletree directly. By phone, call 520-881-4200. Please request the group rate for Cooper Ornithological Society. In order to receive this rate, reservations must be made by Monday, 2 March 2009. After that date, rooms may not be available or will be available at higher rates. Should you need special assistance or have special needs, please contact the conference management office (254-776-7363 or susanj@sgmeet.com) and/or the hotel direct. We will make every effort to accommodate your needs.

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

You can register electronically on the conference web site (www.birdmeetings.org/cos2009/). Electronic registrations must include complete credit card information. If registration by electronic means is not possible, please complete the registration form included in this book and

send to the address listed below with payment or charge card information.

COS 2009
c/o The Schneider Group, Inc.
5400 Bosque Boulevard, Suite 680
Waco, TX 76710-4446

Please make checks payable to: COS 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.

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: Helen Schneider Lemay, COS 2009, 5400 Bosque Boulevard, Suite 680, Waco, Texas 76710-4446, fax your request to 254-776-3767, or e-mail the information to helens@sgmeet.com.

Registration Fees

Registration fees are stated in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars.

Members:

\$250 USD on or before 30 January 2009
\$300 USD after 30 January 2009
\$350 USD after 23 March 2009
\$150 USD for one-day member registration

Student Members:

\$200 USD on or before 30 January 2009
\$250 USD after 30 January 2009

Guest /Social Registrations:

\$100 USD on or before 30 January 2009
\$150 USD after 30 January 2009
Guest registration fee includes all meals except for the banquet.

Fees to attend the meeting must be paid in advance. Registrations are not considered guaranteed until a check, money order, purchase order, or charge card information is received. All 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 either by fax or by mail.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Closing Banquet:

\$40 per professional or guest

\$20 per student

Non-U.S. Attendees

Canadian and Mexican attendees are reminded to bring a valid passport to cross into the U.S. Citizens of 27 countries in Europe and the Far East may also visit for up to 90 days without a visa if the attendee has a passport with a computer-readable bar code. Details can be found at the U.S. Department of State website at http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html or contact your local American consulate. If you need a letter of invitation, contact Susan Jones at susanj@sgmeet.com.

Emergency contact during the meeting: In case of an emergency, please contact individuals at the meeting via a personal cell phone or leave a message at their hotel. If you need to reach someone during the meeting, you can call the Doubletree at 520-881-4200 and ask that a message be brought to the registration desk. The message will be posted on the meeting message board.

NEXT MEETING: The 80th annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society, 128th Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union and 29th Annual Meeting of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists will be held jointly on 6-11 February 2010 in San Diego, California.

SPONSORS

The Cooper Ornithological Society appreciates your support of this meeting. A complete list of those organizations supporting this meeting by providing sponsorships will be posted at a later date.

COS 2009 Meeting Registration Form

If you are unable to register electronically on the web at <http://www.birdmeetings.org/cos2009/>, please mail completed registration form and payment to: COS 2009, c/o The Schneider Group, Inc., 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: **COS2009**. 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):

Members/Professionals (\$250.00 on or before 30 January 2009; \$300.00 after 30 January 2009; \$350.00 after 23 March 2009)..... = _____

Students (\$200.00 on or before 30 January 2009; \$250.00 after 30 January 2009)..... = _____

Spouse/Guest (\$100.00 on or before 30 January 2009; \$150.00 after 30 January 2009) = _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

One-day Registration(\$150.00)..... = _____

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

Closing Banquet : Members/Professionals and Guests _____ tickets@ \$40.00 USD per ticket= _____

Closing Banquet: Students..... _____ tickets@ \$20.00 USD per ticket= _____

Total in U.S. Dollars _____

Payment:

- Amount Enclosed
- 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 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 or contact via e-mail at helens@sgmeet.com