

Official Report of the International Ornithological Committee, 23rd International Ornithological Congress, at the Beijing International Convention Center, Beijing, 11–17 August 2002

Dominique G. HOMBERGER, Permanent Secretary

Prologue by the President of the 23rd International Ornithological Congress, Walter J. Bock

The International Ornithological Congresses have many results, not the least of which is the publication of their Proceedings. These have appeared in many forms and represent the major record of what has taken place in each congress. The current Statutes and By-laws specify that a formal report for each Congress must be published, although not necessarily within the Congress Proceedings, all, nevertheless, have been so published. These reports have been the responsibility of the Secretary-General until the end of the 20th congress in Christchurch, after which they became the purview of the Permanent Secretary. Some official reports have been excessively brief, making the task of detailing the history of ornithological congresses difficult. I am especially pleased that the report prepared by Professor Dominique Homberger is so complete and detailed.

Another value of Congress Proceedings is overviews of ornithological science presented at congress, a task that has become increasingly difficult with each successive congress. The difficulties are three-fold. First is the increasing of plenary lectures, symposia, and contributed papers presented at congresses; second is the increasing cost of publication; and third is the getting of manuscripts from congress members. There does not appear to be any solution to the first of these difficulties which is a reflection of the increasing interest in and diversity of avian biology. The second may be solved, at least in part by the publication of a large part of congress proceedings electronically as a DVD disk, as was first done for the 22nd Congress in Durban. This was a remarkable achievement and I hope that it will be continued in the future. There may not be any complete solution to the last problem as there will always be members who will not submit their manuscripts on time or at all no matter how much pressure is applied. Another difficulty arises from the increased use of English as the international language since the 10th congress in Uppsala; for the last several congresses, the proceedings have been entirely in English. Having a single international language maximizes information exchange, yet many congress mem-

bers have difficulties in preparing their contributions. Hence the need exists for a dedicated editor for Proceedings. For many of the past congresses, this task could be assumed within the office of the Secretary-General, but not always. For the 23rd congress, we have been fortunate that Dr. Richard Schodde (Australia) has accepted this role. He has spent many months contacting congress members for their manuscripts and then editing them. In a number of cases, this required major rewrites. In addition to this editing, Dr. Schodde has his own major research program on the birds of Australia and could not devote full time to the congress proceedings.

Some ornithologists have been unhappy about the delay in the publication of the proceedings for the 23rd congress, but we should all appreciate the hard work done by the Permanent Secretary, Professor Dominique Homberger, the Proceedings Editor, Dr. Richard Schodde, the editor of the *Acta Zoologica Sinica*, Professor Jia Zhi-Yun, and his entire staff for the publication of this important document of the 23rd congress. Our sincere thanks go to all.

1 Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Sunday, 11 August 2002, 9:00 am– 5:00 pm

1.1 Executive Committee 1998–2002 (* present)

- Alexander V. Andreev (Russia)
- Aldo Berruti (South Africa, ex officio)
- *Peter Berthold (Germany, ex officio)
- *Jacques Blondel (France, ex officio)
- *Walter J. Bock (U.S.A., ex officio)
- *Carlos Bosque (Venezuela)
- *Michael Clarke (Australia)
- *Fred Cooke (Canada)
- *John P. Croxall (United Kingdom)
- *Nathan N. Gichuki (Kenya)
- *Hiroyoshi Higuchi (Japan)
- *Dominique G. Homberger (U.S.A., ex officio)
- *Lukas Jenni (Switzerland)
- *Pilai Poonswad (Thailand)
- *John C. Wingfield (U.S.A.)

*Xu Wei-Shu (China, ex officio)

1.2 Welcome and report by IOCommittee President, Walter J. Bock

See presidential report below — item 4.

1.3 Welcome and report by Secretary-General, Xu Wei-Shu

See report of the Secretary-General below — item 5.

1.4 Report by IOCommittee Secretary, Dominique G. Homberger

See report of the Permanent Secretary below — item 6.

1.5 Report by the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, Fernando Spina

See Scientific Program Committee report below — item 7. Some concern was expressed that outstanding scientific results might not be published in the IOCongress Proceedings, so reducing the quality and reputation of the IOCongress and its Proceedings. If the IOC Proceedings published contributions besides the plenary lectures and symposia, it could raise the profile of the congresses. Several last minute cancellations of symposia contributions resulted, moreover, because of lack of travel funds.

During the ensuing discussion, various issues were raised to improve future congress programs and proceedings, such as sanctions against congress contributors that choose not to show up at the last minute, and the publication of the complete proceedings on the official web page of the IOCongress.

Walter Bock thanked Fernando Spina for his tremendous job as chair of the Scientific Program Committee.

1.6 Report by the Chair of the Finance Committee, Tim Wood

See item 8 below. Tim Wood was not present, but the main points of the report were summarized by Dominique Homberger.

1.7 Report by the Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee, Peter Berthold, on the nominations of IOCommittee officers (President, Vice-President, and Permanent Secretary) and of members of the Executive Committee for the 24th IOCongress, 2002–2006

Members of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee were Peter Berthold, chair; Carlos Bosque, Patricia Gowaty, Les Underhill, and Richard Schodde. Their nominations were:

President, 2002–2006: Jacques Blondel

Permanent Secretary, 2002–2006: Dominique G. Homberger

Honorary President, 2002–2006: Jiro Kikkawa

Vice-President, 2002–2006: Richard Schodde, John Wingfield

New members of the Executive Committee: Susan

Hannon (Canada), Elizabeth Höfling (Brazil), François Vuilleumier (USA)

During the ensuing discussion various issues were raised. The IOCommittee President should be one of the most prestigious ornithologists, but needs also to possess other extraordinary leadership qualities. The IOCommittee Vice-President is a one-term appointment and need automatically become president. He should not only serve as a replacement for an incapacitated President, but should have a defined task, such as the managing of the IOCommittee Standing Committees. Candidates should prepare a brief biographical sketch for distribution at the IOCommittee meeting, at which the candidates are elected.

As the IOCommittee Statutes allow only one EC-member per country, it therefore depended on the election results at the IOCommittee meeting whether one or two new Executive Committee members had to be elected, and whether the IOCommittee Statutes can be followed or require suspension in the circumstances.

A unanimous vote was taken to present the revised slate of names to the IOCommittee for voting.

1.8 Discussion of sites for the 25th IOCongress, 2010

While some opposed seeking concurrent invitations because of the substantial work required in preparing invitations, others supported it, partly because of the offering of choice and partly for insurance against unforeseeable natural or economic problems.

Some emphasized the need for the next two or three IOCongresses to be held in North America or Europe. Initial explorations for a Beringian IOCongress in 2006 had to be cancelled, leaving the invitation for an IOCongress in Hamburg, Germany, as the only one for 2006. Others spoke up for continuing the trend to hold IOCongresses in continents other than North America and Europe, so that congress venues remain truly international. Some emphasized the need for a South American congress, as that is the only continent yet to host an IOCongress. Invitations from Israel and Australia should also be considered. Hiroyoshi Higuchi has been considering Japan as a future host, an initiative supported by Pillai Poonswad. Thailand is another option: it has a good convention center but unfortunately lacks an organized ornithological society.

1.9 Presentation by Franz Bairlein of the invitation by Germany for the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg in 2006

See full report below — item 11. The invitation to Hamburg was submitted by the DO-G (German Ornithologists' Society) and the Vogelwarte Helgoland, Germany. Projected attendance is 1500 people. The meetings of the EOU (European Ornithological Union) will take place in 2003 and 2005, so that there are no conflicts.

The German Research Council will provide financial support for participants from Russia and the former Soviet Union. The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (the German equivalent of NSF in USA) would also provide funds

for invited speakers from low-income countries. It was recommended that delegates from high-income countries pay a higher registration fee. BioMedCentral was interested in launching an online journal called, for example, *Proceedings of the International Ornithological Congresses*, but only if it were not published only every four years.

During the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that the IOCongress in Hamburg should have a two-tiered registration fee structure. Some voices expressed doubts that Proceedings were necessary, especially because their abolition could lower the registration fee. But Peter Berthold was confident that the DO-G would find the funds to publish full proceedings.

The Executive committee agreed to recommend the German invitation to the IOCommittee with enthusiasm.

1.10 Presentation by the Chair of the IOCommittee Nominations Committee Fred Cooke

See Appendix 3 below. Members of the committee were Franz Bairlein, Walter Bock, Elizabeth Hoefling, Susumu Ishii, and Derek Pomeroy.

The IOCommittee members and some national ornithological societies were asked to submit names. Many nominees hailed from countries already well represented on the IOCommittee, creating potential over-representation. Three of the new nominees were from Brazil, but several countries still remained under-represented, and many countries were not represented at all. Remediating this situation will be pursued vigorously at the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg.

The ensuing discussion raised several issues concerning eligibility of candidates. One concerned national representation by ornithologists working in countries other than those of their birth. It was decided that national representation should be decided by country of residence, not origin. Another issue involved the need and desire to elect representatives from under-represented countries. Because most such countries are also low-income nations, few, if any, ornithologists from them have had the opportunity to attend an IOCongress. The IOCommittee Statutes, however, stipulate that IOCommittee members must have attended at least one IOCongress prior to election. As a compromise solution pending revision of the IOCommittee Statutes, it was agreed that candidates from under-represented countries who had never attended an IOCongress could be elected on the condition that they attend the first IOCongress after their election.

The vote on the list of names to be sent forward to the IOCommittee for potential election was unanimous.

1.11 Report by the Co-Chairs of the Resolutions Committee Eberhard Curio and Michael Rands

See item 12 below. The resolution was presented by Walter Bock.

1.12 Reports by the Chairs of the IOCommittee Standing Committees and their reappointment for the

IOCongress period of 2002–2006

The following IOCommittee Standing Committees are active:

- Clive Elliott: Working Group on Bird Damage to Agriculture of the IOCommittee Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology

- Richard Schodde: IOCommittee Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature (see report below — item 9).

- David M. Bird and Bernd Ulrich-Meyburg: IOCommittee Standing Committee on Raptors (see report below — item 10)

- Jim Vanden Berge: IOCommittee Standing Committee on Avian Anatomy

During the ensuing discussion, the lack of activity of several standing committees was noted. It was recommended that the Vice-President be asked to serve as the liaison to the Standing Committees. It was further recommended that the Vice-President review the policies regulating the IOCommittee Standing Committees and provide the Executive Committee with recommendations. The need for committees that deal with over-arching international issues was recognized and stressed. Fred Cooke suggested that, in future, there should be no new standing committees, only ad hoc committees, because nonfunctional standing committees needed to be dissolved, whereas ad hoc committees were much easier to disband.

1.13 Discussion about possible changes in the organization of the IOCommittee

Discussion here addressed various issues that have been pending as well as recommendations made by the ad hoc Finance Committee (see item 8 below). There was a general feeling that various changes will need to be implemented to maintain the IOCommittee as a vital and dynamic organization.

For this, comments from all congress delegates would be sought, and boxes for suggestions for the future of the IOCommittee and IOCongresses were placed throughout the Congress venue in Beijing.

One pressing issue was the possible reorganization of the IOCommittee into an International Ornithological Society (IOS). The creation of a tax-exempt (not-for-profit) society would remedy the current unfortunate name IOCommittee, which shares the same acronym with the IOCongress and the International Olympic Committee. It would also enable the society to raise revenue through membership dues, grants, and donations.

Alternatively, an international federation or union of ornithological societies could grow out of the present IOCommittee and IOCongress. The question was raised whether the AOU, BOU, and DO-G would be interested in serving as the founders of the federation and in providing seed money to support the intersessional activities of the IOCommittee Secretariat and the IOCongress officers, as well as seed money for the preparation of congresses in

low-income, but bird-rich countries. Xu Wei-Shu suggested that institutional membership dues for such a federation may not be a problem even for low-income countries, because their governments are often willing to pay for such programs.

It was generally agreed that a reorganized IOCommittee will need to have funds to support a permanent secretariat, to provide financial support to delegates from low-income countries, to support the publication of proceedings and maintenance of a permanent web page, and to provide seed loans to ornithological societies that want to host an IOCongress. John Wingfield mentioned that the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) provides a very successful model for a biological organization. It has built up an endowment of 1.5 million dollars in about ten years. A federation also attracts the interest of foundations.

Fernando Spina stressed the importance of a defined message and mission for an organization to be able to raise funds. For the IOCommittee, an appropriate message would be the importance of basic science for conservation. And in this, the IOCommittee would be distinct from BirdLife International. In the words of John Wingfield: "The IOC brings together people who create science that can be used for conservation." Walter Bock also pointed out that basic research in ornithology has direct implications for human beings, and Hiroyoshi Higuchi emphasized that membership in ornithological societies is rapidly increasing in Japan, China, and probably the world over.

1.14 Close of meeting

Walter Bock thanked the Executive Committee for the most efficient meeting in a long time, and John Croxall thanked Walter Bock for chairing the meeting so effectively. It was decided that the Executive Committee would meet again at lunch on 17th August (12:00 noon–2:00 pm), to acquaint the new and old EC members with one another, and for any further discussion and action. At that meeting, no further business was in fact enacted.

2 Minutes of the first meeting of the International Ornithological Committee at the 23rd International Ornithological Congress, Tuesday, 13 August 2002, 8:00 pm

For attendance, see Appendix 1.

2.1 Opening and welcome by IOCommittee President, Walter J. Bock

2.2 In memoriam

See Appendix 2. The names of IOCommittee members who had passed away since the 22nd IOCongress in Durban, August 1998, was read by IOCommittee Secretary, Dominique Homberger. She also requested any additional names and biographical information. A list of deceased IOCommittee members with biographical information will

be posted on the IOCongress web page. A moment of silence was observed in honor of the deceased colleagues.

2.3 Report by the IOCommittee President, Walter J. Bock

At the IOCongress in Durban, two invitations for the 2002 IOCongress were presented, one from China and the other from Israel. The IOCommittee voted to accept the invitation from China. About ten days before the IOCongress in Beijing, Walter Bock received a letter from Yossi Leshem, who had prepared the Israeli invitation, saying that he was glad that the 23rd IOCongress was to be held in Beijing and sending his best wishes for a successful meeting.

Liu Feng did most of the organizational work for the IOCongress and has been extremely efficient. The meeting of the Scientific Program Committee (SPC) was held in Beijing on June 6–11, 2000. Walter Bock traveled again to Beijing in January 2002 for some last minute preparations. He was very satisfied with the smooth running of arrangements.

The IOCommittee Executive Committee had discussed the future and betterment of the congresses; and IOCommittee members were invited to provide suggestions relevant to this in a box near the registration desk during the Congress or to send them to Walter Bock, who would forward them to the incoming IOCommittee President, Jacques Blondel.

A more extended report is given below — item 4.

2.4 Report of Secretary-General, Xu Wei-Shu, and Assistant Secretary-General, Liu Feng

See report of the Secretary-General below — item 5.

2.5 Report by IOCommittee Permanent Secretary, Dominique G. Homberger

See report of the Permanent Secretary below — item 6.

2.6 Report by the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, Fernando Spina

See report of the Scientific Program Committee below — item 7.

2.7 Presentation of the invitation for the 24th Congress 2006 in Hamburg, Germany, by Franz Bairlein

See report below — item 11. After his presentation, Franz Bairlein left the room and the invitation was discussed, and accepted unanimously.

2.8 Discussion of possible sites for the 25th IOCongress to be held in 2010

See report of the Permanent Secretary below — item 6. Any suggestions and proposals should be forwarded to the IOCommittee Secretary, Dominique Homberger.

2.9 Reports by the Chairs of IOCommittee Standing Committees

a. Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology, Working Group on Bird Damage to Agriculture: Clive Elliott, chair.

b. Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature: Richard Schodde, chair (see report below — item 9).

c. Standing Committee on Raptors: David M. Bird and Bernd Ulrich-Meyburg, co-chairs (see report below — item 10).

d. Standing Committee on Avian Anatomy: Jim Vanden Berge, chair.

Some Standing Committees have not been very active, and the Standing Committee on Seabirds is defunct. If any member sees the need for one and is prepared to organize it, could they contact the President, or send him a proposal.

Walter Bock stressed that the work of the Standing Committees is essential as they deal with issues that are genuinely international. The committees, nevertheless, need to be more active. He proposed that the IOCommittee Vice-President should act as liaison for the Standing Committees, and John Croxall proposed that the Vice-President should review the functions and needs of the Standing Committees and bring back an evaluation to the IOCommittee. This was agreed. It was hoped that inactive Standing Committees can be re-activated.

2.10 Presentation by the Executive Committee of its nominations of officers (President, Vice-President, and Permanent Secretary) for the 24th IOCongress in 2006, by the Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee, Peter Berthold

The nominees were:

President: Jacques Blondel

Permanent Secretary: Dominique G. Homberger

Honorary President: Jiro Kikkawa

All three candidates were elected.

Nominees for Vice-President:

John Wingfield (USA, chair of the Scientific Program Committee for the 1994 IOCongress in Vienna; organizer of IOCongress symposia; plenary speaker at the 2002 IOCongress in Beijing; current member of the Executive Committee);

Richard Schodde (Australia, chair of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature; member of the Scientific Program Committee for 2002 IOCongress in Beijing; organizer of IOCongress symposia; editor of the Proceedings of the 2002 IOCongress).

Both nominees for the vice-presidency left the room during the ensuing discussion. The Vice-President does not automatically become president for the next congress. His main function is to be able to take over IOCommittee business if the president is incapacitated for some reason.

John Wingfield was elected.

2.11 Presentation by the Executive Committee of its nominations of members for the Executive Committee, 2002–2006, by the Chair of the Executive Committee

Nominations Committee, Peter Berthold

Three new IOCommittee members were needed to fill the Executive Committee for the term 2002–2006 because Fred Cooke had resigned, Alexander Andreev had completed his second term, and John Wingfield had just been elected Vice-President. Nominees were François Vuilleumier (American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA), Elizabeth Hoefling (University of Sao Paulo, Brazil), and Susan Hannon (University of Alberta, Canada). All three candidates were elected unanimously by show of hand.

3 Minutes of the second meeting of the International Ornithological Committee at the 23rd International Ornithological Congress, Friday, 16 August 2002, 8:00 pm

The minutes for this meeting were taken by IOCommittee member Lucia Severinghaus as a substitute and proxy for IOCommittee Permanent Secretary, Dominique Homberger.

3.1 Presentation by the IOCommittee Executive Committee of its nominations of continuing members of the Executive Committee, 2002–2006

Seven current members of the Executive Committee for the period 1998–2002 were eligible for re-election for a second term, and their nominations were presented by the Executive Committee. They were Carlos Bosque (Venezuela), Michael Clarke (Australia), John P. Croxall (United Kingdom), Nathan N. Gichuki (Kenya), Hiroyoshi Higuchi (Japan), Lukas Jenni (Switzerland), and Pilai Poonswad (Thailand). There being no additional nominations from the floor, the nominees were elected unanimously for 2002–2006 by show of hands.

3.2 Presentation by the Executive Committee of its nominations for new members of the IOCommittee, by the Chair of the IOCommittee Nominations Committee, Fred Cooke

See Appendix 3. Nominees were selected by approaching some of the larger ornithological organizations, and the Nominations Committee filled any gaps. The Nominations Committee has a mandate to ensure that the IOCommittee membership reflects the distribution of ornithologists worldwide and that there is a balance among the various regions. Seven of the 40 nominees were women (ca. 15%). The Nominations Committee sought out younger people and representatives of under-represented countries. In case of dual citizenship or emigrant status, the country of current residence and employment was considered the nation represented. The nomination process was closed one week before the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing.

Fred Cooke read the list; all nominees were elected unanimously. For two nominees that had never attended an IOCongress, it was proposed to suspend the Statutes for their election to ensure the representation of their countries (Algeria and Morocco), under the condition that they at-

tend the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg in 2002. Suspension of the Statutes was passed for this matter, and both nominees were elected.

Walter Bock explained that, according to the Statutes, members which miss two consecutive congresses are removed from membership of the IOCommittee. He suggested, however, that if they are the sole representative of a country, they should be notified of the circumstances in order to retain, if possible, their IOCommittee membership. He felt it particularly important for all nations to be represented on the IOCommittee.

Oscar Merne sought clarification of relationships among the IOCommittee, the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU), and the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), because of the perceived role of the BOU and AOU in the nomination process. Fred Cooke replied that he had involved the AOU and BOU in the nomination process just to broaden the scope. Oscar Merne asked that the European Ornithologists' Union (EOU) also be asked for nominations next time. Walter Bock mentioned that there are still open spaces on the IOCommittee, so that eligible persons can be added at the next Congress. An updated IOCommittee membership list will be published in the Proceedings of the 23rd Congress and will be posted on the IOCongress home page.

3.3 Report by the Co-Chairs of the Resolutions Committee, Eberhard Curio and Michael Rands

Walter Bock read the resolution to thank the China Ornithological Society and all the persons who helped to make the 23rd IOCongress a success. The resolution is reported in full below — item 12.

3.4 Old business

There was no old business.

3.5 New business

3.5.1 Words of thanks to Walter J. Bock for his contributions to the IOCommittee

Christopher Perrins recorded that, although nothing is permanent, Walter Bock's relationship to the IOCommittee and its congresses comes close to it. His contributions for over a quarter of a century should be formally acknowledged in the minutes. There was a round of applause in unanimous support.

3.5.2 Proceedings of the 23rd Congress

Richard Schodde agreed to serve as the General Editor for the Proceedings and provide the following information. (1) The Proceedings will be published as a special issue of the *Acta Zoologica Sinica*. The issue will be published in hard copy and on CD, and will include the plenary lectures, symposia, reports of the round table discussions and special interest groups, and the minutes of the meetings and the reports on the general business of the IOCommittee. (2) Deadline for submission of manuscripts: All manuscripts should reach the person responsible by 31

October, who will then forward them to the General Editor. Manuscripts of symposium contributions should be sent first to the symposium conveners, who will edit the length of the manuscripts, etc. The format of the manuscripts is the same as that of the 1998 Proceedings in *The Ostrich*. All editing is planned for completion by 31 May 2003. The Proceedings should be published by the end of 2003.

Lester Short suggested that the 2002 Proceedings should be sent to the two newly elected IOCommittee members from North Africa.

3.5.3 Proposal for reports and agenda of IOCommittee meetings

The following points were proposed by David Parkin and agreed for action by the IOCommittee President:

- Preparation of an agenda before the next meeting of the IOCommittee in Hamburg.
- Preparation of written reports by the IOCommittee President and the Permanent Secretary to relay the activities of the administration over the preceding intersessional years.
- Preparation of written reports by the Standing Committees to describe their activities over the preceding intersessional years.
- Preparation of a full report by the Nominations Committee, relaying the names of the individuals proposed as (a) officers and (b) as elected members of the IOCommittee. Reasons why any nominees were ineligible should be presented.

• These reports and the agenda would be circulated to all members of the IOCommittee at least four weeks before the Hamburg meeting to allow sufficient time for discussion among the IOCommittee members prior to approval and ratification at the meeting.

Walter Bock agreed with David Parkin's comments. An agenda is easy to prepare and circulate. Appropriate instructions will be passed along to the incoming IOCommittee President and IOCommittee Secretary. According to the Statutes and By-laws, proposals for the amendment of the Statutes and By-laws need to be signed by five members from at least three countries and sent to the President and Permanent Secretary to be circulated well before the ensuing Congress (Article V of Statutes).

3.5.4 Future of the IOCongresses and IOCommittee

Walter Bock mentioned that the Finance Committee had produced a report with recommendations (see report below — item 8), which needed to be discussed and considered. Any changes in the organization of the IOCommittee would also require a revision of the Statutes. For example, a treasurer would be needed if the Committee were to raise funds. Mario Ramos explained that the IOCommittee could be registered as a nonprofit organization in the United States if it wanted to raise funds, for example for conservation and related aspects. Walter Bock added, nevertheless, that the core work covered by the

IOCommittee was scientific reach in ornithology and its application to practical aspects.

John Dittami suggested that there should be institutionalized Proceedings, which should be ready by the next Congress in Hamburg. In addition, the IOCommittee needs a judicial basis and financial continuity between congresses.

Nathan Gichuki remarked that African participation in IOCongresses is low. Interest in ornithology is growing in Africa, but the cost of participating in congresses is too high for most African ornithologists. At the 1986 IOCongress in Ottawa, there were nine delegates from Africa, but only six at the 1990 IOCongress in Christchurch. It is necessary to raise awareness among African ornithologists that participating in the IOCongresses is useful and good for conservation. Walter Bock mentioned that at the 1986 IOCongress in Ottawa, the Canadians had raised funds to support people from low-income countries to attend, but added that this type of fund-raising ought not be the task of the Local Organizing Committee, but that of the IOCommittee. For that reason, the IOCommittee should be in a position to raise funds.

Pierre Devillers proposed that funding for biodiversity should be tapped. The IOCommittee does not compete directly with conservation organizations, because the IOCommittee's work is basic research and complementary to conservation. The IOCommittee should be explicit in its scientific focus and then tap conservation funds. Walter Bock added that at the 1994 IOCongress in Vienna, there was good cooperation with the ICBP, but now that the ICBP has disbanded, the void needed to be filled, perhaps by BirdLife International.

Mario Ramos encouraged the new IOCommittee President and the Executive Committee to do some strategic thinking and planning. The IOCommittee should consider new needs and to think about the IOCommittee's standing and the committees it should have. John Dittami felt that IOCongresses are better than many other conferences, but that they need to be topical and up-to-date, not narrowly defined. Fernando Spina felt that conservation is an important topic at IOCongresses and that top ornithologists from around the world attend them. He stressed that while the IOCommittee may not compete with conservation bodies or organizations, the type of science presented at IOCongresses can help conservation.

John Croxall reminded the assembly that the Executive Committee will meet tomorrow, Friday, and decide on a Finance Committee to address the following issues: (1) capital needs for initiation of committees; (2) funds for the functioning of a secretariat; and (3) funds to support the attendance of members from low-income countries at IOCongresses. The Finance Committee will also need to examine the governance of the IOCommittee to ensure that its business is conducted efficiently, both at congresses and between them. Jacques Blondel asked "How can we improve the beautiful work that was done under Walter Bock?" He agreed with all the previous comments: science and

conservation are not in competition, but can be brought together in a synthesis. Fred Cooke concluded that such a synthesis goes beyond the individual IOCongresses. In the next four years, the Executive Committee will work on the structure of the IOCommittee and on other aspects that were raised at this Congress.

3.5.5 Resolution on Nominations for Membership of the Permanent Executive Committee of the IOCommittee

This resolution was introduced by Christopher J. Robertson, seconded by Pierre Devillers, with a friendly amendment by Walter J. Bock. It read:

Welcoming the continuing progress by the Permanent Executive Committee (PEC) towards executing recommendations of the International Ornithological Committee, it is moved that:

1. The Nominations Committee of the PEC formally invites nominations from all members of the International Ornithological Committee for future office-bearers of the Congress and members of the PEC no later than twelve (12) months before any Congress; and
2. The PEC select a short-list from the nominations received to ensure, where possible, that the International Ornithological Committee has a choice of candidates when considering the election of Office-bearers and members of the PEC.

Responding to the resolution, Walter Bock suggested that the deadline date be amended to a year before each congress. Chris Robertson accepted this friendly amendment. John Croxall mentioned that the Statutes do not state any time limits for nominations. Walter Bock added that the process of nomination takes time. IOCommittee members are encouraged to get in touch with the Permanent Secretary or the President of the IOCongress and submit names and recommendations.

Jacques Blondel was not concerned so much about the nomination process of the IOCommittee members as with that for the officers and the members of the Executive Committee. The IOCongress web page should be used to send in feedback and suggestions on nominations and the nominating process. All accepted this suggestion with acclamation.

3.5.6 Satellite meetings of the IOCongresses

Walter Bock mentioned that the Scientific Program Committee had decided to make satellite meetings possible because it seemed like a good idea. Those people who attended any of the satellite meetings at the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing were asked to submit comments to the Scientific Program and to the Local Organizing Committee for the 2006 IOCongress in Hamburg.

3.5.7 Circulation of the minutes

Ben Bell asked whether the minutes of the two IOCommittee meetings would be circulated. John Croxall replied that the Statutes stipulate that the minutes be circulated within two months of the Congress.

3.5.8 Changes of the Statutes

David Parkin asked whether the Statutes can be changed. Walter Bock responded that any changes made now to the Statutes will come into effect at the end of the next Congress in Hamburg in 2006.

4 Report of the IOCommittee President, Walter J. Bock

In the late fall of 1997, I, as the then Permanent Secretary of the International Ornithological Committee, received an enquiry about a possible congress invitation from the People's Republic of China, together with an invitation to visit Beijing in December 1997 to discuss this invitation with a large group of ornithologists in the Beijing area, who would be responsible for the organization and running of the congress. The trip was successful, but not without problems, with an aborted takeoff on my first attempt to fly to Beijing because one engine exploded just before the plane became airborne. The second attempt was successful, and I had extensive and detailed talks with those ornithologists who would be responsible for diverse aspects of the Congress, as well as with Mr. Liu Feng who would serve as the Assistant Secretary-General. I also had the opportunity to visit Professor Cheng Tso-Hsin, the teacher of modern Chinese ornithologists, in his hospital room. Professor Cheng gave me a greeting for the members of the 22nd Congress in Durban 1998, which was read at the opening of that Congress and published in its Proceedings. Sadly, Professor Cheng did not live to hear about the decision of the IOCommittee to hold the 2002 Congress in China, one of his lifelong dreams.

The Beijing invitation was sent to me, and a copy of it forwarded to IOCommittee President Peter Berthold. It was discussed, together with an invitation from Israel, at the meetings of the Permanent Executive Committee (PEC) and of the IOCommittee at the 22nd Congress in Durban. The choice was difficult, but the final vote was in favor of Beijing and of the first International Ornithological Congress in Asia.

Immediately following the close of the 22nd Congress, I appointed Professor Xu Wei-Shu as Secretary-General, and Mr. Liu Feng of the Conference Section of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, as Assistant Secretary-General of the 23rd Congress. A National Committee was established to deal with all aspects of the congress under the chair of Professor Zheng Guang-Mei, with the necessary subcommittees.

The Scientific Program Committee (SPC), under the chair of Dr. Fernando Spina, was then appointed; and it set to work immediately. The SPC met in Beijing in June 2000, and planned an intensive program of 10 plenary lectures, 40 symposia, oral (limited to 200) and poster contributions, and Round Table Discussions. In view of the problem with no-show poster papers that had plagued the 22nd Congress in Durban, the decision was made that abstracts of

contributions would be published and included in the Congress program only if the full congress registration fee was paid by 31 May 2002. A request was made to exhibit some of the famous Chinese Mesozoic birds at the Congress, which was carried out to the great benefit of Congress members. In addition, a special symposium in the form of a plenary Presidential Debate was to be held on one evening on the topic of the origin of birds, whether from early archosaurians or later dinosaurs.

I visited Beijing for a third time early in January 2002, for a week as a guest of the Beijing Normal University to work with the members of the Local Committee and, especially, with the very efficient Mr. Liu Feng, on many of the details of the Congress organization, including the arrangement of the sessions of the scientific program.

In early February 2002, Vice-President Jacques Blondel was informed that he should be ready to assume the duties of the IOCommittee President, because I had to undergo surgery to repair a major aneurysm of the dorsal aorta at the end of April 2002. Fortunately for me, as well as for Jacques Blondel, the operation was not only successful, but I received permission from my doctors to travel to Beijing in August for the Congress as well. The Beijing Ornithological Congress was of special significance because it permitted face-to-face interactions between a large number of Chinese workers and those from other parts of the world, which is, after all, the primary function of our congresses.

I would like at this time to express my sincere thanks to all of the Chinese organizers and their numerous students for the successful 23rd Congress in Beijing in 2002. Special thanks are to be given to Professors Xu Wei-Shu, Zheng Guang-Mei and Zhang Zheng-Wang for their activity in organizing the Congress. I also acknowledge and thank the three people who were most central to its planning: Mr. Liu Feng for his careful attention to all details of operation, Dr. Fernando Spina for his years of hard work as chair of the Scientific Program Committee, and Professor Dominique Homberger for her activities as Permanent Secretary since the 22nd Congress in Durban 1998. Special thanks must also go to Dr. Richard Schodde for his careful editing of the entire Proceedings of this Congress. Finally I want to thank all the ornithologists who presented the results of their work and those attending the Congress, because their collected effort made the first Asian Congress a most memorable occasion.

5 Report of the Secretary-General of the 23rd International Ornithological Congress, Xu Wei-Shu

Attendance at the 23rd IOCongress: 642 registered delegates from abroad, and 172 delegates from China. Approximately 300 people also registered for the birding tours, as follows. Pre-congress tours to Mai Po (Hongkong): 30 people; Chongming Island (near Shanghai): 20 people; Xiao Long Men (Beijing): 20 people. Post-congress tours to Happy

Island (Beidaihe): 45 people; Xishuangbanna (Yunnan): 54 people; Zhalong Reserve (Heilongjiang for cranes): 13 people; Tibet: 42 people; Sichuan Woo Long: 54 people; Xian and Changqing Reserve for crested ibis: 32 people.

Finances: The 23rd IOCongress was able to attract two major sponsors, namely Swarovski and IFAW. China currently enjoys a good economy and a stable political situation. 250 delegates were funded through reduced registration fees, and some delegates were given funding for accommodations. There is a rule in China not to provide support for international air fares, but an exception was made to support the attendance of Nathan Gichuki as a member of the Executive Committee of the IOCommittee. Delegates and some retired people from within China also received financial support in the form of reduced registration fees of only 1000 RMB (ca. US\$125, equal to about one month's local salary). Chinese delegates came from all over China. There will be left-over funds, which will be used for ornithology in China or to fund Chinese participants to future IOCongresses. President Walter Bock came to China three times for supervision and on-site information on the progress of preparations.

Press Conference (Saturday, August 10): Journalists of several Chinese newspapers and one English language newspaper (China Daily) attended. Environmental and conservation issues were hot topics, and were discussed at length. Copies of published articles are to be given to the IOCommittee Permanent Secretary for archiving.

IOCongress Proceedings: The plenary addresses will be published in *Acta Zoologica Sinica*, and the symposia, round table discussion reports will be published in a supplementary issue of that journal.

Thoughts for future IOCongresses: The majority of bird species are found in Asia, Africa, and South America; but, somewhat paradoxically, most ornithologists are trained and professionally employed in Europe and North America. We hope that future IOCongresses can be held in bird-rich continents, such as South America, for their instruction.

6 Report of the IOCommittee Permanent Secretary, Dominique G. Homberger

Of a variety of tasks handled by the Secretariat, the major ones are summarized below.

IOCommittee membership: A data base to store and manage information on IOCommittee membership was created to facilitate communication.

Scientific Program Committee: Ex officio member; preparation of the minutes of the Scientific Program Committee meeting in Beijing, 6–11 June 2000 (see report below — item 7).

Finance Committee: Ex officio member (see report below — item 8).

Invitation for the 24th IOCongress 2006: Various potential organizers were approached, and information and

assistance was provided for the preparation of an invitation, including the preparation of the present invitation to Hamburg (see report below — item 11).

Invitations for the 25th IOCongress 2010: Various potential organizers have been approached. Currently, possible invitations have been discussed with representatives from Brazil, Spain and Australia.

Invitations for the 26th IOCongress 2014: Various potential organizers have been approached, but nothing concrete has developed yet.

7 Report of the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, Fernando Spina

The Scientific Program Committee (SPC) for the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing was appointed in 1998 by the President Walter Bock. Members of the Committee were: Alexander Andreev (Russia), Walter Bock (President, USA), Ding Chang-Qing (delegate of the Local Committee, China), Liu Feng (Assistant Secretary-General, China), Patricia Gowaty (USA), Zheng Guang-Mei (Chair of the Local Committee, China), Dominique Homberger (Secretary of IOCommittee, ex-officio, USA), Hiroyoshi Higuchi (Japan), Marek Konarzewski (Poland), Lukas Jenni (Switzerland), Theunis Piersma (The Netherlands), Pilai Poonswad (Thailand), Richard Schodde (Australia), Lucia Severinghaus (China), Fernando Spina (Chair, Italy), Xu Wei-Shu (Secretary-General, China), Hans Winkler (Austria), Zhang Zheng-Wang (delegate of the Local Committee, China). The SPC was very active and fully involved in the organization of the Congress, giving consistent support to the SPC Chair.

7.1 Announcements

A first announcement for the 23rd IOCongress and program contributions was distributed to all main ornithological journals in the summer of 1998, and published in their first issues of 1999. A more detailed announcement to journals was also sent by e-mail in October 1999; this announcement included the date and place of the venue, the names of the officials and of all members of the SPC, and the deadline for submitting proposals for symposia and plenary speakers, which was set at the end of April 2000.

In February 2000, calls for contributions were distributed by post and e-mail to IOCommittee members and, by e-mail, to all delegates at the Durban Congress; a further announcement from the President was sent in March 2000. The deadline for contributed papers and RTD proposals was set at end of June 2001.

In July 2001, a reminder call for contributions was sent to the above-mentioned address lists (over 1 600 addresses).

7.2 Questionnaire to the members of the IOCommittee

Following the positive example of the questionnaire circulated by Lukas Jenni before the Durban Congress, I

sent a new one to the members of the IOCommittee in July 1999. This questionnaire with 16 questions was sent both by post and e-mail wherever possible. The response to the questionnaire was quite poor, with only 55 colleagues responding, despite two different e-mail reminders. Although not completely representative, the respondents were very thoughtful in their replies. The results of the analysis were summarized in a report which was distributed to the members of the SPC and used by them when deciding on the structure of this Congress.

7.3 Meeting of the SPC in June 2000

The SPC held its conventional meeting over 6–11 June 2000 in Beijing, where we were commodiously lodged by our Chinese hosts in the gardens and forests of the Fragrant Hills. Unlike the previous Congress, the SPC met only 2, not 3 years before the Congress.

The SPC was introduced first in its program to the facilities of the Beijing International Convention Center (BICC), and the range of accommodation nearby, and it met the local organizing committee, officials of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and colleagues of the Beijing Normal University.

The first four days of the meeting were devoted to a detailed discussion on the structure of the Congress. Decisions were taken on the format and time table of the scientific program, as well as on the different types of presentations. We decided on the same structure and timetable for each of the five days of the Congress, apart from the opening ceremony on the first day and a shorter program with a brief closing ceremony on the last, in order to allow delegates to get ready for the evening banquet. Plenary speakers and symposia were selected, and decisions taken on the strategy to adopt when selecting contributed papers for oral sessions. We also discussed the format and perceived value of the Congress Proceedings, basically to contribute to decisions to be taken by the Local Committee. The timing and deadlines for the further planning of the Congress were also agreed upon, together with the tasks of the members of the SPC. Detailed minutes of the meeting were kindly produced by Dominique Homberger, while I produced a brief summary with the final list of decisions.

7.4 Plenary lectures

From the questionnaire, no clear preference emerged between having 5 or 10 plenaries. Those in favor of 10 had on average attended more plenaries (8) at the Durban Congress than those favoring 5 (6).

We decided on 10 plenaries, each opening the morning and afternoon sessions, respectively. Plenaries at the start of the sessions help in attracting delegates to meeting rooms to enjoy top-level review contributions on different subjects of ornithology. I provided SPC members with a list of plenaries from Berlin to Durban by congress and subject, together with a list of suggested plenary speakers for this congress. Through proposals stimulated by the question-

naire as well, we selected the 10 plenary speakers out of a total of 67 candidates. We also decided on a total of 5 backup speakers. When selecting candidates, special attention was paid to achieving a balance in gender and national representation.

Selected plenary speakers were first formally invited by the President, and subsequently kept informed on different aspects by me through a series of circulars. Abstracts of plenaries were reviewed by the President. Plenary speakers were to be introduced by SPC members, apart from the introduction of the Presidential address by the past President.

7.5 Symposia

The questionnaire indicated that delegates preferred symposium papers of a review nature. This was also the decision of the SPC, in order to offer the general ornithologist updated overviews of the state of the art in the different fields of ornithology. Although the majority of respondents to the questionnaire favored selection of at least some of the contributed papers for the symposia, we considered this process would have been too difficult to organize, and might have led to risky delays against the deadlines set for the proper organization of the congress.

As in previous congresses, we decided on the following rules: a person was allowed to give one symposium paper as first author, and could act as convener or co-convener in only one symposium. Any one person, however, could be a convener in one symposium (without presenting a talk), and a speaker in another symposium. Both symposium speakers and conveners were additionally allowed to submit contributed communications and/or Round Table Discussions. A relaxation of these rules was unfortunately needed in several cases, due to last-minute cancellations.

In previous congresses, symposia had always overlapped at least partly with other events. Here, however, we decided to select fewer symposia, so that all could be presented during morning sessions and avoid overlap with other events during the afternoon; this gave higher profile to other forms of presentation, particularly orals (see below). The final total of 39 symposia presented was unfortunately due to the late cancellation of symposium 28 at the end of June, 2002.

Initially, I provided SPC members with a compilation of all IOCongress symposia from Ottawa (1986) to Durban (1998) — the list from Ottawa to Vienna was compiled by Lukas Jenni as SPC Chair for the 22nd IOCongress. I also provided dossiers on all symposium proposals for Beijing, together with a list of people proposed as speakers and conveners. A total of 68 symposium proposals were submitted, out of which 40 were selected after considerable deliberation. In 11 cases, the SPC decided to ask conveners to merge symposium proposals on similar subjects. When selecting symposia, we also took into account international representation of speakers, gender and topic. Conveners for each symposium, too, were sought from different

countries.

Addresses were structured in order to allow delegates to commute between symposia. Together with opening and closing remarks from conveners, each symposium was to comprise five talks each of 17 minutes plus 3 minutes for discussion. Abstracts of symposium papers were reviewed by the conveners.

Symposium conveners were informed of the decisions taken by the SPC, and those of the symposia selected were invited twice to confirm commitment to convene and to attend the Congress. Delegates who had submitted unsuccessful symposium proposals were invited to offer contributed papers. In 14 cases we suggested that symposium proposals be redrafted as round table discussions (RTDs).

Eight circulars were sent to symposium conveners in order to provide them with all necessary information on the format of the symposia, the local facilities and visual aids, and schedules. Conveners were also requested to update and confirm the sequence of speakers, and title and authorship of papers. Circulars confirming the timing of each symposium were also sent directly to all invited symposium speakers.

A total of 20 symposium papers were cancelled before the Congress; and in some cases it was impossible for conveners to replace missing speakers. There were also two replacements in conveners.

7.6 Contributed papers

7.6.1 Oral papers

At the Durban Congress, oral papers were very well received and attended, as clearly shown also by the results of the questionnaire and generally very positive comments by delegates. While symposia feature invited review talks, oral papers selected out of the contributed papers offer an opportunity to present recent results produced by authors who, for various reasons, were not invited to contribute to symposia. The SPC therefore decided to feature both posters and 15 minutes oral papers, allocating, in particular, more time for orals than in previous congresses while avoiding overlap between oral sessions and symposia. Authors were offered the opportunity of nominating their preference for giving their paper as an oral or poster.

Contributed papers were grouped in 12 subject areas and reviewed by a panel of 14 members of the SPC who grouped them into categories of high, medium and low value. In order to apply uniform judgement across all subject areas, I also reviewed and scored all abstracts.

Out of a total of 678 contributed papers, 397 submissions were received for oral papers. Of these, 200 were selected, which I then grouped by subject into a total of 25 oral sessions, each lasting 2 hours, with a total of 8 papers of 12 minutes each, plus 3 minutes for discussion. The selection process also looked for a wide geographical representation among authors. Replacement papers were selected as well, and in 39 cases, replacement speakers were

invited to present an oral communication because of cancellations. Contributions not selected for orals were all accepted as posters.

Richard Schodde provided a most important contribution by reviewing and editing the abstracts of all contributed papers (posters and orals).

In June 2002, I selected and invited a chairperson out of the speakers for each of the oral sessions. The talks of the selected chairs were scheduled as the last ones of their sessions, in order to enforce the control of timing. To support the work of the chairs in introducing the talks, I also asked all speakers to provide the chairs with details on their affiliation and research, together with an extract from their abstracts.

7.6.2 Posters

The SPC felt poster papers to be a very important form of presentation, which can often reach a wider audience than symposia and orals. We therefore decided to have no overlap between poster sessions and other events. This decision had to be revised later for logistic reasons, and poster sessions were overlapped with oral sessions in the final structure of the Congress. Poster sessions were scheduled for 4 out of the 5 working days of the Congress.

All poster presentations were accepted, provided the abstracts met the required format. One person was allowed to submit only one poster paper as first author. Abstracts of posters were sent directly to the Assistant Secretary-General, were not reviewed by the SPC but were edited by Richard Schodde.

7.7 Round Table Discussions

RTDs are used for a variety of tasks, such as presenting and discussing new methods and techniques, updating ongoing projects, and proposing new lines of research, etc. At the SPC we decided that RTDs must not develop into symposia, that they should be based on few and well-presented aspects to be illustrated and discussed. In order to further increase the profile of RTDs, we decided to publish brief summary reports in the Congress Proceedings.

We also decided that the conveners should guide discussion through contributions from a core of participants on well-prepared issues. All RTD submissions were accepted. Chairs of Standing Committees were asked to organize their meetings within the frame of a RTD as well. A total of 20 RTDs was scheduled, later reduced to 19 by a late cancellation.

7.8 Meetings of special interest groups and Standing Committees

We decided to encourage special interest groups to meet during the Congress. Their meetings could be held at any time, providing that they did not overlap with plenary lectures, or with the opening and closing ceremonies of the congress. The participants of special interest groups meetings were requested to pay full registration fees. Standing Committees of the IOCommittee would meet as RTDs.

One Special Interest Group Meeting was planned and included in the program.

7.9 Congress web site

The congress web site proved to be a very important tool for communication, as I heard from many delegates who checked it regularly for updates and details. I suggested its use to make the Congress program available before the Congress, *inter alia* to enable delegates to better plan their priority sessions. The scientific program of the Congress was published on the web site on June 24, 2002, making it available for advance checking. This proved finding errors and updating lists of authors, as well as for providing delegates with advanced knowledge of the scientific program.

7.10 Conservation and applied aspects

Throughout the program of this Congress, the “fil-rouge” has been the decline of birdlife worldwide and the conservation problems originating from human activities. The Congress focused expansively on these aspects, simply because so many delegates, working in completely different fields of ornithology, have shown that these are prominent factors affecting all birds throughout the world. It is clear that IOCongresses have become unique venues where cutting-edge scientific results can be displayed to provide solutions and counterbalancing strategies to conservation problems.

I hope the Beijing IOCongress has left a message for the need to further increase our knowledge of the birds of Asia, for the better planning of wise-use policies in the managing of natural resources in a highly populated continent that hosts immense avian biodiversity, the preservation of which we owe to future generations.

7.11 Collaboration within the SPC and with the Organizing Committee

There was very positive, responsive and friendly cooperation within the SPC and between the SPC and the Secretary-General, the Assistant Secretary-General and the Local Committee. Having an SPC meeting in Beijing in June 2000 was crucial in reaching the necessary decisions on which to base the organization of the scientific program of the Congress. We had a most positive and cooperative atmosphere at the meeting, which was perfectly arranged by our Chinese hosts. Ample time was allowed also for informal discussion and brainstorming, which greatly contributed to the initiatives and outcomes of the meeting. At the meeting, we decided the structure of the Congress, the time to allocate to different types of presentations, the selection criteria and process, and all deadlines. We selected the plenary speakers and symposia as well.

After the meeting, the SPC became actively involved in reviewing the submissions for oral communications. As chairman of the SPC, I reviewed all submitted abstracts, finalized the list of oral papers, took care of all correspondence with plenary speakers, symposia conveners and in-

vited speakers, conveners of RTDs and authors of oral papers. I scheduled the scientific program and tried to solve all problems related to cancellations, apart from a few cases of dropouts that were so late that replacements could not be found.

The Secretary-General, Assistant Secretary-General and Local Committee received the abstracts of posters and RTDs, interacted with Richard Schodde for editing all abstracts, and took care of the instructions to authors for the Proceedings and of all other logistic aspects.

7.12 Closing remarks — and a look to the future

IOCongresses are aimed uniquely at offering updated overviews of progress in the many and different fields of ornithological research. It is therefore important to attract top scientists from all over the world, together with their most recent results. Despite our hopes for a better future, the present situation is characterized by shortage of funds for biological research worldwide. Financial constraints are therefore likely to affect attendances at IOCongresses in the future; ours are large meetings, requiring considerable facilities, organization and correlated activities, which result in generally high registration costs. Despite the fact that poster papers are arguably the best type of presentation for such large congresses, I have found that delegates often have better chances of getting travel funds if giving a spoken address. This is particularly true for young Ph.D. students, who can often offer most stimulating and fresh, new results. It is therefore important to take these aspects into account when deciding on the format and structure of the scientific program.

Another crucial aspect likely to affect the scientific program is the type of Proceedings that the Secretary-General and Local Committee will want to produce. There is, in fact, a clear tendency for authors to refrain from offering top and unpublished results to appear as full papers in volumes of Proceedings. The “impact factor game” forces scientists to publish in high impact, peer-reviewed journals; this is often also the best strategy to get research funds, and I think this aspect might become a major factor affecting the scientific quality of future congresses. The trade-off between a volume of Proceedings published with full papers after the congress, and most recent and unpublished results offered during the congress is an important aspect to be taken into account. A compromise might be represented by Proceedings that comprise peer-reviewed, full plenaries and (symposia of review papers?) review papers; and abstracts of the other contributed papers.

Another potential improvement on the present format could come from selecting a percentage of symposium addresses out of the contributed papers (e.g., 2 out of 5). From this respect, widespread and efficient electronic connections could help organize the process, with symposium proposals confined to a subject and 3 papers and the remaining papers selected by the conveners through help of the SPC chair. This was a strategy recommended also by

the majority of people replying to the questionnaire; but there are doubts about how such a system would work for a large congress: hence we refrained from attempting it here.

7.12.1 Electronic mail

E-mail has been crucial in the organization of this congress; apart from printed copies of the questionnaire circulated well before the SPC meeting, and announcements posted to journals and IOCommittee members, virtually all correspondence has been by e-mail. Out of a total of 6 900 messages that I have exchanged during these years (about 11 000 when circulars are added), I only received a total of 3 printed letters. Of the different types of invitation letters that I was requested to write, I sent only two as printed copies; the rest were in *.pdf format.

Electronic connections have, of course, eased my task enormously, and I surely admire former SPC chairs working with printed mail only. However, e-mail allows real last-minute replies, which can become “too-late” replies; furthermore, many people use e-mail in a strange way, and messages seem to be either answered immediately, or never. This exposes a need for frequent reminders.

7.12.2 Deadlines

Unlike previous practice, the SPC met 2 rather than 3 years before the congress. The deadline for submission of abstracts was also set at 2 years before the Congress (1 April 2001, and 1 July 2001, for symposia and contributed papers - RTDs, respectively). I think it is good to have as late as possible deadlines, in order to include more recent and updated contributions.

We have suffered much from delegates not meeting deadlines. Symposium proposals kept on arriving until my departure for the SPC meeting, over 2 months post the deadline; and contributed papers were still being received up to a few weeks before the Congress. The problem of deadlines has been very serious, due to the high percentage of late proposals. Again, circulating reminders is easy with e-mail, and possibly the only way to reduce the problem.

7.12.3 Cancellations

Problems here arise from delegates that confirm commitment to attend the Congress and to organize sessions, and then cancel at the very last moment. Uncertainty of funds is the main problem; but last-minute dropouts are difficult to replace and cause serious disruptions to the program. Fees paid immediately upon having an abstract accepted, with restrictions in refunding, could be a strategy, but surely not the solution. Selecting backup papers and speakers is an important task for the SPC chair.

7.12.4 Post-Congress questionnaire

As decided at the SPC meeting, a questionnaire will be circulated to all participants shortly after the Congress. The questionnaire is aimed at collecting comments and suggestions for the better planning of the next Congress. The one that I sent around before the 2002 congress reached delegates over 1 year after the Durban congress, which

might be one reason for the poor response. I hope the new questionnaire will be more successful, as this will allow me to provide the next SPC Chair with more detailed information and suggestions for planning the 2006 Congress. I take this opportunity to wish my successor all the best for her/his work, which I am happy and ready to support if needed.

7.13 Acknowledgements

Being chair of the Scientific Program Committee for an IOCongress is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I wish to warmly thank the President Walter Bock for offering me this chance. I have always had a deeply positive relationship with him, and I could only learn from his unique knowledge and experience of the IOCongresses and their workings. I greatly benefited from the many and important suggestions and comments that the IOCommittee Secretary, Dominique Homberger, has always offered me in such friendly fashion. Chairing the SPC meeting was also a very interesting and positive experience. Not just for their constructive and enthusiastic advice but also for the crucial help arising out of their vast and varied knowledge of ornithology, I wish to thank all SPC members. For providing me with much material and many suggestions from the Durban Congress, I extend special thanks to Lukas Jenni. I am also grateful to Richard Schodde for having edited the abstracts of all contributed papers. Working with our Chinese colleagues has been another very constructive aspect of this experience. My warmest thanks go to all the Local Committee, and in particular to the Secretary-General, Xu Wei-Shu and to the Assistant Secretary-General, Liu Feng. With Liu Feng I exchanged uncountable messages, which invariably got immediate, efficient and clear replies. For helping me to produce the booklet of symposium proposals, I thank my colleague Maria Luisa Romagnoli.

8 Report of the Chair of the ad hoc Finance Committee, Tim Wood

After the 22nd Congress in Durban, the incoming President of the International Ornithological Committee, Professor Walter Bock, set up an investigative financial committee to look into the financial affairs of the IOCommittee. The reason: there had been discussion for years by its officers and Executive Committee about the need for information about its financial needs for operating and supporting congresses, but nothing had been done and no solutions found.

8.1 Professor Bock's brief to the committee

8.1.1 Background

The IOCommittee is a nonprofit organization. It has no funds. The finances of each Congress are separate from the Committee and from other congresses. Congress finances are strictly under the control of the Secretary-General of each congress, who appoints a member of the Local Committee to deal with money matters. These include all expenses leading up to the Congress, those of the Scientific Program Committee, and sponsorship of chosen third-

world delegates and students. The expenses of the individual officers of the Executive Committee, such as President and Permanent Secretary, are covered personally, independently of the Congress and presumably through the institutions for whom they work. These arrangements are very advantageous to the IOCommittee.

There have been discussions on whether such arrangements might be modified so that funds for the operation of the IOCommittee can be raised independently of congress finances. Funds are needed for several purposes, such as the expenses of officers of the Executive Committee (EC), for providing seed money for congresses and the meetings of the Scientific Program Committee, and for maintaining a home page on the Internet, etc.

Before embarking on any fund raising, however, several issues need resolution.

8.1.2 Issues for the Finance Committee to consider

1. costs facing the IOCommittee in the future — these should be itemized in order of priority;

2. mechanisms for raising an Endowment for the IOCommittee;

3. whether or not a membership should be established for an international body of ornithologists — an International Ornithological Society (to replace the Committee); and whether dues should be charged;

4. methods of conveying funds internationally to avoid high banking fees on individual checks, including use of credit cards for paying dues;

5. choice of country in which to keep and invest funds, and where the IOCommittee can be registered as a non-profit organization;

7. officer(s) in the IOCommittee responsible for handling funds;

8. interaction between the funds of the IOCommittee and the finances of congresses;

9. necessary changes in the Statutes and By-laws of the IOCommittee to effect new financial arrangements; and whether such changes should be introduced at the 23rd Congress in 2002.

8.2 Finance Committee

The members invited by Professor Bock to serve on the Finance Committee, and who eventually took an active part in formulating the proposals detailed here, were: Dr. A. Berruti (South Africa), Dr. J. Croxall (United Kingdom), Dr. D.G. Homberger (USA), Dr. C.J.R. Robertson (New Zealand) and Mr. T. G. Wood (South Africa).

The committee did not formally meet, handling its deliberations by e-mail. There were, however, individual meetings between Dr. Robertson and Mr. Wood in New Zealand in April 2000, and between Dr. Croxall and Mr. Wood in England in April 2001, as well as frequent meetings between Dr. Berruti and Mr. Wood in Johannesburg, where Dr. Berruti is Director of BirdLife South Africa, and Mr.

Wood a Council Member. Unfortunately, a scheduled meeting between Dr. Homberger and Mr. Wood in England in April 2001 did not eventuate.

A questionnaire was developed arising mainly out of the New Zealand meeting in April 2000, but with major contributions from the other members of the Committee and a comprehensive reply from Dr. Homberger. Subsequent comments also came from Professor Bock and Dr. Croxall.

The Finance Committee felt that the questionnaire was so wide-ranging and covered so much ground that it went beyond Professor Bock's brief and needed answers to many other questions affecting the future of the IOCommittee and its structure. The financial structure of the IOCommittee itself could not be adequately addressed. We have, however, been able to examine some of the problems and to make recommendations that may be implemented when other issues have been debated and resolved by the Executive Committee.

8.3 Local Organizing Committee finances

It is possible that local organizations that run future congresses could be bankrupted. The money to run a congress is generated from registration fees, sponsorships, grants and trading activities, such as tours and merchandizing. Commissions need to be negotiated with officially appointed suppliers to supplement income. The 22nd Congress in Durban was lucky because interest rates on call monies rose to over 20% in 1998.

It should be noted that the grant-in-aid from the Durban Corporation, together with sponsorships, funded the initial expenses of the congress, as follows:

Scientific Program Committee Expenses	R82758
First and Second Program	R28534
Insurance	R10000
Local Organizing Committee	R15000
ICC Deposit	R40000
PCO Deposit	R10000
Vienna Bid	R18787
	R 205 079

It was expected that the Congress would repay the grant-in-aid, but, in fact, it was utilized to subsidize overseas delegates (R136 130); only R57 000 was repaid. It was felt by various members of the Local Organizing Committee, before the Congress was held, that the costs of Scientific Program Committee meetings and the funding for third world delegates should be paid for by the IOCommittee.

The Chair of the IOCommittee's Finance Committee is currently acting as treasurer for another congress to be held in Durban in September 2002. Each congress has its differences. A profile of income and expenditure of the second congress is attached. The trade connected with the business of the congress (an important financial component) has largely paid for the costs of invited speakers (R900 000) and subsidization of delegates (R800 000) by keeping fees down. There is no subsidization of Third World delegates.

The International Secretariat has funded the Scientific Program meetings at a convenient venue overseas, as well as a certain number of postgraduate students and an interest free loan to provide seed money for initial expenses which must be repaid. Budgets were agreed with the International Secretariat at R7: \$1. The exchange rate was R11: \$1 when this report was written. That congress is assured of a surplus, of which 50% is paid to the International Secretariat. The size of the congress is the same as IOCongresses. Trade, of course, has not so far been relevant to the IOCommittee and its congresses.

8.4 IOCommittee Secretariat

The secretariat has traditionally consisted of one or two officers whose expenses have been paid by the institutions for whom they work. This has worked well; but what happens if an elected Permanent Secretary works for an institution that cannot pay his or her expenses?

8.5 IOCommittee

The Finance Committee considered the structure of the IOCommittee, the future relevance of its congresses, and the interaction between the IOCommittee and other organizations dealing with ornithology and birds. It was felt that the questions raised, which are detailed in the questionnaire, are relevant to the future of the IOCommittee, and, therefore, to any financial structure that is put in place. The Finance Committee, however, was not asked to provide the answers; such issues need to be resolved by the Executive Committee, affecting as they do the future of the IOCommittee and its congresses.

8.6 The IOCommittee and the Local Organizing Committee

The Finance Committee perceived a functional division between the IOCommittee and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). The actual finances of both have been dealt with above. It is all a question of where the responsibility rests, and how it should be partitioned. The Executive Committee of the IOCommittee delegates responsibility for the running of a congress to LOCs. It is an honor for a country to hold a congress; but it could bankrupt the LOC in the process.

It was felt that the responsibility for IOCongresses lies ultimately with the Executive Committee and its appointed officers. It is, presumably, an honor for those officers to be so appointed, namely:

- President
- Permanent Secretary
- Chairman of the Scientific Program Committee (SPC)
- Other members of the Executive Committee (EC)

Such committees need not meet in the host country, but where it is most cost-effective. All costs relating to the Executive Committee and Scientific Planning Committee should be met by the IOCommittee. The Executive Committee should also agree to the Registration Fee and the budgets for congresses, and provide seed money, if required,

to meet start-up expenses and finance Third World delegates within parameters determined by it.

The LOC is essentially responsible for the successful running of congresses. All peripheral activities, i.e., tours, that the LOC decides to undertake to make its Congress a pleasurable event, must be kept financially separate from the Congress and accounted for separately. Any Interest Free Loans (as seed money) must be repaid, and surpluses should be shared on a 50:50 basis.

8.6.1 IOCommittee expenses

The expense categories for the IOCommittee and LOC are detailed below. It is realized that the IOCommittee does not hold any funds; but targets should be set to obtain funds for:

- Permanent Secretary office expenses
- Permanent Secretary travel
- Scientific Program Committee meeting expenses, including travel
- Delegates from Third World countries
- Student attendance
- Congress seed money (Interest Free Loan)
- Congress Plenary Lecturers expenses
- Publication of Congress Proceedings (if LOC fails to do it)
- Preparation of Invitation for a congress

These expenses are listed in approximate order of importance.

8.6.2 LOC expenses

- Venue hire
- Professional Congress Organizer
- Congress Brochures
 - Invitation
 - Reminders and Publicity
 - Program
- Congress Proceedings
- LOC incidental expenses and meeting expenses
- Entertainment
 - Welcome Ceremony
 - Daily tea and coffee
- Transport of delegates
- Insurance
- Poster stands
- Exhibition costs
- Accompanying persons costs
- Loan (seed money) repayment

8.7 International federation of societies of ornithology and ornithologists (IFSOO)

The Finance Committee agreed that such an international society should be formed, although, on reflection, a federation would be better. A federation is more inclusive of scientific ornithology and “hobby” ornithology, professionals and amateurs, and any “splinter” groups within ornithology.

Membership of the federation should be open not

only to individual scientists, but also to amateurs. It is anticipated, though, that the bulk of the members would be professional bodies, unions, societies, universities, and institutes from all over the world.

It would be the responsibility of the federation to organize the congress (IOCongress) every four years. Professor Bock has stressed that the core purpose of the congresses are to permit scientific ornithologists to come together to exchange information and ideas and to establish working cooperation. The scientific program for each Congress must be inclusive of all scientific bodies making up the federation, as the Congress must appeal to all scientists to induce them to attend such an international meeting. There could be further inducements to become members of a federation such as:

- discounts for members for attendance at congresses
- production of an international Journal of Ornithology besides the Proceedings

The Finance Committee did not give any consideration to changes that might have to be made to the Statutes and By-laws. It believed that this should follow on general acceptance of its report, and that a “friendly” legal expert should be involved. Should it be agreed by the Executive Committee that a federation be formed, then members of the EC must decide on its structure. The Finance Committee suggests that it should be run by a board consisting of

- President
- Vice President
- Permanent Secretary
- Treasurer
- Scientific Committee Chair
- Editor
- Other Members (4)

The board would report to a council. Members of the board would be appointed by the council.

8.8 Finance

The Finance Committee recommends that a member-based federation or international society should be formed, registered as a nonprofit organization, and charge membership dues. The size of the membership fee could be determined by the size of the institution that joins, and whether it is First or Third World. Initially, a discount might have to be offered on registration fees to congresses in order to build up membership.

There are also other methods of raising funds such as

- Sponsorship from corporate, government and non-government organizations, UN etc.
- Donations
- Bequests
- 50% of proceeds of each Congress
- International ornithological scientific web portal

Attendance at congresses will always be higher in North America and Europe. Therefore, the next two congresses should be held there in order to raise funds. It was

felt that if a federation/society is created, it would be easier to raise funds from the European Union, USA, NSF, GEF, etc. to fund congresses, students, Third World delegates and other costs.

It was agreed that a trust/endowment should be created and placed with an institution in the USA or Europe for the purpose of growing a capital base to fund the expenses of any federation/society that is formed. The Durban branch of HSBC, an international bank, was approached by Mr. Wood to advise on the mechanisms for setting up such a fund. HSBC advised that the country where the endowment fund will be domiciled must first be chosen by the IOCommittee, after which its staff in that country will be able to set up the fund and give any other advice required. They advised that their Jersey Branch is well equipped to do all that is necessary.

The bank or committee of the federation/society would appoint the trustees of the endowment fund/trust. The IOCommittee would lay down the terms and conditions for the use of the funds. The costs of transferring funds around the world should not be a consideration, as they would be minimal and could be a cost levied against each Congress. Repatriation of funds from any country must be part of the conditions of holding the Congress.

It would be necessary to appoint a treasurer of the IOCommittee to raise funds, control funds, and distribute funds. Such a function is not a full time job.

8.9 Summary

This report is a synopsis of the discussions, thoughts, and ideas of all members of the Finance Committee, as well as input from Professor Bock. The members of the ad hoc Finance Committee are agreed on the way forward, which is summarized below, bearing in mind that it would be presumptuous of the Committee to propose constitutional reform.

1. Constitutional reform needs to be agreed and be effected through the Executive Committee of the IOCommittee, acting on the basis of the Interim Report by the ad hoc Finance Committee appointed by Professor Bock.

2. The Executive Committee needs to agree that an international Federation or Society should be created, and on how it should be run, that is through a Board and Council.

3. Once such agreement has been reached, an appointed person or group of persons must review the Statutes and By-laws of the IOCommittee, and put forward recommendations for required changes to the Executive Committee to give effect to the creation of a federation, its structure, and reporting mechanisms.

4. The Executive Committee can then approve the creation of an endowment/trust fund, the trustees thereof, the country of jurisdiction where the fund will be placed as a tax-exempt trust, and the parameters whereby the funds will be used. The federation must also have tax-free status.

The issues raised in this report of the ad hoc Finance

Committee will affect the IOCommittee and its future vitally. The report should now be circulated to a wider audience for consideration and comment. Hopefully, discussion will be robust and positive decisions made.

9 Report of the Chair of the IOCommittee Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature, Richard Schodde

The 14th congressional meeting of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature (SCON) was held as a meeting open to all delegates of the 23rd IOC; only members of the committee voted. In all, 25 delegates attended, including seven of the SCON committee of ten: Dr. Per Alström, Sweden, Professor Walter Bock, USA, Murray Bruce, Australia, Dr. Siegfried Eck, Germany, Dr. Hiroyuki Morioka, Japan, Dr. Carlo Violani, Italy, and Dr. Richard Schodde, Australia and Chair; apologies were received from Professor Ernst Mayr and Alan Peterson, both USA. Members of the SCON are appointed by the President of the Congress to serve for the four-year term of that Congress, and may be re-appointed. The designated functions of the SCON are two-fold: to advise the ornithological community on questions of nomenclature, and to initiate action with the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to resolve them. The SCON's objectives in exercising these functions have been, by tradition, to maintain nomenclatural stability without interfering with taxonomic process.

9.1 Issues

Issues addressed fell into four categories: (1) alternative codes of zoological nomenclature; (2) implications of the new 4th edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (the Code); (3) specific nomenclatural questions requiring resolution; and (4) formal association between the SCON and the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (the Commission).

9.1.1 Alternative codes of zoological nomenclature

Two alternatives to the present system for naming birds have appeared over the last decade: (i) Project Biocode (International Code of Biological Nomenclature), which has as its objective the integration of zoological and botanical codes (Greuter et al., *Taxon* 131(1994) 1–389); and (ii) the PhyloCode, a system of nomenclature designed for phylogenetic ordering in biology (de Queiroz and Gauthier, *Ann. Rev. Ecol. Syst.* 23 (1992) 449–480). The SCON was briefed on both alternatives, and took no position other than to agree that their acceptance was premature and that neither should affect the *status quo* for the foreseeable future.

9.1.2 New edition of International Code of Zoological Nomenclature

Novel provisions in the new edition of the Code were summarized by Professor Bock, namely (i) improved precision for the typification, (ii) prescribed publication in electronic format, (iii) empowerment for authors to preserve established usage affected by priority, and (iv) acceptance of official lists of available names by the Commission.

9.2 Outcomes

Apart from two matters concerning conflicting generic names in Dendrocolaptidae and subspecific names in *Lanius* and *Larus* being handled by correspondence, seven issues were addressed:

9.2.1 Gender-endings to species group names

David and Gosselin's corrections to the gender endings of 230 plus species-group names in the Bull. BOC 122 (2002) 14–49 would, if accepted, result in multitudinous changes to current spellings. Those affecting simple adjectives were usually straightforward. Most, however, involve compound specific names formed from a qualified noun, e. g. *melanoptera* (from the adjective “black” and the noun “wing”) which have been interpreted as either adjective or noun in apposition. David and Gosselin reached their conclusions by doctrinaire lexical interpretation that would, the meeting felt, take zoological nomenclature out of the realm of the practising systematist. Because of this, and the fact that the Code, through Article 31.2.2, is open on the issue, the meeting unanimously deprecated the David and Gosselin approach. The SCON, however, was divided on the solution, the majority (five) carrying the case for rewording Article 31.2.2 of the Code to give it teeth to maintain prevailing usage. The proposed rewording is as follows, the changes in italics:

“Where an author of a species-group name did not indicate whether he or she regarded it as a noun or as an adjective, and where it may be *or has been* regarded as either, the evidence of prevailing usage *shall be decisive*. *Where this condition is not met, the name* is to be treated as a noun in apposition to the name of its genus (the original spelling is to be retained, with gender ending unchanged; see Article 34.2.1).” Pending decision by the Commission, prevailing usage is to be maintained.

9.2.2 Typification of *Archeopteryx lithographica* von Meyer

Specification of the type of this historic bird has been made necessary by the recent recognition of several associated taxa. After reviewing the protologue (Drs. Eck, Bock), the SCON concluded that the present type (= holotype) is an unidentifiable feather impression. Accordingly, the SCON resolved to support Drs Paul Bühler and Walter Bock in asking the Commission to set aside the holotype and designate as neotype an identifiable skeleton in the Natural History Museum, London.

9.2.3 Publication date of Latham's *Supplementum Indicis ornithologicis*

Publication of Latham's *Supplementum* in 1802, not 1801 (Browning and Monroe, *Arch. Nat. Hist.* 18 (1991) 381–405) changes the traditional date of publication of 224 species names, most of them Australian. The only nomenclatural consequence is potential replacement of these names by others previously thought junior; yet only one has come to light: *Menura superba* Davies, 1801 over *Menura novaehollandiae* Latham, 1802 for the iconic Australian superb lyrebird. After considering options, the SCON voted

4 to 2 (1 abstention) to accept the revised date of Latham's *Supplementum* (1802), and then by 6 to 1 to ask the Commission to suppress *M. superba* Davies.

9.2.4 *Creadion* Vieillot, a source of confusion

Vieillot based the genus *Creadion* on wattlebirds from both Australia (Meliphagidae) and New Zealand (Callaeatidae). As a result, the name has been used in both families according to differing interpretations of the type species. The SCON reaffirmed its decision at the 20th IOCongress in 1990 to ask the Commission to suppress *Creadion* Vieillot.

9.2.5 The identity of *Columba recurvirostra* Gmelin

The identity and status of *Columba recurvirostra* Gmelin, type species of *Treron* Vieillot, have been confounded over the years such that action is needed to specify identity to affirm current usage. The SCON unanimously resolved to do this by applying to the Commission to designate a neotype from a locality ensuring nomenclatural stability.

9.2.6 Unresolved generic names from the 12th IOCongress, Helsinki, 1958

At the 12th IOCongress, the SCON opted to "correct" original spellings of three generic names by Swainson in Meliphagidae: *Gliciphila* to *Glyciphila*, *Anthomiza* to *Anthomyza* and *Zanthomiza* to *Xanthomyza*. No further action was taken. Since then, the original spelling *Gliciphila* has been re-established and *Anthomiza* has become a *nomen oblitum* under Art. 23.9 of the Code, leaving only validation of *Xanthomyza* to be actioned.

9.2.7 Competition between the family-group names Sylviidae/inae Leach, 1820 and Timaliidae/inae Vigors and Horsfield, 1827

Current molecular evidence indicates that *Sylvia* Scopoli, type genus of the Sylviidae/inae, is nested phylogenetically within the Old World babblers, potentially shifting the conventional family name for the Old World warblers to the babblers. Action was considered premature at this stage; if required, the preferred solution was one of conditional suppression of Sylviidae Leach, whereby that name would be used for familial taxa combining warblers and babblers but subordinate to Timaliidae when they are separate.

9.2.8 Association of the SCON with the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

The initiative of the Commission to liaise with international bodies in producing official lists of available names offers scope for the SCON to serve as the Commission's arm in matters of ornithological nomenclature *through* such lists. Submission of Professor Bock's 1994 list of bird family names was agreed as a first step in developing this association. In this role, the meeting felt that the SCON should be more representative of national taxonomic committees, noting that those committees too needed to improve their participation in the SCON and its meetings.

10 Report of the Chairs of the IOCommittee Standing Committee on Raptors, David M. Bird and Bernd Ulrich-Meyburg

10.1 Background

Raptors are at the top of the food chain and enjoy a large following of concern and interest among scientific and conservation communities throughout the world. To monitor and act on the issues and problems associated with such high-profile birds, the IOCommittee allows for the establishment of specialist standing committees. At a Round Table Discussion 17 at the 22nd IOCongress in Durban, South Africa, organized and chaired by David Bird, past-president of the Raptor Research Foundation, and Bernd Ulrich-Meyburg, president of the World Working on Birds of Prey and Owls, about 25 interested people discussed the establishment of a Standing Committee on Raptors after a brief address by the then IOCommittee Permanent Secretary, Walter Bock, on how standing committees function and what roles they serve. That meeting decided unanimously to request the IOCommittee to establish such a standing committee.

10.2 Functions of the Standing Committee on Raptors

The committee was established to:

1. encourage and implement the airing of hypotheses concerning birds of prey at IOCongresses by means of symposia, e.g. on phylogeny, reversed size dimorphism;
2. encourage discussion on the conservation of raptors through Round Table Discussions;
3. bring conservation issues concerning raptors to the attention of the IOCommittee and determine what ornithological research needs to be done in seeking solutions, e.g. effects of chemical pollutants, raptors as indicators of habitat fragmentation, impact of agriculture on raptors; and
4. stimulate networking among international raptor groups, e.g. Raptor Research Foundation (RRF), World Working Group on Birds of Prey (WWGBP).

During the discussion, however, some reservations were expressed by several participants that the fourth objective might not be easy to achieve politically. The RRF and the WWGBP have on occasion shared their meeting venues and certainly many raptor researchers and conservationists around the world belong to both organizations. Moreover, both organizations have independently assessed and acted upon various international and local conservation issues involving raptors. Thus, some questioned the need to create yet another raptor group, i.e. the IOCommittee Standing Committee on Raptors. A long list of potential names to serve on the Committee was generated to represent the main geographic areas around the world.

10.3 Progress

The Standing Committee on Raptors submitted a proposal for a symposium to the organizers of the 23rd IOCongress to be held in Beijing, China in August 2002, but

due to a series of misunderstandings its proposal was not accepted by the Scientific Planning Committee for that Congress. In the circumstances, it was agreed that David Bird and Bernd Ulrich-Meyburg would continue to chair the IOCommittee Standing Committee on Raptors until successors could be found. It was further agreed that, in addition to the two co-chairmen, the Committee would consist of ten international representatives with a demonstrated record of scientific publishing on raptor biology and who would be likely to attend IOCongresses. David Bird has now contacted the following people who have agreed to serve: Ian Newton (UK), Anita Gamauf (Austria), Beatrice Arroyo (currently Scotland), Erkki Korpimäki (Finland), Pertti Saurola (Finland), Marc Bechard (USA), and Jean-Marc Thiollay (France). The remaining three have yet to be coopted.

Ian Newton counseled the raptor group to contact other Standing Committees of the IOCommittee to see how they function, whether they held their congress meetings in the form of a Round Table Discussion (RTD), and whether the IOCommittee does indeed guarantee a place for RTDs for Standing Committees.

11 Invitation to hold the 24th International Ornithological Congress in Hamburg, Germany, 13–19 August 2006, presented by Franz Bairlein

11.1 Hosts

Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft e. V. (German Ornithologists' Society; DO-G), and Institute of Avian Research "Vogelwarte Helgoland", Wilhelmshaven (IfV), supported by Naturschutzbund Deutschland, European Ornithologists' Union, and First Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

11.2 Patronage

Federal Ministry for Education and Science of the Federal Republic of Germany.

11.3 Location

CCH-Congress Centrum, Hamburg

11.4 Proposed Committees (*IOC member; !deceased)

11.4.1 Secretary-General

Bairlein, Franz (Wilhelmshaven)*

11.4.2 National Committee

Helbig, Andreas, Chair (Kloster)*!

Becker, Peter H. (Wilhelmshaven)

Berthold, Peter (Radolfzell)*

Böhning-Gaese, Katrin (Mainz)*

Dien, Jürgen, Chair, Local Committee (Hamburg)

Eck, Siegfried (Dresden)*!

Exo, Klaus-Michael (Wilhelmshaven)

Nipkow, Markus (Bonn)

Gwinner, Eberhard (Andechs)*!

Martens, Jochen (Mainz)*

Prinzinger, Roland (Frankfurt)*

Starck, J. Matthias (Jena)*

Wiltshko, Roswitha (Frankfurt)*

Wiltshko, Wolfgang (Frankfurt)*

11.5 CCH-Congress Centrum Hamburg

- A world-renowned congress venue in the heart of the city of Hamburg
- 19 conference halls, seating 30–3 000, including 4 600 sqm of floor exhibition space
- Registration desk
- Service Center (cash dispenser, credit card, phones, faxes and phone services, Internet, photocopy machines)
- Wheelchair access to all areas, sanitary facilities for handicaps
- Medical service
- In-house catering, seating 750, additional restaurants and bistros around the CCH
- Underground parking
- 7 miles from Hamburg's international airport
- International railway links, intercity trains, subway and bus stations in the vicinity of CCH

11.6 Routes to Hamburg

Hamburg Airport serves flights to and from more than 50 countries worldwide. Hamburg offers direct destinations to all European capitals, and can be reached from most world capitals with only one stop over via Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Helsinki, London Heathrow, Munich, Paris, Vienna and Zurich.

The intercity rail station Dammtor is right next to CCH.

11.7 Public transport

Rapid-transit underground and suburban rail links, numerous bus routes and even port ferries are all included in the same transport system. CCH is right next to several stations and bus stops. A special congress ticket will allow participants to use Hamburg's public-transport system free of charge.

11.8 Hotels

Hamburg has some 20 000 beds in every category of hotel. Apart from numerous 5 and 4 star hotels, Hamburg also offers a wide range of budget hotels, pensions and hostel-accommodation. 870 rooms have already been pre-reserved in all five categories, ranging from US\$ 20–150 per person and bed and night. The Radisson-SAS Hotel with 560 rooms is adjacent to the CCH. The pre-reserved hotels are close by or can be reached by public transport within 15–20 minutes.

11.9 Congress tours

Pre- and post-congress tours will be organized to various natural and cultural sites in northern, eastern and central Europe, ranging from 3 to 7 days.

Mid-congress tours will include the Wadden Sea, the island of Helgoland, the Lueneburg Heath, the Harz Mountains, the German Baltic Sea Coast, the Mueritz Lake District, the River Elbe Biosphere Reserve, and the City of Berlin.

Early morning birding trips will be organized during the congress.

11.10 Accompanying Persons Program

Hamburg and its surroundings offer a wide range of events and trips. The accompanying persons program will include guided tours to the city of Hamburg, the city of Berlin, the island of Helgoland, the German Wadden Sea, and the Lueneburg Heath.

11.11 Contact institute of avian research

“Vogelwarte Helgoland”
An der Vogelwarte 21
D-26386 Wilhelmshaven
Germany
Phone: int-(0) 4421-96890
Fax: int-(0) 4421-968955
e-mail: ifv@ifv.terramare.de
<http://www.vogelwarte-helgoland.de>

12 Report of the Co-Chairs of the IOCommittee Resolutions Committee, Eberhard Curio and Michael Rands

12.1 Resolution 1: vote of thanks to our Chinese hosts

AWARE that the demanding objectives of the International Ornithological Congress can only be met when the meeting takes place in a well equipped and efficiently managed setting;

EMPHASIZING that a congenial and friendly atmosphere contributes immensely to the successful outcome of such meetings; and

NOTING with appreciation that these conditions were met in full measure at the 23rd International Ornithological Congress, Beijing,

The International Ornithological Committee at its 23rd Congress in Beijing, China, August 11–17 2002:

1. WARMLY thanks the China Ornithological Society for so generously hosting the 23rd International Ornithological Congress in Beijing, China, 11–17 August 2002.

2. ACKNOWLEDGES with gratitude the dedicated support provided by the State Forestry Administration, Beijing Normal University, National Natural Science Foundation of China, China Wildlife Conservation Association, China Association for Science and Technology; and China Committee for the International Union for Biological Sciences.

3. EXPRESSES particular thanks to Mrs. Cheng Tso-Hsin, Mr. Ma Fu, Professor Zhong Bin-Ling, Professor Song Yen-Ling, and Mr. Chen Run-Sheng for honoring the IOCommittee with their presence and welcome at the open-

ing ceremony.

4. FURTHER EXPRESSES very special appreciation and thanks for their hard work planning the Congress over the past four years and for their excellent running of the Congress for the past week, the following key persons working for the 23rd International Ornithological Congress:

Professor Zheng Guang-Mei (Beijing Normal University, President of the China Ornithological Society, and Chair of the Local Committee);

Professor Xu Wei-Shu (Vice President of the China Ornithological Society and Secretary-General of the 23rd Congress);

Mr. Liu Feng (China International Conference for Science and Technology and Assistant Secretary-General of the 23rd Congress), who was central to all the planning of the Congress during the past four years and for its smooth running during the Congress;

Professor Zhang Zheng-Wang (Beijing Normal University and in charge of Congress tours);

Professor Song Jie (Beijing Normal University and Secretary-General of the China Ornithological Society); and

Professor Zhang Ten-Yun (Beijing Normal University and in charge of grants and director of volunteers);

and, in addition, expresses appreciation and thanks to the following persons who have worked hard for the success of the 23rd International Ornithological Congress in Beijing:

Professor Xu (Institute of Zoology of the Chinese Academy of Science and Vice President of the China Ornithological Society);

Professor Lei Fu-Min (Institute of Zoology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Treasurer of the China Ornithological Society);

Professor Ding Chang-Qing (Institute of Zoology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences);

Professor Sun Yue-Hua (Institute of Zoology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences);

Professor Chu Guo-Zhong (National Bird Banding Center);

Professor Li Xiang-Tao (Beijing Natural History Museum);

Professor Hou Lian-Hai (Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences);

Professor Chen Hong (Peking University);

Professor Gao Wu (Capital Normal University);

Professor Jia Zhi-Yun (Acta Zoologica Sinica Editorial Board and in charge of publishing the Proceedings);

Professor Zhang Yong-Wen (Chinese Zoological Society);

Professor Huang Hua-Qiang (Chinese Forestry Publishing House and in charge of new bird stamps);

Dr. Zhong Jia (People's Daily, Overseas Edition);

Dr. Wang Wei (State Forestry Administration);

Dr. Hou Pao-Kun (Beijing Forestry Administration);

Dr. Chen Ke-Ling (Wetland International — China Programs);

and lastly to the large number of students at the Beijing Normal University who worked hard and cheerfully as volunteers during the Congress.

5. ACKNOWLEDGES with gratitude the dedicated support provided by:

The International Fund for Animal Welfare;
The World Wildlife Foundation, China Program;
The International Crane Foundation;

The Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology — for the excellent display of Chinese avian fossils; and

Swarovski Optiks.

6. CONVEYS its great and lasting appreciation to the Government and people of China for their gracious hospitality and warm welcome.

12.2 Resolution 2: a special vote of thanks to the Scientific Program Committee

The 23rd International Ornithological Congress ex-

tends grateful thanks to the Scientific Program Committee and, especially, to Dr. Fernando Spina, Chair, for their dedicated work in planning the scientific program of the Congress which was central to the exchange of scientific ideas among delegates. Dr. Spina presided over the meeting of the SPC in 2002 and corresponded tirelessly with members of the Congress on the scientific program, all of which guaranteed a successful scientific program.

12.3 Resolution 3: a special vote of thanks to the Editorial Committee

The 23rd International Ornithological Congress also thanks the Editorial Committee, and especially Dr. Richard Schodde, Chair, for their exacting work editing all contributions of the Congress. Dr. Schodde edited the abstracts of the Congress contributions and is in charge of editing the Congress Proceedings which will be the lasting contribution of the Congress for all ornithologists.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Attendance list of members at IOCommittee meetings at the 23rd International Ornithological Congress, Beijing, 13 and 16 August 2002

Name	13 Aug.	16 Aug.	Name	13 Aug.	16 Aug.
Bairlein, Franz	X	X	Louette, Michel	X	
Baker, Allan John	X		Martens, Jochen	X	X
Bankovics, Attila		X	Matthysen, Erik	X	X
Bech, Claus	X		McNeil, Raymond	X	X
Bell, Benjamin D.	X	X	Merne, Oscar J.	X	X
Berthold, Peter	X	X	Moreno, Juan	X	X
Blondel, Jacques	X	X	Morioka, Hiroyuki	X	
Böhning-Gaese, Katrin	X	X	Nakamura, Tsukasa	X	X
Bock, Walter J.	X	X	Parkin, David T.	X	X
Boles, Walter	X	X	Perrins, Christopher M.	X	X
Bosque, Carlos	X	X	Piersma, Theunis	X	
Bruderer, Bruno	X	X	Poonswad, Pilai	X	X
Busse, Przemyslaw	X	X	Potapov, Roald L.		X
Clarke, Michael F	X	X	Ramos-Olmos, Mario A.	X	X
Cooke, Fred	X	X	Robertson, Christopher	X	X
Crowe, Timothy M.	X	X	Saurola, Pertti Lauri	X	X
Croxall, John P.	X	X	Schodde, Richard	X	X
Curio, Eberhard	X	X	Severinghaus, Lucia Liu	X	X
Devillers, Pierre	X		Short, Lester L.	X	X
Dittami, John	X	X	Silverin, Bengt	X	X
Dyck, Jan	X	X	Smith, Henrik	X	
Eck, Siegfried	X	X	Somadikarta, Soekarja	X	X
Falls, J. Bruce	X	X	Spaans, Arie L.	X	X
Gichuki, Nathan N.	X	X	Spina, Fernando	X	X
Gwinner, Eberhard	X	X	Underhill, Les G.	X	X
Hegelbach, Johann	X	X	van Noordwijk, Arie J.	X	X
Higuchi, Hiroyoshi	X	X	Violani, Carlo	X	X
Höfling, Elizabeth	X	X	Wada, Masaru	X	X
Holmes, Richard T.	X		Williams, Murray	X	X
Homberger, Dominique	X	*	Wingfield, John C.	X	X
Ishida, Ken	X	X	Winkler, Hans	X	X
Jenni, Lukas	X	X	Xu, Wei-Shu	X	X
Kikkawa, Jiro	X	X	Zhang, Zheng-Wang	X	X
Kristin, Anton	X	X	Zheng, Guang-Mei	X	X
Lei, Fu-Min	X	X			

* Lucia L. Severinghaus proxy

Appendix 2

IOCommittee In memoriam (for updates, see <www.I-O-C.org>)

IOCommittee members whose passing away has been learned between the 22nd IOCongress in Durban, August 1998, and the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing, August 2002 are:

Jürgen Aschoff: 1913–12 October 1998. Senior Member (Germany). *Obituaries*: (1) Gwinner E, 1999. Jürgen Aschoff. *Journal für Ornithologie* 140 (4): 384–387; (2) Chandrashekar MK, 2002. Jürgen Aschoff. *Current Science* 83 (6): 1 420–1 421.

Luis F. Baptista: 1941–12 June 2000. National Representative (U.S.A.). *Obituaries*: (1) Perlman D, 2000. Dr. Luis Baptista, renowned expert on songbirds. *San Francisco Chronicle* (June 14): B2; (2) OSNA Ornithological Newsletter No. 137, August 2000; (3) Gaunt SLL and DeWolfe BB, 2001. *In memoriam*: Luis Felipe Baptista, 1941–2000. *Auk* 118 (2): 496–499.

Biswamoy Biswas: 1923–10 August 1994. Senior Member (India). *Obituaries*: (1) Ray S, 1995. Biswamoy Biswas: Tribute to a bird man. *Environment* 3 (1): 71; (2) Das PK, 1995. Obituary of Biswamoy Biswas (1923–1994). *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 92: 398–402 and 1 plate; (3) Mayr E, 2000. *In memoriam*: Biswamoy Biswas, 1923–1994. *Auk* 117 (4): 1 030.

Cheng Tso-Hsin: Senior Member (China), Honorary President, 22nd Congress.

Jean Dorst: 7 August 1924–8 August 2001. Senior and Permanent Member (France). President 16th Congress. *Obituaries*: (1) Erard C, 2002. Jean Dorst (1924–2001). *Ibis* 144 (2): 370–371; (2) Erard C, 2002. Le Professeur Jean Dorst (1924–2001) – *In memoriam*. *Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de France* 127 (3): 207–209; (3) Vuilleumier F, 2004. *In memoriam*: Jean Dorst, 1924–2001. *Auk* 121 (4): 1 289–1 290.

Peter R. Evans: 20 July 1937–28 September 2001. National Representative (U.K.). Obituary: Perrins C, 2002. Peter Richard Evans 1937–2001. *Ibis* 144 (4): 713–714; (2) A full list of his scientific publications is filed in the Alexander Library at the Edward Grey Institute at Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom.

Hans Löhrl: 1911–26 June 2001. Senior Member (Germany). *Obituaries*: (1) Nicolai J, 2002. Abschied von Hans Löhrl. *Gefiederte Welt* 126 (2): 56–57; (2) Gwinner E, 2002. Hans Löhrl (1911–2001). *Journal für Ornithologie* 143 (2): 262–264; (3) Gwinner E, 2003. *In memoriam*: Hans Löhrl, 1911–2001. *Auk* 120 (2): 539.

Bernt H. O. F. Løppenthin: 13 May 1904–19 November 1994. Senior Member (Denmark). *Obituaries*: (1) Preuss NO, 1996. Bernt H. O. F. Løppenthin — 13 May 1904–19 November 1994. *Dansk Ornithologisk Forenings Tidsskrift* 90: 34; (2) Preuss NO, 2001. *In memoriam*: Bernt H. O. F. Løppenthin, 1904–1994. *Auk* 118 (4): 1 029.

Wilhelm Meise: 1901–24 August 2002. Senior Member (Germany). *Obituaries*: (1) OSNA Ornithological Newsletter. No. 150, October 2002; (2) Hoerschelmann H and Neumann J, 2003. Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Meise 12.9.1901–24.8.2002. *Journal für Ornithologie* 144 (1): 110–111; (3) Haffer J, 2003. *In memoriam*: Wilhelm Meise, 1901–2002. *Auk* 120 (2): 540; (4) Steinheimer FD, 2002: Obituary — Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Meise. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 122 (4): 241–242; (5) A more detailed and illustrated appreciation of his life and scientific contributions is found in *Abhandlungen und Verhandlungen des Naturwissenschaftlichen Vereins in Hamburg* (2003).

Henri Ouellet: 29 January 1938–10 January 1999. Senior and Permanent Member (Canada). Secretary-General, 19th Congress. *Obituaries*: (1) McNeil R and Godfrey WE, 1999. *In memoriam*: Henri Roger Ouellet, 1938–1999. *Auk* 116 (4): 1 118–1 121; (2) OSNA Ornithological Newsletter No. 129, April 1999.

S. Dillon Ripley, II: 20 September 1913–21 March 2001. Senior Member (U.S.A.). *Obituaries*: (1) Hussain SA, 2002. Sidney Dillon Ripley II — 1913–2001. *Ibis* 144 (3): 550; (2) Beehler BM, Pasquier RE and King WB, 2002. *In memoriam*: S. Dillon Ripley, 1913–2001. *Auk* 119 (4): 1 110–1 113.

Erich Rutschke: 26 May 1926–2 February 1999. Senior Member (Germany). Obituary: Kalbe L, 1999. Erich Rutschke (1926–1999). *Journal für Ornithologie* 140 (3): 388–389.

Ernst Sutter: 1914–10 November 1999. Senior Member (Switzerland). Honorary President, 23rd Congress. Obituary: (1) Winkler R and Schifferli L, 2000. *Auk* 117 (4): 1 031–1 032; (2) Winkler R, 2000. Ernst Sutter (1914–1999). *Journal für Ornithologie* 141 (2): 255–256.

Lars von Haartman: 24 March 1919–28 October 1998. Senior and Permanent Member (Finland). Secretary-General, 12th Congress, President, 18th Congress. On 60th birthday: Hildén O, 1979. Lars von Haartman 60 years. *Ornis Fennica* 56 (2–3): 41–44. *Obituaries*: (1) Soikkeli M, 2000. *In memoriam*: Lars von Haartman, 1919–1998. *Auk* 117 (4): 1 029–1 030; (2) OSNA Ornithological Newsletter No. 135, April 2000.

Karel H. Voous: 1920–31 January 2002. Senior and Permanent Member (The Netherlands). Secretary-General, 15th Congress, Honorary President, 21st Congress. *Obituaries*: (1) Drent R, Roselaar C and Wattel J, 2002. Karel Hendrik Voous 1920–2002. *Ibis* 144 (3): 551v552; (2) Wattel J, 2002. Karel Hendrik Voous (1920–2002). *Ardea* 90 (1): 189–200; (3) Vuilleumier F, 2005. *In memoriam*: Karel Hendrik Voous, 1920–2002. *Auk* 122 (1): 355–356.

Appendix 3

List of nominees for IOCommittee membership

#	Name	Country	Nominated by	IOCongress attendance
1	Slim Benyacoub	Algeria	Blondel	None
2	Herbert Hoi	Austria	Bairlein	1994, 1998
3	Paulo Antas	Brazil	Croxall	1994, 1998, 2002
4	Reginaldo Donatelli	Brazil	Hoefling	1994, 1998, 2002
5	Cristina Miyaki	Brazil	Hoefling	1994, 1998, 2002
6	Tony Diamond	Canada	Sco	1994
7	Gilles Gauthier	Canada	Sco	1994
8	Susan Hannon	Canada	Sco	1998, 2002
9	Ross Lein	Canada	Barlow	1994, 1998, 2002
10	Kathy Martin	Canada	Sco	1994
11	Chang-Qing Ding	China	Xu Wei-Shu	1998, 2002
12	Ping Ding	China	Ishii, Xu Wei-Shu	2002
13	Carsten Rahbek	Denmark	Fjeldsa	1994, 1998
14	Etienne Danchin	France	Blondel	1994, 1998
15	Henri Weimerskirch	France	Blondel	1994, 1998
16	Ranjit Daniels	India	Homberger	2002
17	Berry Pinshow	Israel	Bock	1994, 1998
18	Nicola Saino	Italy	Spina	1994
19	Anatoli Levin	Kazakhstan	Kurochkin	1982
20	Adolfo Navarro	Mexico	AOU	1994
21	Mohamed Dakki	Morocco	Bairlein	None
22	Mick Clout	New Zealand	Croxall	1990, 2002
23	Lloyd Davis	New Zealand	Croxall	1990
24	Bernt-erik Saether	Norway	Croxall	1994, 1998
25	Marek Konarzewski	Poland	Tomialowojc, Bock	1994, 1998, 2002
26	Casimir Bolshakov	Russia	Andreev, Bairlein	1994
27	Natalia Lebedeva	Russia	Kurochkin	1994
28	Pavel Tomkovich	Russia	Kurochkin	1994, 1998
29	Victor Zubakin	Russia	Kurochkin	1994
30	Santiago Merino-rodriguez	Spain	Moreno	1994, 1998
31	Daniel Oro	Spain	Croxall	1994
32	Charles Mlingwa	Tanzania	Bairlein	1998
33	Colin Bibby	UK	BOU	1994, 1998
34	Andy Gosler	UK	BOU	1994, 1998
35	Pat Monaghan	UK	BOU	1994, 1998, 2002
36	Bill Sutherland	UK	BOU	1990, 1994, 1998
37	Pam Pietz	USA	AOU	1994, 1998
38	Joanna Burger	USA	Homberger	1994, 1998, 2002
39	A. Townsend Peterson	USA	AOU	1986
40	François Vuilleumier	USA	Bosque, Bock	1994, 1998, 2002

Appendix 4

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