

Circular of Information

NAOC 2006 · World Trade Center · Veracruz, Mexico



Wings Without Borders

The 4th NAOC is being organized jointly by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO), CIPAMEX (Sección Mexicana de Consejo Internacional para la Preservación de las Aves, A. C.), Cooper Ornithological Society (COS), Raptor Research Foundation (RRF), Society of Canadian Ornithologists / Société des Ornithologistes du Canada (SCO/SOC), Waterbird Society (WS), and Wilson Ornithological Society (WOS).

The conference theme is "Wings Without Borders." The conference will feature a rich scientific program with plenary lectures, organized symposia, contributed oral presentations, and poster sessions, as well as a diverse social program, and the annual business meetings of each society. Pre-and post-conference activities include a variety of workshops, as well as birding, culture, and nature tours.

The conference will take place 3-7 October 2006 in the city of Veracruz, Mexico. Veracruz State is home to a rich avifauna, with over 700 species of birds reported for the state, of which >230 species are Neotropical migrants and 30 species are endemic to Mexico. These dates were selected to coincide with the peak autumn migration in the world's largest raptor migration bottleneck.

Members are encouraged to register early by going to the on-line, secure registration page at the meeting's web site: www.naoc2006.org. Alternatively, a registration form is available on page 9 or can be downloaded from the web site for submission by mail or FAX. For those registering by the **3 April 2006** deadline, the fee will be \$350 for professionals and \$150 for students. Rates increase substantially after that date. Special reduced rates are available upon request for Latin American professionals and students in need of financial assistance.

All abstracts for oral presentations or posters must be submitted by **3 April 2006** in order to be considered for the scientific program. Abstracts must be submitted in electronic format, preferably through the conference web site. Registration and payment of registration fees for the person presenting the paper is required at the time of abstract submission – no abstracts can be submitted without first registering. Note that all symposium speakers must submit abstracts and register by the deadline, in order to be included in the program.

Host City – Veracruz, Mexico

The City of Veracruz was established in 1519 by the Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés. Located on the Gulf of Mexico, it is the largest port in the country and a major tourist resort because of its rich history, beautiful scenery, fine beaches, and excellent accommodations. The city is in a low, sandy area surrounded by dunes and wetlands with sunshine most of the year. Localities around Veracruz offer great birding opportunities as well as cultural, historical and biological attractions.

Birding in and around Veracruz. More than 700 species of birds have been recorded in the state of Veracruz. During the fall migration season (peak during the first two weeks of October) the region witnesses spectacular raptor migrations. More than 350,000 raptors have been observed in a single day! Over 230 species of Neotropical migrants have been recorded in central Veracruz. Within a 200-kilometer radius, all the ecosystem types in Mexico occur, ranging from plateau deserts, perpetual snow, and fir and pine forests in the highlands, to rainforests, tropical dry forests, and mangroves in the lowlands. The natural habitats have been greatly modified in the last 500 years, but the region still has great birding opportunities. Highlights include: Dwarf Jay, Aztec Thrush, Black Robin, Slaty Vireo in the highlands (Las Minas); Blue Mockingbird, Strickland's Woodpecker, Bearded Wood Partridge, Blue-crowned Chlorophonia at mid-elevations (Xalapa and Coatepec); Mexican Shearwater, Rufous-naped Wren, Boat-billed Heron, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Collared Forest-falcon in the foothills and lowlands (Río

Escondido, El Conejo), and Piping Plover, Double-striped Thick-knee, Collared Plover along the seashore (Playa Juan Angel, La Mancha). The region of central Veracruz has a list of 500+ birds, the nearby Los Tuxtlas region (mostly lowland tropical habitats) has a list of nearly 400 species. A variety of birding tours have been organized to help you explore and enjoy this avifauna.

Cultural attractions. Veracruz offers many cultural attractions including museums, music, nightlife, bars, cafes, and beaches. Potential activities include visits to the San Juan de Ulúa fortress, the Veracruz City Aquarium, scuba and other sub-aquatic activities, and visits to nearby cities like Xalapa, the state capital located 110 km (70 miles) to the north-west. Xalapa City has one of the finest Olmec, Totonac, and Huastec culture anthropology museums in Mexico, symphonic orchestra concerts, a Science and Technology Museum, as well as archaeological sites such as Cempoala and Quiahuiztlan. Veracruz City is the oldest European settlement in the continental Americas. In spite of its large size (1.5 million people) Veracruz City is among the safest cities in Mexico and Jarochos (Veracruzans) are known worldwide for their friendliness. The City of Veracruz is often referred to as the World Capital of Happiness. Tours are also being offered to cultural attractions, particularly for non-ornithologist spouses and children.

Conference Venue

Most of the conference activities will take place in the World Trade Center (WTC), Veracruz, as well as the adjacent Hotel Galeria Plaza. The center is designed and equipped to international standards – the only site in Mexico to provide 183,000 sq.ft. of floor space on one level, thus facilitating logistics. Conference rooms within the center are adjacent to each other, allowing participants to move easily among sessions. The Hotel Galeria Plaza is the main conference host hotel and the location of several other conference activities including some paper sessions – it is connected directly to the WTC.

Business Sessions

The NAOC 2006 serves as the annual general meeting for all 8 sponsoring societies. Their major meetings for members have been scheduled to avoid conflict with the scientific program as follows:

Monday and/or Tuesday 2-3 October

Meetings of Councils/Boards of Directors/Committees of AOU, AFO, CIPAMEX, COS, RRF, SCO/SOC, WOS, WS*

Tuesday, 3 October

15:45-17:15 AOU Fellows Meeting

17:30-20:00 AOU Fellows and Council No-Host Dinner

Wednesday, 4 October

17:15-18:30 Association of Field Ornithologists/Wilson Ornithological Society Joint Annual General Meeting

17:15-18:30 Society of Canadian Ornithologists Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 5 October

17:15-18:30 American Ornithologists' Union Annual General Meeting

17:15-18:30 CIPAMEX Annual General Meeting

Friday, 6 October

17:15-18:30 Cooper Ornithological Society Annual General Meeting

17:15-18:30 Waterbird Society Annual General Meeting

17:15-18:30 Raptor Research Foundation Annual General Meeting

* If you are on the Council or Board of any of these societies, or are a member of any committee that you expect may be meeting during or before the conference,

please check the conference web site for details, or contact your committee chair or society president. Times and locations for all committee and other business meetings will be posted on the conference web site as details become available.

Social Activities

Tuesday 3 October

18:00-22:00 Opening Reception (location to be announced)

Wednesday 4 October

19:30-22:00 Poster Session #1 (refreshments will be provided)

Thursday 5 October

19:00-22:00 Student-Professional light dinner, quiz bowl, and social (pre-registration required)

Friday 6 October

19:30-22:00 Poster Session #2 (refreshments will be provided)

Saturday 7 October

06:30-08:00 All-out Ostrich Up roar 5K Run

18:00-23:00 Closing fiesta celebration at Hotel Galeria

Details on the Opening Reception are still being finalized, and will be provided on the web site shortly. Poster sessions will take place in the World Trade Center near the rooms used for exhibitors and vendors.

The Student-Professional dinner is an opportunity for students to socialize with each other, and also to meet with invited professionals in their fields. This event will likely take place at one of the beach hotels. Pre-registration will be required – please see the student activities section for more details.

The closing Fiesta Jarocha celebration will start with cocktails at 18:00 followed by a buffet dinner at the Hotel Galeria Plaza. After dinner there will be spectacular entertainment provided by the University of Veracruz including Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad Veracruzana and music. There will be an extra fee of \$25 (\$10 for registered students) to attend this dinner. Space will be limited, so please be sure to request your tickets when you register for the conference. Only a limited number of tickets are likely to be available on site.

Scientific Sessions

The scientific program will include **oral presentations** and **poster presentations**. The **oral presentations** will run from 08:00-17:00 every day from 4-7 October. Each day will open with a plenary lecture, followed by selected society announcements, then a refreshment break. Names of plenary speakers and titles of their presentations will be posted on the conference web site as soon as they are confirmed. The remainder of each day will consist of a series of parallel concurrent oral presentations including both symposia and contributed papers.

A call for symposia was made in autumn 2005, and a total of 24 symposia were accepted for inclusion in the conference program. The majority of these will be half-day symposia, so we anticipate 3 parallel sessions of symposia, and 3 – 4 parallel sessions of contributed papers depending on the number of submissions. All oral papers, whether symposium or contributed, will be the same length: 15 minutes including introduction and questions.

The majority of papers in each symposium will be given by speakers invited by the session chairs. However, many symposia may still have some openings. If you would like to present a paper within one of the symposia, please contact the chair or co-chair of the symposium whose contact information is given below and then select the appropriate

symposium when submitting the abstract. If there are more papers submitted for a particular symposium than can be accommodated, the session chairs will select the papers they wish to include, and any extras will automatically be considered as contributed papers instead.

The currently accepted symposia, with their session chairs, are as follows (E-mail addresses are provided for the contact person). Note that the numbering of symposia, and possibly some of the titles, may change once abstract submission has closed and the program is finalized.

- SS01. **Emerging Infectious Wildlife Diseases: Impacts on Birds and the Role of Ornithology**
Co-chairs: Ellen Paul (ellen.paul@verizon.net), Scott Newman, Fabian Correa, and Dana Hawley
- SS02. **Population Status and Ecology of Royal and Sandwich Terns in the Americas**
Co-chairs: Steven Emslie (emslie@yahoo.com), and Pablo Yorio
- SS03. **Systematics, Genetic Diversity and Conservation of Raptors**
Chair: David Mindell (mindell@umich.edu)
- SS04. **Alexander F. Skutch Memorial Symposium**
Chair: Cecelia M. Riley (criley@gcbo.org)
- SS05. **Ecology of Migrant Birds in Winter**
Co-chairs: Peter P. Marra (marrap@si.edu), and T. Scott Sillett
- SS06. **Colonial Waterbirds on Urban Islands: Indicators of Ecosystem Health in a Complex Environment**
Co-chairs: Susan Elbin (elbin@wildlifetrust.org), and Chip Weseloh
- SS07. **ABC/PIF Conservation 2006**
Co-chairs: Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov) and George Wallace
- SS08. **Raptor Migration: Ecology and Conservation in the New World**
Co-chairs: Keith Bildstein, Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza, Chris Farmer, and Eduardo Iñigo-Elias (eei2@cornell.edu)
- SS09. **Migration Routes and Winter Ranges of Oceanic Seabirds**
Co-chairs: David Hyrenbach (khyrenba@duke.edu), and John Croxall
- SS10. **Swallows of the Americas: Comparative Approaches to Exploring Processes Affecting Behavioral Decisions and Demographic Patterns in Birds**
Co-chairs: David Winkler (dww4@cornell.edu), Robert Clark, Russell Dawson, Dave Shutler, and Juan Carlos Reboreda
- SS11. **Avian Distributional Change, Anthropogenic Challenges, and Recent Avian Research and Technological Advances within the US-Mexico Border Region**
Co-chairs: David Krueper (dave_krueper@fws.gov), Tim Brush, Carol Beardmore, and Bill Howe
- SS12. **Avian Conservation in Mexico**
Co-chairs: Eduardo Palacios, Eduardo Iñigo-Elias (eei2@cornell.edu), and Eduardo Santana
- SS13. **Cuban Ornithology: Research and Conservation of Migrant and Resident Birds**
Co-chairs: John Fitzpatrick, and Eduardo Iñigo-Elias (eei2@cornell.edu)
- SS14. **Compañeros en Vuelo Mesoamerica (Partners in Flight Mesoamerica)**
Co-chairs: José M. Zolotoff (zolotoff@ibw.ni), and Carol Beidleman

- SS15. **The Promise of Multi-stakeholder Management Initiatives for the Cerulean Warbler**
Co-chairs: Jason Jones (jjajones@Vassar.edu), Paul Hamel, David Mehlman and Petra Wood
- SS16. **The Boreal's Birds: Threads that Tie Together America's Ecosystems**
Chair: Jeff Wells (jeffwells@borealbirds.org)
- SS17. **The Effects of Environmental Pollution on Birds: From Physiology to Populations**
Co-chairs: Ralph S. Hames (rsh5@cornell.edu), and David Evers
- SS18. **New Directions in Urban Bird Ecology and Conservation**
Co-chairs: Christopher A. Lepczyk (clepczyk@uwm.edu), and Paige S. Warren
- SS19. **Constraints on the Evolutionary Diversification of the Life Histories of Temperate and Tropical Birds**
Chair: Robert E. Ricklefs (ricklefs@umsl.edu)
- SS20. **Evolutionary and Ecological Perspectives of Sexual Selection**
Co-chairs: Jacqueline K. Nooker (nooker@ksu.edu), and Melissa Rowe
- SS21. **Systematics and Comparative Avian Biology in the 21st Century**
Co-chairs: Robert Zink, George F. Barrowclough, and Joel Cracraft (jlc@amnh.org)
- SS22. **Bird Monitoring Networks of the Americas: From Census to Outreach**
Co-chairs: Lesley-Anne Howes (Lesley-anne.howes@ec.gc.ca), C.J. Ralph, and Steven Kelling
- SS23. **Avian Ecological and Evolutionary Physiology in the New Millennium**
Co-chairs: Andrew E. McKechnie, Scott McWilliams, and Blair O. Wolf (wolf@unm.edu)
- SS24. **The Challenges of Intercontinental Migration: Eastern and Western Perspectives**
Co-chairs: Frank R. Moore (frank.moore@usm.edu), Susan Skagen, and Charles Van Riper

Poster presentations are an important part of the scientific program, and can be a way to reach a larger audience, because they are not in parallel sessions, and often allow for more discussion. Posters will be available for viewing throughout the conference in areas near the coffee breaks. There will be two organized poster sessions, with refreshments, on the evenings of Wednesday October 4, and Friday October 6 to provide an opportunity for the audience to meet and discuss the results with the presenters.

Pre- & Post-conference Workshops

A number of special workshops are being organized before and after the conference. These workshops are not part of the formal scientific program of the conference, and the individual workshop organizers are responsible for the content of each workshop. However, workshops provide an opportunity for more flexibility in presentation of content, as well as greater interaction and discussion. Most workshops are open to all conference delegates but a few have limited registration and may require additional registration fees. *Participation in workshops must be arranged directly with workshop coordinators, and cannot be done through the NAOC website.* Details on timing and location, workshop content, as well as any special registration requirements will be posted on the conference web site as they become available. The currently accepted workshops are as follows:

Prior to the Conference (25-30 September)

Bioacoustic Training Course

Co-chairs: Fernando Gonzalez (gonzalef@ecologia.edu.mx), Antonio Celis Murillo (acelis@ucr.edu)

Pre-Conference (2-3 October)

Most of these are half-day or full day; dates, times and locations will be provided on the conference web site once confirmed.

Ornithological Atlasing in the Americas

Co-chairs: Mike Cadman (mccadman@uoguelph.ca), and Charles M. Francis (charles.francis@ec.gc.ca)

Waterbird Monitoring Techniques – Training and Problem-Solving to Address Population Information Needs for Priority Species

Chair: Jennifer Wheeler (Jennifer_A_Wheeler@fws.gov)

Wind Farms and Bird Collisions

Co-chairs: Rafael Villegas (villegas@ecologia.edu.mx), Jan Blew, and Debbie Hahn

Mexican Expansion of the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)

Co-chairs: Humberto Berlanga (hberlang@xolo.conabio.gob.mx), Connie Downes (Connie.Downes@ec.gc.ca), Keith Pardieck (kpardieck@usgs.gov), and Dave Ziolkowski (dziolkowski@usgs.gov)

Natural Sound and Video Recording

Co-chairs: Benjamin Clock (bmc24@cornell.edu), and Greg Budney (gfb3@cornell.edu)

Western Working Group – Partners in Flight

Chair: Rex Sallabanks (rsallabanks@idf.idaho.gov)

Grant Proposal Writing for Students

Chair: Vicki Garcia (vga@email.arizona.edu)

Burrowing Owl: Conservation and Ecology

Chair: Geoff Holroyd (Geoffrey.Holroyd@ec.gc.ca)

Horned Guan: Conservation and Ecology

Chair: Estuardo Secaira: (esecaira@tnc.org)

Post-Conference (Starting 8 October)

This workshop takes place on 8 October:

Neotropical Quail: Status, Conservation, and Research

Chair: Jack Clinton Eitniear (jce@cstbinc.org)

The following two workshops are multi-day workshops starting 8 October outside of Veracruz, and require special registration:

Advanced Bird-banding and MoSI

(Monitoreo de Sobrevivencia Invernal)

Chair: James F. Saracco: (jsaracco@birdpop.org)

Bird Banding in the Americas

Co-chairs: Lesley Howes (Lesley-Anne.Howes@ec.gc.ca), Monica Tomosy (mtomosy@usgs.gov), Ariel Rojo (ariel.rojo@semarnat.gob.mx)

Special Symposium

A Special Symposium on the biodiversity of Veracruz is planned for the afternoon of 3 October at the University of Veracruz. Full details of this symposium will be provided on the conference web site. All delegates are welcome to attend.

Conference Languages

For the first time, the NAOC will accept presentations in English or Spanish. Abstracts may be submitted in either or both of the official languages. Delegates are strongly encouraged to submit their titles and abstract in both languages, if possible. Efforts will be made to have abstracts that are submitted in only one language translated into the other

language, but translations will be largely carried out by volunteers, and the conference organizers cannot be held responsible for the quality, accuracy or timeliness of translations, and cannot guarantee that adequate time/resources will be available to have all abstracts translated. Thus, it is to your benefit to submit in both languages.

Oral papers may be presented in either of the conference languages, but we anticipate that simultaneous translation facilities will *not* be available for most presentations. Spanish-speaking presenters should bear in mind that the vast majority of delegates from the United States and Canada do not understand Spanish, and thus they may prefer to consider an English presentation to ensure they reach as large an audience as possible. Conversely, English speakers should consider that, while many Latin American scientists can understand some English, they will be able to do so much more readily if you speak slowly and clearly. It is much better to present less information, clearly, than to say too much that nobody understands. Please do not try to make a 20-minute talk fit into 12 minutes by speaking twice as fast! If you are not confident in your speaking abilities in both languages, you may wish to consider a poster presentation.

Delegates can ensure they reach a wider audience by using bilingual computer slides or by having selected key messages presented in both languages. Again, this should be done by presenting only key information on each slide, rather than by making the font half the size to fit both languages – that will result in nobody being able to read either language! Posters should, whenever possible, include an abstract as well as figure and table captions in both languages.

Registration

The full registration fee includes admission to all oral and poster sessions, exhibits, the opening reception and poster receptions, coffee breaks, and the program book and a CD-ROM of all conference abstracts. Additional fees are required for the closing banquet/celebration, as well as for a paper copy of the abstract book. Optional events such as any special organized activities, field trips, and workshops are not included – financial arrangements must be made directly with the organizers of those events.

The registration desk will be open prior to the conference on Tuesday, October 3 2006 from 12:00 – 20:00, and then during the conference from 07:30 – 17:30 daily from 4-7 October in the lobby of the World Trade Center.

Professional Registration Fee:

\$350.00 USD on or before April 3, 2006
 \$450.00 USD between April 4 – September 2, 2006
 \$550.00 USD on or after September 3, 2006 including on-site

Student Registration Fee:

\$150.00 USD on or before April 3, 2006
 \$225.00 USD between April 4 – September 2, 2006
 \$350.00 USD on or after September 3, 2006 including on-site

Guest Registration Fee:

\$150.00 USD per person

The guest registration fee is only available to people accompanying a registered delegate, who are not themselves participating in the scientific program. Includes reception Tuesday, poster sessions Wednesday & Friday and daily coffee breaks.

All-out Ostrich Upoar 5K Run: \$5.00 per person

Banquet/Closing Celebration: \$25.00 per person; \$10.00 each for registered students

Paper Copy of Abstract Book: \$25.00 per copy

We understand that occasionally other responsibilities and personal obligations prevent you from attending a program 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 fees (less a \$40 USD processing fee) if the conference management office (address below) receives notice in writing on or before September 3, 2006. Due to the limited number of enrollments, registrants who cancel on or after September 4, 2006, will not be eligible for any part of a refund.

Special reduced rates are available upon request for Latin American professionals and students in need of financial assistance. Contact the conference management office (address below) to request these rates.

All delegates are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the on-line, secure registration available through the conference web site. Registration is required before an abstract can be submitted – this is most easily done by registering and submitting an abstract at the same time through the web site. For those who wish to register by mail, a copy of the registration form is available on page 9 or can be downloaded from the web site.

Fees are stated in U.S. dollars and we request payment in U.S. dollars. If paying by credit card, your credit card company will automatically calculate the exchange rate to U.S. dollars. 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.

To request special rates, or if you are unable to use a credit card and need to arrange payment in Pesos or another currency, or if you have any other problems registering, please contact the conference office (address below)

Confirmation will be sent to attendees, usually by E-mail, upon receipt of each completed and paid registration.

Conference Office Contact

Helen Schneider Lemay—E-mail: helens@sgmeet.com, telephone: 254-776-3550, postal mail: IV NAOOC, 5400 Bosque Blvd, Suite 680, Waco, Texas 76710.

Call For Papers

All ornithologists planning to attend the conference are invited to contribute to the scientific sessions. The deadline for submission of all abstracts, including symposia, oral contributed papers, and poster papers, is **3 April 2006**. The Scientific Program Committee will select and organize papers in appropriate sessions based on scientific content of the abstract and will post the final program on the conference web site, indicating dates and times of all papers, with links to the abstracts. The web version of the program will be fully key-word searchable, and will allow you to easily plan your paper selections ahead of time. A printed copy of the program, as well as an electronic copy of the abstracts (on CD-ROM) will be provided to all delegates at registration. Printed copies of the abstract book will only be available for an additional fee of US\$25. Abstract books should be pre-ordered at the time of registration. Only a limited number of printed copies that have not been pre-ordered will be available on site.

Each registered delegate may submit *only one paper*. This may be either a symposium paper, contributed oral paper, or poster paper. This limit is necessary because of the large number of participants expected for the meeting, to ensure everybody has a fair chance to give a presentation. All oral presentations, including symposium papers, will be limited to 15 minutes, including questions and answers (effectively this means a 12 minute presentation). Time limits will be strictly enforced, as there will be

6-7 parallel sessions that must remain synchronized to enable delegates to move among papers. Posters should not exceed 122 cm wide by 122 cm height.

All abstracts must be submitted in electronic format and must be accompanied by registration and payment. The preferred method to both register and submit abstracts is through the online registration system at www.naoc2006.org. After you have registered (which requires a credit card), you will be given an option to open up an abstract submission form. You will also be given a user name and password that will allow you to return to the site to modify any information that you have already submitted (including the abstract) or to submit an abstract at a later date (abstracts may only be submitted or modified up until the submission deadline of **3 April 2006**).

If you are unable to register online, you may send your registration and abstract by postal mail to NAOC 2006, 5400 Bosque Blvd, Suite 680, Waco, Texas 76710. To do this, you can use the forms available on pages 9-10 or you can download a registration form from the website and follow all of the instructions on the form. The registration form should be accompanied by a printed copy of the abstract, as well as a diskette or CD formatted for DOS or Microsoft Windows with an electronic copy of the abstract. Please ensure this includes all required information, as listed below. All documents must be submitted in either WordPerfect for Windows, Microsoft Word for Windows or Rich Text File formats. Abstracts submitted in any other format are not acceptable and will be returned. Disks or CDs must be clearly and fully labeled with the name of the author to contact, institution name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address. All mail submissions must be postmarked by **April 3, 2006** to ensure acceptance on the program. Abstracts submitted via email or FAX will not be accepted.

If you have problems with the abstract submission process or neither option is possible, please contact the conference management office (address above).

Abstracts should summarize findings not methods. Full details for abstract submission are available on the conference web site. Abstract submission requires the following information:

- Surname, initials, institution, and contact information (E-mail/telephone) for all authors
- Which author will be presenting the paper
- Whether the paper is for a SYMPOSIUM and, if so, which one (see list, above)
- If the paper is a contributed paper, indicate your preference for ORAL or POSTER presentation, as well as the general topic from among the following: Behavior, Breeding Biology, Conservation, Ecology, Evolution, Foraging and Diet, Habitat Relationships, Migration and Orientation, Morphology, Physiology, Vocalizations and Bioacoustics, Systematics, Other
- Language in which the paper will be presented
- Whether you would like to be considered for a student presentation award

The abstract title should be kept short (a maximum of 120 characters) so that it can fit into the program layout. The body of the abstract should be no more than 200 words. Note that no special formatting can be accepted in the abstract (e.g., no italics, bold, superscripts or subscripts – this is a limitation of the software we are using; if you wish to highlight a scientific name, you may bracket the name with underscores like this: _Aquila_). However, many special characters, including accented characters and symbols can be accepted – it is recommended that you first type your abstract in a word processor and then cut and paste the text into the abstract box on the web site to review its final appearance. The same restrictions apply for abstracts submitted by mail.

Student Travel Awards

Limited funding will be available to defray travel expenses for undergraduate and graduate students attending the NAOC meetings in Veracruz, Mexico, October 3 - 7, 2006. To be eligible for an award, students must present an oral or poster paper, be sole author, or senior author on co-authored papers, and be a member of one of the societies participating in NAOC-2006: AFO, AOU, CIPAMEX, COS, RRF, SCO/SOC, WOS, and/or WS. Students who are not yet members are encouraged to join one of these professional ornithological societies. The OSNA Societies have an online application available at <http://www.osnabirds.org/>; CIPAMEX has an application available for download at <http://www.cipamex.org.mx/MEMBRESIA.htm>; and SCO/SOC also has an application available online at <http://www.sco-soc.ca/>. For new members, a photocopy of the membership application (pdf format) or the email acknowledgement of on-line membership is sufficient proof of membership. A travel award will be granted only after the paper is accepted by the program committee (to be accepted to the program, submit abstract and register for the conference as directed on the web site www.naoc2006.org). To apply for a travel award, submit: 1) a 2-page résumé that includes a list of memberships in ornithological societies, 2) a detailed listing of anticipated transportation expenses (no lodging costs except for students from Mexico, Central and South America), 3) a 3-page (including references) expanded abstract of your paper or poster covering objectives, methods, major results, and scientific significance, and 4) a letter of recommendation from your advisor. Applicants should submit their applications as an attached file (Word, WordPerfect or Adobe Acrobat formats preferred) in an e-mail (please ask your advisor to e-mail his/her recommendation separately). Note that even if your application is successful, funding may not cover all travel expenses, and you should seek additional sources of funding as well. Send materials by April 3, 2006 to: Matthias Leu (e-mail: mleu@usgs.gov).

Student Presentation Awards

A number of awards will be given for the best student presentations, both oral and poster, during the conference. Awards will be based on the quality of the research as well as the clarity and presentation of the paper. Any currently registered student, or person who has completed a degree in 2006 may be eligible for these awards, provided that he/she is the primary author and presenter of the paper. Students MUST indicate on their abstract submission form whether they wish to be considered for these awards.

Student Activities

A number of special activities for students will be held at the NAOC. Due to a high expected student turnout and limited space, most student activities require a sign-up and are limited to students who are current members of at least one NAOC member society. Full details of all student activities, including times and locations as they are confirmed, will be posted on the conference web site.

Grant Proposal Workshop (Tuesday afternoon, 3 October)

This workshop will involve presentations by a panel of established ornithologists who will discuss the components of a successful grant proposal with an emphasis on funding opportunities for students. Panelists will also discuss useful approaches for the acquisition of funding for post-doctoral research. Registration is required and space is limited, so sign up early. To sign up, contact Vicki Garcia (vga@email.arizona.edu).

Student-Professional Ornithologist Dinner (Thursday, 5 October)

This dinner provides students and professional ornithologists with an opportunity to meet informally and discuss common research interests. There will be no on-site registration for the dinner and space is limited, so be sure to sign up early. To register, check the Student Activities section of the NAOC website.

Student Quiz Bowl (Thursday, 5 October)

Come to the first-annual quiz bowl and test your general knowledge of ornithology via a Jeopardy!-style team contest. The first 9 teams to sign up (each with 3 students per team) will compete in this round-robin style tournament. Students on a team need not be from the same school, but all team members must be a full-time student (or within 6 months of graduating). All students are invited to watch them compete. To register your team, check the Student Activities section of the NAOC website.

Student Mentor Program

This program will pair you with a researcher in your area of interest to help you network with professionals and learn how to succeed in avian biology. This program is designed to work within the meeting schedule by not having any specific meeting times, which are left to you and your mentor. To sign up, contact Doug Robinson (drobinso@binghamton.edu).

Sponsorship Opportunities

Ornithological societies, not-for-profit organizations, and government agencies can become sponsors of the IV NAOC 2006 by making a cash donation (US\$1000 or more for those based in the US and Canada; US\$500 (or equivalent) or more for those based in Latin America) or an in-kind donation of comparable value. Sponsors will receive one table in the vendor area for displays and distribution of literature. Sponsors' names (including logos) will be listed in the program and on the web site, www.naoc2006.org. Requests to become sponsors should be sent to the conference office at the address on page 5.

Sponsorship of the IV NAOC 2006 by for-profit corporations is encouraged to help reduce registration fees for all students and for Latin American professionals. Corporations that are interested in becoming sponsors should contact the conference office at the address below. All sponsors will be prominently recognized in the conference program and on the conference web site.

Field Trips & Tours

Several companies are offering field trips and tours to enhance your experience and that of those accompanying you. These have been chosen to offer a wide range of options, in terms of trip duration, destinations, and costs. These companies operate as independent organizations and NOAC assumes no responsibility or liability for their activities. Please contact each company directly to register or for further information.

ProNatura Veracruz is offering several 4-day nature tours before and after the conference dates. The cost for each field trip is \$595.00 USD per person in a shared room, with a single supplement surcharge of \$100.00 USD per person. All field trips include hotel, meals and snacks, an expert Pronatura bilingual birding guide, entrance fees, and transportation.

Birding, Cultural, and Archaeological Sites
October 8-11, 2006

Birds and Butterflies – Lowlands and Highlands of Central Veracruz
September 29 – October 2, 2006 or October 8-11, 2006

Catemaco Rainforest
September 29 – October 2, 2006 or October 8-11, 2006

Veracruz Coffee Plantations and Highlands
September 29 – October 2, 2006

Veracruz Highlands
September 29 – October 2, 2006 or October 8-11, 2006

Please visit the conference web site at www.naoc2006.org for details regarding each field trip. To make your reservations, or if you have additional questions, please contact Robert Straub at ProNatura by email at pvcotours@infosel.net.mx. Please note these field trips are the sole responsibility of ProNatura Veracruz.

Centro de Reservas Internacionales S.A. de C.V. (Critours)

will be offering a series of daytrips and local tours of the area during the conference, particularly for the benefit of accompanying persons who are not attending the scientific program. Prices vary from USD\$46 to \$130 depending on the activity if booked early (by 3 April), and increase substantially for late bookings – check the conference web site for details. Tour locations and activities include:

- **Tlacotalpan y Alvarado:** October 3
- **Veracruz City:** October 4
- **Xalapa y Coatepec:** October 5
- **Antigua y Cempoala:** October 6
- **Catemaco y Tuxtlas:** October 1, 2, 8, 9
- **Tajín y Papantla:** October 1, 2, 8, 9
- **Rafting:** October 1, 2, 8, 9
- **Diving:** October 1, 2, 8, 9

To inquire or book a tour, contact Carolina Mortera at carolina@critours.com.mx.

Endemicos Insulares will be offering a series of 1-day birding trips before and after the conference. Each trip will cost \$65 if booked before 3 April 2006, and \$70 if booked after that date. Field trips include experienced bilingual birding guides and bilingual drivers, snacks, comprehensive insurance, entrance fees where applicable, and transportation. Planned destinations include:

Coastal habitats and lowland tropical forest at La Mancha and Quiahuiztlan
September 30th, 2006

Mangroves and wetlands of Alvarado and Tlacotalpan
October 1st, 2006

Transition between lowland and cloud forests at El Mirador and Las Cañadas
October 2nd, 2006

Conifer forest and cloud forest of Las Minas and Los Humeros
October 8th, 2006

Tropical rain forest of Los Tuxtlas
October 9th, 2006

Cloud forest and Isthmus plateau in the state border Veracruz – Oaxaca
October 10th, 2006

Please check the tour web site for further details and updates: <http://www.endemicos.org>. For additional information and to make reservations, please contact Juan Martínez at tours.naoc2006@endemicos.org. These field trips are the sole responsibility of Endemicos Insulares.

Climate

During the first week of October you can expect warm weather with daytime temperatures around 80° F. However, be aware that during this week the last tropical storm of the season or the first northern winds might take place. So, it is advisable to bring a warm jacket, raincoat and appropriate shoes or boots just in case. If northern winds or rain happens during the conference, the first clear day will bring a considerable number of migrants to the skies. People visiting Xalapa, Cordoba or the highlands must be aware that rain is common during the afternoon and thus it is a good idea to carry a raincoat and another set of shoes. Weather conditions for the day at Veracruz can be found at <http://smn.cna.gob.mx/smmpt/estadosm/ciudades/veracruz.html>.

Veracruz is in the Central Time Zone and will be on Central Daylight Saving Time at the time of the conference in October.

Travel To/From Veracruz

Most visitors from outside of Mexico require a valid passport. Currently, citizens of the United States and Canada do not require a visa to visit Mexico as a tourist or business traveler, though a visitor card fee is usually included in the airfare. Further information on travel requirements, including health and safety warnings, can be found on the U.S. State Department website: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html. Citizens of other countries should check with their local Mexican consular office or travel agent for any special requirements.

Most people will arrive at the Heriberto Jara Corona Airport in Veracruz. This airport is served by several national and regional airlines including Mexicana, AeroMexico, Aerocaribe, Aerolitoral, and others. The city is internationally served by Continental (direct flight), and American Airlines (through Mexico City). Airport transfers to the conference hotels are relatively inexpensive: an authorized taxi is approximately 14 dollars, and can be shared by several people.

Alternatively, you may wish to fly to Mexico City, and then travel by bus from Mexico City to Veracruz (normally about 5-7 hours depending on the route). If traveling by bus, make sure that you get to the bus station safely – Mexico City, like many other large cities, can be dangerous. The safest is to take an authorized taxi from the terminal (~\$10 USD) or you can take the Metro, if you are traveling light. The Airport is at the "Terminal Aerea" yellow line; you need to travel to terminal Pantitlan and then take the pink line to terminal "San Lazaro". That will bring you to the Terminal de Autobuses de Oriente (TAPO) where you will find several choices to get to Vera Cruz (ADO and UNO) for about \$25 to \$45 USD depending on the company. Bus itineraries can be found at www.ticketbus.com.mx. You may also rent a car from Mexico airport to travel to Veracruz, particularly if you plan to do some traveling before or after the conference. Be sure to check with your local automobile association or travel agent for tips and information on driving in Mexico, including safety considerations, insurance, etc.

Veracruz can also be reached by car from the US-Mexico and Belize-Mexico border towns of McAllen and Chetumal in about 19 hours and from the Guatemala-Mexico border town of Tapachula in about 9 hours.

Public transportation in the cities of Vera Cruz and Boca del Río is efficient and cheap. You can take the Bus "Boca del Río" to go to downtown Vera Cruz (going North) or Boca del Río (going South) with a wide range of options along the coastal boulevard Manuel Avila Camacho. The bus charges a flat rate equivalent to ~US\$0.60 cents. Taxis are also readily available and prices might range from 3 to 14 dollars depending on distance. It is best to agree on a price before using the cab to avoid expensive and unpleasant experiences. It is advisable to partner with Latin American friends while visiting the cities of Vera Cruz and Boca del Río to get the most out of your visit.

Liability And Safety

The conference organizers cannot accept responsibility for personal accidents, medical emergencies or damage to or loss of any personal property of conference participants and their guests. Good medical facilities are available in Veracruz, including emergency medical assistance at the WTC and three hospitals: Hospital General, Hospital Naval, and the Beneficiencia Española. However, you will be responsible for any costs that may be incurred to use them. It is advisable to arrange for travel insurance for the duration of your trip to Mexico, particularly to cover any possible health emergencies.

Emergency Contact

If you need to contact one of the delegates during the conference, please contact the World Trade Center Veracruz at 01(229)923-0318 or via email at wtcinfo@wtcveracruz.com.mx. A fax number is also available: 01(229)923-0300. Messages will be posted on a bulletin board next to the registration desk.

Currency

The national currency in Mexico is the peso. The exchange rate, as of early January 2006, was approximately 10.5 pesos to the U.S. dollar. Hotels and most events associated with the conference can be paid for using your credit card, but you will likely want to have some Mexican cash for purchasing light meals, drinks, souvenirs, etc. You can change money at various money changers and banks. Alternatively, it is usually easiest to withdraw money from an ATM using your own bank card or a credit card. You can check with your own bank regarding any extra charges that may be incurred.

Hotels & Lodging

The Veracruz City-Boca del Río tourist region has nearly 200 hotels for all different budgets. The organizers of the NAOC have made special arrangements with three hotels within walking distance of the WTC. All hotel reservations should be booked early, as we anticipate a very large attendance at the conference, and October is a popular time for other visitors, so these hotel rooms will book up quickly. You must make your reservations directly with each hotel. Please indicate the respective group name and key to ensure you receive the conference room rate.

Hotel Galeria Plaza Veracruz

The headquarter hotel is the Hotel Galeria Plaza Veracruz (formerly Puerta del Sol) is attached to the WTC via a walkway and will be the location of many of the conference activities. The rate for a deluxe room for single or double occupancy is \$90.00 USD/night plus appropriate taxes. There is an additional charge for a third person of \$40.00 USD. The hotel also connects to the shopping mall with many stores and food outlets. To make reservations, please call:

From the US and Canada: 1-888-555-4329 (Toll Free)
From Mexico: 01 800 227 4727 (Toll Free)
Local: 01 229 989 0505 extensions 8108 or 8207

Group Name: NAOCC; Key: 2827

Crowne Plaza Torremar Veracruz

The Crowne Plaza Torremar Veracruz is across the boulevard from the WTC and the Hotel Galeria. A special conference rate has been negotiated of \$97.00 USD/night plus appropriate taxes for deluxe single or double rooms. To make reservations, please call:

From the US and Canada: 011-52-229-989-2100 Ext. 1124 or 1138 (Mr. Angel Jacome and/or Ms. Lilia Antonio).
From Mexico: 01 800 712 9900

Group Name: IV Congreso Norteamericano de Ornitología;
Key: 13346,

Hotel Mocambo

Hotel Mocambo is about a 10 minute walk from the WTC and is holding a number of rooms especially for conference delegates at a rate of \$80.00 USD/night plus appropriate taxes, single or double. Up to four students may be accommodated in one room at this hotel. To make reservations, please call:

From US and Canada: 011 52 229 922 0200
From Mexico: 01 800 290 0100 (Toll Free)
By email: hmreservaciones@infosel.net.mx

Group Name: NAOCC

Alternative Options

A more complete list of accommodation options will be provided in the near future on the conference web site. These will include a number of lower priced hotel options for students or others on a tight budget. Note, however, that most of these are farther away from the WTC and may require travel by bus or taxi to reach the conference venue.

NAOC 2006 Meeting Registration Form

If you are unable to register electronically on the web at www.naoc2006.org, please mail completed registration form and payment to: NAOC 2006, 5400 Bosque Boulevard, 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: **NAOC 2006**

Please print or type.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	
NAME FOR BADGE			
INSTITUTE OR ORGANIZATION			
DEPARTMENT			
ADDRESS LINE 1			
ADDRESS LINE 2			
CITY	STATE/PROVINCE	ZIP	COUNTRY
E-MAIL	PHONE	FAX	

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

The full registration fee includes admission to all oral and poster sessions, exhibits, opening reception, poster receptions, coffee breaks, the program book, and a CD-ROM of all conference abstracts. Special reduced rates are available upon request for Latin American professionals and students in need of financial assistance. Contact the conference management office at naoc2006@sgmeet.com to request these rates.

Professionals

- Early Registration (postmarked on or before April 3, 2006) \$350.00 USD _____
- Regular Registration (postmarked on or before September 2, 2006) \$450.00 USD _____
- Late/On-site Registration (postmarked after September 2, 2006) \$550.00 USD _____
- Closing Fiesta Jarocha # of Tickets @ \$25.00 USD per person = _____

Students (Please fill out your faculty advisor's name and e-mail address below.)

FACULTY ADVISOR	ADVISOR'S E-MAIL ADDRESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Early Registration (postmarked on or before April 3, 2006) \$150.00 USD _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Registration (postmarked on or before September 2, 2006) \$225.00 USD _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Late/On-site Registration (postmarked after September 2, 2006) \$350.00 USD _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Closing Fiesta Jarocha (for registered students only) \$10.00 USD _____ 	
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest Registration \$150.00 USD _____	
Guest Name: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> All-out Ostrich Up roar 5K Run: # of Entries @ \$5.00 USD per person = _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy of Abstract Book # of Copies @ \$25.00 USD per copy = _____	

Total in U.S. Dollars _____

Payment:

- Amount Enclosed
- Bill My Organization. (You must submit a purchase order.)
- Credit Card Payment
 - Visa MasterCard American Express

Confirmation:

A confirmation will be sent to the e-mail address on this form unless you specify otherwise.

I prefer that my registration confirmation be sent via:

- Fax Mail E-mail

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 naoc2006@sgmeet.com

NAME ON CARD	
CARD NUMBER	EXP. DATE
SIGNATURE	

NAOC 2006 Abstract Submittal Form

The abstract submission deadline is **April 3, 2006**. (Internet submissions must be received and mailed submissions must be postmarked by this date.)

To submit your abstract electronically, please point your web browser to **www.naoc2006.org**. If you cannot submit electronically, you may submit the abstract on a 3.5" floppy disk or CD (formatted for DOS or Windows) accompanied by one (1) original hard copy printed on white paper. Registration and abstract submittal forms, as well as payment, should accompany your abstract. Please ensure that your abstract includes all required information as listed on page 6 of this circular. Disks or CDs must be clearly and fully labeled with the name of the author to contact, institution name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address. E-mail and fax copies of abstracts are not acceptable.

You may not submit the form in this brochure if you choose to submit via the Internet.

Author to Contact: (Only one abstract per first author will be accepted.)

- Please check here if author contact information is the same as your registration information on the accompanying registration form. If so, you may skip the following contact information.

LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL

INSTITUTE OR ORGANIZATION

DEPARTMENT

ADDRESS LINE 1

ADDRESS LINE 2

CITY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP COUNTRY

E-MAIL PHONE FAX

Abstract Information:

My abstract is:

- Invited Symposium #: _____
Please see the list of symposia on pages 3-4.

- Contributed

If contributed, please indicate general topic:

Please choose from the following: Behavior, Breeding Biology, Conservation, Ecology, Evolution, Foraging and Diet, Habitat Relationships, Migration and Orientation, Morphology, Physiology, Vocalizations and Bioacoustics, Systematics, or Other.

If contributed, my presentation preference is:

- Oral Poster No Preference

Other Information:

- I am an eligible student and wish to be judged for a student presentation award.

- I am willing to serve as a session chair.

I will present in: English Spanish

Confirmation of Acceptance:

You will be notified of acceptance by e-mail unless otherwise noted here. Please notify me by Mail Fax

Additional Audio-Visual Requirements:

A computer running Microsoft Windows and Powerpoint, computer projection equipment, and screen will be provided. Please indicate below if you need additional equipment.

- Other *List any additional audio-visual equipment that you consider necessary for your presentation. Please note that any special requests for audio-visual (i.e. the rental of overhead projector, VCR, monitor, 35mm slide projector, audio systems, computers, provision of additional power outlets, tables, stands, etc.) should be made when the abstract is submitted. Any costs for these additional items will be billed to the author on this form. Special equipment and power outlets can NOT be provided for poster presentations:*
-
-

Submittal Completion:

In order to be considered as complete, the registration form and full registration fee must accompany the abstract form. Mail the completed abstract submission form, completed registration form, payment of the fee, disk or CD, and one (1) copy of the abstract to:

NAOC 2006
5400 Bosque Boulevard, Suite 680
Waco, Texas 76710-4446, USA

Checks should be in U.S. dollars and drawn on a U.S. bank.

Please make checks payable to: **NAOC 2006**.



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Waco, TX 76710