Official Report of the International Ornithological Committee

24th International Ornithological Congress, Hamburg, 13–19 August 2006

The official report of the International Ornithological Committee consists of the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee and of the International Ornithological Committee. The individual reports by officers and subcommittees are included as appendices at the end of the minutes. In addition, there is a list of the appendices and attachments, as well as a list of abbreviations used in this report.

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee meeting was held in Room #16 on Saturday, August 12, 10:00am–5:30pm. For the original Agenda, see Appendix I. The sequence of the actual agenda was modified during the meeting, all the business was completed in one day and a single meeting, and this is reflected in the minutes.

Executive Committee 2002–2006 (*present)

*Franz Bairlein (Germany), Secretary-General, ex officio
*Jacques Blondel (France), President, ex officio
*Walter J. Bock (USA), Past-President, ex officio
*Susan Hannon (Canada), 2002–2006
*Elizabeth Höfling (Brazil), 2002–2006
*Dominique G. Homberger (USA), Secretary, ex officio
*François Vuilleumier (USA), 2002–2006
*John C. Wingfield (USA), Vice-President, ex officio
Wei-shu Xu (China), Past-Secretary-General, ex officio

1. Welcome and report of IOC President Jacques Blondel

(See Appendix II)

Summary: Report on activities and appointments (see report in Appendix II); modernization of the IOC into an IFOS (International Federation of Ornithological Societies); establishment of better links with conservation organizations (e.g., BirdLife International); organization of a Presidential Forum to show how avian conservation can benefit from avian basic research; revision of the IOC Committee Statutes & By-Laws (see Appendix XI; a draft proposal was distributed to the Executive Committee and IOC Committee members prior to the congress) through the appointment of a Statutes Committee; report on the critical financial situation of the IOC Committee, especially regarding the support for delegates from low-income countries; review of the Standing Committees by Vice-President John Wingfield; IOCongress Proceedings from the 23rd IOCongress in 2002 were just published; need for a broader geographic representation among the IOC Committee members; presentation of the list of IOC Committee members that were elected in Beijing 2002 a moment of silence in commemoration of the IOC Committee members who died since the last IOCongress in Beijing August 2002 (see Appendix XIX).

During the ensuing discussion, Fred Cooke (chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee) mentioned that the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) had made a loan of $10,000 to the IOC Committee when he was AOU President. Dominique Homberger clarified that this money was not touched by the IOC Committee officers, because they did not see how this loan could be repaid by the IOC Committee in the immediate future.

Fred Cooke reported also that no agreement could be reached with the AOU about moving the NAOC (North American Ornithological Conference) to a cycle that would not conflict with the IOCongresses, because the AOU wants to maintain the current four-year interval for the NAOC. The IOC Committee will need to negotiate with the AOU on this subject. Walter Bock mentioned that in this year (2006), there is a special conflict between the IOCongress and the NAOC, because the NAOC will be held in Mexico. Michael Clarke reported that the Australasian congresses are timed so as not to conflict with the IOCongresses. François Vuilleumier reported the same for the Neotropical Ornithological Congress (NOC), of which the next will meet in Venezuela in 2007. Jacques Blondel reported the same for the congresses of the European Ornithologists’ Union, of which the next one will meet in 2007. Fred Cooke confirmed that only the AOU organizes a...
major congress (i.e., the NAOC) to conflict in timing with the IOCongresses.

2. Welcome and Report of the Secretary-General of the IOCongress, Franz Bairlein

(See Appendix III).

Summary: The Congress has 1466 registered delegates from 80 countries. This is the result of an attractive program, a good location, a grant system for travel support, and moderate congress registration fees, and thanks to sponsors.

During the ensuing discussion, François Vuilleumier noted that there are not many sponsors, and he wanted to know what kinds of contributions (cash, service, or both) were provided by them. Franz Bairlein explained that the World Soccer Championship in 2004 probably sapped the sponsorships. Carlos Bosque wanted to know the total budget of the congress, which was Euro700,000 (including everything). Susan Hannon wanted to know what support decisions were taken, namely whether fewer people were supported with more money, or whether more people were supported with less money. Franz Bairlein replied that a combination of support for delegates from low-income countries was provided in a flexible combination. Students from Europe and North America were supported through reduced registration fees. François Vuilleumier noted that a similar system had been adopted for the Neotropical Ornithological Congress in Chile in 2003.

3. Report of the IOCommittee Secretary

Dominique G. Homberger

(See Appendix IV)

Summary: Tasks included the keeping of the records of the IO-Committee members, serving on various committees, and prospecting for hosts of future congresses. For the 24th IOCongress in 2006, Franz Bairlein presented an invitation to Hamburg (Germany) at the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing in 2002. The Brazilian Ornithologists' Society and the Spanish Ornithologists' Society extended invitations for the 25th IOCongress (see Appendix VII and Appendix VIII). Preliminary negotiations are underway for a possible invitation by the Japanese Ornithologists' Society for the 26th IOCongress in 2014.

During the ensuing discussion, Hiroyoshi Higuchi mentioned that he had been contacted by Dominique Homberger in October 2005. A special committee has been created in Japan to study the feasibility of an IOCongress in Japan in 2014 and to handle budget issues, due to the high living costs in Japan. Conference site choice is a problem. Kyoto would be a very good venue, but is extremely expensive. Several years ago, Walter Bock had encouraged an invitation from Japan, but it lost against the invitation by New Zealand to host the 20th IOCongress in 1990. Therefore, this is the second attempt for Japan to host an IOCongress.

Elizabeth Höfling recounted the visit by Dominique Homberger in Brazil and Chile in 2003 (see also Appendix IV). She also thanked Franz Bairlein for his generous information transfer to Cristina Miyaki, the prospective Secretary-General of the 25th IOCongress if Brazil’s invitation were accepted, and she thanked Walter Bock for his encouragement.

4. Report of the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, Susan Hannon

(See Appendix V)

During the ensuing discussion, Lukas Jenni wondered whether something needed to be changed since there were not enough symposia proposals, but almost too many oral presentations, but Susan Hannon felt that oral presentations may be more democratic. Walter Bock mentioned that posters are more efficient. In response to John Wingfield’s question, Susan Hannon confirmed that Oceania was represented almost exclusively by Australians and New Zealanders. In response to Carlos Bosque’s question, Susan Hannon explained that the web page for the on-line submission was kept open for ten days after the official deadline. Abstracts for posters were accepted until very recently and given “secret” access to the abstract submission web page. In response to Hiroyoshi Higuchi’s question, Susan Hannon specified Asia was predominantly represented by China, Japan, India, Taiwan, and Korea. Lukas Jenni then wondered whether the deadline for the submission of abstracts could be made half a year later, and Susan Hannon agreed that it could.

5. Report of IOC Vice-President John Wingfield, Chair of the IOCommittee Task Group for IOCommittee Standing Committees

(See Appendix VI)

Summary: Standing Committees are in general executive committees, whereas IOCommittee “Standing Committees” are technically ad hoc committees. Hence, they should be renamed “Research Coordination Committees”. Most such committees are not functioning at the full potential and need more guidance and support from the IOCommittee. (See also Attachment 5 and Attachment 6 of Appendix VI).


Walter Bock also suggested that the next Vice-President should continue to work with the Standing Committees and help independent subgroups to grow into active groups. He also stressed the importance of a good chair for these committees. John Wingfield confirmed that groups cannot achieve much if they meet only every four years, but the concept of these committees should not be abandoned.

John Wingfield mentioned that he may think of organizing a new “Standing Committee” (i.e., Research Coordination Committee) on Integration of Evolution, Ecology, and Reproduction Endocrinology, possibly with support from NSF, which has supported Research Coordination Networks at least until now. Another possibility for a Research Coordination Committee would be one based on bird genome projects. Such Research Coordination...
Committees could be especially useful for integrative research by helping to educate granting agencies about the new goals of interdisciplinary research programs and, thereby, by attracting funding.

Communication within and among the Research Coordination Committees might be easier once the planned IFOS has a functional website. Also, the information on the Research Coordination Committees should be on the IOCongress home page, and regular reminders should be sent to committee members to look up the web site.

Juana added that April would be the ideal time for birding. In be the first IOCongress in a Mediterranean country. Eduardo de Juana explained that Spain was a developing country until recently, but now has a historical duty to contribute to international ornithology. An invitation to the IOCommittee has been planned for many years. During the ensuing discussion, François Vuilleumier asked why Spain wants to host an IOCongress. Eduardo de Juana explained that Spain was a developing country until recently, but now has a historical duty to contribute to international ornithology. An invitation to the IOCommittee has been planned for many years.

The Spanish Ornithological Society meets every two years with about 600 attendants. Cristina Miyaki clarified that during the ensuing discussion, Ivan Newton (UK), and Michael Clarke (Australia). The committee received nominations from various people. Not all nominations were accepted. The final slate had to take a geographical balance into account.

The proposed slate of nominations was unanimously accepted.

8. Report of Fred Cooke, Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee

(See Appendix IX)

Summary: Nominations of IOC officers: IOC President, IOC Vice President, IOC Secretary, putative IOC Treasurer, elected members of the Executive Committee for 2006–2010, and Honorary Officers. Note: The Statutes and By-Laws were suspended for the vote on the putative IOC Treasurer, because the current Statutes and By-Laws do not include a Treasurer’s position; the creation of such a position will be discussed under Agenda #10. (See also the revised Statutes and By-Laws in Appendix XI).

During the ensuing discussion, Fred Cook specified that the committee members consisted of Lukas Jenni (Switzerland), Pamela Pietz (USA), Ian Newton (UK), and Michael Clarke (Australia). The committee received nominations from various people. Not all nominations were accepted. The final slate had to take a geographical balance into account.

The proposed slate of nominations was unanimously accepted.

9. Report of Fernando Spina, Chair of the IOC Nominations Committee

(See Appendix X)

Summary: A list of nominees for membership in the IOCommittee. Note: The Statutes and By-Laws were suspended for the vote on the nominations for Associate Members, because the current Statutes and By-Laws do not include this type of membership; the creation of such a membership will be discussed under Agenda #10. (See also the revised Statutes and By-Laws in Appendix XI).

During the ensuing discussion, Fernando Spina elaborated that 40 professional and amateur ornithologists were nominated from 25 countries. Some of the nominees represent their country in the IOCommittee for the first time. Most of the nominees have attended a previous or this IOCongress. Those who have not are nominated as associate members (without voting rights) and will become full members when they have attended a congress. This classification of nominees was based on the precedent established at the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing in 2002 and is reflected in the revised Statutes and By-Laws (see Appendix XI).

Walter Bock moved the motion to accept the list as suggested. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Presentation by IOC President Jacques Blondel on the amendments of the IOCommittee Statutes and By-Laws

(See Appendix XI)

Summary: The amended IOC Statutes and By-Laws were presented and discussed.

During the ensuing discussion, Walter Bock specified that the revised Statutes and By-Laws in Appendix XI).
During the discussion, Jacques Blondel explained that the amendments of the IOC Statutes and By-Laws were necessary to legalize some of the practices that have been introduced in recent years. Also, as already recommended at the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing in 2002, the IOCommittee needs to have a financial base. Therefore, John Wingfield was asked to prepare recommendations for the incorporation of the current IOCommittee into a tax-exempt organization (e.g., an International Federation of Ornithological Societies, IFOS), and a Finance Committee was appointed to make recommendations regarding the handling of finances by the IOCommittee.

11. Presentation by IOC Vice-President John Wingfield on the incorporation of the IOC into an IFOS

(summary)

During the ensuing discussion, the proposal was unanimously accepted, although various objections to the name “IFOS” were raised. These, however, were felt to be unsubstantial, because the final name of the organization could be discussed later.

12. Report of Thomas Sherry for the ad hoc Finance Committee

(summary)

During the ensuing discussion, Thomas Sherry elaborated that the other committee members were Jacques Blondel and Dominique G. Homberger (see also Appendix II). Thomas Sherry also reported on a proposal by the Council of the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) for an interim solution for handling funds for the IOC (separately from those of an IOCongress) until the IOC has become an independent tax-exempt organization (see Attachment 7 of Appendix XIII).

The proposals were accepted unanimously.

13. New Business

It was decided that a committee be appointed to look into the most effective approach towards the publication of congress proceedings.

14. Acceptance of the Minutes of the EC meetings in Beijing 2002


The meeting adjourned at 17:20 pm.

Minutes of the Meetings of the International Ornithological Committee

The first IOCommittee meeting was held on Sunday, August 13, 2006, at 9:00 am–5:00 pm in Room #6. The second IOCommittee meeting was held on Friday, August 17, 2006, at 2:30 pm–4:00 pm in Room #6. (For the original agenda, see Appendix XIV). The sequence of the actual agenda was modified during the meeting, and this is reflected in the minutes. (For the attendance list, see Appendix XV)

Minutes of the first IOCommittee meeting on Sunday, August 13, 2006, 9:00 am-5:00 pm

1. Opening and welcome by IOC President Jacques Blondel

2. In memoriam: Reading of the names of IOC members who have died since the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing 2002

(See Appendix XIX)

(summary)

During the ensuing discussion, Jacques Blondel emphasized two items, namely that the contributions to the IOCongress Proceedings need to be peer-reviewed, and that the IOCommittee needs to include more women and more representatives from economically weak, but bird-rich countries.

3. Presentation by IOC President Jacques Blondel of the IOCommittee members who were elected at the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing 2002

(See Appendix II)

(summary)

During the ensuing discussion, Jacques Blondel emphasized two items, namely that the contributions to the IOCongress Proceedings need to be peer-reviewed, and that the IOCommittee needs to include more women and more representatives from economically weak, but bird-rich countries.

5. Welcome and report of the Secretary-General of the IOCongress, Franz Bairlein

(See Appendix III)

6. Report of IOCommittee Secretary Dominique G. Homberger

(See Appendix IV)
7. Report by the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, Susan Hannon
(See Appendix V and Attachment 4 of Appendix V)

8. Report of the Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee, Fred Cooke
(See Appendix IX)

Summary: Nominations of IOC officers: IOC President, IOC Vice President, IOC Secretary, putative IOC Treasurer, elected members of the Executive Committee for 2006–2010, and Honorary Officers. Note: The Statutes and By-Laws were suspended for the vote on the putative IOC Treasurer, because the current Statutes and By-Laws do not include a Treasurer’s position; the creation of such a position will be discussed under Agendum #10. (See also the revised Statutes and By-Laws in Appendix XI).

During the ensuing discussion, all nominees were elected by acclamation. Les Underhill was elected IOC Vice-President by paper ballots (see Appendix XX for the composition of the Executive Committee 2006–2010).

9. Report of IOC Vice President John Wingfield, Chair of the IOCommittee Task Group for Standing Committees
(See Appendix VI and its Attachment 5 and Attachment 6)

Summary: Standing committees are in general executive committees, whereas IOCommittee “Standing Committees” are technically ad hoc committees. Hence, they should be renamed “Research Coordination Committees”. Most such committees are not functioning at the full potential and need more guidance and support from the IOCommittee. (See also Attachment 5 and Attachment 6 of Appendix VI).

During the ensuing discussion, Hans Winkler wanted to know whether the Standing Committees for Raptors and for Seabirds are really defunct now. Joanna Burger felt that it would be a pity to lose the Standing Committee on Seabirds. But John Wingfield offered that draconian measures were needed; there was no sense in keeping an inactive group on the books. New groups from elsewhere should be invited to join the IOCommittee. Asha Chandola-Saklani advised that the members of defunct Standing Committees should be contacted and warned now during the congress. John Wingfield agreed and said that the striking of the defunct Standing Committees would not take effect until the second IOCommittee meeting at this congress.

Break at 11:15 am

10. Presentation by IOC President Jacques Blondel on the need for an International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS) and for amended IOCommittee Statutes and By-Laws
(See Appendix XI)

Summary: A tax-exempt organization to replace the current IOCommittee is necessary, because there is a need for money for the publication of the IOCongress proceedings; for supporting the delegates from low-income countries; for activities during inter-sessions, such as RCCs; fellowships; a better web page and web page maintenance; etc.

During the ensuing discussion, John Wingfield suggested that the IOC Vice-President should be a President-elect to become automatically the next IOC President. François Vuilleumier was in support of this because this is how it is in the Neotropical Ornithological Society (NOS). Walter Bock was also in support, but Lukas Jenni spoke against it. Dominique Homberger cautioned against such a change as she reminded the assembly that the IOCommittee is in a process of democratization and wants to become a dynamic organization, in which new people have a chance to assume leadership positions. Christopher Robertson suggested a compromise by having two Vice-Presidents to choose from for President. John Wingfield moved the motion that there should be a President-elect instead of a Vice-President. François Vuilleumier seconded. The motion was rejected 38 to 13.

Then Fred Cooke moved the motion that there should be two Vice-Presidents. Christopher Robertson seconded. Joanna Burger wanted to know whether these two Vice-Presidents would have to compete for the position of IOC President. Fred Cooke brought up that there is a lot of work to be done during intersessions; with two Vice-Presidents, more work could be accomplished. Arie van Noordwijk raised that the work should be defined first, then the position(s) should be created; it would be silly to do it the other way around and have two Vice-Presidents. We first need to have an analysis about what kind of jobs can be done by people without positions. John Wingfield explained that the amount of work for the IOCommittee is unpredictable and fluctuating. Right now it is not necessary to have two Vice-Presidents, but this may change when the IFOS is incorporated. At the end, the motion was rejected 44 against 14.

11. Presentation by IOC Vice-President John Wingfield on the incorporation of the IOC into an IFOS
(See Appendix XII)

Summary: A rationale and justification for the transformation of the IOCommittee into an International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS).

During the ensuing discussion, John Wingfield elaborated how such an organization would be able to represent Integrative Biology. He also raised the issue that, because the IOC is the only global organization in avian biology, the term “ornithology” should be replaced by “avian biology”, because it appears more scientific to funding organizations. Walter Bock said that since avian biology is necessary for funding, then the name should be changed. But Jon Fieldssfelt that it was dangerous to remove the word “ornithology”. It is a complex situation with possible conflicts because of delimitations from other ornithological societies. John Wingfield agreed that we would not want to create boundaries.

Yossi Leshem mentioned that one of the missions of the IOCongress is to provide basic science data that are applicable to conservation. Hence, it would be advisable for the IOC to connect with BirdLife International, also because they are powerful.

Eberhard Curio wanted to know who Burk & Associates, Inc. <www.BurkInc.com> were. John Wingfield explained that they are a professional secretarial group that will take care of the financial and secretarial tasks of an organization. If we formed an IFOS, then we would need to have this kind of service to remain on the correct side of the law. They may even help with congresses. They will help the IFOS navigate the pitfalls of the first few years.
Break for lunch: 12:15 pm to 13:35 pm

12. Presentation by Eduardo de Juana of the invitation by the Spanish Ornithological Society to hold the 25th International Ornithological Congress in Madrid (Spain) in August 2010
(See Appendix VII)

13. Presentation by Cristina Miyaki of the invitation by the Brazilian Society of Ornithology to hold the 25th International Ornithological Congress in Campos do Jordão, Brazil in August 2010
(See Appendix VIII)

14. Discussion of and vote on the site for the 25th International Ornithological Congress in 2010

During the discussion, one voice was raised that if the Brazilian invitation were accepted, the IOC officers would need to work harder. Dominique Homberger countered that the IOC officers were willing to do that, but that the IOC members would also have to be more involved and work harder. Walter Bock moved the motion to accept the Brazilian invitation. The Brazilian invitation was accepted by a strong majority. The Spanish invitation was praised, and Eduardo de Juana was encouraged to re-submit the invitation for the 26th IOCongress in 2014.

15. Report by the Chair of the IOCommittee Nominations Committee, Fernando Spina
(See Appendix X)

Summary: A list of nominees for membership in the IOCommittee. Note: The Statutes and By-Laws were suspended for the vote on the nominations for Associate Members, because the current Statutes and By-Laws do not include this type of membership; see also Agendum #10. (See also the revised Statutes and By-Laws in Appendix XI)

During the ensuing discussion, Asha Chandola-Saklani enquired about the criteria for nomination. Fernando Spina explained that the criteria were handled flexibly and that there was great variability. Ornithology is not equally developed in all countries; and this needs to be kept in mind. He trusted the judgment of the nominators. If qualified professional or amateur ornithologists reside in countries with a poorly developed ornithology, but rich avifauna, then such persons should be nominated.

Walter Bock moved the motion to suspend the Statutes to allow the election of Associate Members, and John Wingfield seconded the motion.

Pertti Saurola mentioned that he had thought that there are only 10 IOCommittee members; he will nominate 10 ornithologists from Finland for the next congress. Asha Chandola-Saklani felt that it would be important to have clear criteria for IOCommittee membership. Bernt-Erik Saether suggested to designate regions with a certain number of representatives to be apportioned to each. Arie van Noordwijk brought up that balance in the membership was not just a matter of nationality, but also of discipline and taxonomic groups. Pamela Pietz suggested that the statistics should be provided before sending out a call for nominations.

Jacques Blondel moved the motion to suspend the Statutes so that a vote on the nominees for Associate Membership could be taken. A majority agreed. The list of nominees was accepted without changes and unanimously.

16. Report by Thomas Sherry for the ad hoc Finance Committee
(See Appendix XIII)

Summary: A proposal of collaboration between the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) and the IOCommittee (IOC) to ease the organizational transition of the IOC into an International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS) and to further the common goal of ornithological capacity building in the Western Hemisphere and globally. Thomas Sherry also reported on a proposal by the Council of the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) for an interim solution for handling funds for the IOCommittee (separately from those of an IOCongress) until the IOCommittee has become an independent tax-exempt organization (see Attachment 7 of Appendix XIII).

During the ensuing discussion, Thomas Sherry elaborated that the other Committee members were Jacques Blondel and Dominique G. Homberger (see also Appendix II). He explained that the AOU did not want to take over the IOC, but just wanted to assist the IOCommittee in its mission. The AOU is strongly in favor of an IFOS. The AOU is willing to receive funds on behalf of the IOC/IFOS for two years, with the possibility of renewal. The AOU wants to encourage the IFOS to become independent as quickly as possible. The AOU does not know yet about the administrative costs and may use some of the revenues to cover these. Trust in these matters is necessary, because the funds for the IOCommittee will technically belong to the AOU. If the IFOS wants to incorporate itself as a tax-exempt organization under US tax laws, then the AOU and Burk & Associates, Inc. <www.BurkInc.com> will be able to assist in this transformation.

François Vuilleumier mentioned that the US tax law is not a new imperialism; also the Neotropical Ornithological Society (NOS) is incorporated under US tax-laws. Another person mentioned that there is a clear advantage to the IOCommittee to get funds through the AOU, but that another issue is the new structure of the incorporated IFOS. Thomas Sherry explained that the rules for tax-exempt organizations may determine what the structure of the new organization has to be. Ross Lein cautioned that tax-advantages for donors are available only if the donor is paying taxes in the US. Chris Robertson raised a point regarding the revised Statutes (see Appendix XI) on passing on surplus funds from a congress: At the 22nd IOCongress in Christchurch in 1990, the surplus from the congress could be used only within New Zealand. It would be important that the new rules should not restrict the functioning of congress organizers. Thomas Sherry said the question about surplus moneys from a congress needs to be spelled out in the Statutes.

Lukas Jenni cautioned that setting up the IFOS may take longer than two years. Would the AOU be willing to extend its help beyond two years? Ross Lein explained that the two-year limit by the AOU is to encourage a speedy installation of the IFOS, but that he is afraid that the incorporation process may take six years. Someone asked how the IOCommittee could help push forward the process towards an IFOS. Jacques Blondel replied that the IOCommittee will have to approve the idea of an IFOS. Thomas Sherry explained that the IOCommittee needs to be able to move forward with major decisions. The Executive Committee needs permission from the IOCommittee to write new Statutes. In four years, the IOC can then judge whether something needs to be changed. There is no need to wait six years. Arie van Noordwijk suggested that the IOCommittee should go to the IUBS (International Union of Biological Sciences) for advice on international law. Thomas Sherry agreed that the IOCommittee should look at all possibilities.

Jacques Blondel asked for a vote on the approval to go forward with the transformation of the IOC into an IFOS with the help of the AOU. There was unanimous approval.
Jacques Blondel also asked for a vote of approval for the amended IOC Statutes and By-Laws (see Appendix XI). Again, the approval vote was unanimous.

17. Discussion of and vote on the amendments of the IOC Statutes and By-Laws
(See Appendix XII)

Summary: The discussion topics were: (1) The IOCommittee accounts will be managed by the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) until the tax-exempt status has been reached; (2) appointment of an IOC Treasurer by the IOC President; (3) establishment of Research Coordination Committees (RCCs); (4) associate memberships of the IOCommittee; (5) emeriti and emeritae members instead of senior members.

François Vuilleumier observed that the IOCommittee has received the amended Statutes, but that the large typescript cannot be discussed line-by-line. He moved the motion to accept the amendments. Jacques Blondel accepted the motion. Walter Bock seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in accepting the amended Statutes and By-Laws. Somebody suggested that permission vote on the revisions of the Statutes by mail would make life easier in the next 3–4 years. The vote on this amendment was unanimous in favor of it.

Arie van Noordwijk raised the point that the criteria for IOCommittee membership must be based primarily on science; countries and nationalities are getting less important. But Jon Fieldesa˚felt that the richness of the avifauna is an important criterion for the needed representation in the IOCommittee. Furthermore, the geographical distribution of ornithologists may change very much in the near future. François Vuilleumier mentioned that, for example, the Brazilian ornithological society is as strong as any other society. Nation-states are still a fact of life. Bird-rich countries are fast developing their own capacity in ornithology and conservation. Asha Chandola-Saklani confirmed that this is the case in India. Jacques Blondel observed that there should be several criteria for IOCommittee membership, not only excellence in science.

18. Presentation by the Co-Chairs of the Resolutions Committee, Eberhard Curio and Michael Rands
(See Appendix XVIII)

Summary: A resolution of thanks to the organizers of the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg in 2006. It will be read at the closing ceremony.

(See Appendix IV)


20. The Meeting was adjourned at about 5:00 pm

Minutes of the second IOCommittee meeting on Friday, August 17, 2006, at 2:45 pm–4:00 pm

The meeting was called by IOC President Jacques Blondel for a discussion of the many major decisions that had been taken during the first meeting of the IOCommittee on Sunday, August 13.

Jacques Blondel opened the meeting by mentioning and congratulating the newly elected honorary IOCommittee members. He was pleased that the revised Statutes and By-Laws were accepted; these will be in force until the IFOS is functional. He also asked for monetary contributions by the IOCommittee members to support the IFOS; IOCommittee membership is not only a privilege, but also a responsibility. Several IOCommittee members pledged money (see Appendix XVII). Jacques Blondel asked also for contributions in terms of suggestions, which can also be provided through the IOC web site.

John Dittami suggested that if the IFOS will be created, then it would be possible to have a permanent web site; “www.IFOS.org” is still available. Posters in pdf-format could be posted on this web site, although it would be important to include information that is different from a published paper. Franz Bairlein agreed that it was no problem to add pdf-files of posters to the IOC web site, but Joanna Burger wondered about the propriety of duplicate “publication” of posters and journals. And David Bird wondered about the utility of non-refereed information on the internet.

Kathy Martin praised the program at the present congress. The timing of the oral contributions was absolutely perfect. Someone remarked that even the weather on Thursday was perfect for the mid-congress excursions.

Joanna Burger said that she liked the idea of the IFOS, but she wondered how the interest of amateurs in the ICO/IFOS could be maintained. Dominique Homberger mentioned that several amateur ornithologists are members of the IOCommittee. David Bird asked what kind of contributions will be expected from members of the IFOS.

John Wingfield stated that the motion to move forward with the formation of the IFOS was accepted. Obstacles on the way were to be expected, but he outlined his plans.

- The process of application as a tax-exempt organization would start immediately after the conclusion of this congress. Donations will not be taxed by the IRS (Internal Revenue Service) in the US. Whether donors outside the US will be able to deduct their donations from their taxes will depend on the laws of their countries.
- The AOU will assist the IOC/IFOS for the next two years. All monetary contributions will go to a special account held by the AOU, which is already a tax-exempt organization.
- The process of incorporating an organization is very complicated, and John Wingfield will need professional advice. He will contact Burk & Associates, Inc. who are professionals and with whom John Wingfield has worked for almost 6 years as president of the SICB (Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology). Burk & Associates have access to the services of their own lawyers, but this will cost something.
- The first application for incorporation of the IOC/IFOS is likely to be rejected by the IRS. But we will keep applying.
- The American Homeland Security is likely to be extremely suspicious about monies coming to the IFOS from all over the world and then going out of the US.

David Bird raised the question whether it might be advisable to incorporate the IFOS in another country. Arie van Noordwijk
wondered whether there would be any problem with incorporating the IFOS in North Korea. John Wingfield felt that there would be problems with Cuba, North Korea, Iran.... In a more serious vein, Arie van Noordwijk felt that it was important to remain international. John Wingfield agreed; furthermore, the mission statement of IFOS says so, and we will be able to find a solution. For example, two weeks ago, a conference in California had invited Iranian scientists, and these were turned back at immigration. There was outrage in the media—people in the US are for international connections. Fred Cooke asked why the US was chosen as the site of incorporation for the IFOS. Dominique Homberger explained that it is a fact that the US has the most stringent laws regarding financial transactions. Also, there is no denying that the US is likely to be providing most of the money to support the IFOS. Hence, it is a good idea to choose a place with the most stringent regulations so that we will not have any problems later on when moving money from one place to another.

Roswitha Wilschko asked whether the IFOS will eventually handle its own money. John Wingfield replied that the US does not want to take over. The IFOS will have its own office and will ask Burk & Associates, Inc. to help with creating and maintaining an IFOS website. The IOC website will have its own webmaster. The IFOS Statutes and By-Laws, as well as other relevant information, will be on the IFOS website. The website will also promote interactions between the congresses. Some other points will need to be kept in mind:

- IFOS will not be in competition with BirdLife International, which is very supportive of IFOS. They think that an IFOS is overdue. As now, we will continue to include amateurs in our ranks.
- In the next two years, there will be no full-time staff, but this may be possible perhaps in the future.
- More interactions with regional groups, such as the Pan-African Ornithological Congress (PAOC), the Neotropical Ornithological Society (NOS), the European Ornithologists’ Union (EOU) will be envisaged.
- Burk & Associates, Inc. (<www.BurkInc.com>) will interact with the Treasurer and President.

David Bird asked for monetary endowments to start the IFOS immediately. John Wingfield agreed exactly: There is a need for an endowment and prizes. Each congress should set aside some money for an endowment for the IFOS.

Nathan Gichuki asked what the position of the regional societies would be within the IFOS.

John Winfield asked him what he would want it to be. Nathan Gichuki replied that the Pan-African Ornithological Committee has an interest in joining the IFOS.

Pamela Pietz emphasized that there is a need for transparency and promotion of congresses. Therefore, we need a presence on listserves. It will be necessary to send at least a small article about plans on the IFOS also to various Newsletters. Walter Bock mentioned that these should be outlined at the closing session the next day. John Wingfield mentioned that he intends to have a Newsletter for all IOC participants.

Ross Lein brought up that the NAOC (North American Ornithological Conference) seems to be in competition with the IOCongress. The NAOC was originally created to reduce the number of meetings. Pamela Pietz suggested that the NAOC and IOCongress should be held at different times. Fred Cooke agreed that we will need to coordinate the international congresses to reduce time conflicts. [Yossi Leshem mentioned that the UNESCO will declare a flyway as an international value], David Bird suggested that the timing of the NAOC be moved to reduce time conflicts with the IOCongress. John Wingfield explained that we are always in conflict with something. But the IOCongress is drawing participants from a very broad spectrum. Many specialists at the IOCongress are not members of any ornithological societies. John Wingfield’s favorite meeting is the IOCongress, even though he is an avian endocrinologist.

Joanna Burger said that we need money for students. John Wingfield mentioned that he and Marilyn Ramenofsky had breakfast with a student from Nigeria and felt that we need these people at the congresses. Yossi Leshem suggested that we need to nominate Mohamed Shukra to get more Middle Eastern colleagues into the IOCommittee. Pamela Pietz felt that the representation within the IOCommittee needs to be broadened, but on the bases of what criteria and at what percentages. Dominique Homberger offered that she will do the statistics after asking Fernando Spina for advice (see Appendix X). John Wingfield brought up that the IOCommittee needs also disciplinary representation. Hence, there will be all kinds of criteria that will need to be considered when nominating someone for membership to the IOCommittee. John Wingfield promised that he will contact IOCommittee members fairly frequently. If they do not hear from him, there might be some problems in communication – SPAM filters, or lost e-mails. It is safer to include simple attachments or text in the body of an e-mail. Or contact Dominique Homberger or John Wingfield.

John Dittami asked what the congresses of the IFOS would be called. John Wingfield replied that they will be called IOConferences, one of the oldest names. Fred Loin wondered, however, whether the term “Federation” is really the best solution, since we are a group of ornithologists. John Wingfield replied that right now it is an IFOS, but that we can talk about a change of name. Joanna Burger thought that “IFOS” sounded as if someone, who is not a member of a society, is not welcome at the IFOS. John Wingfield assured her that individuals will be able to join as individuals. Fernando Spina raised the important point that criteria for accepted societies were needed. David Bird suggested that a committee to look into these questions is needed. Perhaps the Vice-President could do this, but he nominated himself for this committee.

François Vuilleumier suggested that the Executive Committee should work hard to have a worldwide propaganda about the IOCommittee and its transition into an IFOS. John Wingfield agreed that this will be done once the IFOS website is established. Donations will be possible through the web site. Burk & Associates, Inc. (<www.BurkInc.com>) has a remarkable web master. John Dittami joked that next time that there is a bird flu outbreak, the IFOS will get donations.

François Vuilleumier showed bravura by getting up and demonstratively pulling money out of his wallet as a donation to the IFOS (see Appendix XVII for a list of donors). John Wingfield urged the IOCommittee members to give generously. The donations were collected by Franz Bairlein, who transferred them to the AOU on behalf of the IOCommittee.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.
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List of Acronyms used in this Report

AOU American Ornithologists’ Union
CSIC Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Spain)
EC Executive Committee of the IOC Committee
EOU European Ornithologists’ Union
IFOS International Federation of Ornithological Societies (proposed)
IOC International Ornithological Congress and/or Committee
IOCongress International Ornithological Congress
IRS United States Internal Revenue Service
IUBS International Union of Biological Sciences
MNHN Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris
NAOC North American Ornithological Congress
NHM Natural History Museum, London
NOC Neotropical Ornithological Congress
NOS Neotropical Ornithological Society
NSF National Science Foundation (United States)
PAOC Pan-African Ornithological Congress
RCC Research Coordination Committee (formerly “Standing Committees”)
RTD Round Table Discussion
SBO Sociedade Brasileira de Ornitologia
SICB Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology
SCON Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature
SEO Sociedad Española de Ornitologia
SPC Scientific Program Committee of the IOCongress

Appendix I: Original agenda for the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the IOC Committee (as of 11 July 2006)

24th IO Congress – Hamburg 13–19 August 2006
The first Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2006, at 10:00am-5:30pm in Room #16. The second meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 16, 2006, at 2:00pm in Room #16.

Executive Committee 2002–2006
Franz Bairlein, Secretary-General, ex officio
Jacques Blondel, President
Walter J. Bock, Past-President, ex officio
Susan Hannon, 2002–2006
Elizabeth Hoefling, 2002–2006
Dominique G. Homberger, Secretary
François Vuilleumier, 2002–2006
John C. Wingfield, Vice-President
Wei-shu Xu, Past-Secretary-General, ex officio

1. Welcome and report by IOC President Jacques Blondel, including presentation of list of IOCommittee members that were elected in Beijing 2002. A moment of silence in commemoration for the IOCommittee members who died since the last IOCongress in Beijing. (15 minutes)

2. Welcome and Report by the Secretary-General of the IO-Congress, Franz Bairlein, including recommendations for the planning and organization of future IOCongresses. (15 minutes)

3. Report by IOC Secretary Dominique Homberger, including possible invitations for the 26th IOCongress in 2014. (10 minutes)

4. Report by the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, Susan Hannon. (20 minutes)

5. Report by the Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee, Fred Cooke, on nominations of officers: IOC President, IOC Vice President, IOC Secretary, putative IOC Treasurer, elected members of the Executive Committee for 2006–2010, and Honorary Officers. (20 minutes)

6. Discussion of and action on the list of nominees for the Executive Committee to be presented at the IOCommittee meeting. Note: The Statutes will have to be suspended for the vote on the putative IOC Treasurer, because the current Statutes do not include a Treasurer’s position; the creation of such a position will be discussed under Agendum #15. (15 minutes)

7. Report by the Chair of the IOC Nominations Committee, Fernando Spina, on the nominations of National Representatives and Associate Members of the IOCommittee. (20 minutes)

8. Discussion of and action on the list of nominees for the IO-Committee to be presented at the IOCommittee meeting. Note: The Statutes will have to be suspended for the vote on the Associate Members, because the current Statutes do not include this type of membership; the creation of such a membership will be discussed under Agendum #15. (10 minutes)

9. Presentation by Eduardo de Juana of the invitation by Spain for the 25th IOCongress in 2010. (15 minutes)

10. Presentation by Cristina Miyaki of the invitation by Brazil for the 25th IOCongress in 2010. (15 minutes)

11. Discussion of and action on these invitations to be presented at the IOCommittee meeting. (15 minutes)

12. Report by IOC Vice President John Wingfield on his Committee’s review of and recommendations for the IOC Standing Committees. (30 minutes)

13. Presentation by the Co-Chairs of the Resolutions Committee, Eberhard Curio and Mike Rand. (10 minutes)

14. Presentation by IOC President Jacques Blondel of the amendments of the IOC Statutes and By-laws, as well as of the proposal for the transformation of the IOC into an International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS). (15 minutes)

15. Report by Thomas Sherry (Council of the American Ornithologists’ Union) on the plans for an interim solution for handling funds for the IOCommittee (separately from those of the congresses) until the IOCommittee has become a tax-exempt organization. (20 minutes)

16. Discussion of and action on the amendments of the IOC Statutes to be presented at the IOCommittee meeting. Special points of discussion: Criteria for Emeritus or Emerita status (Emeriti IOCommittee members versus Emeriti Officers).

17. Discussion of the proposal for an IFOS.

18. Old Business, if any.

19. New Business. Publication mode of the IOCongress proceedings (Soekarja Somadikarta)


Appendix II: Report of the President of the 24th IOCongress, Jacques Blondel

Preamble
As a preamble, I would like to say how much I enjoyed having been President of the International Ornithological Congress, not because of some personal pride for this prestigious function, but because everything has been done, since the very beginning, in an exceptional atmosphere of efficiency and friendship, which made the entire process of the preparations for the IOCongress quite enjoyable. It was a real pleasure to work with the key persons who make a Congress successful. I must mention Franz Bairlein (Secretary-General of the congress and chair of the Local Organising Committee), Susan Hannon (Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee) and Dominique Homberger (Secretary of the International Ornithological Committee) who, each in his or her field of competence, have always been extraordinarily efficient and willing to do their best for solving every problem, even the smallest one. Many other persons kindly and efficiently helped me and advised me in a myriad of problems. I would like to mention Walter Bock who did and still does so much for the IOC, Peter Berthold who helped me in many things for many years, Gregor Scheiffarth, Fernando Spina, Richard Schodde, and many others.

1. Secretary-General of the Congress and the Scientific Program Committee
As soon as I was elected President of the 24th IOCongress and the city of Hamburg was chosen to host the Congress, I started the process of appointing the key persons who would be involved with the organization of the Congress, i.e., the Secretary-General Professor Dr. Franz Bairlein and the chair of the Scientific Programme Committee. Dr. Susan Hannon accepted this difficult responsibility which is crucial for the success of the congress. A local organising Committee was established under the chair of Professor Bairlein to deal with all the logistic and organisational aspects of the congress.

Subsequently, the 10 members of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) were approached by me as the President to serve on this committee. Four additional ex officio members and three members from the local organising committee completed the committee of 17 persons. Special attention was paid to attain a geographical and gender balance (12 countries; 7 women, 10 men) among the committee members.

The SPC started immediately to work and met for an entire week in August 2004 at a lovely and quiet place at Camp Reinschelen in the Lueneburg Heath near Hamburg (see the report of Dr. Susan Hannon, chair of the SPC, in Appendix V). The locality was extremely pleasant, and the committee worked hard in a very nice and friendly atmosphere.
2. Reports

During the four-year intersessional period between 2002 and 2006, I sent to all members of the Executive Committee four reports to inform them of the preparations for the 24th IOCongress and to provide information on various issues about the future of the IOCommittee. In fact, much work has been devoted to trying to give some support to an already old plan to modernise the IO-Committee and to transform it into a charity tax-exempt organisation. The idea is that the world is changing so rapidly that we must adapt if the IOCongress is to survive (see the reports of 15 October 2005 and 28 April 2006 as Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 of Appendix II). I will return later to these issues concerning the changes in the IOCommittee structure.

3. Presidential Forum

Under the initiative of Professor Walter Bock, President of the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing in 2002, a Presidential Debate was held on one evening during the Beijing congress in 2002 on the origin of birds. This debate was a real success with a substantial attendance. For the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg in 2006, we decided to organise a Presidential Forum on the theme of Bird Science and Conservation. The idea was to organise this forum on an equal partnership between the International Ornithological Congress and Birdlife International. We took this decision in order to fulfill previous attempts to reach a rapprochement between avian biologists and conservationists (i.e., between the IOC and BirdLife International). Such operational links appeared necessary because the status of birds in general continues to deteriorate in most parts of the world, so that avian biologists and conservationists must join in their efforts to reverse the trend. Therefore, I asked Dr. Mike Rands, Chief and Executive Director of BirdLife International, to co-organize this Presidential Forum with me. Professor Fred Cooke and I met Dr. Rands and Dr. Bennum in Cambridge in January 2005 to determine the format of the forum.

4. Revision of the IOC Statutes and By-Laws

I appointed a Statutes Committee to revise the statutes of the IOCommittee, keeping in mind that a new constitution needed to be established if the process of transforming the IOCommittee into an International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS) were to get off the ground. During the four years between the 23rd and the 24th Congresses, much work has been done for improving the statutes of the IOCommittee. The members of the Statutes Committee were Walter Bock, Dominique Homberger, John Wingfield, Hans Winkler, Christopher Perrins, and Jacques Blondel. A proposal for modified statutes and by-laws was prepared by this Committee (see the amended Statutes and By-Laws in Appendix XI).

5. Funds

The International Ornithological Congress is a worldwide forum for science, which is open to any ornithologist. To provide opportunities for ornithologists from low-income countries to attend congresses, we need special travel funds to assist them. The IOCommittee as such does not have its own funds. Usually, the country that hosts the Congress and the Secretary-General of a Congress are responsible for providing such funds and have been able to do so until now. This was also the case, for example, for the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg in 2006, which received substantial amounts of money for this purpose from various sources, including the German Research Council (the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). In addition, Dr. Luc Hoffmann made a personal generous gift to provide travel funds for delegates from low-income countries. Nevertheless, there were several last-minute cancellations of symposium contributors because of a lack of travel funds. Of the 43 letters I sent to presidents of various national ornithological societies worldwide, asking them to help congress delegates of low-income countries to come to Hamburg, only one responded positively. In Beijing in 2002, Nathan Gichuki remarked that participation by African ornithologists in the congresses is very low mainly because the costs for participating in the congresses are too high. Ideally, all costs incurring to the Executive Committee and Scientific Program Committee should also be met by the IOCommittee, but they currently are met with personal funds or through the Local Organizing Committee of the hosting congress, respectively.

One of the main arguments for establishing an International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS) is financial matters. Walter Bock reminded me that at several congresses, for example at the 1986 IOCongress in Ottawa, the local organizing committee raised funds to support ornithologists from low-income countries to attend, as was done at this congress. However, this type of funding ought not to be the task of the Local Organizing Committee but that of the IOCommittee, which should be in a position to raise funds. The problem is to find an appropriate financial structure for the IOCommittee (see Attachment 3 of Appendix II).

6. Governance Committee

In order to rejuvenate the IOCommittee and to strengthen this organisation, we established a Governance Committee with seven members (Walter Bock, James Kushlan, Thomas Sherry, John Wingfield, Franz Bairlein, Jacques Blondel, and Dominique Homberger). Much discussion and exchange of ideas took place during the two past years within this committee (see also Point #4).

7. Transformation of the IOC into an IFOS

Following the recommendations of the Finance Committee [see Appendix V of the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the 23rd International Ornithological Congress in Beijing, 11–17 August 2002. Homberger, D.G. 2006. Official report of the International Ornithological Committee, 23rd International Ornithological Congress, at the Beijing International Convention Center, Beijing, 11–17 August 2002. Acta Zoologica Sinica, 52 (Supplement): 1–30], preliminary discussions were held for a constitutional reform establishing an International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS). Discussions on this theme were already held during previous congresses, especially in Beijing. A recommendation was made in Beijing that in the next four years the Executive Committee of the IOCommittee will work on the structure of the IOCommittee and on other aspects that were raised at this congress. It is clear that the IOCommittee needs to think about its fundamental mission and needs to define a new strategy. Recommendations made by the ad hoc Finance Committee expressed the feeling that changes are needed to make the IOCommittee a more dynamic organization. In this context, a large amount of work has been done to think about transforming the IOCommittee into an International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS). The IFOS would be a tax-exempt (not-for-profit) society that could receive and handle funds from membership dues, grants, and donations. Membership of the IFOS should be open to discussion. A general feeling is that membership to the IFOS will be open to individual scientists, both amateurs and professionals, but that the bulk of the members would be professional bodies, unions, societies, universities, and institutes from all over the world.
Section 12 of the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing in 2002, summarised a discussion about possible changes in the organization of the IOCommittee: “This discussion addressed various issues that have been pending and the recommendations made by the ad hoc Finance Committee. There was a general feeling that various changes will need to be implemented to maintain the IOCommittee as a vital and dynamic organization.” A pressing issue was to reorganize the IOCommittee into an International Ornithological Society (IOS). Among other things it would enable the society to raise revenue through membership dues, grants, and donations. Much work has been done to give support to this idea (see Appendix XII).

Establishing the IOCommittee as a federation of ornithological societies could help reduce potential conflicts between various meetings and congresses. Attention should be paid not to organize several important international congresses in the same year. There is some concern that the very popular meetings of the AOU attract many ornithologists who will not attend two congresses in the same year and who, therefore, will not come to the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg in 2006. The European Ornithologists’ Union organises its meetings every two years, but out of phase with the IOCongress, i.e., in 2003, 2005, 2007.

8. The AOU-I0C rapprochement

Because transforming the IOCommittee into a tax-exempt charity organisation is a long and difficult process, the AOU generously proposed to help the IOCommittee in this endeavour. James Kushlan, President of the AOU, and Thomas Sherry expended much effort in this direction. If the IOCommittee agrees to proceed in this direction, the AOU is ready to help us so that establishing an IFOS could be achieved before the 25th IOCongress in 2010 (see Appendix 7 of Appendix XIII and Appendix XIV).

9. IOC Standing Committees

It was recommended in Beijing that the Vice-President of the IOC should serve as the liaison to the Standing Committees, review their policies, and provide the Executive Committee with recommendations for making the Standing Committees more effective. The Vice-President Professor John Wingfield did a tremendous job in analysing the current Standing Committees and in making recommendations for the future. He proposed to make a distinction between, on the one hand, the current IOC committees, which are organisational bodies of the IOCommittee and are, therefore, actually and technically “Standing Committees”; and, on the other hand, the current Standing Committees, which address specific scientific topics and are, therefore, actually and technically “ad hoc committees”. Hence, the current Standing Committees should be re-named Research Coordination Committees (RCCs) (see Appendix VI).

10. Publication of the Proceedings

There are still some concerns that outstanding scientific results might not be published in the IOCongress Proceedings, possibly because some authors believe that the IOCongress Proceedings are not prestigious enough. I know at least of one case of a plenary speaker who did not submit his lecture for publication in the IOCongress Proceedings. The long delays for publication are certainly a difficulty we should address.

11. Hosting countries for the 25th IOCongress in 2010

There are two invitations for the 25th IOCongress from Brazil and from Spain.

12. IOCommittee

Much effort has been expended to nominate members from many countries that remain under-represented or unrepresented within the IOCommittee, especially from bird-rich, but economically weak regions. But many countries still remain unrepresented, so that efforts must be renewed to nominate and elect more ornithologists from these countries in 2010.

Appendix II: Attachment 1

Report of the President on IOC matters, 15 October 2005

The 24th IOCongress is to be held in a few months from now so that I think that it is important to keep you informed of what has been done during the last two years by the officers of the IOCommittee and especially by the Permanent Secretary Professor Dominique Homberger.

Preparations for the 24th IOCongress

- First, as you may be aware from our website <www.I-O-C.org>, the preparations for the Congress by the local committee under the leadership of the Secretary General Professor Dr. Franz Bairlein in Hamburg are going extremely well. Everything is done to make the Congress a beautiful event, and I am confident that it will be so.
- Thanks to the extremely active involvement of Dr. Susan Hannon and all the members of the SPC, the scientific programme also sounds extremely exciting. All the persons invited to give a plenary lecture have enthusiastically accepted our invitation. We will have 48 symposia and the new rules for making symposia more democratic with three speakers of the five being chosen through peer reviews of their abstracts have worked quite satisfactorily with most symposia organizers having had a fairly large number of proposals to choose from. In addition, there will be many oral sessions and roundtable discussions.
- The initiative of Walter Bock to organise a special evening event called “Presidential Debate”, which was successfully organised in Beijing on the origin of birds, has been kept for the 24th IOCongress and will be organised as a “Presidential Forum”. We decided to organize a joint forum together with BirdLife International on the important topic “Bird Science and Conservation: Have we lost our way?”. BirdLife International enthusiastically accepted our invitation to connect science and conservation in ornithology. The format of the forum will include short introductory presentations by the President of the IOC and the Chief Executive of BirdLife International, and then five short 20-minute presentations on the forum topic will follow from a range of perspectives within modern ornithology. These presentations will be followed by a panel debate with questions from the audience. This effort to support a closer interaction between the IOC and BirdLife should be followed, perhaps with the launching of a formal structure, such as a Research Coordination Committee (see below). This issue would fit the decision made at the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing in 2002 to make conservation one of the objectives of the IOCommittee and should be explored and discussed in close communication with BirdLife International in order to have a solution ready for the Executive Committee of the IOCommittee meetings in Hamburg. The IOCommittee should not miss the opportunity to be active in the expanding need for more research and action in conservation.

The Future of the International Ornithological Congress

IOC Standing Committees. Under the leadership of Professor John Wingfield, chair of the Task Group for Standing Committees, a
A report has been produced which includes important topics that must be followed as much as possible for the benefit of the IO-Committee (see the report of the Task Group in Appendix VI). It is clear from this report that committees that meet only once every four years cannot achieve much. Therefore, the proposal of the Task Group for new guidelines and potential IOC By-Law changes should be carefully considered because they will probably lead to changes in the statutes of the IOC. They will be debated during the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg in 2006. One important proposal of the report is that a distinction must be made between what we currently call “Standing Committees” (which are actually “ad hoc committees”) and the committees that should be considered organic permanent structures of the IOCommittee and are actually and technically “Standing Committees”. These should include the committees that run and manage the IOCongress, such as the Executive Committee, the IOCommittee, the Scientific Program Committee, and the Resolution Committee, which was suggested by Walter Bock at the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing in 2002 as a permanent body of the IOCongress.

As pointed out by the Task Group for Standing Committees, all currently existing “Standing Committees” are actually “special interest” or “ad hoc” committees and should be re-examined and become “Research Coordination Committees” (RCCs) as suggested by the Task Group or be dissolved. It would be of considerable interest for the IOC to revitalise and nurture these committees and dissolve those that are inactive. It would probably be important that the Executive Committee of the IOCommittee supervises these committees on the basis of reports and that their work be submitted and nurtured as part of the Congress program since they must be components of the life of the IOC. This is especially true for any committee engaged in conservation, e.g., the former Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology, and its relationship to BirdLife International.

All these efforts point to the necessity to consolidate the IOCommittee as a more permanent and modern structure. But we are still far from this goal. Whatever the organisation and status of the committees, their success only depends on the willingness of ornithologists to be active. If our goal is to establish a formal federation of ornithological societies, which, I think, is highly desirable, we first need to consolidate the IOCommittee in its extant structure by launching two committees as already decided in Beijing: A Governance Committee and a Finance Committee.

- **Governance Committee.** This committee, which was already informally established at the congress in Beijing, should, among other things, have specific roles in relation to the function of the IOC by defining or assisting the Executive Committee of the IOCommittee in the definition of guidelines and procedures for the establishment, supervision and dissolution of standing committees or any other working group. It should also help in the revision of by-laws and statutes of the IOC. Unfortunately, this committee has not been active since the Beijing congress and urgently needs to be resuscitated.

- **Ad hoc Finance Committee.** Together with Professor Dominique Homberger, Secretary of the IOCommittee, we worked hard for establishing this Committee, but it soon appeared that this is more difficult than expected. The first task was to find someone willing to act as the chairperson of this Committee and to formalize the IOCommittee as a non-profit entity with tax-exempt status. We thought that the best option would be that the IOC incorporates itself as a 501-c-3 organisation in the US or as a similar system elsewhere in the world. Up to now, we did not succeed in establishing this Committee. Yet, in a world where money will not become easier to find in the forthcoming decades, especially for ornithologists from developing countries, we definitely need money to help them to become full members of the international ornithological community, especially because most of the avian diversity occurs in their countries. This is a real problem: As an example, five months ago, I sent letters to 35 of the most important national ornithological societies in the world, asking them to provide some funds for helping young ornithologists to attend the Hamburg Congress. To this day, only one society positively and generously responded! This is a clear message that we definitely need a formal system to attract funds.

International Federation of Ornithological Societies. In fact, for many reasons including administrative and legal problems, it is not certain that we should establish a Finance Committee within the extant structure of the IOCommittee. Perhaps it would be better to make the IOCommittee a stronger and more permanent corporate organisation. Establishing the IOCommittee as a permanent entity, something like an “International Federation of Ornithological Societies” with a financial base, as suggested by the Task Group for Standing Committees, seems to be a high priority, since the IOCongress is the only venue where ornithologists from all parts of the world can contribute and meet in an equal partnership.

Various options are currently explored to establish a permanent tax-exempt legal federation of national ornithological societies from as many parts of the world as possible. Personally, I am in favour of the establishment of such a federation for rejuvenating and nurturing the Congress and for providing it with more means and credit in the new global world in which we live. The purpose of this entity would be to receive donations that could be used for a number of purposes, including (i) the work of the IO-Committee secretary and other incidental expenses between congresses, such as travelling funds for exploring host countries for future congresses; (ii) supporting the activities of the proposed “IOC Research Coordination Committees” during the long intersessional periods between congresses, especially to influence the development and coordination of research and conservation, and to nurture these groups; (iii) supporting ornithologists from low-income countries to attend IOCongresses; and (iv) assisting the hosting of IOCongresses in developing countries. This would alleviate the usual difficulties of the IOC: Shortages of money and infrequent meetings, which jeopardize the role of the IOCongress in ornithological science. James Kushlan, president of the AOU, generously agreed to assist the IOCommittee in this task. He is exploring how to make an IOC-AOU liaison effective (see Attachment 7 of Appendix XIII). Thomas Sherry agreed to be the liaison between the IOC and the AOU, but, unfortunately, the Katrina hurricane seriously disorganised his life. Clearly, the IOC needs money to assist people from low-income countries who face challenges for attending the congresses (see Appendix XIII).

**The 2010 Congress**

Thanks to the active involvement of Professor Dominique Homberger, we received two proposals for the organisation of the 25th IOCongress in 2010, one from Brazil by the *Sociedade Brasileira de Ornitologia* (SBO) in São Paulo and the other from the *Sociedad Española de Ornitología* (SEO) in Madrid. Both invitations are extremely exciting and timely. They have been carefully prepared and, at first sight, seem to meet all the requirements of an IOCongress.

According to the statutes of the IOCommittee (Art. IV.4b), which specify that during the inter-congress period, the Executive Committee has general responsibility for the scientific policy of the IOCommittee, I respectfully ask all members of the Executive Committee to think about all the above points and provide any
input which could be useful for the Congress and discussed in Hamburg for decisions to be taken.

Needless to say that I will be most grateful for any comments and suggestions for improving the IOC

Jacques Blondel
15 October 2005

Appendix II: Attachment 2

Message to the Members of the Executive Committee of the IOCommittee, sent on 28 April 2006

Dear members of the Executive Committee and dear colleagues,

This report is to keep you informed of the ongoing developments of IOC matters before the Hamburg Congress and to ask you to contribute to the process of transforming the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) into an International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS). For that purpose, I will make several points.

1. Project of transforming the IOC into an IFOS
   a. Links between the AOU and IOC. Thanks to the efforts of Jim Kushlan, President of the AOU and Thomas Sherry, who chairs the International Affairs Committee of AOU Council, the AOU-IOC proposal prepared by Thomas Sherry and Dominique Homberger (see Appendix XIII) that I sent to you some weeks ago has been submitted to the Council members and officers of the AOU. The AOU Council was in favour of supporting the IFOS in its endeavour to be transformed into an IFOS, although it expressed some reservations. The AOU is willing to provide a temporary home for the IOCommittee/IFOS to facilitate fund raising, receipt and disbursement of funds, and other related administrative tasks. The AOU expresses the expectation that the IOCommittee/IFOS establishes its own non-profit organization within a specified timeframe of two years or so. To make things clear regarding the common missions of the IOC and AOU, we have to draft a mission statement which will clarify our aims.
   b. Opinion of the members of the IOC Executive Committee. All the EC members who provided some feedback on the draft on the AOU-IOC collaboration prepared by Dominique Homberger and Thomas Sherry (see Appendix XIII) enthusiastically responded and provided interesting thoughts. This was seen as an encouragement to go ahead with the project. May I ask those of you who did not reply yet to provide some feedback back to Dominique Homberger, Thomas Sherry, or to me.
   c. Establishment of the IFOS. If there is a general agreement to transform the IOC into an IFOS, we should go as far as possible before the Hamburg meeting in terms of planning for incorporation as U.S. 501-c-3 organization. We will have to submit the idea to the IOC delegates, but if we are to ask delegates to vote on new statutes during the Hamburg meeting the process should start as soon as possible. For that purpose we need one or several experts in these matters, and it seems that this should be done within the U.S. by U.S. citizens. Therefore, I ask you to help in designating a Task Group that will immediately begin the process of establishing the IFOS as a charity tax-exempt organization under U.S. law, so that some real proposals and actions can be voted on by the IOC members in Hamburg. Provided that the IOCommittee accepts the IFOS project in Hamburg, it will take a good part of two years to establish the Federation’s tax exempt corporate status.
   d. Governance Committee. In the framework of the IFOS project and because there will be many things to do to establish this international society, I provisionally appointed a “Governance Committee” (with Walter Bock, Jim Kushlan, Thomas Sherry, John Wingfield, Franz Bairlein, Dominique Homberger, and Jacques Blondel) within which a Task group including W. Bock, D. Homberger and J. Blondel will make proposals for revising the statutes.
   e. Treasurer. Appointing a Treasurer is a crucial step in the process as suggested by the AOU and several members of the Executive Committee of the IOCommittee. Before having a Treasurer within the IFOS, we need a short-term mechanism for handling funds that would be provided to the IOC via the AOU. Thomas Sherry, who chairs the International Affairs Committee of AOU Council, generously accepted to be the point person for helping expedite financial transactions on a separate account within the AOU to administer IOCommittee/IFOS funds as long as the IFOS is not established. When the IFOS is established as a tax-exempt charity organisation, we will have to elect new officers, including a Treasurer.
   f. Contributions for the IFOS. A suggestion of John Wingfield was to ask the congress participants to contribute at least a minimal amount of money for starting the process of establishing a financial system within the IOC. In order to start this process of funding the IFOS it would be important that donations, even symbolic, can already be made. For this purpose, several possibilities exist. One of them is to ask attendees to sign a form that will be presented to them at registration. Another possibility would be to install a page on the IOC web site, which could be clicked on by anyone wishing to make a contribution by credit card. However, whatever the system chosen, it must be approved by the Local Committee of the Hamburg Congress chaired by Franz Bairlein. If such a financial contribution is feasible, money should go into a temporary fund established by the AOU for the IFOS.

2. Invitations for the 25th Congress in 2010. May I ask you to carefully examine the two invitations for the 2010 Congress (Brazil and Spain) if you have not already done so.

3. Election of officers and members of the Executive Committee. Concerning elections of officers and Executive Committee members, I suggest that, at least for some key positions, such as the presidency, there will be a vote in case two or more persons are candidates. I remind you that the chairperson of the EC Nominating Committee is Fred Cooke. Don’t hesitate to send him your thoughts and names of candidates.

I would very much like to have your comments regarding the above points. It will be important to have as much agreement as possible and several important decisions when we vote on our decisions in Hamburg. It will be in the interest of the ornithological community.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

With my best wishes and regards,

Jacques Blondel

Appendix II: Attachment 3

Note on the IOC ad hoc Finance Committee, 14 January 2004

According to its statutes, which were originally prepared by Professor Donald S. Farner, President of the XVII International Ornithological Congress, and adopted at that congress (Berlin 1978), with revisions at the Christchurch 1990, Vienna 1994 and Durban 1998 congresses, the International Ornithological Congress is a non-profit organisation whose aims are to (1) promote international collaboration and cooperation in ornithology and (2) encourage international collaboration and cooperation between ornithology and other biological sciences. To effect these objectives and purposes the IOC sponsors and promotes Inter-
national Ornithological Congresses; establishes and sponsors commissions and committees as it deems appropriate and desirable; establishes or sponsors other international ornithological activities as it deems appropriate; and functions as the Section of Ornithology of the International Union of Biological Sciences.

During the past decades there has been a tremendous growth of the IOC, as well as an opening towards new countries, in which ornithology is improving fast. This resulted in a growing involvement of IOC officers in many matters related to the IOC. Many of these matters require at least some funding, but a perennial problem of the IOC is the total lack of permanent funds outside the organisation of the congresses themselves, which are funded by the host country. As long as the IOCongress were organised in economically strong countries during prosperous times, the prospective hosting countries were able to provide funds for inviting IOC officers and Scientific Programme Committee members for preparing the programme of the Congress. However, the Executive Committee and the IOCommittee have decided that it is highly desirable to hold IOCongressions also in other countries, including developing countries. This means that we will have to find funding for the activities and travels that are necessary to help with the preparation of invitations.

Basically, IOC activities include two main points:

1. The organisation of IOCongressions. The funding of a Congress as an event that occurs every four years is achieved by the host country under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the Congress and with the fees paid by participants of the congress. The statutes of the IOCommittee (Article IV.7.) mention that the Secretary-General of the Congress is the treasurer and principal finance officer of the congress and as such is responsible for all financial matters of the congress. In consultation with the President, the Secretary General develops the budget and determines the congress fees. After all fiscal obligations have been absolved, any surplus funds, including any from the proceedings, are made available for inter-congress activities, including arrangements for the ensuing congress. In practice, this last point is mostly theoretical.

2. Activities for which there has never been any source of money. Most of them are inter-congress activities that include the following, among others:
   a. Prospect hosting countries for IOCs;
   b. Visit the host country during the preparation of a congress;
   c. Attend any kind of meeting, such as the meeting of the International Union of Biological Sciences, of which the Section of Ornithology chaired by the President of the IOC. A better connection with the IUBS is highly desirable;
   d. Improve the international representation of ornithologists in the IOCommittee;
   e. Help delegates from low-income developing countries to attend IOCongressions;
   f. Promote editorial activities, such as the IOCongress Proceedings;
   g. Maintain the home page of the IOC on the Internet;
   h. Raise congress seed money;
   i. Provide funds for supporting the activities of the Standing Committees during the inter-congress periods.

Matters (among others) that the Finance Committee should consider include:

1. The costs facing the IOC in the future;
2. Mechanisms to raise an endowment for the IOC;
3. Methods of transferring funds internationally to avoid high banking fees on individual cheques (possibly using credit cards);
4. The selection of a country in which the funds will be kept and invested and, hence, the IOCommittee will be registered as a non-profit organisation;
5. Appoint officers in the IOCommittee responsible for handling these funds;
6. Manage the interactions between the funds of the IOCommittee and the finances of the congresses.

Officers of the IOC, such as the President, the Vice-President, or the Secretary, as well as the members of the Executive Committee or other Committees, are likely to be invited to fulfil some functions and duties in the framework of their IOC mandate, especially between congresses. Funding these activities is always a problem. For example, according to the statutes of the IOC, the Secretary is responsible for communicating with and assisting ornithologists of potential host countries in the preparation of invitations for future congresses. The Secretary of the IOC serves as secretary of the Section of Ornithology of the International Union of Biological Sciences. But nothing is organised for funding these activities, which usually involve travel costs and, to date, officers who have to travel for any IOC matter must do so on their own resources, which can no longer be acceptable, especially when a IOCongress or a meeting of the IUBS is organised in a country that is far from the country of the IOC officers.

This is why the need of a source of funding, especially in the first year or so after an IOCongress, is one of the past and present problems of the IOC, which has been recognized many times but has not yet been acted upon. This is why launching a Finance Committee is highly desirable, especially when the IOC needs to find funds in order to reimburse loans that may have been provided. Such a committee will be a legal base for registration of the IOC as a non-profit institution that is able to receive funds in a legal banking account.

Jacques Blondel
President 24th IOC
Montpellier, 1 January 2004

Appendix III: Report of the Secretary-General of the 24th IOCongress, Franz Bairlein

The Congress had 1466 registered delegates from 80 countries. This was the result of an attractive program, a good location, a grant system for travel support, and moderate congress registration fees, and thanks to sponsors, of which the major ones were the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Council), ZEISS, the City of Hamburg, the Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft (German Ornithologists' Society), the Sielmann-Stiftung, the Deutsche Wildtierstiftung, Springer, and Luc Hofmann. Without the generous support from the sponsors neither the moderate congress registration fees nor the support for participants from low-income countries and students would have been possible.

It was a priority to get also persons from low-income countries to attend the IOCongress. 300 applications for support were received, of which 247 were granted. In total, 195 delegates were supported (53 grantees declined the grant). Support decisions were made in a flexible manner. Delegates from low-income countries were provided a combination of a reduced or waived registration fee and some travel support. Any monetary support was given only in cash in Hamburg in order to ensure that persons receiving support also attended the congress. Students from Europe and North America were supported through reduced registration fees.

Handouts: Delegates received a detailed program booklet, a list of participants, and an abstract book. The abstracts were also published as a supplement of the Journal of Ornithology. They can be
Miscellaneous: Film sessions were canceled because there were not for publication in 2007.

Excursions: 555 delegates participated in 14 mid-congress excursions. 357 participants attended the daily early-morning bird walks. The pre- and post-congress tours were organized and operated by a professional tour operator, a partner of BirdLife Germany (NABU). Due to the high prices of the congress tours and the ease in traveling on one’s own in Europe, many pre- and post-congress tours were cancelled because of insufficient numbers of participants.

Bird Fair: 20 commercial and 21 scientific institutions and NGOs exhibited their products and information on their work and missions, respectively. The exhibition area was placed centrally and was visited by many delegates.

Proceedings: Congress Proceedings will be published as supplements of the Journal of Ornithology. They will be published in two issues: The plenary papers will be published in print and online, while symposia papers will be published only online. A CD-ROM will be made available on request. The proceedings are scheduled for publication in 2007.

Media: The IOCongress was very well presented in various media, in TV, radio broadcast, and many newspapers. The press conference was attended by ca. 20 media delegates.

Recommendations for future congresses: The most challenging issue in preparing the congress was the e-mail correspondence, because e-mail addresses changed so frequently. Even invited speakers were not always reachable. For future congresses, this problem needs to be addressed, perhaps through a web page where people can change their own personal data. Another problem is created by SPAM-protection filters that do not let pass messages with strange-looking addresses.

Acknowledgments: An event, such as the IOCongress, cannot be organized and run without the support and assistance of many people. They cannot be listed all, as the entire team did a superb job, but a few persons must be mentioned by name. Professor Susan Hamon, chair of the Scientific Program Committee, compiled such an attractive program, which is the core of a congress. Jürgen Dien chaired the Local Organizing Committee. Gregor Scheiffarth, Henning Bohlken, and Veit Hennig were responsible for the entire logistics of handling the database, the power-point presentations, the posters, and the daily programme announcements. Volker Dierschke organized the mid-congress excursions, and Sven Baumung organized the early-morning bird walks and the private accommodations for participants from low-income countries. The registration of the delegates and exhibitors was conducted by the professional congress organizer (PCO) INTERPLAN AG. The staff of the Congress Centre Hamburg (CCH) provided organizational and technical support. Many thanks to all! Last but not least, I like to thank my PA Elke Wiechmann.

Franz Bairlein
Secretary General

Appendix IV
Report of the IOCommittee Secretary Dominique G. Homberger

The responsibilities of the IOC Secretary are varied and included several major tasks.

Record keeping for the IOCommittee. The upkeep of the personal records of the IOCommittee membership is a sisyphusian task with entries for more than 350 past and present members. Although correspondence with IOCommittee members by e-mail has been saving time and money as compared to corresponding by air mail, the frequent changes in e-mail addresses have been a major impediment for efficient communication (see also Appendix III and Appendix V). The record keeping work for the IOCommittee could not be accomplished without the help of my personal assistant Mary East.

A major, still unresolved problem is the updating of the IOCommittee membership list on the IOC web page. Because of the constantly changing information and the sheer workload, the information on the IOC web page becomes fast outdated and is, therefore, of limited use. A better solution would be to install an interactive web page, through which IOCommittee members can update their personal information (see also Appendix III). Such a system has already been instituted by several other professional organizations.

Published obituaries for IOCommittee members, who have passed away, have been compiled, and their references are included in this report (see Appendix XIX) and will be posted on the IOC home page www.I-O-C.org. When no published obituaries were available, colleagues or friends of the deceased IOCommittee members were requested to provide obituaries, which then became the only record on the internet for these ornithologists. These obituaries and the compiled references to obituaries will eventually be an important source of historical information on the IOC and international ornithology (see also below).

Research on the history of the IOC. As Secretary of the IOCommittee, I have been receiving various requests for information on the availability of previous IOCongress proceedings and on particular aspects of the history of the organization itself.

As a start, I have tabulated the major information on the past twenty-four IOCongresses, which was compiled by Walter Bock, and posted it on the IOC web page. It seems that this historical information alone is a step in the right direction, as measured by the positive comments I have received from persons interested in the IOC as an organization (e.g., congress organizers).

Because of the dispersed publication of the IOCongress proceedings and because the IOC proceedings contain many articles that are still relevant, it should be a priority to find a copy of all the proceedings, have them scanned cover-to-cover, and post them on the IOC home page. Thanks to the detective work by Soekarja So-madikarta, who found an article that summarized the proceedings of the First International Ornithological Congress in Vienna in 1884 {Vorderman, A.G. 1886. Oproeping aan alle vogelkenners en vogelkiebbers in Nederlandsch-Indië. [Call to all ornithologists and bird watchers in the Netherlands-Indies]. Natuurkundig Tijdschrift voor Nederlandish-Indiën, 45 (4): 525–540}, and thanks to the library of Louisiana State University, it was possible to find a copy of these proceedings and to have them scanned and preserved electronically {Anonymous (?Blasius, R.). 1884–1886. Sitzungs-Protokolle des ersten internationalen Ornithologen-Congresses. [Reports of the
meetings of the First International Ornithologists’ Congress. Mitteilungen des Ornithologischen Vereins in Wien, volumes 8–10: ca. 80 widely dispersed pages). This work, too, could not have been done without my personal assistant Mary East. It is clear, however, that the scanning of the remaining twenty-one IOCongress proceedings cannot proceed efficiently as a cottage industry.


Given the role of the IOC in the development of ornithology as an international science, it will be important to create a special committee that is charged with the historical aspects of the IOC and with curating the IOC archives.

**Interactions with other scientific organizations.** The IOCommittee represents the discipline of ornithology in the IUBS (International Union of Biological Science). Until now, the IOC president and secretary have, however, not been able to participate actively in the IUBS by attending their meetings. The main reasons have been a lack of funds to support travel to the international meeting places (e.g., in Cairo in 2004), as well as a lack of time due to the heavy workload of the IOC officers. However, a strong presence and participation in the IUBS by the IOC should be an obligation and goal of the IOC.

As part of prospecting for future congress sites (see below) and in accordance with the longstanding mission of the IOC (see also Appendix XI), close contacts were nurtured with professional and amateur ornithologists and ornithological groups around the world. For example, close interactions were sustained with ornithologists and ornithological societies in Brazil, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, and Germany among many other countries. One priority has been to encourage ornithologists to found national or transnational ornithological societies in countries that have an emerging ornithological capacity, by sharing information (e.g., the constitutions of the IOC and other established ornithological societies) and by assisting with networking.

**Improving the geographical representation within the IOCommittee.** Despite sustained efforts over the past several years under the leadership of Walter Bock, the geographical representation within the IOCommittee still does not even come close to reflect an international organization in contemporary terms (see Appendix X). One reason for this state of affairs might be some kind of historical inertia, as it is the responsibility of current IOCommittee members, whose majority is European and Anglo-Saxon, to nominate ornithologists (see Appendix X and Appendix XXI). Another reason might be that in most countries outside of Europe and North America, a critical mass of ornithologists has still not been reached, even though the greatest diversity and number of birds are usually found in these countries. Therefore, it was seen as a priority to support communities of ornithologists in these countries (see above) and to seek out and nominate qualified individuals in these countries for IOCommittee membership. Progress was made, but much effort is still required to close serious gaps on the African continent, in the Middle East, in Central Asia, in South and Central America, in South-East Asia, and in Oceania (see Appendix X).

**Preparation of the Report of the International Ornithological Congress in Beijing in 2002.** The report of the IOCongress in Beijing was prepared and published as part of the proceedings of the IOCongress in Beijing in 2002 [Homberger, D.G. 2006. Official report of the International Ornithological Committee, 23rd International Ornithological Congress, at the Beijing International Convention Center, Beijing, 11–17 August 2002. Acta Zoologica Sinica, 52 (Supplement): 1–30]. It reflects the preparations by the IOC in 2006 for the inevitable changes, which are being decided at the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg and might be implemented at the 25th IOCongress in Campos de Jordão in 2010. Walter Bock and Richard Schodde assisted in reviewing a draft of the Beijing IOC report. Again, my personal assistant Mary East was of great help in this task. According to the Statutes and By-Laws, the minutes of a congress should be submitted to the Executive Committee and the IOCommittee for approval shortly after the end of the congress. For a variety of reasons, this has not been feasible until now, but it will be a goal for the next congress.

**Membership in the Scientific Program Committee.** Besides contributing to the tasks of this committee as a regular member, my special task was to act as institutional memory and to keep the minutes of the meeting. It was a privilege and distinct pleasure to work with and learn from Susan Hannon, the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee.

**Membership in the Finance Committee.** My task was to work closely with IOC President Jacques Blondel and with Thomas Sherry on questions regarding the financing of the various tasks of the IOC (see Attachment 3 in Appendix I, and Appendix XIII).

**Membership in Statutes Committee.** My task was to work with the other members of the Statutes Committee (i.e., Walter Bock, John Wingfield, Hans Winkler, Christopher Perrins, and Jacques Blondel; see Appendix I) in revising the IOC Statutes and By-Laws (see Appendix XI).

**Prospecting for hosts of future congresses.** One of the major tasks of the IOCommittee Secretary is to seek out ornithologists and ornithological societies willing to host future congresses. Since much preparatory ground work has to be covered to make it possible for an ornithological society to be in a position to extend an invitation to the IOC, planning for a particular congress generally needs to be started about twelve or more years in advance.

For the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg, it was extremely fortunate that Franz Bairlein, with support by the German Ornithologists’ Society (Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft), was willing and eager to prepare a bid to host the 2006 Congress on very short notice in the fall of 2001 and to present it at the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing in 2002, after plans to have the 2006 congress hosted in the US fell through. Franz Bairlein, with his extraordinary efficiency and leadership, managed not only to present an outstanding invitation for the 24th IOCongress, but also organized one of the largest and most successful congresses in the history of the IOC (see Appendix III).

For the 25th IOCongress in 2010, first enquiries and discussions had started already in 1994 for a possible congress in Brazil. I combined an invitation to present a lecture at the annual meeting of the Brazilian Ornithologists’ Society in Campinas in 1996 with an assessment of the organizational capacity of this society. In 2003, I flew to Sao Paulo (Brazil) for a site visit of Campos de Jordão as a possible venue and to the Neotropical Ornithological Congress (NOC) in Termas de Puyehue (Chile) for discussions of logistical and other organizational aspects of a congress with representatives of the Bra-
zilian Ornithologists’ Society, respectively. Subsequently, Elizabeth Höfling and Cristina Miyaki of the Brazilian Society of Ornithology (Sociedade Brasileira de Ornitologia, SBO) prepared an outstanding invitation to host the 25th IOCongress in 2010 and submitted it to the Executive Committee in early 2006 (see Appendix VIII). In parallel with the negotiations in Brazil, I started enquiries for a possible invitation from the Australian ornithologists during trips to Australia in 1996 and 2000. In 2004, I visited Australia again for a site visit of the congress center in Adelaide (South Australia), which seemed almost ideal as a venue, and to visit and garner support for an Australian IOCongress in 2010 from prominent ornithologists in Eastern, South and Western Australia. As these negotiations were not successful, I contacted representatives of the Spanish Ornithological Society (Sociedad Española de Ornitología), who had expressed an interest in hosting a congress already at the IOCongress in Beijing in 2002 and then again at the NOC in Chile in 2003. With great enthusiasm and efficiency, Eduardo de Juana prepared an outstanding invitation to host the 25th IOCongress in Madrid in 2010 and submitted it to the Executive Committee in early 2006 (see Appendix VII). Hence, the IOCommittee was fortunate to be able to choose between two outstanding invitations.

For the 26th IOCongress in 2014, the Spanish Ornithological Society intends to resubmit its invitation. Enquiries have started with ornithologists in Japan about a possible invitation for the same congress. And enquiries have already started in anticipation of the 27th IOCongress in 2018.

Acknowledgments. In all my tasks, the collaboration with IOCommittee officers and members and other colleagues has been a source of pleasure. There are too many to thank individually, but for a productive collaboration and friendship, I would like to thank in particular Jacques Blondel, Susan Hannon, Franz Bairlein, Fernando Spina, John Wingfield, Elisabeth Höfling, Cristina Miyaki, Josep del Hoyo, Eduardo de Juana, Hiroyoshi Higuchi, Soekarja Somadikarta, Zafar Futehally, Walter Bock, Peter Berthold, John Croxall, Thomas Sherry, and Lester Short.

Appendix V
Report of the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, Susan Hannon

Scientific Program Committee

Chair: Prof. Dr. Susan Hannon, Canada, <sue.hannon@ualberta.ca>
Prof. Dr. Gregory F. Bull, USA, <gball@jhu.edu>
Prof. Dr. Vinod Kumar, India, <dvkumar@sancharnet.in>
Prof. Dr. Kate Lessells, The Netherlands, <lessells@eto.nioo.knaw.nl>
Dr. Charles Mlingwa, Tanzania, <cmlingwa@hotmail.com>
Prof. Dr. Patricia Monaghan, UK, <p.monaghan@bio.gla.ac.uk>
Prof. Dr. Frank Moore, USA, <frank.moore@usm.edu>
Dr. Christina Miyaki, Brazil, <cymiaki@usp.br>
Dr. Richard Schodde, Australia, <RichardSchodde@aol.com>
Prof. Dr. Lucia Severinghaus, Taiwan, <zolls@gate.sinica.edu.tw>

Ex-Officio members of the Scientific Program Committee

Prof. Dr. Dominique G. Homberger, USA, <zodhomb@lsu.edu>
Prof. Dr. Franz Bairlein, Germany, <franz.bairlein@ifv.terramare.de>
Prof. Dr. Jacques Blondel, France, <jacques.blondel@cefe.cnrs-mop.fr>
Dr. Fernando Spina, Italy, <infsioci@iperbole.bologna.it>

SPC Members from the local organizing committee

Prof. Dr. Peter H. Becker, Germany, peter.becker@ifv.terramare.de
Prof. Dr. Katrin Boehing-Gaese, Germany, <boehning@oekologie.biologie.uni-mainz.de>
Prof. Dr. Georg Klump, Germany, <georg.klump@uni-oldenburg.de>

1. Schedule of Events of SPC for 24th IOC Hamburg

1st announcement of congress: email and journal announcement April 03
2nd announcement: call for proposals for plenary speakers and symposia Oct 03
Deadline for proposals for plenary speakers/symposia 1 April 04
Agenda for SPC meeting with list of proposals for symposia and plenary speakers sent to SPC (Susan Hannon) June 04
SPC meeting, at Camp Reinsehlen, Lueneburg Heath 10–14 Aug 04
Invitations to Plenary Speakers (Blondel, asked to reply by Sept 15/04) 19 Aug 04
Instructions to symposium conveners (Susan Hannon) 30 Aug 04
Deadline for final revised symposium description from symposium conveners for web posting 15 Nov 04
Final editing of symposium descriptions 1 Dec 04
3rd Announcement: call for proposals for contributed papers and RTD’s 1 Jan 05
Deadline for abstracts for contributed papers and RTD’s 1 July 05
Final date for selection of contributed orals to symposia 1 Oct 05
Inform delegates of acceptance 15 Oct 05
Final editing of abstracts (Richard Schodde) 20 May 06
Full program posted on web 20 July 06

24th International Ornithological Congress, Hamburg 13–19 August 06

2. Meeting of the SPC 10–14 August 2004

The meeting started with a tour of the Congress Centre in Hamburg. SPC members were impressed with the facilities, location and professionalism of the staff. After the tour, members of the SPC met at the beautiful and peaceful Camp Reinsehlen, Luneburg Heath. Over the course of the 5 day meeting we discussed the general structure and timetable of the meeting, results from the questionnaire given after the Beijing congress, selected the plenary speakers and symposia, decided on the process for choosing additional speakers for symposia, created a review process for submissions, and discussed online submissions, the congress website, and strategies for publication of proceedings. Detailed notes were kindly taken by Dominique Homberger.

3. General structure of the congress

We decided to have 10 plenary lectures, 2 per day, 48 symposia, 32 oral sessions, 4 afternoons of poster presentations, an evening of presentations by German ornithologists, two evenings of round table discussions, a presidential forum, and a panel discussion in the evenings. A free day for excursions was scheduled mid-congress.

4. Plenary lectures

Based on the questionnaire circulated after the Beijing Congress, most respondents favored having 2 plenary lectures per day. Hence we chose 10 plenary speakers and 9 backup speakers from a list of 112 people who had been suggested by previous IOCongress delegates and SPC members or had been suggested in previous years. In selecting plenary speakers we attempted to choose people who could present an exciting overview of an interesting area of ornithology to a broad audience. We also attempted to balance subject matter, gender and geographic representation. Plenary speakers were invited by the President and abstracts were reviewed by him. I followed up with email messages informing speakers of dates, length of presentation, format, and the identity of the person introducing them (SPC members; except the past-President would introduce the Presidential plenary).

5. Symposia

Proposals for symposia were solicited in October 2003 with the proviso that conveners must be from different countries. Forty-seven symposium proposals were submitted and 39 of these symposia were chosen, two were rejected, 3 were moved to round table discussions and 3 were merged with another symposium. Members of the SPC suggested 9 additional topics, resulting in 48 symposia (6 sessions, 8 symposia per session). Two of the selected symposia cancelled, and I created 2 additional symposia from contributed oral papers.

Many respondents to the Beijing and Durban questionnaires urged the SPC to change the format of symposia to allow some of the talks to be filled from contributing papers. This was predicted to alleviate the “old boy syndrome” in the selection of symposia speakers and allow a larger variety of people to participate. We decided to have 2 invited keynote speakers and 3 speakers chosen from contributed papers. The format for each symposium was: Introduction to topic by convenor: 4 min; Keynote speakers: 25 minutes (20 min talk, 5 min questions); Contributed papers: 18 minutes each (15 min talk, 3 min questions). To profile the importance of symposia, we did not schedule other sessions against them.

The new symposium structure required a lot more work on the part of the symposium conveners and the SPC. Symposium conveners had to create a description of the symposium, which was posted on the web. Delegates who wished to be considered for a symposium submitted an abstract online for a particular
symposium. Abstracts were reviewed by the symposium conveners and a member of the SPC assigned to that symposium and 3 speakers were then chosen. Two-hundred and seventy-six abstracts were submitted for 141 slots in 47 symposia (one symposium was a special tribute to Ebo Gwinner and all speakers were invited). If there were insufficient applicants or the quality of the applicants was not high enough, then conveners could choose the rest of the speakers. Conveners were urged to try and balance gender and geographical representation of speakers. I sent a number of emails to conveners outlining the process for choosing speakers, the date, time and location of their symposium, the format of the sessions and information about chairing and time keeping.

6. Contributed papers

a. Standard orals: We decided to hold 32 sessions of oral papers; 5 papers per session [160 papers; 15 minutes each (12 min talk, 3 min questions)]. Oral sessions will be 1.5 hr long, reduced from 2 hr long at the previous congress. This was done to increase time for poster viewing. No other activities were scheduled against oral sessions. Three hundred and twenty-one abstracts were submitted for oral papers and an additional 135 were added that were rejected from symposia. Hence, 456 abstracts were competing for 160 slots. Papers not accepted for orals were accepted as posters. I chose one speaker to chair his/her session: this person was scheduled to speak last. All speakers were sent information on the timing and location of your oral presentation and information about audiovisual facilities at the congress center, length of presentations, time keeping and some tips for effective presentations. In June I sent each chairperson details of how to chair a session.

b. Posters: In recognition of the importance of posters in generating discussion and potentially reaching a wider audience at the IOC Congress, we set aside 4 afternoons of 2 hours each for posters (increased by 0.5 hr from last congress), with no other activities scheduled concurrently. Refreshments will be served in the poster areas to entice viewers. Four-hundred and forty-one abstracts for posters were submitted, 296 oral and symposium abstracts were moved to posters and after a large number of cancellations 535 are scheduled to be shown at the congress. They were organized by subject area, and the presenter must speak at her/his poster on at least one afternoon.

c. Round table discussions: The goal of round table discussions is to discuss major timely issues in ornithology. We emphasized that RTD’s should be structured around a series of questions or issues and should not be “mini-symposia”. Introductory statements should be brief. All abstracts submitted were accepted. One RTD cancelled, two others were amalgamated and a panel discussion was changed to a RTD, resulting in a total of 19 round tables being presented.

7. Presidential forum

In place of the popular Presidential debate presented at the last congress, we decided to present a forum, organized by President Jacques Blondel, called “Bird science and bird conservation: have we lost our way?” We scheduled this on Wednesday as an evening plenary session to allow all delegates to attend. Given the increasing loss of habitat and biodiversity we wished to address how we as ornithologists can help to conserve birds world wide. The forum will begin with a general introduction by the President of the IOC and the Chief Executive of Bird Life International, followed by five 15-minute presentations from a range of perspectives within modern ornithology. The presenters are ornithologists with substantial personal experience in i) basic research not directly linked to conservation, ii) applied ornithology that focuses on conservation issues, iii) practical on-the-ground conservation, iv) political and policy issues in conservation, v) birds and climate change. These presentations will be followed by an open panel debate with questions from the floor.

8. Panel discussions

Two panel discussions were proposed: one on “Science to practice for conservation”, the other on “Teaching the next generation of ornithologists”. The latter was later changed to a round table discussion. “Science to practice for conservation” was proposed to follow and be a companion to the Presidential forum and was organized by Johannes Schreiner, Director of the Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation, Schneverdingen, Germany. The panel discussion aims to identify the current tools to bring science to practice for conservation, to question whether these tools are sufficiently effective, and which kind of new tools are required in the future to reach decision makers and practitioners.

9. Speaking/participation rules/time keeping

The following rules governing participation were agreed upon. A person can only give one oral presentation. A person giving an oral can also present a poster, organize a round table discussion, and be a convenor of a symposium. A person can only give one poster as first author. A person can only convene one symposium. These rules were broken occasionally when a suitable speaker could not be found for a symposium or because of the inattention of the SPC chair.

We decided to use a centralized system to keep all concurrent sessions on time, and we added a 3 minute break between all oral presentations to allow delegates to move between sessions. Music and bird calls will signal when to move and when to end presentations, respectively.

10. Reviewing and editing

A complicated system for reviewing abstracts was instituted. Each abstract for a symposium contributed paper and a standard oral had two reviews. Symposium contributions were reviewed by the conveners and a contact on the SPC. Each abstract for an oral presentation was reviewed by two members of the SPC, chosen based on their expertise in the 15 subject areas of the abstracts. Abstracts were rated as High, Medium, or Low based on scientific merit and appropriateness for oral presentation (High = excellent, must be accepted as an oral contribution in the conference; Medium = good, should be accepted as an oral contribution if space permits; Low = unacceptable for an oral presentation). Rejected symposium abstracts were considered for oral sessions. Papers not accepted for either symposia or oral sessions were accepted as posters. I made the final selection of papers in the standard oral sessions. I did this “blind”, by not looking at the names of contributors as I did not want to bias my selection. First I calculated what proportion of the abstracts were in each subject area and created sessions in each subject area proportional to the numbers of abstracts submitted in those areas. I then looked for natural groupings of topics choosing the abstracts with highest rankings, while attempting to balance geographical range and gender. My success at the latter two goals is discussed under section 12. Dick Schodde took on the mammoth task of copy editing all of the abstracts.

11. Congress web site

The congress web site (http://www.I-O-C.org/) was very well laid out, easy to access and find information, and was updated quickly as materials became available. The entire program was put on the web by 20 July 2006.
12. Gender and geographical representation

The SPC and symposium conveners were tasked with choosing participants who would present excellent ornithological science, keeping in mind that they should attempt to fairly represent gender and geographical area in the presentations. I present statistics below that detail how well the latter was achieved.

a. Gender of contributors: The table below details the sex ratio of presenters within each category of presentation. There were a lower percentage of females in the invited categories (plenaries, symposium keynotes) than in other categories. Since the sex ratio of applicants for symposium and oral slots was known (albeit obtained with some difficulty by “Google Imaging” unfamiliar first names), I could assess whether there was a bias during selection. A slightly lower percentage of females were selected for first names), I could assess whether there was a bias during selection. A slightly lower percentage of females in the invited categories (plenaries, symposium keynotes) than had applied, whereas standard oral speakers (chosen by me) were chosen in direct proportion to the proportion of females that had applied.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution type</th>
<th>Applied sex ratio</th>
<th>Final sex ratio (% female)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plenaries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symposium conveners</td>
<td>17% (12)</td>
<td>26% (96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symposium keynotes</td>
<td>20% (99)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symposium contributed</td>
<td>26% (277)</td>
<td>22% (140)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orals</td>
<td>32% (454)</td>
<td>32% (160)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posters</td>
<td>35% (535)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>30% 1040</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a includes speakers in the German evening, originally 25%, but one female did not accept the invitation

b. Geographical representation: Presenters came from 71 different countries. By far the largest percentage of participants was from western Europe, not surprising given the location of the congress. I expected a higher representation from eastern Europe; some of this may be explained by the high cancellation rate (45%). Cancellation rates were fairly high for the other regions also, with the exception of Asia and western Europe. Invited presentations (plenaries and symposium keynotes) were highly skewed to people from western Europe and North America, reflecting the make-up of the conveners of the symposia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>% of cancelled</th>
<th>% invitedb</th>
<th>% of conveners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>45.1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America Latin</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America and Caribbean</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>48.9</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>61.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a % of those accepted who cancelled
b % of invited presentations (plenaries, symposium keynotes) from each region

c. Cancellations: Twenty-one percent of people who submitted abstracts cancelled their contributions. There was a high rate of cancellation after the decisions on abstracts was released: many people who were not accepted into the oral program cancelled. There was also a high rate of cancellation in the month prior to the congress. These cancellations most often were made for personal reasons or because funding was not secured to attend the congress. Of particular concern was a high rate of cancellation from developing countries and eastern Europe: while the reasons for this were not always given, several people cancelled because they could not secure funding. More effort is required to find funding for these people.

d. Timelines: Several people complained that the timelines for the IOCongress are too early. For example, the deadline for suggestions for plenary speakers and symposium proposals was more than 2 years before the congress and the deadline for other contributions was a full year prior to the congress. The reason for such early deadlines was to be able to inform delegates of acceptance early enough so that they could apply for funding to attend the congress. However, having such early deadlines may also contribute to the high rate of cancellations and could discourage people from sending in abstracts (especially students) if they do not have all their results analyzed. The next chair of the SPC should determine the dates of funding deadlines for different countries.

14. Questionaire to be delivered at the Hamburg congress

1. Do you prefer one or two plenary lectures each day (i.e. 5 or 10 plenaries during the entire congress)?
   Yes
   No

2. Did you like the array of plenary speakers at the Congress?
   Yes
   No

3. Do you have suggestions for improvement? Include topics for future plenaries and/or future plenary speakers.
4. Did you attend the Presidential Forum? yes no
5. Did you enjoy it? yes no
6. Would you like to have a similar forum at the next Congress? yes no
7. Do you have suggestions for improvement? yes no
8. Did you attend a panel discussion? yes no
9. Did you enjoy it? yes no
10. Do you have suggestions for improvement? yes no
11. We introduced a new system of choosing symposium speakers; 3 of 5 speakers were chosen from contributed papers. Do you think this enhanced the fairness and broadness of symposia? yes no
12. Do you have suggestions for improvement? yes no
13. Did you regularly attend the poster session? yes no
14. Did you find the author by their poster when they should have been? yes no
15. Do you think enough time was given to view posters? yes no
16. Did you like the layout of the poster session rooms? yes no
17. Do you have suggestions for improvement? yes no
18. Do you think there was enough time allocated to oral talks at the congress, or would you like more? yes no
19. Do you have suggestions for improvement? yes no
20. Did you find round table discussions to be informative and interactive? yes no
21. Do you have suggestions for improvement? yes no
22. Did you like the new method for keeping the sessions on time and allowing for movement between concurrent sessions? yes no
23. Do you have suggestions for improvement? yes no
24. Do you have any other general suggestions about improving the congress? enough more

Acknowledgements

It was a pleasure to work with Secretary-General Franz Bairlein, who was highly organized, efficient and extremely patient in answering my many questions. Gregor Scheiffarth was very helpful and cheerful in managing the database and updating the web page. I am very grateful to Fernando Spina, the previous chair of the SPC, for providing me with numerous helpful files and advice and Dominique Homberger for her sharing her extensive knowledge of how things are done at the IOC. Many, many thanks to Dick Schodde for editing all of the abstracts: this was a gargantuan task and it was promptly and professionally done. My job would have been very difficult without the able assistance of the Scientific Program Committee. From the first organizational meeting in 2004 through the time-consuming reviewing process of abstracts they were enthusiastic, knowledgeable and helpful. I also thank the able assistance of my technician Cindy McCallum. And finally, I thank President Jacques Blondel for asking me to be the Chair of the SPC. It was an amazing opportunity to learn more about ornithology and, I hope, to make some contribution to the sharing of knowledge and ultimately, to the protection of our vast avian resources worldwide.

Appendix V: Attachment 4

General comments on the results of the questionnaire distributed after the 23rd IOC Congress in Beijing in 2002, compiled by Fernando Spina, August 2004

a) Plenaries:

- The majority prefers 2 plenaries/day, with a total of 10 plenaries in the congress;
- However, there is what looks to me quite a significant percentage of participants who do not attend all plenaries, and the average number of plenaries attended by these delegates is just over a half (several of these people are those who said they would prefer 5 plenaries);
- The list of plenary speakers selected at the Beijing congress has been well received by delegates;
- As for the comments, I personally find the idea of the “youth plenary” really good;

b) Requested suggestions for plenaries:

- A rather dense list of proposals is included, and I regret these come after Susan has compiled the one of ‘formal proposals’ already. Many of the proposals are not properly structured, however I think some of the proposals originated through the questionnaire are worth being considered;

c) Presidential debate:

- The majority of delegates attended this session, which has been introduced for the first time at an IOC Congress following a proposal by Walter Bock;
- The majority of delegates attending the session liked it;
- The majority of delegates replying to the questionnaire would like to have a similar session organised at the 24th IOC in Hamburg in 2006;
- As from the comments, several pointed out to the need for the session to be structured as a proper and interactive debate, avoiding the risk for it to become rather a presentation of two lectures;

d) Symposia:

- The replies on the best strategy when selecting symposia papers are quite spread, mostly between 3 out of the possible 4 proposed models. The majority of delegates prefer some sort of selection out of contributed papers, with a larger percentage in favour of 2 out of 5 papers selected by conveners. However, 27% of the delegates still would prefer all papers to be invited, while a lower 6% would rather foresee all papers selected, which to me would sound really challenging in terms of organisation and planning of symposia;
- A large proportion of delegates filling the questionnaire likes the idea of symposia papers being reviews, although we have got quite a number of different suggestions and comments;
- Symposia confirm their important role of allowing delegates to be updated and stimulated on a wide range of topics. In fact, the majority confirms attendance to symposia also on research subjects different from their main ones;

e) Posters:

- Posters are always popular at IOCs, and so have been also in Beijing, with a large proportion of delegates confirming having regularly attended poster sessions in Beijing;
- Also, posters allow delegates to get information on subjects different from their main research topic(s);
- It is quite clear from the comments obtained that poster sessions were far from being ideally arranged in Beijing, for a series of reasons which will be discussed during the SPC meeting;
f) Oral presentations:
- Oral presentations have been very popular also in Beijing, with a large majority of delegates attending several sessions;
- Also in the case of oral presentations delegates attend sessions on a wide range of topics;
- In terms of congress schedule, most delegates liked the profile given to oral presentations sessions, which were not overlapped with other events;
- A large majority of replies indicates that enough time was devoted to orals in China;
- Quite a large range of comments on orals is enclosed;

g) Round table discussions:
- Most delegates attended RTDs, although with a slightly lower percentage than for posters and orals;
- RTDs are targeted to a more specialised audience, as confirmed by the significantly lower percentage of delegates attending RTDs on research topics different from their main one(s), when compared to posters and orals;
- A majority of people found RTDs properly allowing interactive discussions, although several comments point out the important role of conveners from this respect;
- In a high percentage of cases, a more structured organisation of RTDs would be welcomed by delegates;
- A higher spread of replies refers to whether or not RTDs should be linked to symposia themes;
- The general comments confirm the difficulty, also for the China Congress, of obtaining a more satisfactory ‘standard’ structure in the organisation of RTDs, when compared, for example, with symposia;
- Efforts are needed here in order to reduce the still prevailing role of conveners – and hence the large and negative variability - in the successful structure of RTDs. This is surely an interesting item for discussion at the SPC meeting;

h) General suggestions on the scientific structure of the Congress:
- A wide range of aspects of the congress have been commented upon by delegates, and comments are included in the report;
- The general impression is quite positive in terms of structure of the scientific program;
- The scientific program has been regarded as being too dense, with the number of concurrent events forcing delegates to skip potentially interesting sessions. This is of course a major point, however it is not easy to compromise between allowing the largest opportunity to attend a higher number of sessions, and the need to allow the largest possible number of delegates to organise interesting sessions. However, it would be impossible to have an even longer congress, at least to my mind, and a central excursion day is important. Again, a challenge for the SPC to find the best possible compromise;
- Aspects more linked to the venue of the congress and the local opportunities (e.g., excursions, birds, exhibits, etc.) are strictly depending on the venue and the Local Committee, and cannot be too strictly standardised or planned. In the meantime, these aspects contribute to give a ‘character’ to each of the IOCs, for better memory of delegates!

Appendix VI: Report of IOC Vice-President John Wingfield, Chair of the IOC Task Group for IOC Standing Committees

The mandate of this Task Group was outlined at the Executive Committee meeting in Beijing, August 2002 [Homberger, D.G. 2006. Official report of the International Ornithological Committee, 23rd International Ornithological Congress, at the Beijing International Convention Center, Beijing, 11–17 August 2002.]

Acta Zoologica Sinica, 52 (Supplement): 1–30]. Three major tasks were outlined:
1. To review the function of, and need for, the existing Standing Committees within the IOC;
2. To review any proposals for activation of old or creation of new Standing Committees;
3. To recommend to the Executive Committee an appropriate policy for the IOC concerning Standing Committees, together with, if appropriate, advice on which Committees should be retained or established.

The Task Group was informed that the existing functioning Standing Committees are: Ornithological Nomenclature, Raptors, Applied Ornithology (only the Working Group on Bird Damage to Agriculture operating at present), and Resolutions.

Task Group members are as follows:
Professor John C. Wingfield (Chair): jwingfie@u.washington.edu
Dr. R.B. Cavalcanti: rbcav@unb.br
Dr. François Vuilleumier: vuill@amnh.org
Dr. Michael Rands: Mike.Rands@birdlife.org.uk
Professor Dr. Peter Berthold: engele@vowa.ornithol.mpg.de
Professor Ian Newton: ine@ceh.ac.uk
Dr. Fernando Spina: infsmigr@iperbole.bologna.it
Professor Dr. Jacques Blondel: blondel@cefe.cnrs-mop.fr
Professor Dr. Dominique G. Homberger: zodhomb@lsu.edu
Dr. John Croxall: EAD@bas.ac.uk

Background Information
Prior to circulating this report, John Wingfield searched websites of the following societies for information on standing committees:
American Ornithologist's Union
Cooper Ornithological Society
Wilson Ornithological Society
The Waterbird Society
American Association of Field Ornithologists
The Ornithological Council
Pacific Seabird Group
The Neotropical Bird Society
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology
International Federation of Comparative Endocrinology Societies
American Association for the Advancement of Science
European Society for Evolutionary Biology
Ecological Society of America
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology
From reviewing this extensive information it became clear that the IOC Standing Committees are homologous to Ad Hoc Committees of the societies reviewed. The Standing Committees of other societies are, by and large, governance committees with specific roles relating to the function of a society or federation. Because the IOC is neither a society nor a federation, then most of these committees are inappropriate. The IOC does have an Interna-tional Ornithological Committee (IOC), a Scientific Program Committee, and an Executive Committee, which are elected at each Congress. Walter Bock suggested that the Resolutions Committee also be considered as a major committee of the IOC. The current IOC President, Professor Dr. Jacques Blondel, has formed a Finance Committee to explore ways of providing more funding for the IOC activities. It would be useful to clarify how we classify these committees, because the mechanisms of formation will be very different (see policy and recommendations below).

The existing IOC Standing Committees are:

1. IOC Standing Committee on Avian Anatomy. Chair: Jim Vanden Berge, <vandenberge@aol.com>

2. IOC Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature. Chair: Richard Schodde, <richard.schodde@aol.com>

3. IOC Standing Committee (Proposed) on English Names. Chair: Richard Porter, <richardporter@diolstart.net>

4. IOC Standing Committee on Resolutions. Co-chairs: Eberhard Curio, <eberhard.curio@ruhr-uni-bochum.de>, and Michael Rands, <Lisa.Canessa@birdlife.org.uk>

5. IOC Standing Committee on Raptors. Chair: David M. Bird, <bird@nrs.mcgill.ca>

6. IOC Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology. Chair: Pierre Mineau, <Pierre.Mineau@ec.gc.ca>. The Working Group on Bird Damage to Agriculture is currently functioning as a sub-group of the IOC Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology. Chair: Sir Clive Elliott, <Clive.Elliott@fao.org>

7. IOC Standing Committee on Seabirds. Chair: David Nettleship, <dmlundy@navnet.net>

John Wingfield then requested information from the chairs of the current IOC Standing Committees — specifically a summary of recent, past and proposed activities and a list of current members of the committees. Only a few of the committee chairs responded. However, I also received helpful input from Dominique Homberger, Walter Bock, John Croxall, Michael Rands, Eberhard Curio, and Michael Rands. Edited replies are given below:

1. IOC Standing Committee on Avian Anatomy. Chair: Jim Vanden Berge. This committee is an important one and was established at the 22nd IOC Congress in Durban in 1998. The role of this committee is specifically focused on avian anatomical nomenclature and used to be associated with the International Group of Veterinary Anatomists, but this connection was dissolved with the retirement of the former chair. Vanden Berge has been associated with this group for a long time, but apparently it has not been active over the past four years.

2. IOC Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature (see also Attachment 5 of Appendix VI). Chair: Richard Schodde. Members: Walter Bock, [Ernst Mayr – deceased 3 February 2005], [Karel Voous – deceased 31 January 2002], Hiroyuki Morioika, Per Alstrom, L.S. Stepanyan, and [Siegfried Eck – deceased 11 September 2005]. This is the oldest IOC Standing Committee, going back to the 11th IOC Congress in Basel in 1954. Walter Bock took over as chair in 1981 after the death of Gene Eisenman, who was the long-standing chair. Most of the work since then has been done by Richard Schodde and Walter Bock. A major project on the English bird names has been completed [Gill, F. & Wright, M. (on behalf of the International Ornithological Congress). 2006. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. ISBN13: 978-0-691-12827-6. See also www.worldbirdnames.org as a supplement to the book]. A decade ago, a major project on the history of the nomenclature of avian family-group names was completed [Bock, W.J. 1994. History and nomenclature of avian family-group names. Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, No. 222: 1–281.] This has been one of the most active Standing Committees. Younger members, such as Per Alstrom, are needed.

3. IOC Standing Committee on English Names (see also Attachment 6 of Appendix VI). Chair: Richard Porter. Following the pioneering work on English names carried out by the BOURC, the committee forwarded recommendations and comments to a working group reporting to the IOC. This group, originally chaired by Burt Monroe Jr., aimed to produce a coherent world list of English names, which might find international acceptance. The project faltered with the death of Burt Monroe, but has apparently been actively running again for some time. It was proposed that there be extensive discussion on English names at the 23rd IOC Congress in Durban in 1998. Then the BOURC decided not to change any English names during the preparation of The British List that was issued earlier. It was proposed that the Committee will be reviewing the question of English names and, if appropriate, making recommendations to BOU Council. At the moment, a number of organizations wish to make alterations to the English names they use, including British Birds, the Ornithological Society of the Middle East, and various county bird reports within the UK. It is clear that many groups and organizations want guidance on this matter rather than acting unilaterally as in the past. However, it is still very unclear what the status of this committee is.

4. IOC Standing Committee on Resolutions. Co-Chairs: Eberhard Curio and Michael Rands. This is not a Standing Committee, but an ad hoc committee that Walter Bock established for the 23rd IOC Congress in Beijing in 2002. It was formed to deal with any proposals for resolutions to be considered by the IOC at a congress and to prepare a resolution of thanks to the local committee and perhaps others for the organization and running of the congress. This was done, but with some difficulty, because of problems in getting the necessary information from the Chinese Local Committee. This was obtained at the opening of the congress and included in the final resolution. Walter Bock urges that a resolution committee be set up for the 2006 Congress and thereafter, but this does not fall under the heading of an IOC Standing Committee. Perhaps it should be designated as a permanent committee of the IOC given that resolutions to thank the local committee for their work for each congress will likely always be needed.

5. IOC Standing Committee on Raptors. Co-Chairs: David M. Bird and Bernd-Ulrich Meyburg. This group was established at the 22nd IOC Congress in Durban in 1998 to serve potentially as a liaison with the International Raptor Group. This Standing Committee submitted a report for the IOC proceedings, but David Bird has had little contact with the other co-chair Bernd-U. Meyburg. The status of this Standing Committee is unknown at this time.
6. IOC Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology.
Chair: Pierre Mineau. Names mentioned as possible members: Gavin Siriwardena, Joanna Burger, and Valery Ilyichev. This committee is a very important one, particularly with respect to possible interactions with BirdLife International. Clive Elliott (see next) mentioned that this Standing Committee has five working groups, but it appears that only the “Working Group on Bird Damage to Agriculture” is currently active.

The Chair of the Working Group on Bird Damage to Agriculture is Clive Elliott. He tried vigorously to organize and activate this working group and offered to serve as Chair of the Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology as well. John Wingfield tried several times to contact Clive Elliott, but has not received a response as yet. This IOC Standing Committee was established just after the 18th IOCongress in Moscow in 1982 at the urging of Professor Valery Ilyichev. He always insisted on having a co-chair, but apparently was never active in the work of this committee. The committee immediately set up several sub-groups, of which only some were active. The group on bird strikes on airplanes has also been active in the past and has served as a liaison with the International Bird Strike Committee. This is a most important IOC Standing Committee, with all its sub-committees, especially now that the meetings of Birdlife International are not held close to the same time as the IOC.

A message from John Temple Lang stated that the Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology has suffered from the usual difficulties of IOC Committees: shortage of money and infrequent meetings. At first, it was intended to be an East-West committee, with a focus on conservation. Hans Blokpoel reorganized it into a series of specialized working groups, which operated more or less independently and reported every four years. The reports were submitted together, and John Temple Lang still thinks that is the best formula. “Applied ornithology” is not really a single subject – and the formation of several sub-committees is consistent with this statement. After twelve years as secretary, John Temple Lang thought he should step down. Later, Pierre Mineau took over from Hans Blokpoel. The specialized working groups can function well without money or regular meetings (and they have better chances of meeting at specialized conferences than the SCAO as a whole, which would never all be in the same place except at the IOC itself.

A decision was made at the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing in 2002 to make conservation one of the objectives of the IOC. Following a detailed discussion with Pierre Devillers, John Temple Lang stated that the question whether there should be a separate Standing Committee on Conservation, or whether it should be part of the work of the Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology, is not resolved. The original plan was to establish a Standing Committee on Conservation when the Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology was originally formed. Conservation and applied ornithology are clearly both huge subjects, and it might make sense, as well as better symbolize the new direction taken in Beijing, to have a separate new Standing Committee on Conservation. If it is decided informally that a new separate conservation committee is the right thing to do, it will be important to make the preparations to get it launched at the next IOCongress in 2014. Apparently there was not a single member of the Applied Ornithology Committee present at the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing in 2002.

7. IOC Standing Committee on seabirds.
Chair: David Nettleship. Members: John Warham and John Croxall. No information on this committee has been received to date.

Summary of Current Status of IOC Standing Committees
It is abundantly clear that the Standing Committees of the IOC are mostly defunct with the exception of two or three, and even they are struggling. Many have little direction and leadership due at least in part to a lack of specific guidelines, a clear role within the IOC, a difficulty in operating between congresses, and an inability to ensure continuing success of the committees. It appears that reasons for this include the four year period between congresses, a lack of funds to operate (this is especially true for ornithologists in developing countries), and even less funds to meet during the inter-congress period. A message from John Croxall pointed out that no committee that meets only once every four years can expect to achieve much if it does not have an active inter-congress structure and function, particularly given the rate at which science coordination proceeds nowadays. This does not, of course, preclude resuscitating or developing groups where there is an active constituency and a clear agenda and program. This is coupled with the fact that many scientists who need to engage in such activity already complain of the number and diversity of organizations and committees in which they are involved and are reluctant to spend time and energy on new ones if these are not seen as essential to their work and/or research field. This having been said, the IOCongress is perhaps the one venue when people from many different disciplines are likely to be at the same meeting. There is clearly much interest in ornithological science, and the IOC is the obvious organization to nurture such groups. Therefore, some broad guidelines and specific procedures will be useful to ensure that the Standing Committees operate well. These guidelines should also provide mechanisms for the dissolution of committees that have served their purpose, or are no longer supported, as well as the establishment of new ones.

There is current confusion of the classification of IOC Standing Committees as to whether they are actually ad hoc committees. This is a small point, but it is important when we consider how these committees are formed. The Task Group and IOC Executive Committee should consider these classifications to separate IOC committees that directly address the IOC organization from specific “special interest” committees that serve an entirely different function.

Many people associated with IOC Standing Committees feel that these groups have the potential to be effective both at the basic science level AND at the applied science level. There are many ornithologists world-wide that have an interest in them. The problem is how to nurture such groups and provide them with a dynamic “home base” from which to operate and communicate with a broader ornithological community beyond the immediate members of each committee. On the one hand, the Standing Committees should be able to stand and operate alone, but some form of central support, even if just on paper, will be critical. But, on the other hand it is clear that the IOC, as it is currently operating, is not in a position to do a great deal. Unless an “International Federation of Ornithological Societies” is formed with a financial base, it is unlikely that the Standing Committees will receive the support to operate in a truly effective manner, unless one or more members of individual committees are willing and able to provide such resources. The electronic era helps communication, but more than that requires resources.

Recommendation of the IOC Task Group on Standing Committees
A review of the information available indicates that the IOC, through committees focused on specific issues in ornithological
Function of, and need for, the existing Standing Committees

We agree with the suggestion of Walter Bock, that the Standing Committee for Resolutions be established as a permanent committee within the IOC, which addresses more of the organization and operation of the IOC itself. This committee should be appointed by the President of the IOC at each congress following advisory input from the Executive Committee. The other Standing Committees address ornithological science from both basic and applied perspectives. These Standing Committees are successful only if the ornithologists participating are willing to work actively. Standing Committees within the IOC should be organized from the level of individual ornithologists and also from the directive of the Executive Committee, if an urgent need is identified and has wide support from the IOC. Ornithologists may apply to the IOC officers and Executive Committee for official recognition as an IOC Standing Committee (see below).

There is also a need to address the official status of the IOC “Standing Committees”. Reviewing the statutes of many scientific societies, it is clear that the IOC Standing Committees are really IOC Ad Hoc Committees. They could also be called “IOC Research Coordination Committees” or similar to reflect their status as a research and coordination group for a particular focused topic. This is recommended only so that the IOC clearly distinguishes its organizational committees from the research/application committees. If an International Federation of Ornithological Societies is formed, then it would become more important.

In many ways, the operations of IOC Standing Committees should be as research coordination networks, whether they deal with nomenclature (essential for effective communication), application to agriculture or conservation (a still rapidly expanding need), or specifically focused on an avian group (such as seabirds, raptors, etc.). They should reach out to the ornithological community at the international level and come to each IOC with a report and plans for the future. The latter should then be considered by the IOC and opportunity for comments should be provided. Otherwise it is clear that many of the IOC Standing Committees will continue to languish. It is also important to mention that such research coordination committees, supported by the international ornithological community (e.g., the IOC) could provide a starting point for grant applications that would allow coordination networks to operate and expand. The North American and European funding agencies do have programs that support such research coordination networks.

Activation of old, creation of new, and dissolution of existing Standing Committees

If a Standing Committee is not working well, it is difficult for the Executive Committee and members of the IOCommittee to keep track of them. This has happened for several of these committees. Currently, the IOC Standing Committee for Applied Ornithology has become very large and cumbersome owing to the very broad topics covered. This may be partly the reason why it is not operating well. The IOC guidelines should provide flexibility for very successful committees to form new groups reflecting evolving disciplines and changing applications. There is no reason why these separate committees should not collaborate and remain in communication as desired by committee members. There is also no reason why there should not be close communication with other groups (e.g., BirdLife International).

It is suggested that these committees no longer be considered “permanent”. Some of the current committees are essentially defunct and need to be dissolved. The IOC should have the flexibility to establish a new Standing Committee when a need and function is clearly identified, and also to disband a committee when its members indicate that the function of the committee is no longer relevant, or if it becomes inactive for other reasons. This does not mean that some committees may not become effectively “permanent”: But they must continue to justify their functions and operations (see below). Defunct Standing Committees may be reactivated, but only if a group of ornithologists make a clear case for doing so.

Chairs and members of committees should serve for at least two congresses to provide continuity from congress to congress. However, it is important that at least some of the members step down and allow new members to be appointed every eight years (i.e., two congresses).

Policy for the IOC concerning Standing Committees

The Task Group offers the following guidelines and potential By-Law changes for the IOC to more closely nurture and promote international collaboration in ornithological science through the active networking of IOC committees. Currently, these are called permanent “Standing Committees”.

It is proposed to change their name to IOC Research Coordination Committees (RCCs) to reflect more their functions and ways in which they may operate.

The RCCs should be formed by vote of the Executive Committee of the IOCommittee after receipt of a written proposal by at least five established ornithologists. The proposed committee should have a Chair and at least four other members representing the international community as much as is possible. The proposal should include a mission statement outlining the need for such a committee, its goals, how they intend to operate and disseminate their results, policies, and other products of the committee’s operations. This should not be more than 1–2 single spaced pages. The Chair, and other proponents of the committee, should also provide full addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses. Proposals for a new RCC should be received by the Permanent Secretary of the IOC at least one year in advance of the next congress. Proposals will be evaluated by the Executive Committee of the IOCommittee prior to the next congress. A one year lead time will allow the Executive Committee to contact ad hoc reviewers (if necessary) with the appropriate expertise. At the congress, proposals will be made available to the IOC so that they can be announced and discussed (if necessary). This will allow ample opportunity for the IOCommittee members to participate. Proposals will then be approved by vote of the Executive Committee at the second business meeting in the congress.

If an RCC proposal is approved, then the committee will be expected to provide a report on activities during the intercessional four years. This report need not exceed 1–2 pages unless those
activities are indeed extensive. Citations to any publications should be included in the report. The report is due with the Permanent Secretary of the IOC by the beginning of the congress and will also be made available to the IOC for comment. The Executive Committee will then consider the RCC report at its second meeting in the congress. If necessary, the President of the IOC, with the advice of the EC, may ask for clarification of future operations and inquire further as to whether the RCC should continue or change its focus. A response to such a request should be received by the President and Permanent Secretary of the IOC at least one year in advance of the next congress.

Failure to submit a report will result in automatic notification that the RCC will be dissolved unless the committee applies for reactivation with a proposal clearly explaining how the committee will be reconstituted. If such a proposal is not received, then that RCC will be automatically dissolved at the next congress and taken off the IOC records. The RCC may be reactivated at a later date, but a full explanation and proposal for activation must be received by the Permanent Secretary one year before the next congress.

All current RCCs must apply for a Round Table Discussion within the congress focused on functions, activities and other developments of the committee. This will ensure that congress participants in general have an opportunity to communicate with committee members and have input into the committee’s operations. This will also be an opportunity for RCCs to recruit new members, to receive additional insights and expertise, and to expand their international network. It also requires a commitment on the part of the RCC Chair and its members to attend the IOCongress. This is entirely reasonable if the RCCs are to become truly productive parts of the IOC and to promote international ornithology at all levels.

In general we feel that it is not appropriate for this Task Group to suggest which current RCCs (presently still known as Standing Committees) should be retained or disbanded. This should come from the individual ornithologists and, when there is a perceived need for such a committee to be formed, from the EC. However, it is important that the current Chairs of RCCs receive these guidelines so that they can respond accordingly. An official statement to this effect should be made at the next IOC in Hamburg in 2006.

Respectfully submitted to Professor Dr. Jacques Blondel, President of the IOC, and Professor Dr. Dominique G. Homburger, Permanent Secretary of the IOC.

Appendix VI: Attachment 5

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

The 15th congressional meeting of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature (SCON) was held in two parts, on two days. Members present were Dr. Per Alström (Sweden), Professor Walter Bock (USA), Dr. Carlo Violani (Italy), and Dr. Richard Schodde (Australia and Chair), together with invited prospective members: Ms Mary LeCroy (USA), Dr. Michel Louette (Belgium), and Drs. Christiane Quaisser and Frank Steinheimer (Germany). Apologies were received from Dr. Hiro-yuki Morioka (Japan). Members of the SCON are appointed by the President of the Congress to serve for the four-year term of the Congress, and thereafter remain eligible for re-appointment. The designated functions of the SCON are two-fold: to advise the ornithological community on matters 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.

The first part of the meeting was held informally on 15 August 2006, attended only by SCON members and prospective members. It dealt largely with housekeeping matters, as follows:

1. **Membership** and its functioning were given primary consideration. Professor Ernst Mayr and Dr. Siegfried Eck had died since the 23rd Congress in Beijing in 2002, and other members had not re-nominated. With the global establishment of the internet, moreover, it had become quick and easy for the membership to conduct its business through that medium without waiting to make decisions every four years at IOCongresses. It was decided, therefore, to recommend enlargement of the committee to make it more representative of national nomenclatural interests in ornithology (urged at the SCON meeting in Beijing), to bring in “younger blood”, and to focus on carrying out SCON business over the internet without relying on obligatory attendance of members at IOCongresses. Attendance of members at IOCongresses was nevertheless still strongly encouraged, where formal meetings of the SCON would continue to be held as review forums for its work.

As well as the above-mentioned members and prospective members, Dr. Richard Banks (USA), Edward C. Dickinson (UK), and, upon subsequent advice, Robert Dowsett (representing Africa), were added to the list of SCON nominees. (This committee of twelve has now been formally appointed for the period 2006-2010.)

2. **Nomenclatural issues** listed for action by the SCON at its meeting at the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing [Proceedings, Acta Zoologica Sinica 52, Supplement: 17–18 (2006)] had been regrettably put on hold due to the commitments of its Chair to editing the Proceedings from that Congress. Dr. Schodde envisaged clearing much of the backlog in the coming four-year period.

3. **Unnecessary and invalid lectotypification** of syntype series was raised as an issue by Drs. Christiane Quaisser and Frank Steinheimer. There is much value in leaving syntype series unlectotyped, to keep typificatory options open and to spread primary type material among institutions holding syntypes. Recognizing this, the 4th and current edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature had introduced new rules to limit the designation of lectotypes to reasoned cases, regulations that were not always being observed. The meeting asked Frank Steinheimer to produce a draft position paper, with recommendations, as a basis for education on the matter.

4. The development of lists of available names of the families, genera and species of birds under the sponsorship of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, which was considered by the SCON at the 23rd IOCongress, was raised again. As a member of an international body, the SCON is eligible under Article 79 of the Code to prepare such lists for consideration by the Commission. Professor Walter Bock’s 1994 list of family-group names [Bock, W.J. 1994. History and nomenclature of avian family-group names. Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, No. 222: 1-281] was again put forward as a first step in the process, and Professor Bock offered to take forward with the Commission the matter of available name lists of birds approved by the SCON. This offer was accepted by the meeting.

On the evening of 18 August 2006, the second part of the meeting was held jointly with Round Table Discussion 17 to canvass the global cataloguing of bird types and the linking of information and easy for the membership to conduct its business to the global internet. The reasons for the joint meeting were (1) the subject matter of the RTD was of mutual interest and involved SCON members, and (2) Congress programming had booked both the RTD and the formally scheduled SCON meeting at the same time in adjacent rooms. Due to the temporary indisposition of the Chair, Professor Walter Bock represented the SCON and participated in opening the RTD. The discussion of the meeting, to be reported elsewhere, quickly
moved from issues of type cataloguing to name cataloguing, as the availability of a global list of species-group names in birds was a prerequisite for the tracking of types. A project ‘REFTAX’ was already under way to provide this, under the aegis of the national natural history museums in Paris and London (MNHN and NHM, respectively) and involving Remy Bruckert (then MNHN) and incoming SCON member Dr. Christiane Quaisser as compilers. The SCON encourages the progression of this project.

SCON membership for the period 2006–2010, appointed immediately after the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg in 2006 by President John Wingfield:

Dr. Richard Schodde, Australia – Chair
Dr. Per Alström, Sweden
Dr. Richard Banks, USA
Edward C. Dickinson, UK
Robert Dowsett, representing Africa
Mary K. LeCroy, USA
Dr. Michel Louette, Belgium,
Dr. Hiroyuki Morioka, Japan
Dr. Christiane Quaisser, Germany
Dr. Frank Steinheimer, Germany
Dr. Carlo Violani, Italy

Appendix VI: Attachment 6

Report of Frank Gill and Minturn Wright, Co-Chairs of the IOC Standing Committee for English Bird Names

With the publication of “Birds of the World” by Frank Gill and Minturn Wright on behalf of the International Ornithological Congress (Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 2006) we completed the first phase of standardizing the English names of all extant species of the world. The history, details, and substance of this project are summarized in the published introduction below. Please consult the website www.worldbird-names.org for updates.

Birds of the World: Recommended English Names

Frank Gill and Minturn Wright,
On behalf of the International Ornithological Congress
c/o The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA USA 19103

Region Chairs
Christopher Perrins
G. Stuart Keith and Peter G. Ryan
Nigel Redman
Richard Schodde
Robert S. Ridgely
Stephen M. Russell

Taxonomic Director
David B. Donsker

Compiler
Sally Conyne

Introduction

“Wisdom begins with putting the right name to a thing” (Old Chinese Proverb)

Most of us refer to birds by their English names, which seem to change too frequently, or be the same for different species on different continents, or vary from list to list. Nearly twenty years ago, the leadership of the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) saw the need for better standardized vernacular names. First came French names (Devillers and Ouellet 1993), then Spanish names (Bernis 1995). English names were especially challenging, taking more than fifteen years to compile.

Our goal—a set of unique English-language names for the extant species of the birds of the world—was easier to state than it was to achieve. The names would conform to a set of rules formulated through a consensus of leading ornithologists worldwide.

When one valued colleague saw our work in progress, he exclaimed, “What a total waste of time!” He was bent on saving the world’s oceans and their declining fisheries, both pressing issues. Some colleagues in ornithology expressed similar sentiments when they declined our invitation to participate on one of the committees. “Can’t be done,” they said. “Isn’t that what scientific names are for?” others asserted.

Many others disagreed, committed themselves to participate, and then worked long and hard together for over a decade. Our team view is that an improved and better standardized system of English names based on consensus and a logical set of rules will lead to success in ornithology and the conservation of beleaguered avifaunas worldwide. The proposed names would also increase clear, crisp, and global communication among various stakeholders. These stakeholders include government officials, publishers, and philanthropists, many of whom are not comfortable with or literate in scientific names. Many stakeholders also contribute as amateur ornithologists, not as taxonomists. Global birders need improved standardization and greater simplicity of English names. So does the vital community of conservation biologists. So do the editors of the growing industry of books on the birds of different countries and different families. All stakeholders need to communicate clearly without using hyphens in four different ways and without trying to reconcile the treatment of different names in varied authoritative works.

So, on behalf of the IOC we submit this list of recommended International English names of the extant birds of the world. The members of the IOC Standing Committee on English Names endorse these names and encourage their use by our colleagues in ornithology, and by book publishers, government agencies, checklist committees, and conservation organizations.

Passions about bird names run high. We know that adoption of the names on this list will be strictly voluntary, perhaps piecemeal, and probably slow. The same colleagues who professed no interest in the initiative likely will rush to defend their preferred names of favorite birds. But we truly believe that the list of names recommended here has important strengths, and, if used widely, will promote consistency and authority.

The names are:

• based on rules that simplify and standardize name construction
• selected to involve minimal use of hyphens for group names
• anglicized without glottal stops, accents, and the like
• based on interregional agreement and global consensus, with compromises
• selected with deference to long-established names
• aligned with current, though ever-changing, species taxonomy
• recommended, but not mandatory; local adoptions are wholly voluntary
• sponsored and endorsed by the IOC and by committee members

This is not primarily a taxonomic work. Rather, it supplements the third edition (Dickinson 2003) of Howard and Moore’s (H&M) Checklist of the Birds of the World. We started with the world list of Sibley and Monroe (1990). In the end, we adopted

○ Springer
H&M as the taxonomic reference for this work. We employed H&M’s family classification, generic sequences, and assignments to “incertae sedis,” with few exceptions and updates. Many changes are forthcoming, informed by DNA-based phylogenetic analyses. Paramount among these will be overhauls of the relationships and classification of the sylvioid “warblers” of Eurasia and Africa. Also informing future editions of this list will be major new works, such as Rasmussen and Anderson’s Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide (2005). We adhered to H&M’s conservative species taxonomy, unless committee chairs requested otherwise. We accepted species additions to the world list published prior to December 31, 2004, and endorsed by committee chairs.

We offer this list as our recommendations to the communities of ornithologists and their publishers. It is a first edition and a work in progress that will benefit from use, evaluation, and thoughtful feedback. It does not achieve some potentially desirable consistencies, for instance, with respect to using the same group name for all members of a genus (e.g., raven versus crow [Corvus], serin versus canary [Serinus], tit versus chickadee [Poecile]). But it is a major step in the direction of logic and standardization. Some will use it in its entirety, others will pick and choose the parts they like. Still others will reject it, at least initially. We ask only that our colleagues explore its merits and seek out its deficiencies diligently. It has, we believe, depth built on the expertise of some of the best ornithologists of our generation. Each found balance between local traditions and progressive improvements.

The naming of birds is an ongoing work-in-process. New discoveries and new tastes will produce new names. We hope that we have started down the road of progress. We welcome ideas on how to proceed.

History

The project to standardize the recommended English names of every extant bird species in the world was set in motion at the 1990 meeting of the 22nd IOC in Christchurch, which appointed a committee of eminent ornithologists to consider the matter. The late Burt L. Monroe Jr. was named as chair of the committee, and he in turn named eleven well-known ornithologists as committee members.

Burt Monroe created an initial list of all the species and subspecies of birds from the monumental “Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World” authored by himself and Charles Sibley. The project had to have a starting point, and this was a natural one. Monroe and his committee engaged in extended preliminary discussions and debates. Their votes on a series of issues revealed a great deal of disagreement on how birds should be named and what the jurisdiction of the committee should be. The project, thus, proved to be more difficult and time-consuming than had been expected, and Monroe died before much had been accomplished. The project then went into abeyance.

It was revived in late 1994 by Frank Gill and Walter Bock. Speaking for the IOC, Bock invited Frank Gill to take over the project, which he did early in 1995. Frank Gill asked Minturn Wright, a lawyer by profession and world birder by avocation, to act as recording secretary and organizer of the process the project would follow. Bock named Gill and Wright to act as co-chairs of the committee. Gill then asked each person on Monroe’s committee to rejoin the project; most of them did. Gill expanded the committee by the addition of another twelve or thirteen eminent ornithologists, bringing the committee to twenty-eight ornithologists from fourteen countries (see Acknowledgments in the book), plus the co-chairs (Gill and Wright) for a total of thirty. The committee operated through six regional subcommittees, chaired as follows: Palearctic—Christopher Perrins; Nearctic—Stephen M. Russell; Africa—Peter G. Ryan and the late G. Stuart Keith; Neotropics—Robert S. Ridgely; Oriental Region—Nigel Redman; Australasia—Richard Schodde.

Process and Principles

The creation of the committee and the organization of its process were based on the following principles:

• The committee operated almost exclusively through its six regional subcommittees. The members of each subcommittee were experts on the birds of that region.

• In an effort to resolve many of the problems that had plagued the Monroe committee, the committee adopted at the outset a set of basic rules or principles that would be applied in the selection and spelling of names.

• The project was not to be a vehicle for the wholesale changing of the names of birds but rather an effort to standardize names.

• The subcommittees would strive for consistency, an important aspect of standardization, but if long usage and common sense required inconsistencies the committee would accept them.

• No special consideration would be given to the names on the Sibley-Monroe list, which was selected as the initial working list.

• The project was to standardize the names of full species and would not include subspecies (although the Sibley-Monroe list covered both). This decision was made to give the project a manageable scope. A corollary was that the description of a taxon by Sibley-Monroe as a full species or subspecies would not govern the committee’s selection of the taxon. The committee decided early on that as a general rule it was not within its province to make taxonomic decisions, but as the project progressed it became necessary to do so to some extent.

• Similarly, in the course of the work, taxa were noted that did not appear on the Sibley-Monroe list. Each committee was free to decide whether to add those taxa to the list under the basic principles adopted. Looking ahead, we expect this process to continue for new species (either discovered or split off from existing species). The process agreed to was as follows:

• The entire list of names was divided among the six subcommittees, each of which took the initiative with respect to the names assigned to it. Two or more committees shared an interest in some widespread species. In most cases, however, it was clear which subcommittee had precedence.

• Each subcommittee came up with its list of names, which often involved compromises and sometimes non-unanimous decisions within the subcommittee.

• Through their chairs, each subcommittee was given the opportunity to comment on the names submitted by the other subcommittees, and while their comments were often accepted, each subcommittee had the final say as to the names on its list in most cases. In those cases where a taxon is substantially present in two or more regions, a general consensus was sought.

• The lists were reviewed by the co-chairs to determine compliance with the basic principles that had been adopted (mentioned above and detailed below). Finally, the co-chairs had the responsibility of ensuring that the six lists were consistent not only with the basic principles but with one another, and of resolving any differences that remained. The committee’s first job was to agree on and frame the basic principles that would govern the selection and spelling of names. It took years of discussion and debate to do so. The following basic rules were adopted:

1. Existing usage would be the predominant guideline. A long-established name would not be changed just to correct a perceived inaccuracy or misdescription. “Inaccurate” names like Philadelphia Vireo and Dartford Warbler would stand. Names utilizing widespread words like Warbler and Robin for many groups of unrelated species would not be changed. Names with faulty descriptions of taxa were subject to change if the taxa had had
The name of each taxon must be different from the names of all others. The committee rejected the notion that “local” names for species of waterfowl and the names used by native Jamaicans to describe some of their birds (e.g., Old Man Bird). If a local nickname or vernacular name had been long used as the chief or only name for a taxon, however, the committee retained it (e.g., Go-away Bird, Morepork, Jacky-Winter).

If a name was offensive to a substantial group of people, it would be changed. Kaffir Rail was an example, as were names using the former name of a certain country or region, such as Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) or Formosa (now Taiwan). The name of a former country was not changed just to reflect a new name if no one was offended by the old name or there was uncertainty about acceptance of the new name, such as Burma instead of Myanmar.

Every taxon would have only one recommended International English name throughout the world. The co-chairs consistently rejected suggested compromises that would list alternative names (e.g., Bearded Vulture or Laemmergeier, Little Auk or Dovekie). This principle appears obvious and easy to state, but it presented serious problems for members of the Nearctic and Palearctic subcommittees, who favored one or the other of the different names used in Great Britain or the United States for the same taxa.

The name of each taxon must be different from the names of all other taxa. This principle generated the corollary that where two or more taxa had basically the same name, modifiers would have to be added to distinguish them. Thus three “Black Ducks” had to be named American, African, and Pacific and two “White Ibis”es American and Australian. A related rule that the committee adopted was that the full name of one species should not be included in the longer name of another species, which required modifiers to be added to taxa that for centuries were one-word names like Swallow, Wren, and Robin in Britain. It would also prohibit a pair of names like Black-headed Gull and Great Black-headed Gull.

Since the project was undertaken to create a list of recommended English names, the committee adopted the principle that only English words should be used. A name did not have to reflect its taxonomic name, which is usually in either Greek or Latin, but the committee decided that just because a bird’s long-standing name was in fact its taxonomic name; it did not have to be changed to an English word. Usage would govern. Thus names like Junco, Vireo, and Rhea have been retained. This is of particular significance in names of tropical birds, many of which are the taxon’s generic and specific names (e.g., Elaenia, Jacana, Duetsch, Artis, Myzomela). The committee rejected the idea of a wholesale renaming of these taxa, while recognizing that ongoing revisions of bird genera will continue to create odd mismatches. The committee likewise accepted a large number of Spanish words on the basis of long usage (e.g., Doradito, Monjita, Tapaculo) and even a number of Amerindian ones (e.g., Quetzal, Cacique). These latter two names are now in such wide usage that they appear in the Oxford English Dictionary. The committee decided that non-English words that have been in common use for a substantial time have in effect become “English,” at least in the absence of any recognized English alternatives.

The most troublesome question was whether to adopt Hawaiian-language names for endemic Hawaiian birds. The spelling of those names with generally unfamiliar accent marks made this an even closer call. In the end the committee decided to follow such authoritative sources as the New York Times Atlas of the World (for country names that are included in a species name), AOU Checklist (7th ed.), and others, and to use anglicized versions of Hawaiian bird names and other established non-English names.

Many bird names include the names of persons, often discoverers or eminent ornithologists. Using patronyms in bird names has been popular or unpopular over the years, depending on the tastes or principles of the namers. The committee adopted a neutral stance. There would be no bias for or against patronyms. This had the effect of letting long usage largely govern these names, although some taxa are from established names and attitudes of the various committee members have played a role.

A bird’s name may consist of a single word (e.g., Brolga, Killdeer, Twite). The committee rejected the contrary view that every name must have a modifier. Yet it agreed that a taxon could have a two-word name even where it is the only taxon in its group and could therefore potentially have a one-word name (e.g., Kinglet Calyptura, Marvelous Spatuletail). Despite such rare exceptions, we adopted the general principle that brevity and simplicity are virtues and that each name should be as short as reasonably possible and with rare exceptions never exceed four words, hyphenated or not.

If a name includes an island or islands, the word island or islands will not be included except where the resulting name is misleading (e.g., Pitt Shag and Christmas Frigatebird, but Inaccessible Island Rail).

For group names, defined as a word or words that apply to two or more taxa, the committee adopted several basic principles. A group name may be applied to two or more unrelated groups (e.g., Warbler [Parulidae, Sylviidae] and Robin [Turdidae, Petroicidae, Erithacus]). A group name can consist of one, two, or more words (e.g., Warbler, Eagle-Owl, Green Pigeon). A single genus may have two or more group names within it (e.g., Duck, Wigeon, Shoveler, and Teal within Anas).

### Problems of spelling

The selection of names proved to be easier than agreement on how to spell them. Some spelling problems were simple and readily agreed to by the committees. Briefly, the rules are as follows:

1. Official English names of birds are capitalized, as is the current practice in ornithology (e.g., Yellow-throated Warbler).
2. Patronyms are used in the possessive case (e.g., Smith’s, Ross’s).
3. Names on this list do not include diacritical marks.
4. There are compromises between British and American spellings in this list.
5. Those who adopt the list should spell and add pronunciation marks as preferred.
6. Geographical words in a name may be in noun or adjective form but must be consistent for that location (e.g., Canada, not Canadian).
7. Compound words conform to a series of rules that consistently address relationships between the two words and readability.
8. Use of hyphens is minimized.
9. For compound group names, hyphens are used only to connect two names that are birds or bird families (e.g., Eagle-Owl, Flycatcher-shrike) or when the name would be difficult to read (e.g., Silky-flycatcher, White-eye).

A detailed discussion of the thinking behind these rules follows.

1. **Capitalization.** An important rule adopted at the outset was that the words of an official bird’s name begin with capital letters. While this is contrary to the general rules of spelling for mammals, birds, insects, fish, and other life forms (i.e., use lowercase letters), the committee believed the initial capital to be preferable for the name of a bird species in an ornithological context, first because it has been the customary spelling in bird books for some years, and also because it distinguishes a taxonomic species from a general description of a bird. Several species of sparrows could be described as “white-throated sparrows,” but a “White-throated Sparrow” is a particular taxonomic species.

2. **Patronyms and accents.** It was agreed that if a name contained a patronym it would be stated in the possessive case (e.g.,
Smith's Longspur), and if the patronym ended with an s the apostrophe would be followed by an s (e.g., Ross's Turaco). There was general agreement to spell a patronym the way the person spelled it, even where the name was not English and the English spelling of the name differed (e.g., spelling a German name with an umlaut over the u, not the English ue). Initially the committee decided to use diacriticals on all words that in the language of origin were spelled with accents, even though accents are not used in English spelling, such as the French grave and acute accents, the Spanish cedilla and accents for Spanish place names, and the German umlaut. A major point of contention was whether to adopt the glottal and other diacritical marks used in the Hawaiian language since, unlike other accent marks; they are almost totally unfamiliar to English-speakers. The committee decided against using such accents for that reason. This then led to a reconsideration of the use of accents generally. In the end the committee chairs decided to follow the precedent of the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) Committee on Classification and Nomenclature and the New York Times Atlas, among others, and to use no accents, except umlauts for certain proper names of people.

Supporting this difficult decision is our view that the list of International English names is not a guide to correct pronunciation, the sole purpose of using accents in local languages of the world. That said, the committee is neutral as to the wishes of authors of regional works, who should feel free to add pronunciation marks that they consider to be appropriate for their intended audience.

3. **British versus American spellings.** The names reflect the committee’s view that spelling should be consistent throughout the list. Easily stated and on its face obvious, this rule became very difficult to apply where the same words have for centuries been spelled differently in different English-speaking countries. The problem essentially involves British and American spellings, with some countries being on one side and some on the other. The gray/grey difference is the most pervasive and best known, but other variant words are color/colour, mustache/moustache, racket/racquet, ocher/ochre, somber/sombre, saber/sabre, miter/mitre, sulfur/sulphur, and perhaps others. The committee decided to encourage each author and publisher to select whatever spelling of these words is deemed appropriate (since that would undoubtedly happen anyway). But in publishing its master list the committee decided to select one spelling for each variant word, because to state these words in the alternative in every case would produce a cumbersome list. The spellings selected by the committee represent a compromise. Grey is used because far more taxa have traditionally used that spelling than gray. The list likewise adopts the British spelling of sombre, sabre, sulphur, miter, ochre, and moustache, and the American spelling of color and racket. This tilt to the British side is justified by the fact that both spellings of every one of these variant words are considered correct in typical American dictionaries, such as the unabridged Merriam-Webster Dictionary. We hope this solution will find favor with most users of the list.

The list of recommended names uses particular spellings merely as dictated by the decision to provide one name. Those who use the list should feel free to adopt the appropriate spelling.

4. **Geographical nouns versus adjectives.** An additional spelling question surfaced during the course of the project: whether to spell a geographical word in its noun or adjective form. An in-depth review of existing names revealed that, in general, places of large size have been spelled in the adjective form (e.g., African, Mexican, Japanese), while smaller places are spelled as nouns (e.g., Timor, Kentucky, Nepal). Continents and major regions have always been spelled in adjective form, while small islands and cities have always been spelled as nouns. Countries and large islands are treated inconsistently. Some countries are always found in adjective form (e.g., Egyptian, Chinese), while others are always in noun form (e.g., Canada, Gabon). The same is true of large islands (e.g., Javan and Bornean, on the one hand, and Madagascar and Sulawesi on the other). The committee decided that to achieve complete consistency among names would require the wholesale changing of familiar names. It would also pose too many difficult decisions on which way to go—noun or adjective—and where to draw the line between large and small. We decided to leave the names the way they were, and to make only such changes as were necessary to create consistency in the use of each individual name (e.g., to use Tahiti consistently and not have both Tahiti and Tahitian). This required remarkably few changes.

5. **Compound names.** The most difficult problem to resolve was the spelling of compound words, particularly where found in group names. In general, a compound word is a combination of two words that in theory could be spelled as one word, as two words, or as two words hyphenated (e.g., Woodpigeon, Wood-Pigeon, or Wood Pigeon). In bird names a fourth alternative spelling is to follow the hyphen with a lowercase letter (e.g., Wood-pigeon). The problem is complicated by the use of variant spellings over many years. For example, Audubon used hyphens freely (as in Meadow-lark), in cases where now single words are used. The trend has been toward greater use of single words because it achieves a greater distinctiveness for the species. (Here the committee decided that usage was not as important in resolving spelling questions as it was in name selection, because it is hard to establish usage. Attitudes about hyphens have changed repeatedly over the decades.) The committee adopted the following principles:

4. **Single words.** Compound names are spelled as single words if the second word is bird (e.g., Bluebird, Tropicbird, Secretarybird) or its equivalent (e.g., Woodcock, Waterhen); or where the second word is a body part of a bird (e.g., Hookbill, Bufflehead, Yellowlegs); or if the name describes a bird’s call or song (e.g., Chickadee, Dickcissel, Poorwill, Killdeer); or if it describes a bird’s behavior or activity (e.g., Flycatcher, Roadrunner, Honeyeater). The only exception is to use a hyphen if otherwise the name would be hard to pronounce or would look odd (e.g., White-eye, Wattle-eye, Thick-knee, Huet-huet, Chuck-will’s-widow). “Whip-poor-will” was deemed borderline and the committee decided to follow perceived general usage.

Another category of compound words eligible for use as single words includes those where the second word is a kind of bird (e.g., Nighthawk, Bushtit, Waterthrush, Meadowlark). The critical point here is that the spelling chosen should not suggest that the taxon is a member of the bird family named if it is not one. A Meadowlark is not a Lark; a Cuckoo-shrike is not a Shrike. Thus the name cannot be spelled as two words without a hyphen (e.g., Meadow Lark), or spelled with a hyphen followed by a capital letter (e.g., Cuckoo-Shrike). The committee adopted the rule that a single word will be used except where it would be hard to pronounce or look odd (e.g., Silky-flycatcher, Stone-curlew, Fly-catcher-shrike).

A corollary of this rule is that if the second word is a type of bird and the taxon is in that bird family, the name would be spelled with two words, either without a hyphen or with a hyphen followed by a capital letter (e.g., Bush Lark, Eagle-Owl). Converting these to single words can suggest that the taxon is not in that family but is rather something different. Exceptions have been made in a few cases where long and widespread usage dictates a single word, such as Steamerduck, Goldfinch, Skylark, Woodlark, and Sparrowhawk.
B. Two words. The most difficult problem is with compound words that are not to be spelled as single words. The choices for Storm Petrel, for example, are Storm Petrel, Storm-Petrel, or Storm-petrel. After much debate and in the absence of a clear majority in favor of any one of the alternative relevant rules we decided that the third of these—a hyphen followed by a lowercase letter—was appropriate only where the taxon is not a member of the family or taxon stated, such as Silky-flycatcher or Stone-curlew. That is the only correct spelling of such names if they are not spelled as a single word.

The choice, then, in most such cases was whether to hyphenate the two words or not, and this became the single most contentious point in the entire project because the committee members had very different attitudes toward the hyphen. At one extreme was the position that a hyphen should never be used except when absolutely necessary to clarify pronunciation or make a necessary word connection. Tied to this position were arguments that hyphens tend to violate otherwise ordinary rules of grammar; that common usage usually does not support hyphens; and that hyphens violate the principle that names should be simple. At the other extreme is the view that hyphens should be used liberally in bird nomenclature to indicate relationships among taxa, and that if two or more taxa have the same “last name” the words should be hyphenated.

Faced with these differing viewpoints, the committee decided that a middle ground was essential. It adopted the following rules for the use and spelling of two-word compound names:

1. Two words should be used to spell all names not falling within the rules for single-word names.
2. As a general rule a hyphen should not be used, and both words should begin with capital letters (e.g., Black Tyrant, Screech Owl, Green Pigeon, Storm Petrel, Wood Partridge).
3. Where both words are the names of birds or bird families a hyphen should be inserted to signify that the taxon belongs to the family of the second word, not the first (e.g., Eagle-Owl, Nightingale-Thrush).
4. If a name covered by #3 is of a taxon that is not a member of the stated bird family, the letter after the hyphen should be lowercase to clarify that status (e.g., Flycatcher-shrike). This is a companion to the rule, described above, applicable to single-word names that hyphenates them to avoid confusion, as in Silky-flycatcher or Stone-curlew.
5. If application of any of the above rules would produce a name that is contrary to long-established and widespread usage, the rule may be modified or not applied. For example, Goldfinch, Skylark, Steamerduck, and Sparrowhawk—all taxa that are within the family name stated and thus do not come within the single-word rules described above—can nevertheless be spelled as single words, despite #1, because of long usage.

Because the foregoing rules allow for exceptions (see #4 and #5, above), the results produce a fair number of inconsistent names. A notable example is the use of “finch,” where we have eleven single-word names and twenty-one two-word names. We concluded that perfect consistency is impossible without offending many people or turning usage on its ear. We strove to minimize these exceptions.

Throughout, the committee adopted conservative views on changing names. The temptation was great to standardize group names within genera, for example, to name all species of Columba “pigeons” or all species of Turdus “thrushes.” But the recommended standardization of bird names will be useful only insofar as the birding public and ornithologists accept it. Various committee members from time to time suggested more radical changes in bird names. One interesting suggestion was to scrap most of the current names for taxa in the bird-of-paradise family in favor of new, more attractive, and more interesting names, like those of hummingbirds, for example. The committee could not find substantial approval of changes like these. But many of the ideas so far expressed are good ones and are at least worthy of further consideration. These should commend themselves to bird-name committees of the future.

In the end most of the difficult decisions were the result of great teamwork and compromises by the subcommittees. We decided some by executive decision, playing Solomon and striving to balance wins and losses of preferred names. Radical name changes, however, are few.

One example of an executive recommendation is that of “Angel Tern” for Gygis alba. Resolution between its previous two names, “Fairy Tern” and “White Tern,” was not possible without an executive decision. “Fairy Tern” was assigned years ago to Sterna nereis of Australia and New Zealand, leaving us with the truly bland generic name “White Tern” for one of the world’s most enduring seabirds. “White Noddy” arose as a possible solution, but the evidence supporting its relationship to the Anous noddies was deemed not yet conclusive. So we sought an improvement, and found comfort in “Angel Tern,” a name that fits the bird and also invites interesting possibilities for naming potential new species of Gygis.

Ranges

A brief description of the range of each species is included to clarify the species to which the name refers and to allow for electronic sorting of the list. The ranges are presented in a two-column format. The first column provides the geographical region(s) at the most general level: North America, Australasia, Pacific Ocean, and so on. The second column provides a qualifier from the most general “widespread” to “e, se,” referring the general region specified in the first column to the more specific countries or parts thereof, for example, “e, ne China” to “New Caledonia.” The Excel files on the CD include a third column for a species’ non-breeding range if it differs substantially from the breeding range.

This range information is broad stroke only. It is not meant to be precise or inclusive of the species’ entire current or historic range. It does not indicate habitat preference or abundance within its range. With a few exceptions, we describe only original ranges, not locations where a species is introduced. Geographical terminology and abbreviations used include the following:

A. General regions

- North America (NA)—includes the Caribbean
- Middle America (MA)—Mexico through Panama
- South America (SA)
- Latin America (LA)—Middle and South America
- Africa (AF)—entire continent rather than south of Sahara
- Eurasia (EU)—Europe, Asia from the Middle East through central Asia north of the Himalayas, Siberia and northern China to Japan
- Oriental Region (OR)—South Asia from Pakistan to Taiwan, plus Southeast Asia, the Philippines, and Greater Sundas
- Australasia (AU)—Wallacea (Indonesian islands east of Wallace’s line), New Guinea and its islands, Australia, New Zealand and its subantarctic islands, the Solomon, New Caledonia, and Vanuatu
- Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Tropical, Temperate, and Southern oceans (AO, PO, IO, TrO, TO, SO)
- Antarctica (AN)
B. Regional Qualifiers

- Regions of continents or countries by compass (n,e,s,w)
- Formal subregions such as the following three examples:
  - The Southern Cone (So. Cone) includes Argentina and Chile
  - south of the Tropic of Capricorn, also Falkland Islands
  - South Asia includes Pakistan to Taiwan and south to Sri Lanka,
  - that is, all of the Indian subcontinent, plus southern China
  - and Taiwan, but not Burma
- Southeast Asia includes the Indochina Peninsula from Burma east
  - to South Vietnam, south to Singapore
- Country name(s)
- Islands—specific or groups (Gr Sundas = Sumatra, Borneo, and Java)
- Landscape feature—Tepuis, Amazonia, Mediterranean Sea, Caribbean, Antarctic Peninsula, Arabian Peninsula, and so on

Index

The index includes both English and scientific group names, primarily genera and families, of birds. We assume some familiarity with current classifications of the birds of the world, such that the reader will easily locate the family, genus, or group name of interest and then home in quickly on the target species of interest. We list the bird families and their starting page numbers in the next section of front matter. Full indices are available in Dickinson (2003), a valued companion volume and guide to synonymies of avian taxonomy down to the subspecies level.

Electronic versions

We include with the book a CD that contains the four principal files that composed this work: (1) Introduction; (2) Nonpasserines; (3) Suboscine Passerines; (4) Oscine Passerines. These files are formatted in Excel spreadsheets, which allow many options for sorting, finding, editing, and exporting to other widely used word processing and database programs.

Permissions to use in other works

Wide dissemination, use, and improvement of the recommended International English names are our only goals. Gratis license to use this list in derivative works, if needed, can be obtained by writing Frank B. Gill, the registered holder of the copyright, at Box 428, Rushland, PA 18956.

The International Ornithological Congress (IOC)

The IOC is the preeminent international forum of ornithologists. It promotes worldwide collaboration and cooperation in ornithology and the other biological sciences through its meetings every four years and through its standing committees.

Acknowledgments

This was a volunteer, community effort. All participants have given freely of their valuable time and institutional resources. We waived royalty rights to maximize the quality and affordability of the product. Most important were the contributions of the twenty-eight committee members who participated in the construction of the rules and their application. These were (region in parentheses): Per Alström (PAL); Mark Beaman (PAL); Aldo Berutti (AFR); Clive Barlow (AFR); David Bishop (AUS); Murray Bruce (AUS); Paul Coopmans (NEO); W. Richard J. Dean (AFR); Brian Gill (AUS); Simon Harrap (ORI); Steven L. Hilty (NEO); Steve N. G. Howell (NEA); Tim Inskipp (ORI); Michael Irwin (AFR); Kenn Kaufman (NEA); G. Stuart Keith (AFR); Ben King (ORI); David Parkin (PAL); Christopher Perrins (PAL); H. Douglas Pratt (AUS); Nigel Redman (ORI); Peter G. Ryan (AFR); Robert S. Ridgely (NEO); Phillip Round (ORI); Stephen M. Russell (NEA); Richard Schodde (AUS); Donald Turner (AFR); and Harrison B. Tordoff (NEA).

Advising each of these committee members were a host of their personal friends and colleagues. We thank, in particular, Gary Wiles for his helpful perspective on the birds of Micronesia, and Guy Tudor for his extraordinary knowledge of the birds of the world.

Two other champions of this project merit special recognition and our heartfelt thanks.

David B. Donsker, MD, joined our team in the final years as taxonomic editor. He had at his disposal Phoebe Snetsinger’s comprehensive database on taxonomic changes of world birds, which he keeps current in real time. He polished the taxonomic scholarship of the list not only with respect to current species splits and generic changes but also with respect to the agreements in gender between generic and species names.

Our special thanks go also to Sally Conyne, who contributed in three major ways. First, she led the compilation of one master list from the recommendations of the six subcommittees. That collaboration was a gargantuan and at times never-ending task, but she tackled it with steady and accurate determination. Second, she also led the solution to hyphenating group names, cutting the Gordian knot of disparate opinions with a clear understanding of the rules of English language outside the world of ornithology. Third, she added the abbreviated ranges to each species included in the final list. This required designing a system and then applying it, which consumed countless hours of diligent work.

We also thank Robert Kirk and Ellen Foos of Princeton University Press, who shared our view of the value of this work and made it a reality. Lastly and with greatest possible appreciation, we thank all our IOC colleagues, who encouraged us in this project and who waited both patiently and optimistically for it to appear. It proved to be a much bigger challenge than we ever imagined it would be. In that spirit of realized humility, we dedicate this work to Burt L. Monroe Jr. We just finished the first phase of what he started. We accept full responsibility for the errors of accuracy that surely still lurk in this first edition work.

Frank Gill and Minturn Wright

Co-chairs, IOC Standing Committee on English Names

December 2005

Literature Cited


Appendix VII: Invitation by the Spanish Ornithological Society to hold the 25th International Ornithological Congress in Madrid (Spain) in August 2010

From: SEO/BirdLife (Sociedad Española de Ornitología - Spanish Ornithological Society)

Proposed place and time of the congress: Madrid (Spain), 15th–22nd August 2010
Proposed Secretary General: Eduardo de Juana (President of SEO/BirdLife)

Proposed Vice-Secretary General: Alejandro Sánchez (Executive Director, SEO/BirdLife)

Proposed persons on the National Committee (provisional list)

Manuel Soler (Chair), Universidad de Granada
Juan Moreno (Vice-chair), Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, CSIC
Emilio Barba, Universidad de Valencia
Andrés Barbosa, Estación Experimental de Zonas Áridas, CSIC
Josep del Hoyo, Editor of the Handbook of the Birds of the World
Fernando Hiraldo, Director of the Estación Biológica de Doñana, CSIC
Florentino de Lope, Universidad de Extremadura
Santiago Merino, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, CSIC
Daniel Oro, IMEDEA
Francisco J. Purroy, Universidad de León
Juan José Sanz, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, CSIC

Invitation supported by (provisional list)

BirdLife International
CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas - High Council for Scientific Research)
Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
Universidad de Alcalá
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente (Ministry of the Environment)
Madrid Town Council
Government of the Madrid Autonomous Region.

Program outlook

Sunday 15th August - arrivals, end of pre-congress excursions - registration - opening session
Monday 16th August - full day congress
Tuesday 17th August - full day congress
Wednesday 18th August - mid-congress tours
Thursday 19th August - full day congress
Friday 20th August - full day congress
Saturday 21st August - part day congress - closing session - banquet
Sunday 22nd August - departures - start of post-congress excursions

Venue

The congress center would be the “Palacio Municipal de Congresos de Madrid” (Convention Center in Madrid, CCM). SEO/BirdLife organized there its last congress (in April 2004), with outmost satisfaction. A preliminary reservation has already been made.

The CCM is a ten years old building owned by the town council, holding:
- Two auditoriums (seating capacity of 2,000 and 900 people respectively)
- 30 meeting rooms (seating capacities ranking from 10 to 400 people)
- Areas for poster sessions, commercial displays, etc. (10,000 square meters, in several flats)
- Dining room, VIP area, press room, restaurants, cafeterias, etc.
- Wheelchair access to all areas
- Medical service. The CCM can be reached from the city center by underground (“metro”), in 20 minutes, and also by several bus lines (104, 112 and 122). It is very close to the airport (five minutes in car) and immediate to the M-40 ring road. In its neighborhood there is an ample offer of hotels, restaurants, bars, etc. For more information see: www.camponaciones.com/palacio/index_e.cfm.

Routes to Madrid

Madrid-Barajas International Airport (MAD) is located 13 kilometers to the NE of the city limits. It is one of the busiests in Europe, the 5th in the ranking in 2004 (38.5 million passengers) after London-Heathrow, Frankfurt, Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Schipol-Amsterdam. It is the main European link with Latin America and receives almost 3,200 international and national flights weekly, from 131 destinations. With its new impressive terminal 4, inaugurated in February 2006, has reached a capacity for 120 take-offs and landings per hour, similar to Paris. For more information see: www.aena.es and www.madrid-mad.com.

The city of Madrid

Madrid, the capital of Spain since 1561, is presently a modern and lively city of three million inhabitants. It is placed in the geographic centre of the Iberian Peninsula, in the plateau of Castile, at ca. 650 m a.s.l. Climate is of Mediterranean type, rather hot in summer but also very dry, which makes temperatures more bearable.

Its many monuments go from vestiges of the Moorish walls to some of the finest examples of the artistic splendor of the Spanish empire during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, as the Plaza Mayor, the Plaza of the Villa and the Royal Palace. Among its many museums, those of El Prado, Reina Sofía and Thyssen-Bornesmiza, very close each other, build up one of the most important painting exhibitions all over the world. Parks and gardens are numerous, with outstanding examples in those of El Retiro and La Casa de Campo. Nightlife and gastronomy (more than 3,000 restaurants) also contribute substantially to leisure opportunities.

For short cultural excursions, the old towns of Toledo, Segovia, Ávila and Alcalá de Henares offer excellent options. Full of historic and artistic treasures, the four of them are in the UNESCO’s World Heritage List and may be reached from the city centre in less than one hour (Toledo in just half an hour with the new high speed train). Also most interesting are the Monastery of El Escorial, the huge building from which Philip II ruled one of the biggest empires in history, and the royal sites of Aranjuez, La Granja and Riofrío.
Organisation

Professional congress organizers will take care of most arrangements, including pre-registration, accommodation, tours, social events, etc. Additional help will be granted by SEO/BirdLife professional staff and by the Madrid Convention Bureau (Oficina de Congresos de Madrid), a special office of the municipality of Madrid depending from its Tourist Board.

SEO/BirdLife voluntaries will help in a diversity of jobs during the congress, i.e., attending in the airport the arrivals of congress delegates, setting up the posters, helping with audio-visual presentations, guiding short bird watching tours, etc.

Publications

As a minimum, plenary lectures will be published in an extraordinary issue of Ardeola (the scientific journal run by SEO/BirdLife, which presently is considered by the ISI) and the other contributions in CD/DVD. In addition there will be other publications before and during the congress (announcements, programs, lists of participants, etc.) and a special web page. For more information on Ardeola see: www.ardeola.org.

Funding

Funding of the congress will be provided by the registration fees, as well as official grants (Spanish Ministry for Education and Scientific Research, Madrid Autonomous Region) and the sponsorship of SEO/BirdLife.

Signed at Madrid, 1st of February of 2006

Dr. Manuel Soler Dr. Eduardo de Juana
Chair of the National Committee Proposed Secretary General

Appendix VIII

Invitation by the Brazilian Society of Ornithology to hold the 25th International Ornithological Congress in Campos do Jordão (Brazil) in August 2010

We propose the Vinaceous Amazon (Amazona vinacea) for the symbol of the congress. This unique parrot, associated with Araucaria angustifolia forests in Brazil, northern Argentina and eastern Paraguay, is striking with its purple breast, blue nape and red forehead. The Vinaceous Amazon is found in the southern states of Brazil, including southern Minas Gerais and Bahia, and migrates between forest remnants. During autumn and winter, the Vinaceous Amazon feeds on the pinhão (the seed of Araucaria angustifolia) and we quite likely will see this bird at Campos do Jordão during the congress. This beautiful endemic parrot is endangered, and so the attention it will receive during the congress may help call attention to its plight.

Host

Sociedade Brasileira de Ornitologia (SBO, Brazilian Society of Ornithology)

Patronage

The congress will be held under the patronage of the State Secretariat for the Environment

Supported by

Neotropical Ornithological Society

Conservação Internacional Brasil (Conservation International Brazil)
BirdLife Brazil

Centro de Estudos Ornitológicos (CEO, Ornithological Studies Center)

Location

Convention Center in Campos do Jordão, São Paulo, Brazil

Date

Sunday, August 22nd to Saturday, August 28th, 2010

The importance of an IOC in Brazil

Through the present proposal, we would like to bring for the first time an International Ornithological Congress (IOC) to Latin America, the only continent that has never hosted one IOC before. This would promote international interest in South American birds (and their conservation problems), create opportunities for collaboration, and engender greater communication between Latin American researchers and their colleagues from all over the world.

The Brazilian ornithological community is dynamic and highly motivated. The Sociedade Brasileira de Ornitologia (SBO, Brazilian Society of Ornithology) was formally organized in 1984 and currently has more than 250 members. We have organized 13 national congresses, the last three of which were attended by more than 400 participants, including many ornithologists from other countries. Also, the society publishes a scientific journal (Brazilian Journal of Ornithology - former Ararajuba) since 1990 without interruption. Active ornithologists are based at various universities, research institutes, and NGOs throughout Brazil. State of the art research has been published by members of our society in ecology, behavior, bioacoustics, migration, biogeography, anatomy, systematics, genetics, physiology, and conservation, among other subjects. Also, Brazilian ornithologists have participated in the International Ornithological Committee for the last 50 years (begun by the late Helmut Sick, the revered Brazilian ornithologist of German descent), and currently four members represent Brazil in the International Ornithological Committee.

Brazil is unique due to the extraordinary richness and endemism of many animal and plant species. When considering birds, Brazil and Colombia share the pinnacle of the list in species richness, with over 1600 species. New species are described each year in almost all ecosystems, especially in Amazonian and Atlantic Forests. Additionally, two extraordinary biomes occur in Brazil: the Cerrado, which is the most species-rich savanna in the world, and the Pantanal, which is the largest tropical freshwater wetland in the world. The proposed Congress venue will be within the Atlantic Forest region, one of the top five biodiversity hotspots in the world, and home to over 200 endemic bird species. It is noteworthy to mention that even though the Atlantic Forest is smaller in area than the Amazon Forest, it harbors almost the same number of endemic bird species. This lush tropical forest reaches the Brazilian shore and the coast itself includes many islands with colonies of reproducing marine birds.

The Congress venue

The Congress venue, in Campos do Jordão, is conveniently close to the city of São Paulo and the most important international airport in the country. Campos do Jordão provides excellent birding opportunities in the Atlantic forest within a short drive (during the congress, free-day excursions will be organized to visit such locations; details in the “Congress tours” section).

All major destinations in the country can be reached with relatively short flights from São Paulo, so that visitors can easily arrange for longer pre- or post-congress excursions to see Brazil’s unique ecosystems and the best of South America’s wildlife (details in the “Congress tours” section).

Invitation support

Sociedade Brasileira de Ornitolgia (SBO, Brazilian Society of Ornithology)
State Secretariat for the Environment
Neotropical Ornithological Society
Conservação Internacional Brasil (Conservation International Brazil)
BirdLife Brazil
Centro de Estudos Ornitológicos (CEO, Ornithological Studies Center)
Board of Tourism, the City of Campos do Jordão

Proposed committees

Chair
Höfling, Elizabeth (São Paulo, SP, ehofling@ib.usp.br)
Secretary-General
Miyaki, Cristina Yumi (São Paulo, SP, cymiyaki@ib.usp.br)

National Committee

Anjos, Luiz dos (Universidade Estadual de Londrina, PR)
Azevedo Jr., Severino Mendes (Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco, PE)
Cândido Jr., José Flávio (Unioeste, Cascavel, PR)
Cavalcanti, Roberto (Conservation International, Washington D.C.)
Gonzaga, Luiz A. Pedreira (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, RJ)
Guedes, Neiva M. Robaldo (Universidade para o Desenvolvimento do Estado e da Região do Pantanal, Campo Grande, MS)
Höfling, Elizabeth (Universidade de São Paulo, SP)
Nascimento, João Luiz Xavier (IBAMA, João Pessoa, PB)
Piratelli, Augusto J. (Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, RJ)
Scherer-Neto, Pedro (Museu Capão da Imbuia, Curitiba, PR)
Silva, José Maria Cardoso (Conservação Internacional Brasil, Belém, PA)

Springer
Local Committee

Höfling, Elizabeth (Universidade de São Paulo, SP), Chair (ehofling@ib.usp.br)

Alvarenga, Herculano M. F. (Museu de História Natural de Taubaté, SP)

Alves, Maria Alice dos Santos (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, RJ)

Del Lama, Silvia N. (Universidade Federal de São Carlos, SP)

Develey, Pedro F. (BirdLife International, São Paulo, SP)

Donatelli, Reginaldo (Universidade Estadual Paulista, Bauru, SP)

Goerck, Jaqueline M. (BirdLife International, São Paulo, SP)

Lencioni Neto, Frederico (Universidade do Vale do Paraíba, São José dos Campos, SP)

Miyaki, Cristina Yumi (Universidade de São Paulo, SP)

Pizo, Marco A. (Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos, São Leopoldo, RS)

Ranvaud, Ronald (Universidade de São Paulo, SP)

Roper, James Joseph (Universidade Federal do Paraná, PR)

Silveira, Luís Fábio (Universidade de São Paulo, SP)

Toledo, Maria Cecília B. (Universidade de Taubaté, SP)

Wajntal, Anita (Universidade de São Paulo, SP)

Profile of the Convention Center

7000 m² with a capacity for 2500 people

Access for the physically impaired

Hosted 20 congresses in the last 4 years, with up to 2200 participants

Future constructions – Convention Center

The Convention Center has plans to add another floor in the near future in which two rooms for 200 people each will be available.

Conference/exhibition facilities in the Convention Center

Technical equipment

Acoustic isolation

Central air conditioning in all rooms

Audiovisual equipment (computers, screens, and microphones)*

Computerized illumination*

Videoconference equipment*

Catering

The Convention Center recommends the catering services (cocktail, coffee breaks, banquet) of the Grande Hotel SENAC – (12) 3668 6000 Av. Frei Orestes Girardi, 3549 – Capivari.

Location of the Convention Center in Campos do Jordão

The Convention Center is located in the city center (Av. Macedo Soares, 499 – Capivari; red arrow in the figure below), with many hotels, restaurants, coffee shops, and facilities nearby.

Transportation to the Convention Center

Vans will transfer congress participants from the pre-established hotels that are not within walking distance to the Convention Center and vice-versa at regularly scheduled hours.

Time table

Sun, August 22: arrival of attendees; pre-congress excursions and registration

Mon, August 23: opening ceremony

Tue, August 24: full day congress

Wed, August 25: full day congress

Thu, August 26: mid-congress tours

Fri, August 27: full day congress

Sat, August 28: part day congress

Sun, August 29: departure; beginning of post-congress excursions

Official language of Congress

The official language of the congress is English, with no simultaneous translation services available.

Campos do Jordão in brief

Location

Campos do Jordão (22° 44' S, 45° 30' W) is 167 km from São Paulo and 303 km from Rio de Janeiro. The city is easily accessed from Guarulhos International Airport (red arrow on the map), one of the most important airports in Latin America. There are two main land routes to reach Campos do Jordão from the airport: by the Rodovia Presidente Dutra or by the Rodovia Ayrton Senna + Rodovia Carvalho Pinto. Both highways meet at Taubaté, from which the Rodovia Floriano Rodrigues Pinheiro meanders up through the Serra da Mantiqueira and at 1700 m elevation reaches Campos do Jordão.

Campos do Jordão has a bus station (1.6 km from the Convention Center) with regular buses to and from the main cities in southeastern Brazil (e.g., six round trips daily to São Paulo, each trip takes 3h; once daily to and from Rio de Janeiro, which takes 5 h30 min).

The Serra da Mantiqueira is a mountain range that separates the states of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais. In the Atlantic Forest domain, these mountains have a very diverse vegetation, including rain forest, cloud forest, high altitude fields, and Araucaria
forest with riparian Podocarpus. This plant diversity is reflected in bird diversity, with ~300 species found in these mountains.

**Characteristics**

Campos do Jordão is a winter city for tourism, with many hotels (141), restaurants (107) and mountain landscapes. It is a peaceful and secure city, located within relatively well-preserved Atlantic, Araucaria, forests.

**Climate and temperatures**

August is winter in the Southern Hemisphere, and so a cool climate is to be expected, with temperatures ranging from 14°C to 20°C during the day and 6°C to 14°C at night (frost occurs very rarely here).

**Shopping in Campos do Jordão**

Shopping malls and centers offer winter clothes, chocolates, and souvenirs throughout the city.

**Cultural highlights in Campos do Jordão**

The famous Campos do Jordão Winter Festival takes place in July. Thousands of music lovers gather to listen to classical music presented by orchestras in the Cláudio Santoro Auditorium. Other interesting places for tourists to visit include the Palace of the State Government (with the largest collection of modern Brazilian artists, including Tarsila do Amaral, Anita Malfatti, and Cândido Portinari among others), and the outdoor Felícia Lerner Museum (with sculptures by a Polish artist who lived in Campos do Jordão) and the House of the Xylograph.

**Leisure, sports and pleasure in Campos do Jordão**

Horse rental, mountain climbing, trekking, and biking are a few of the many activities that outdoor enthusiasts will find in Campos do Jordão. One can also take a nice walk in the city center and stop in one of the various coffee shops and drink a delicious hot chocolate. Beer fans will find the local brew a worthy experience, while chocolate fans will certainly want to visit the chocolate factory. For anglers, many excellent fishing streams will challenge their abilities to catch the local fish.

**Experience the mountains by train**

A 47 km train ride will take you from Campos do Jordão (1,743 m elevation) to Pindamonhangaba (at 551 m). This charming train ride carries travelers through the Serra da Mantiqueira, passing over an iron bridge over the river Paraíba do Sul, which leads to the Parque Reino das Águas Claras where one may swim in the river Piracuama, and many cities in the Vale to Ribeira may be seen from the observatory at Santo Antônio do Pinhal.

**Nature in Campos do Jordão**

**Horto Florestal (State Park of Campos do Jordão)**

With an area of 83,000 ha and nine trails, this park includes the Galhada Falls trail, which is an easy walk through the woods, ending at the clear waters of the falls. For the more energetically inclined the Sapucaí river trail leads to the river rapids. Trekkers will have fun on a 5 hour guided walk on the Celestina Fall trail through the forest, culminating at the top with a magnificent view of the surrounding area.

**Pedra do Baú**

This 340 m tall rock can be climbed after a hard walk through the “Campos do Jordão face”. Another more challenging option is to visit the “Bauzinho”, after climbing the Pedra do Baú through the metal stairs at its south face (600 steps), returning by the stairs in the north face (620 steps). Being about an 8 hour walk, an early morning start is recommended.

**Gruta dos Crioulos**

This cave, once a slave refuge, is 30 m high and 20 m long.

**Bird watching**

Birdwatchers will be thrilled with the many wooded options they will find within walking distances and enjoy the sightings of the many and diverse neotropical birds.

**Official Homepage**

www.camposdojordao.com.br

**Accommodations in Campos do Jordão**

Selected hotels, “pousadas” (quaint yet elegant Brazilian equivalents of ‘Bed and Breakfast’s), and the Youth Hostel are mostly within walking distance from the Convention Center - those farther away (Ø) will have regularly scheduled transportation to and from the Convention Center throughout the day. Many of the hotels and “pousadas” have rooms for three or four people, but the rates presented here are for double rooms. All the flats listed have cooking facilities.

**Routes to Campos do Jordão**

**Guarulhos International Airport**

Connects Brazil with 28 countries by 100 daily flights. Airlines operating here are: Aerocancun, Aeroflot, Aeromexico, Aeroperu, Air Aruba, Air France, Alitalia, American Airlines, Avianca, British Airways, Canadian, Continental, Cubana de Aviacion, Gol, Iberia, JAL, KLM, Korean Airlines, LACSA, LAPSA, Lan Chile, Lufthansa, Middle East Airlines, Passaredo, Pluma, Scandinavian Airlines, South African Airways, Swissair, TAM, TAP, United Airlines, and VARIG.

**Transfer from/to the airport to Campos do Jordão**

Volunteer students will welcome the participants at the Guarulhos International Airport, and provide information to help arrivals reach their destinations. Pre-booked vans or buses will be available at Guarulhos Airport to take congress participants to Campos do Jordão. The trip takes about an hour and a half.

For those who prefer to rent a car, various car rental agencies (e.g. Avis, Localiza) area available at the airport (this is valid for any airport in major cities in Brazil) and may be booked ahead of time by visiting their web-sites. Also in Campos do Jordão, there is a Localiza agency at Av. Frei Orestes Girardi, 2329.

**Congress tours**

Daily guided early morning birding walks will be offered during the congress, with expectations to see many Atlantic Forest species, potentially adding just as many species to the aficionado’s life list!
**Pre and post congress tours (list of potential locations)**

**Nature**

**Pantanal**

Located in South America, the Pantanal is the largest continuous inland marsh (delta) on the planet, and from the air is often (during the rainy season) seen as an immense, flooded plain. The climate is very hot and rainy in the summer, and cool and dry in the winter (but quite variable in both seasons). Plant and animal diversity in the Pantanal is unrivaled elsewhere in the world. The Pantanal may be divided into ten different regions, based on soil, vegetation and drainage characteristics. More than 200 species of birds are found here, including the Toco Toucan (*Ramphastos toco*), the magnificent Hyacinth Macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*), the Solitary Tinamou (*Tinamus solitarius*), the American Snake Darter, or Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*), the Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*), the fascinating Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*), three different species of storks, the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), dozens of hawks, harriers, and falcons, Moorhens, coots, terns and sandpipers, many different hummingbirds, woodpeckers and hundreds of passerines, such as the troupiol (*Icterus croconotus*) and the magnificent Scarlet-headed Blackbird (*Ambylramphus holosericeus*) are all very easily found in the Pantanal. The openness of the Pantanal insures the birdwatcher a successful visit with a significant increase in their life-list!

**Foz do Iguacu**

One of the most famous natural wonders of the world, *Foz do Iguaçu* (Iguassu Falls) is the unforgettable destination of most people who visit Brazil. Less than a 2 hour flight from Sao Paulo to the city of Foz do Iguaçu, the falls are quickly and easily accessible. At 10 km from the city, on the border between Brazil and Argentina, the falls has a wonderful tourist bus, and well-kept walkways that afford spectacular views of the immense waterfalls that extends nearly 3 km, beautiful from both the Brazilian and Argentinean sides. Within Iguacu National Park, the falls and the surrounding area is important for conservation with 185,262 ha of well-preserved continuous Atlantic forest, with its great diversity of birds (> 300 bird species have been sighted in the park). On the trails, several quite interesting species are easily seen, including *Aratinga leucophthalminus*, *Ramphastos toco*, *Ramphastos castanotis*, *Cyanocorax chrysops* and Cacicus haemorrhous.

**Amazonian Rain Forest**

The Amazonian Rain Forest is the largest tropical forest on the planet. Nowhere in the world are so many bird species found, with approximately 1,300 species found in a variety of Amazonian habitats. Large macaws (Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao* and Blue-and-yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna*), cotogas (Crimson Fruitcrow *Haematoresurus militares* and Spangled Cotinga *Cotinga cayana*) and tanagers (Paradise Tanager *Tangara chilensis*) can be heard and seen in the canopy. In the understory, a variety of antbirds (Black-spotted Bare-eye *Phlegopsis nigromaculata* and White-plumed Antbird *Pithys albifrons*) and colorful manakins (Wire-tailed Manakin *Pipra filicauda* and White-fronted Manakin *Pipra sereum*) may be seen following ant swarms or dancing in leks. Along the rivers, the exotic Hoatzin *Opisthocomus hoazin* is surprisingly easy to find! Your visit to the Amazonian Forests will be an unforgettable experience.

**Fernando de Noronha Arquipelago**

The Fernando de Noronha Arquipelago, with its rocky islands, is another of the spectacular places in Brazil. At 345 km from the northeasternmost point of South America (in the state of Rio Grande do Norte) its blue, tropical waters has excellent visibility and natural pools, and is a favorite among Brazilian and international scuba divers. Many seabirds may be seen here, including *Anous minutus*, *A. stolidus*, *Sterna fascata*, *Gygis alba*, *Sula dactylatra*, *S. leucogaster*, *S. sula*, *Fregata magnificens*, and *Phaeton lepadus*; some with large breeding colonies on the archipelago. Also, an endemic vireo (*Vireo gracilirostris*) is found in the forests of the main island.

**Campos rupestres (states of Minas Gerais and Bahia)**

*Campos rupestres* is the biome associated with the rocky terrain unique in Brazil. These shrubby, rocky savannas occur between 700 and 2000 m elevation. This biome is noteworthy as an area with a very high degree of endemism at both the genus and species levels, especially for plants and birds. Some examples of these endemic birds include hummingbirds (*Augastes lunachellus*, *A. scutatus*), the Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin (*Neopelma chrysophilum* in the family Pipridae), the endangered Cipo Cacastro (*Asthenes luziae* in the Furnariidae), and the vulnerable Brasilia Tapaculo (*Scytalopus novacapitalis* in the Rhinocryptidae).

**Rio de Janeiro**

Rio is Brazil's most famous and cosmopolitan metropolis, known worldwide for its scenic beauty. Several “must-see” attractions include Corcovado (with the famous statue of Jesus on its peak), Pôto de Açúcar (Sugar Loaf Mountain), and 90 km of beautiful beaches. Bird watchers will find many excellent places for birding in the heart of the city, with species from the Atlantic Forest, such as the Tijuca National Park and the Botanical Gardens. Another excellent place to bird watch near the city of Rio de Janeiro is Teresópolis.

**Culture**

**Historical cities in Minas Gerais**

Towns in this region were founded in the early 18th century. The mining wealth of the region brought gold, Baroque art, and fine architecture. Well preserved and carefully maintained, here you will find one of the most impressive colonial remains in the Americas. It was in these cities that Brazil’s first attempts to become independent from Portugal were inspired.

**Parque Nacional da Serra da Capivara (São Raimundo Nonato, Piauí)**

The National Park of Serra da Capivara is considered a Human Culture Heritage by the United Nations. It preserves very important archeological treasures – thousands of pre-historic (up to 12,000 ybp) inscriptions on rock walls. Drawings show the daily routine and ceremonies of the communities and include animal figures (some extinct). More than 500 archaeological sites may be visited.
Parati (Rio de Janeiro)

The small coastal village of Parati is 200 km southeast of Rio de Janeiro and has one of the finest collections of 18th century Portuguese colonial buildings. In the early 1700’s, it was a major gold shipping port. Many beautiful beaches with very good snorkeling and scuba diving sites are found here in Parati.

Mid-congress tours (list of potential locations)

Atlantic Forest

The Atlantic Forest of Brazil has a very rich and diverse avian community. With 668 species, 200 are endemic to the Atlantic Forest and more than 50% of the species are restricted to well-preserved areas. Atlantic Forests may be divided into two domains: 1) Lowland forest (dense rain forest), rivers, and waterfalls. At higher elevations, the Hooded Berryeater (Carporhynchus microrhynchos), Black-and-gold Cotinga (Tijuca atra) and Brassy-breasted Tanager (Tangara desmaresti) are common. Some species, such as the Saw-billed Hermit (Ramphoculus naevius), Salvadori’s Antwren (Myrmotherula minor) and Brazilian Tanager (Ramphoculus bresilius) are common only in the lowland forest. Frugivorous birds of the canopy are conspicuous for their bright-colors, such as the Red-necked Tanager (Tangara cyanocephala), Red-breasted Toucan (Ramphastos dicolorus) and the Saffron Toucanet (Baillonius bailloni). At both high and low elevations, the Bare-throated Bellbird (Procnias nucifraga) is also endemic to this forest. Getting to know the Atlantic Forest and its birds is a unique and unforgettable experience.

1. Various sites surrounding and in Campos do Jordão (Atlantic Forest)

More than 300 species of birds may be seen within a 150 km radius from Campos do Jordão, including many endemics from southeastern Brazil: Amazona vinacea, Campanisoma ruficauda, Hylorussus nattereri, Phibalura flavirostris, Tijuca atra, and Piprites pileatus. Of course, in southern Brazil, many species common to the locals will be considered exotics to the visitors, who will be delighted by their behaviors, songs and colors: Ramphastos dicolorus, Pyroderus scutatus, Pyrrhura frontalis, Buteo albicollis and nocturnal species, such as Strix hylophila and Macropsalis forcipata.

a. State Park of Serra do Mar

Núcleo Santa Virgínia - 2 h from Campos do Jordão, has trails through primary and secondary Atlantic forest (dense rain forest), rivers, and waterfalls. Close to São Luiz do Paraitinga, a historical city with very good traditional foods.

Núcleo Cunha - 3 h from Campos do Jordão, has trails through primary and secondary Atlantic forest (dense rain forest), rivers, and waterfalls. The city of Cunha has many ceramic ateliers.

b. Campos do Jordão State Park

20 min from the city center, has trails, rivers, and waterfalls. Forest with Araucaria, Podocarpus, and high elevation grasslands.

c. Itatiaia National Park

3 h from Campos do Jordão. At the lowest part (700 m elevation) has trails through primary and secondary Atlantic forest (dense rain forest), rivers, waterfalls, and a museum. At the top (2000 m elevation) trails meander through the high altitude grasslands.

d. Pindamonhangaba City Park

45 min from Campos do Jordão, has trails through mature Atlantic forest (dense rain forest), rivers, and waterfalls, with a fine visitor center.

2. Taubaté Natural History Museum (www.museuhistorianatural-taubate.org)

1 h from Campos do Jordão, where several fossil birds from the Taubaté Basin are housed. You may visit the outcropping of the Tremembé Formation, in the Taubaté Basin, which is the most important site of fossil birds in Brazil.

3. Beaches (Ubatuba, Caraguatatuba)

2 h30 from Campos do Jordão. The northern Atlantic coast of the state of São Paulo has many beautiful and sunny beaches. Birds that can be found here are Tangara cyanopechala, Tangara seledon, Euphonia pectoralis, Ramphastos vitellinus, Penelope obscura, Procnias nucifraga, Merulaxis ater, and Psilorhamphus guttatus.

4. São Paulo Zoo (www.zoológico.sp.gov.br)

The São Paulo Zoological Park is only three hours from Campos do Jordão. Founded in 1958, more than 3,200 animals are on display in this Zoo, and are from a wide variety of places. Many species and individual animals are involved in conservation programs, education, and biological research. With 80+ ha (most of which is original Atlantic rainforest), the Zoo is the home of the historical Ypiranga creek, whose waters flow to form the Zoo’s lakes where several native, exotic, and migratory bird species live and breed. Many free-ranging native species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates may be seen in the surrounding forests as a wonderful parallel fauna. In the native bird collection, visitors will be thrilled with the Harpy Eagle (Harpia harpyja), the many hawks (Buteogallus meridionalis, Spizaetus tyrannus, S. ornatus, Leucopternis polionota, L. lacernulata, Buteo gallus urubitinga), falcons (Falco femoralis, Milvago chimachima, Herpetotheres cachinnans), vultures (Sarcoramphus papa, Vultur gryphus), toucans (Ramphastos toco, R. ricordius, R. tucanus), araçaris or toucans (Pteroglossus castanotus, P. aracari, Baillonius bailloni), macaws (Ara ararauna, A. rubrogenys, A. chloroptera) and parrots (Amazona xanthops, A. rhodocorytha, A. brasilienis, Guara guarauba, Trichara malachitacea) along with the many other wonderful species found here.

Program for accompanying people

The city of Campos do Jordão has many attractions (details in the “Campos do Jordão in brief” section).

Appendix IX: Nominations for the Executive Committee of the IOCommittee (12 August 2006)

IOC President: John Wingfield (USA)
IOC Vice-Presidents: Les Underhill (South Africa), John Croxall (U.K.)
IOC Secretary: Dominique G. Homberger (USA)
IOC Treasurer (putative): Thomas Sherry (USA)
Elected members of the IOC Executive Committee:

**Continuing:**
Susan Hannon (Canada)
Elisabeth Höfling (Brazil)
François Vuilleumier (USA)

**New:**
Tomasz Wesołowski (Poland)
Hiroshi Nakamura (Japan)
Mick Clout (New Zealand)
Ellen Ketterson (USA)
Ping Ding (China)
Berndt-Erik Sather (Norway)

IOC Honorary President
Soekarja Somadikarta (Indonesia)

IOC Honorary Vice-Presidents:
Richard Schodde (Australia)
Zafar Futehally (India)

IOC Patron: Luc Hoffmann (France/Switzerland)

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Appendix X: Nominations for IO Committee membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Nominator(s)</th>
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<td>NR</td>
<td>Ivanitski, Vladimir</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Panov</td>
<td>1982</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>Jimenez, Jaime E.</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Homberger</td>
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<td>NR</td>
<td>Kempenaers, Bart</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Bairlein</td>
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<td>NR</td>
<td>Mayr, Gerald</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>2002, 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Pittie, Aasheesh</td>
<td>India</td>
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<tr>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Prawiradiaga, Dewi Malia</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Somadikarta</td>
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<tr>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Reboreda, Juan Carlos</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Soler</td>
<td>1994</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>Selmi, Shaheddine</td>
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<td>Blondel</td>
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<td>NR</td>
<td>Yahya, Hafiz Shaeque</td>
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<td>Homberger</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Zalakevičius, Mečislovas</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Bairlein</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(A = Associate Member, NR = National Representative, S = Senior Member)
Geographical Distribution of IOC Members (September 2006)

Note: Birds are all over the World, but IOC members are not (yet).
Geographical distribution of IOC members in the Western Hemisphere (September 2006)
Appendix XI

Amended Statutes and By-Laws of the International Ornithological Committee (IOC)

(Accepted on 13 August 2006 at the 24th International Ornithological Congress in Hamburg)
ornithologists; by cultivating collegial, collaborative, mentoring and mutually supportive relationships among ornithologists internationally and without restrictions imposed by cultural or political differences; and by fostering knowledge transfer between basic research and applied sciences, such as conservation.

To effect these objectives and purposes, the IOC sponsors and promotes International Ornithological Congresses in different places of the world at regular intervals; establishes and sponsors commissions and committees as it deems appropriate and desirable; establishes and sponsors other international ornithological activities with specific tasks concordant with the mission and goals of the IOC as it deems appropriate; and functions as the Section of Ornithology of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS).

Article II
Membership and Functions

1. Size. The size of the membership of the IOC is determined by the IOC, but may not exceed the number specified in the By-Laws (see Art. I of By-Laws).

2. Representation. The membership shall be representative of the international distribution of ornithologists, and the number of members from each country shall be approximately proportional to its ornithological activity and the richness of its avifauna.

3. Nominations. Nominations for membership in the IOC may be submitted by any member of the IOC; they must be in writing with adequate documentation on the activity and merits of the nominees and must be submitted to the IOC President, the IOC Secretary, and the Chair of the IOC Nominations Committee prior to a congress. Nominations for membership in the IOC shall normally have attended at least one International Ornithological Congress, which may be the one at which they are elected. In addition, eminent ornithologists who have never attended an International Ornithological Congress may be nominated as Associate Members without voting rights, with the proviso that they will become full members of the IOC upon attending an International Ornithological Congress.

4. Election. New members and associate members are elected by the IOC at a regular meeting of the IOC at an International Ornithological Congress from a list of nominees prepared by the IOC Nominations Committee and presented to the IOC by the IOC Executive Committee. Election to the IOC requires a simple majority of the IOC members present and voting at a meeting.

5. Term. The term of membership to the IOC is indefinite unless a member resigns voluntarily or is absent from regular meetings of the IOC at two consecutive congresses, whereupon the membership automatically lapses, unless the member petitions the IOC President and the IOC Secretary for retention. IOC members who wish to resign must inform the Secretary of the IOC. Resigned or lapsed members may be re-elected, if they so wish and upon recommendation by the IOC Executive Committee (see Art. IV.4. of Statutes). Associate Members will automatically become full members upon their attendance of an International Ornithological Congress. Members who are over the age of 65, Past IOC Presidents, Past IOC Secretaries, Past IOC Treasurers, Past Secretaries-General, and Past Chairs of the Scientific Program Committee are Emeriti or Emeritate Members and are not required to attend at least every other congress to retain their membership. Emeriti and Emeritate members do not count towards the limit of the membership size specified in the By-laws (see Art. I of By-Laws).

6. Meetings. The IOC meets at least twice during each International Ornithological Congress. The quorum for the transaction of business at a regular meeting consists of the members present at the meeting.

7. Duties. The duties of the IOC are: (a) to select the site of the next International Ornithological Congress; (b) to nominate and elect new members of the IOC; (c) to elect the IOC President, the IOC Vice President, the IOC Treasurer, the IOC Secretary, and any Honorary Officers of an International Ornithological Congress; (d) to nominate and elect the elected members of the IOC Executive Committee; and (e) to take actions appropriate and necessary to carry out the stated objectives and functions of the IOC (see Art. I of Statutes). The IOC members represent the community of ornithologists of the country in which they reside (see Art. I of By-Laws). The members of the IOC are encouraged to make voluntary monetary contributions at least once a year towards the operating budget of the IOC or to one of its special funds.

8. Special Meetings. The IOC President may call a special meeting of the IOC and is obligated to do so upon receiving a petition signed by one-quarter of the IOC members (see Art. I of By-Laws). The date set for a special meeting must allow for enough time for the consideration of the agenda and for making travel arrangements. A quorum for a special meeting is one-third of the members of the IOC (see Art. I of By-Laws). Failure to attend a special meeting shall not count toward automatic lapse of membership (see Art. II.5).

9. Presiding Officer. The IOC President presides at the meetings of the IOC.

10. Communications. Actions of the IOC are communicated to an International Ornithological Congress and published in the proceedings of the congress or in some other publication, as approved by the IOC Executive Committee.

Article III
Officers

A. The President of the IOC

1. Election. The IOC President is elected by a simple majority of the IOC members present and voting at a regular meeting of the IOC at an International Ornithological Congress from a list of nominations prepared by the Executive Committee Nominations Committee and presented to the IOC by the IOC Executive Committee. Nominations may be submitted by any member of the IOC; they must be in writing with adequate documentation and submitted to the IOC President, the IOC Secretary, and the Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee prior to the next congress. The IOC President is not eligible for election to the same office for two successive congresses.

2. Term. The IOC President holds office from the conclusion of a congress at which he or she was elected until the conclusion of the following congress.

3. Duties. The IOC President serves as Chair of the IOC Executive Committee and the IOC Council, as President of the International Ornithological Congress, and as Chair of the Section of Ornithology of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS). The President presides at the meetings of the IOC, of the IOC Executive Committee, and of the International Ornithological Congress. The President appoints committees (except the IOC Executive Committee) and commissions of the IOC and of an International Ornithological Congress. After consultation with the host organization of a congress, the President of the IOC appoints the Secretary-General of an International Ornithological Congress (see Art. III.C.1. of Statutes). The IOC President decides financial transactions after consultation with the IOC Council, the IOC Executive Committee and the IOC Treasurer.

4. Membership in the IOC. Upon conclusion of his or her term, the IOC President becomes the immediate IOC Past President and, as such, is a member of the IOC Executive Committee and the IOC Council until the conclusion of the following congress. The immediate Past President is normally asked to serve as Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee of the IOC (see Art. VIII.A. of By-Laws). IOC Past Presidents are Emeriti or Emeritate members of the IOC.
B. The Vice President of the IOC

1. Election. The IOC Vice President is elected, following the election of the IOC President, by a simple majority vote of the IOC members present and voting at a regular meeting of the IOC at an International Ornithological Congress from a list of nominations prepared by the Executive Committee Nominations Committee and presented to the IOC by the IOC Executive Committee. Nominations may be submitted by any member of the IOC; they must be in writing with adequate documentation and submitted to the IOC President, the IOC Secretary, and the Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee prior to the next congress. The IOC Vice President is not eligible for election to the same office for two successive congresses.

2. Term. The IOC Vice President holds office from the conclusion of a congress at which he or she was elected until the conclusion of the following congress.

3. Duties. The IOC Vice President shall have responsibility for particular aspects of the IOC, such as the oversight of the Ad hoc Research Coordination Committees (see Art. VII of By-Laws). The IOC Vice President also serves as Vice Chair of the IOC Executive Committee and the IOC Council.

4. Succession. The IOC Vice President shall serve as President of the IOC in case of the inability of the IOC President in office to execute his or her responsibilities or complete his or her term.

5. Membership in the IOC. The IOC Vice President is a member of the IOC Executive Committee and the IOC Council until the conclusion of the congress following the one at which he or she was elected.

C. The Secretary-General of an International Ornithological Congress

1. Appointment. The Secretary-General of an International Ornithological Congress is appointed by the IOC President after consultation with the host organization of a congress (see Art. III.A.3. of Statutes).

2. Term. The Secretary-General of an International Ornithological Congress serves until the conclusion of the congress for which he or she was appointed.

3. Duties. The Secretary-General of an International Ornithological Congress has the responsibility for all organizational and financial aspects of the congress for which he or she was appointed, including the publication of the congress proceedings. The Secretary-General may nominate, for presidential appointment, persons to serve in defined capacities, such as Associate Secretary-General, Treasurer of the congress, Editor of the congress proceedings, Webmaster of the congress web page within the IOC home page, and members of the local committees for the congress.

4. Membership in the IOC. The Secretary-General is a member of the IOC Executive Committee. The immediate Past Secretary-General of an International Ornithological Congress serves as a member of the IOC Executive Committee and the IOC Council until the end of the congress following the one for which he or she was responsible. Past Secretaries-General are emeriti or emeritae members of the IOC.

D. The Chair of the Scientific Program Committee

1. Appointment. The Chair of the Scientific Program Committee is appointed by the IOC President (see Art. III.A.3. of Statutes).

2. Term. The Chair of the Scientific Program Committee serves until the conclusion of the congress for which he or she was appointed.

3. Duties. The Chair of the Scientific Program Committee is responsible for the organization of the scientific program of an International Ornithological Congress. The Past Chair of the Scientific Program Committee is normally asked to serve as Chair of the IOC Nominations Committee for the congress following the one for which he or she served as Chair of the Scientific Program Committee (see Art. VIII.B. of By-Laws).

E. The Treasurer of the IOC

1. Election. The IOC Treasurer is elected, following the election of the IOC President and the IOC Vice-President, by a simple majority of the IOC members present and voting at a regular meeting of the IOC at an International Ornithological Congress from a list of nominations prepared by the Executive Committee Nominations Committee of the IOC and presented to the IOC by the IOC Executive Committee. Nominations may be submitted by any member of the IOC; they must be in writing with adequate documentation and submitted to the IOC President, the IOC Secretary, and the Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee prior to the next congress. The IOC Treasurer is eligible for reelection for additional terms.

2. Term. The IOC Treasurer holds office until the conclusion of the congress following the one at which he or she was elected. The Treasurer of the IOC may be reelected at subsequent congresses for additional terms.

3. Duties. The IOC Treasurer shall keep the financial records and handle any financial transactions of the IOC in accordance with the instructions by the IOC President, the IOC Council, and the IOC Executive Committee (see Art. VI of By-Laws). The IOC Treasurer shall report to the IOC President and shall provide at least annual reports to the IOC Council and the IOC Executive Committee. The IOC Treasurer shall advise and assist the IOC President in attracting donations and funding from granting agencies and foundations.

4. Membership in the IOC. The IOC Treasurer is a member of the IOC Executive Committee. The IOC Past Treasurer is an emeritus or emerita member of the IOC.

F. The Secretary of the IOC

1. Election. The IOC Secretary is elected, following the election of the IOC President, the IOC Vice-President, and the IOC Treasurer, by a simple majority of the IOC members present and voting at a regular meeting of the IOC at an International Ornithological Congress from a list of nominations prepared by the Executive Committee Nominations Committee of the IOC and presented to the IOC by the IOC Executive Committee. Nominations may be submitted by any member of the IOC; they must be in writing with adequate documentation and submitted to the IOC President, the IOC Secretary, and the Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee prior to the next congress. The IOC Secretary is eligible for reelection for additional terms.

2. Term. The IOC Secretary holds office from the conclusion of the congress at which he or she was elected until the conclusion of the following congress.

3. Duties. The IOC Secretary shall keep all records of the IOC and its agencies and foundations. The IOC Secretary shall prepare and distribute the minutes and other communications of these meetings for publication; deal with communications of the IOC and the IOC Executive Committee meetings; prepare and distribute within three months following a congress the minutes of the IOC and the IOC Executive Committee meetings; prepare these minutes and other communications of these meetings for publication; deal with communications of the IOC and the IOC Executive Committee as directed by the IOC President; and assist the IOC President and the Secretary-General of an International Ornithological Congress in the preparations for a congress. The IOC Secretary is responsible for communicating with and assisting ornithologists of potential host countries in the preparation of invitations for future congresses. The IOC Secretary is a member of the IOC Executive Committee and the IOC Council.
Secretary serves as Secretary of the Section on Ornithology of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS). The IOC Secretary is responsible for maintaining the official home page of the IOC, which includes the home page of International Ornithological Congresses; he or she may delegate this task to a webmaster.

4. Membership in the IOC. The IOC Secretary is a member of the IOC Executive Committee, the IOC Council, and the Scientific Program Committee. IOC Past Secretaries are emeriti or emeritae members of the IOC.

G. Honorary Officers of an International Ornithological Congress

1. Election. Honorary Officers of an International Ornithological Congress, such as Patrons, Honorary Presidents, and Honorary Vice Presidents, are elected following the election of the IOC President, IOC Vice-President, IOC Treasurer and IOC Secretary, by a simple majority of the IOC members present and voting at a regular meeting of the IOC at an International Ornithological Congress from a list of nominations prepared by the Executive Committee Nominations Committee of the IOC and presented to the IOC by the IOC Executive Committee. Nominations may be submitted by any member of the IOC; they must be in writing with adequate documentation and submitted to the IOC President, the IOC Secretary and the Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee prior to the next congress. Honorary Officers of an International Ornithological Congress are recognized for their contributions to avian biology or to the cause of international ornithology. Honorary Officers of the IOC are normally not eligible for reelection, except Patrons who have renewed their support and commitment to the IOC.

2. Term. Honorary Officers of an International Ornithological Congress hold office from the conclusion of a congress at which they were elected to the conclusion of the following congress.

3. Membership to the IOC. Honorary Officers of an International Ornithological Congress are ex-officio members of the IOC unless they are already IOC members. Past Honorary Officers are emeriti or emeritae members of the IOC.

Article IV

The Executive Committee of the IOC

1. Membership. The members the IOC Executive Committee include the IOC President (see Art. III.A.3. of Statutes), the IOC Vice President (see Art. III.B.3. of Statutes), the IOC Treasurer (see Art. III.E.3. of Statutes), the IOC Secretary (see Art. III.F.3. of Statutes), the immediate IOC Past President (see Art. III.A.4. of Statutes), the Secretary-General of an International Ornithological Congress (see Art. III.C.4. of Statutes), and the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee (see Art. III.D.4. of Statutes). Ten members of the IOC Executive Committee shall be elected by the IOC from among the IOC members.

2. Nomination and Election of Elected Members. Nominations to the IOC Executive Committee may be made by any member of the IOC (see Art. II.3. of Statutes) and submitted to the IOC President, the IOC Secretary, and the Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee. The election of the nominees for Elected Members of the IOC Executive Committee shall follow the election of the IOC President, the IOC Vice President, the IOC Treasurer, the IOC Secretary, and any Honorary Officers of an International Ornithological Congress. Election of Elected Members of the IOC Executive Committee is by simple majority vote of the members of the IOC present and voting at an IOC meeting from a list of nominations prepared by the Executive Committee Nominations Committee and presented to the IOC by the IOC Executive Committee. Nominations may be submitted by any member of the IOC; they must be in writing with adequate documentation and submitted to the IOC President, the IOC Secretary and the Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee prior to the next congress. The elected members of the IOC Executive Committee are eligible for re-election as Elected Members of the IOC Executive Committee for one additional term. No more than one of these Elected Members of the IOC Executive Committee may represent a single country, and the Elected Members of the IOC Executive Committee shall be elected with proper attention to an adequate international distribution in the IOC Executive Committee.

3. Term. The members of the IOC Executive Committee shall serve from the conclusion of the congress at which they are elected to the conclusion of the following congress.

4. Duties. During the intersessional period between two congresses, the IOC Executive Committee acts on the behalf of the IOC. The IOC Executive Committee has general responsibility for the scientific policy of the IOC, including the program of an International Ornithological Congress, as specified in Article V.4. of By-Laws.

At meetings of the IOC at an International Ornithological Congress, the IOC Executive Committee presents: (a) the nominations for the offices of IOC President, IOC Vice President, IOC Treasurer, IOC Secretary, and any Honorary Officers of an International Ornithological Congress, as well as the nominations of the Elected Members of the IOC Executive Committee; (b) a recommendation concerning the host country and organization for the next congress after due consideration of all invitations; (c) nominations for new members and associate members of the IOC with due consideration of Article II.2. of Statutes; (d) recommendations for re-election of resigned or lapsed IOC Members, as specified in Article II.5. of Statutes; and (e) advice and counsel concerning any other matters deemed to be of interest within the purview or among the responsibilities of the IOC.

Article V

The Council of the IOC

1. Membership. The seven member of the IOC Council comprise the IOC President, the IOC Vice President, the immediate IOC Past President, the IOC Treasurer, the IOC Secretary, the immediate Past Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, and the immediate Past Secretary-General of an International Ornithological Congress.

2. Term. The members of the IOC Council shall serve from the conclusion of the congress at which they are elected or appointed to the conclusion of the following congress.

3. Duties. During the intersessional period between two congresses, the IOC Council deals with immediate questions and problems that require concerted and fast actions. The IOC Council reports to the IOC Executive Committee.

Article VI

Amendment of the Statutes

1. Proposal of Amendment. Proposals to amend the Statutes require the signatures of at least five IOC Members from at least three countries and must be transmitted to the IOC President and the IOC Secretary at least twelve months before the next International Ornithological Congress. The IOC Secretary will distribute the proposed amendments to the members of the IOC Council and IOC Executive Committee and to the IOC Members at least four months prior to a congress. At the meeting of the IOC at a congress, the IOC Executive Committee will present its recommendation on each proposed amendment.

2. Adoption. Adoption of an amendment of the Statutes by the IOC requires a two-thirds majority vote of the IOC Members present and voting. Amendments become effective at the close of the congress at which they were adopted.
BY-LAWS

Article I
The Size and Composition of the IOC
The membership of the IOC shall not exceed 250 IOC Members (i.e., National Representatives). Associate, Emeriti and Emeritae Members are not counted in this limit (see Art. II.4. of Statutes). IOC Members must be residents of the country they represent.

Article II
Meetings of the IOC
1. Agenda. Prior to an International Ornithological Congress, the IOC, Emeriti and Emeritae Members shall receive an agenda of the IOC meetings from the IOC Secretary (see Art. III.F.3. of Statutes).
2. Attendance. IOC Members are requested to inform the IOC President and the IOC Secretary of their intention to attend the IOC meeting or to resign from the IOC.
3. Special meetings. The IOC, Emeriti and Emeritae Members shall receive an agenda and relevant information with the announcement of any special IOC meeting called by the IOC President.

Article III
Membership of the Executive Committee of the IOC
In addition to the officers specified in Article IV of Statutes, the International Ornithological Committee elects ten IOC Members to the IOC Executive Committee in accordance with Article IV.4. of Statutes.

Article IV
Membership of the Council of the IOC
Membership to the IOC Council is in accordance to Article V.1. of Statutes.

Article V
The International Ornithological Congresses
1. Frequency of an International Ornithological Congress. International Ornithological Congresses will be held at four-year intervals unless, for compelling reasons, the IOC, or the IOC Executive Committee acting on its behalf, deems otherwise.
2. Sites and dates of an International Ornithological Congress. The site and date of an International Ornithological Congress is determined during the preparation of an invitation by a host organization (see Art. V.8. of By-Laws) after consultations between the IOC Executive Committee and the host organization, and after due consideration of the interests and convenience of the IOC Members.
3. Attendance at and Participation in an International Ornithological Congress. Participation in an International Ornithological Congress shall be open to all professional and amateur ornithologists and students of avian biology without distinction as to their country of origin upon payment of the stated congress fee. Participation at a congress shall be in accordance with the general policies of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS).
4. The Scientific Program of an International Ornithological Congress. After consultation with the IOC Executive Committee and the host organization, the IOC President appoints the Scientific Program Committee and its Chair. The Scientific Program Committee consists of three or more members from the host country and five members from at least three other countries from various continents. The IOC President, the IOC Secretary, the Past Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, and the Secretary-General of the International Ornithological Congress are members of the Scientific Program Committee. The Chair of the Scientific Program Committee is responsible to the IOC Executive Committee for the scientific program of the congress.
5. The Organization of an International Ornithological Congress. The general organization of and the arrangements for a congress are the responsibilities of the Secretary-General of an International Ornithological Congress.
6. The Proceedings of an International Ornithological Congress. The Secretary-General of an International Ornithological Congress is responsible for the publication of the proceedings of the congress. The Secretary-General serves as editor of the proceedings or appoints an editor after obtaining concurrence from the IOC President.
7. Finances of an International Ornithological Congress. The Secretary-General of an International Ornithological Congress is the principal finance officer of a congress and, as such, is responsible for all financial matters of a congress. In consultation with the IOC President, the Secretary-General develops the budget of a congress and determines the congress fees. After all fiscal obligations have been settled, any surplus funds, including any from the proceedings, are turned over to the IOC Treasurer for inter-sessional activities, including the arrangements for the next congress (see Art. VI of By-Laws).
8. Hosting of Future International Ornithological Congresses. Upon request, the IOC Secretary shall provide information and guidelines for preparing and submitting such an invitation by a host organization. Invitations from national organizations to host an International Ornithological Congress should be sent to the IOC President and the IOC Secretary no later than six months before the congress at which their invitation will be considered and voted on by the IOC. The IOC President and the IOC Secretary shall send the invitations they received to the IOC Executive Committee for consideration and commenting. The IOC Executive Committee shall present the invitations to the IOC at its first meeting of a congress. The IOC votes on the host country of the next congress.

Article VI
Financial Affairs of the IOC
Until the IOC has attained the status of a tax-exempt organization, any funds remaining from an International Ornithological Congress (see Art. IV.7. of By-Laws), donations, and funds from foundations or granting agencies shall be collected in a special account established by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) on behalf of the IOC. The IOC Treasurer shall manage these funds that are to be used to fund the intersessional activities of the IOC. The IOC Treasurer shall report to the IOC President and submit regular reports to the IOC Executive Committee. The funds managed by the IOC Treasurer are strictly separate from the funds that are raised and managed by the Secretary-General to organize and support an International Ornithological Congress.

Article VII
Ad hoc Research Coordination Committees
1. Appointments. The Ad hoc Research Coordination Committees (RCCs) and their chairs are appointed by the IOC President in consultation with the IOC Vice President in accordance with Art. III.B.3. of Statutes after a vote by the IOC Executive Committee upon receipt of a written proposal by at least five ornithologists. Ornithologists wanting to join an RCC may contact the Chair of the particular RCC. The chairs of RCCs need to inform the IOC President and IOC Vice President of any changes in the membership of their RCCs and seek approval for these changes from the IOC President and IOC vice President.
2. Proposals. Proposals for the formation of an Ad hoc Research Coordination Committee should include a mission statement and guidelines for the operation of the committee and the dissemination of its proceedings, minutes, policies, and other products. Proposals for an Ad hoc Research Coordination Committee should be submitted to the IOC President, the IOC Vice President, and the IOC Secretary at least one year prior to an International Ornithological
3. **Composition.** *Ad hoc* Research Coordination Committees shall have a Chair and at least four other members with a balanced international representation.

4. **Duties.** The Chair of each *Ad hoc* Research Coordination Committee shall provide a written report on the committee’s activities to the IOC Vice President (see Art. III.B.3. of Statutes) at least six months prior to an International Ornithological Congress. This report will be made available to the IOC Executive Committee for comments and will serve as a basis for a recommendation by the IOC Executive Committee to the IOC President for reappointment of the particular *Ad hoc* Research Coordination Committee. All *Ad hoc* Research Coordination Committees must organize a Round-Table Discussion or a Symposium at each International Ornithological Congress on its functions and activities. The *Ad hoc* Research Coordination Committees shall recruit members for appointment by the IOC President in consultation with the IOC Vice President (see Art. III.B.3. of Statutes).

5. **Term.** The terms of *Ad hoc* Research Coordination Committees are in principle indefinite. However, failure to submit a report to the IOC Vice President will result in the dissolution of the particular *Ad hoc* Research Coordination Committee. A dissolved *Ad hoc* Research Coordination Committee may be reactivated upon the submission of a revised proposal to the IOC Vice President.

**Article VIII**

**Nominations Committees of the IOC**

A. **Executive Committee Nominations Committee.** The immediate IOC Past President shall normally serve as Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee. In case that he or she is unwilling or unable to accept this task, the IOC President appoints the Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee, as well as any committee members in consultation with the Chair.

B. **IOC Nominations Committee.** The immediate Past Chair of the Scientific Program Committee shall normally serve as Chair of the IOC Nominations Committee. In case that he or she is unwilling or unable to accept this task, the IOC President appoints the Chair of the IOC Nominations Committee, as well as any committee members in consultation with the Chair.

**Article IX**

**Amendment of the By-Laws**

1. **Proposal of amendment.** Proposals to amend the By-Laws require the signature of at least three IOC Members from at least three countries and must be transmitted to the IOC President and the IOC Secretary at least twelve months in advance of the next International Ornithological Congress. At least four months prior to a congress, the IOC Secretary shall distribute the proposed amendments to the IOC Members. At the meeting of the IOC at a congress, the IOC Executive Committee will present its recommendation on each proposed amendment.

2. **Adoption.** Adoption by the IOC of the proposed amendments of the By-Laws requires a simple majority vote of the IOC Members present and voting at an IOC meeting. Amendments become effective at the close of the congress at which they were adopted.

3. **Conflict with the Statutes.** No amendment of the By-Laws can be contrary to the Statutes.

**Appendix XII**

**A Proposal to form an International Federation of Ornithological Societies**

Avian biology is an international and integrative science bringing together professional researchers and teachers, amateurs and the public. There are numerous national, regional and local ornithological societies, and some integrate research and knowledge on avian biology at larger scales (e.g., Ornithological Societies of North America and the European Ornithologists’ Union). However, there is no global ornithological organization with the exception of the International Ornithological Congress (IOCCongress) held every four years [for the history of the IOC Committee, see Bock, W.J. 2004. Presidential address: three centuries of international ornithology. *Acta Zoologica Sinica*, 50 (6): 880–912]. The IOC Congress does not represent a “federation” of ornithological societies, but a periodic international gathering of avian biologists focused on promoting their science from molecules to ecosystems. Although the International Ornithological Committee probably represents most national and regional ornithological societies, the members are selected from as many different countries as possible to ensure global representation. The IOC Committee elects the President and Vice President of the IOCongress, and the Permanent Secretary and Executive Committee nurture the congress, including the future location of congresses, the scientific program, integration of research network committees, and revisions of the IOC Committee Statutes and By-Laws when necessary. The IOCongress has been highly successful in bringing together researchers in avian biology, educators, and conservation biologists, but there remains a need to form an international organization that provides a forum for international cooperation in avian biology, and a catalyst for bringing together international researchers and organizations. For such reasons, an International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS) is proposed to achieve these goals.

The International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS) will include the International Ornithological Congress and Committee and all its officers. At each Congress, the President and Vice President will be elected by the IOC Committee and will serve for four years (until the next Congress). The Permanent Secretary will remain as present. The Executive Committee (including the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee and the members of that committee) will be appointed by the President as is the case at present. It will also be necessary to elect a Treasurer who will be responsible for administrating current funds and coordinating and administrating collection of future funds and attraction of donations. The Treasurer should serve for four years and be elected at each congress by the IOC Committee. A position of Treasurer-elect is advised and will be able to assist and learn from the Treasurer to ensure greatest continuity.

The IOC Committee is currently made up of distinguished individual avian biologists from many nations. The IFOS will expand the IOC Committee to include at least one representative from each member society as well as the distinguished individuals already on the committee. Goals of the IFOS will be:

- To promote international research, education, and outreach in avian biology wherever possible.
- Stimulate and strengthen locally-based ornithological research, particularly in regions of economic and environmental stress.
- Foster knowledge transfer between basic research and applied sciences, such as conservation.
- Cultivate collegial, collaborative, mentoring, and mutually supportive relationships among ornithologists internationally and without restrictions imposed by any cultural or political differences.
- Encourage the participation of amateur ornithologists internationally.
- Represent the discipline of ornithology in scientific organizations and foundations internationally.
- Organize international ornithological congresses (IOCongresses) in four-year intervals.
- Appoint and support committees charged with specific tasks concordant with the goals of the IFOS.
Appendix XIII: Report of the AOU-IOC collaboration to assist the IOC transition into an International Federation of Ornithological Societies

A Proposal to the American Ornithologists’ Union

Thomas W. Sherry, American Ornithologists’ Union
Dominique G. Homberger, Secretary, International Ornithological Committee

Background

The International Ornithological Congress (IOC, hereafter called IOCongress) convenes every four years in a different country in support of ornithological research, international collaboration, and the building of local ornithological capacity. The IOC essentially reinvents itself every four years to hold a congress, except for the activities of the officers of the International Ornithological Committee (IOC, hereafter called IOCommittee) working to establish future venues and other activities in the intersessional years. The Executive Committee of the IOCommittee acts on behalf of the IOCommittee for maintaining the scientific policies of the IOCongress during the intersessional periods, including the scientific program of the forthcoming IOCongresses.

There is a problem in that the IOCommittee presently lacks any permanent, official financial and tax status, outside of the IOCongresses, a situation that precludes the kinds of fund-raising and other financial and administrative activities needed on an annual basis to further the IOCommittee’s mission, which is also the projected mission of the planned Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS) (see Appendix XII). For example, the IOCommittee cannot presently receive credit card or any other type of payments, or otherwise raise, transfer, or receive funds outside of the venue of individual congresses convened every four years in a different host country. Furthermore, the Secretary General of each IOCongress must undertake essentially anew all local fund-raising, which can be a daunting task in countries with the least economic means and the smallest ornithological infrastructure—precisely the kind of country most in need of hosting an IOCongress.

The IOCommittee has recognized that it needs to transform itself into an international society with a legal base and tax-exempt status, and has approached the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) for assistance with both short-term and a long-term assistance towards this goal. The short-term goal (i.e., until the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg, where the IOCommittee will vote on a new constitution) is to establish a not-for-profit entity, possibly to be affiliated with the AOU, which will help the IOCommittee receive and transfer funds that are needed for the selection and preparatory activities of the next, namely the 25th IOCongress to be held in 2010 and for the activities of the officers of the IOCommittee. In addition, there is an urgent need of funds for helping delegates from low-income countries to attend IOCongresses. The number of delegates from such countries is still desperately low and will presumably still decrease if a self-sustaining system for supporting their participation financially is not established. The longer-term goal is the transformation of the IOCommittee into an autonomous, formal Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS) (see Appendix XII) with a membership and donor base to further its mission both financially and programmatically.

Rationale

The IOCommittee has reached a critical moment in its 122 years of existence. Past and present officers have realized that the IOCommittee’s lack of permanent legal and non-profit status is a problem and that this problem needs to be addressed. Based on the report by the ad hoc Finance Committee [Report by the IOC ad hoc Finance Committee, submitted to the IOCommittee by Tim Wood, Chair, on 10 May 2002. See: Homberger, D.G. 2006. Official report of the International Ornithological Committee, 23rd International Ornithological Congress, at the Beijing International Convention Center, Beijing, 11–17 August 2002. Acta Zoologica Sinica, 52 (Supplement): 1–30] of the IOCommittee, the Executive Committee must address the development of a federation, or whatever it wishes to become, to be discussed formally during the upcoming IOCongress in Hamburg, Germany, 12–19 August 2006.

The IOCongresses have grown larger over time, but have traditionally been held in relatively wealthy countries, such as North America, China, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe, where fund-raising for congresses is relatively easy (see also Bock, W.J. 2004. Presidential address: three centuries of international ornithology. Acta Zoologica Sinica, 50 (6): 880–912). A major goal of the IOCommittee, however, is to hold more congresses in countries with diverse avifaunas, and with the need and desire for international collaboration in building local ornithological research and conservation strengths. For example, the Sociiedade Brasileira de Ornitologia (SBO, Brazilian Society of Ornithology) has currently submitted to the IOCommittee a proposal to host the 25th IOCongress in 2010, but the financial means to assist the SBO in developing its proposal, and—if its bid is accepted—begin to organize the congress have been and are currently lacking at the level of the IOCommittee. Because a goal of the AOU has been to develop outreach and to build capacity of international ornithological groups, especially in the Western Hemisphere, the timing is propitious for the AOU and the IOCommittee to collaborate formally. Both research and conservation of birds can be strengthened greatly by more direct ties between these two premier ornithological organizations with international interests.

Formal ties between the AOU and IOC may also provide the first step towards a federation of ornithological societies by creating the conditions for the AOU to become the first charter member of the planned IFOS. This first step would serve as a model for other ornithological societies to join the IFOS once it has been established as a formal organization. Already at this point in time, the newly-founded Indonesian Ornithologists’ Union (IdOU) has expressed a desire to join the IOCommittee in a more formal manner, and there is anecdotal evidence that other ornithological societies will be eager to join the IFOS.

1 Draft Mission Statement of the International Ornithological Committee and the planned International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS). IFOS seeks to support, promote, and advance scientific research and collaboration in ornithology and to disseminate its results globally. In pursuing these goals, the IFOS tries to stimulate and strengthen locally-based ornithological research, particularly in regions of economic and environmental stress; to foster knowledge transfer between basic research and applied sciences, such as conservation; to cultivate collegial, collaborative, mentoring and mutually supportive relationships among ornithologists internationally and without restrictions imposed by any cultural or political differences; to encourage the participation of amateur ornithologists internationally; and to represent the discipline of ornithology in scientific organizations and foundations internationally. The IFOS is pursuing these goals by organizing international ornithological congresses (IOCIs) in four-year intervals and by appointing and supporting committees charged with specific tasks concordant with the goals of the IFOS.

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Springer
Proposal

The proposal being put forward herein is to use the AOU’s expertise and present status as a tax-exempt 501-C-3 organization, which is incorporated within the USA, to provide a temporary home for the IOC Committee/IFOS, to facilitate fund raising, receiving and disbursement of funds, and other related administrative tasks. Specifically, we propose the following actions, which can be facilitated by the expertise within the firm of Burk & Associates, Inc.<www.BurkInc.com> in affiliation with the AOU:

- Establish a separate financial account within the AOU to administer IOCCommittee/IFOS funds
- Protect the AOU financially from any future liability or loss of funds as a result of any such IOCCommittee/IFOS account
- Establish an administrative structure comprised of both AOU and IOCCommittee/IFOS members who would jointly administer any such accounts, and to organize such activities relevant to these accounts as are mutually acceptable to both organizations
- Use the legal and financial expertise of Burk & Associates, Inc.<www.BurkInc.com> with initial financial assistance through the AOU, to help the IOCCommittee/IFOS raise and disburse funds from its own account based in the USA
- Take advantage of expertise within the AOU to help the IOCCommittee/IFOS become established as a permanent international entity within two years, so that it is capable of operating financially independently of the AOU

Appendix XIII: Attachment 7

Position of the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) regarding its assistance to the IOC (International Ornithological Committee) and the planned International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS)

A Proposal submitted by James Kushlan (AOU President) and Thomas Sherry (AOU Council)

18 July 2006

Preamble: The statement below clarifies and asserts the AOU’s position regarding its offer of assistance to the IFOS. The AOU in no way wants to pre-empt any other national or other ornithological group from helping out or from participating in the process of creating the IFOS. If the IOC decides to move forward with the creation of a tax-exempt organization in the United States, however, then the AOU is in a good position to assist with this project.

Statement: The AOU stands ready to assist the IOC in its evolution into a stand-alone federation with a principal mission to organize its quadrennial worldwide congresses. Specifically, the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) Council voted at its April 1, 2006, meeting to offer its administrative services to the IOC in several specific ways. Firstly, it recognizes the necessity of establishing an International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS), or equivalent, which will be a stand-alone organization with a membership of national ornithological societies and individuals, and with its own tax-exempt status in the United States to pursue the mission of organizing on the IOC. Secondly, until the independent federation is established, the AOU is willing to receive funds targeted for international ornithological activities. Due to US tax laws, it should be understood that such funds are to be considered as donations to the AOU international mission, and that the AOU Council alone has the authority subsequently to vote on the disbursement of these funds to an appropriate ornithological entity in support of international ornithological activities. The IOC can be assured that the AOU, in following the tax-law in the US, will ensure that the wishes of the donors will be respected. Thirdly, insofar as the handling of international funds and money transfers has associated costs, the AOU Council reserves the right to use part of the donated funds to cover the costs of handling the funds on behalf of the IOC. Fourthly, the AOU Council considers the proposed arrangement to assist the IOC by accepting donations to be temporary, for a maximum of two years, by which time the IOC would be expected to have secured its own non-profit status and other necessary organizational structure. And finally, the AOU encourages the IOC to contract with the AOU’s management firm, BAI, to assist in establishing an US corporate entity.

Appendix XIV

Original agenda of the meetings of the IOCCommittee

The first IOC meeting will be held on Sunday, August 13, 2006, at 9:00am-5:00pm in Room #6. The second meeting will be held on Friday, August 17, 2006, at 2:30pm in Room #6.

1. Opening and welcome by IOC President Jacques Blondel (15 minutes)
2. Reading of the names of the IOC members who were elected at the 23rd IOC Congress in Beijing 2002 (by IOC President Jacques Blondel). The new IOC members are to rise as their names are read. (10 minutes)
3. Reading of the names of IOC members who have died since the 23rd IOC Congress in Beijing 2002 (by IOC President Jacques Blondel). Moment of silence. (5 minutes)
4. Report by IOC President Jacques Blondel (15 minutes)
5. Welcome and report by the Secretary-General of the IOC, Franz Bairlein. (15 minutes)
6. Report by IOC Secretary Dominique Homburger, including possible invitations for the 26th IOC in 2014. (10 minutes)
7. Report by the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, Susan Hannon. (20 minutes)
8. Presentation by Eduardo de Juana of the invitation by Spain for the 25th IOC Congress in 2010. (15 minutes)
9. Presentation by Cristina Miyaki of the invitation by Brazil for the 25th IOC Congress in 2010. (15 minutes)
10. Recommendation of the EC for the site of the next congress. (5 minutes)
11. Discussion of and vote on the site for the 25th International Ornithological Congress in 2010. (15 minutes)
12. Report by the Chair of the Executive Committee Nominations Committee, Fred Cooke, on nominations of officers: IOC President, IOC Vice President, IOC Secretary, Honorary Officers, and elected members of the Executive Committee for 2006-2010. (30 minutes)
13. Discussion of and vote on the nominees for the Executive Committee. (15 minutes)
14. Report by the Chair of the IOC Nominations Committee, Fernando Spina, on the nominations of National Representatives and Associate Members of the IOC Committee. (20 minutes)
15. Discussion of and vote on the nominees for the IOC. Note: The Statutes will have to be suspended for the vote on the Associate Members, because the current Statutes do not include this type of membership; the creation of such a membership will be discussed under Agenda #18. (15 minutes)
16. Report by IOC Vice President John Wingfield on his Committee’s review of and recommendations for the IOC Standing Committees. (30 minutes)
17. Presentation by IOC President Jacques Blondel on the need for an International Federation of Ornithological Societies (IFOS) and for amendments of the IOC Statutes and By-laws. (15 minutes)
18. Presentation of mission of proposed IFOS by IOC Vice-President John Wingfield. (10 minutes)

19. Report by Thomas Sherry (Council of the American Ornithologists' Union) on the plans for an interim solution for handling funds for the IOC (separately from those of the congress) until the IOC has become a tax-exempt organization. (20 minutes)

20. Discussion of and vote on the amendments of the amended IOC Statutes: (1) IOC account managed by American Ornithologists' Union until tax-exempt status has been reached; (2) Appointment of IOC Treasurer by IOC President; (3) Establishment of Research Coordination Committees (RCCs); (4) associate membership of IOC; (5) emeriti and emeritae members.

21. Discussion of and vote on the proposal for an IFOS.

22. Presentation by the Co-Chairs of the Resolutions Committee Eberhard Curio and Michael Rands. (5 minutes)

23. Old Business, if any.


a. Publication mode of the IOC proceedings (Soekarja Somadikarta)

b. Announcement of the completion of the work of the Standing Committee to establish a list of English names for birds of the world. This Standing Committee was established at the 1990 IOC in Christchurch with Burt Monroe as chair, and later with Frank Gill as chair. The list is currently being published by Princeton University Press. (Walter Bock)

25. Acceptance of the minutes of the IOC meeting in Beijing 2002.

Appendix XV:
Attendance list for the IOCCommittee meeting at the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg, 13 August 2006

*Alatalo, Rauno Veli
*Alves, Maria Alice dos Santos
Antas, Paulo de Tarso Z.
Bairlein, Franz
Bankovics, Attila
Bech, Claus
*Becker, Peter H.
Berthold, Peter
Blondel, Jacques
Bock, Walter J.
Böhning-Gaese, Katrin
Boles, Walter
Bruderer, Bruno
Burger, Joanna
Clarke, Michael F.
Cockrem, John F.
Cooke, Fred
Curio, Eberhard
*de Juana, Eduardo
Ding, Ping
Ding, Changhai
Donatelli, Reginaldo José
Ekman, Jan B.
*Elzanowski, Andrzej
*Ericson, Per
Ferry, Camille
*Fiedler, Wolfgang
Fjeldså, Jon
Foster, Mercedes
*Fußlagar, Peter
Hannon, Susan
Higuchi, Hirojoshi
Hölling, Elizabeth
Hoi, Herbert

Homberger, Dominique G.
Jenni, Lukas
Kang, Nee
Lebedeva, Natalia
Lei, Fu-min
Lein, M. Ross
Leshem, Yossi
Louette, Michel
Martens, Jochen
Miyaki, Cristina Yumi
Moreno, Juan
Pinshow, Berry
Ramenošky, Marilyn
Robertson, Christopher J. R.
Saether, Bernt-Erik
Saurola, Perti Lauri
Schodde, Richard
Slagsvold, Tore
Spina, Fernando
Temple Lang, John
Tomialojc, Ludwik
Van Noordwijk, Arie J.
Viksne, Janis
Violan, Carlo
Vuilleumier, François
Weimerskirch, Henri
Wesolowski, Tomasz
Wingfield, John C.
Winkler, Hans
Zheng, Zhengwang
Zheng, Guang-mei

*Nominees for IOCCommittee membership

Appendix XVI:
List of IOC members who were unable to attend the meetings of the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg in 2006 (as of 13 August 2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Committee Membership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carey, Cynthia</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>IOC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craig, John</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>IOC</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Croxall, John</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>EC</td>
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<td>Diamond, Anthony</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>IOC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Futehally, Zafar</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>IOC</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Gauthier, Gilles</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>IOC</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Glutz von Blotzheim,</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>IOC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urs</td>
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<td>Gowaty, Patricia</td>
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<td>IOC</td>
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<td>Nancy</td>
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<td>Kikkawa, Jiro</td>
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<td>Ketterson, Ellen D.</td>
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<td>IOC</td>
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<td>Kurlavicius, Petras</td>
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<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>IOC</td>
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<td>Kurochkin, Evgeny</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Russia</td>
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<td>Kushlan, Jim</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>IOC</td>
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<tr>
<td>(AOU President)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monaghan, Patricia</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>IOC</td>
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<td>(only 13 August)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morioka, Hiroyuki</td>
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<td>Perrins, Christopher</td>
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<td>Pinowski, Jan</td>
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<td>Poonsawad, Pilai</td>
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<td>EC</td>
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<td>Ramos, Mario Olmos</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>IOC</td>
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<td>Sutherland, William</td>
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</table>

L = lapsed member, NR = national representative or full member, S = senior member, EC = Executive Committee, IOC = IOCCommittee

Appendix XVII
List of donors contributing to the fund for the planned IFOS (as of August 31, 2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Membership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bankovics, Attila</td>
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<td>Bird, David M.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook, Fred</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gichuki, Nathan and Cecilia</td>
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<td>Gosler, Andrew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hegelbach, Johann</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pietz, Pamela</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix XVIII

IOC Resolution: Vote of Thanks, presented by Eberhard Curio and Michael Rands, Co-Chairs of the IOC Resolutions Committee

AWARE of the importance of a well-equipped and efficiently managed setting in achieving the demanding objectives of an International Ornithological Congress;

EMPHASIZING that a congenial and friendly atmosphere also contributes immensely to such a meeting’s successful outcome;

NOTING with appreciation that these conditions were met in full at the 24th International Ornithological Congress, held in Hamburg;

The International Ornithological Congress at its 24th meeting in Hamburg, Germany, 13–19 August 2006:

1. EXPRESSES its warmest thanks to the German Ornithologists’ Society (Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft) and the Institute of Avian Research “Vogelwarte Helgoland” (Wilhelmshaven) for so generously hosting the 24th International Ornithological Congress;

2. CONVEYS its gratitude for the support of the Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU), the European Ornithologists’ Union, and the First Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg;

3. COMMUNICATES particular thanks to the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research for its patronage;

4. RECORDS its appreciation to the Government and people of Germany for their gracious hospitality and warm welcome;

5. ACKNOWLEDGES with gratitude the dedicated support provided by the local organizing committee, and the sponsorship provided by:

Bahlens

Christ Media Natur

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Council)

Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft (German Ornithologists’ Society)

Deutsche Wildtierstiftung

Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

Heinz Sielmann Stiftung

Dr. Luc Hoffmann

Institute of Avian Research

Lynx Edition

Dr. Til Macke

MCE Gebäudetechnik

m+w zander

Dr. Lester Short

Springer Science

University of Hamburg

Volkswagen AG

ZEISS Sports Optics

Appendix XIX

In memoriam (for updates, see < www.i-o-c.org >)

IOCommittee members whose passing became known between the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing, August 2002, and the 24th IOCongress in Hamburg, August 2006.


de Bont, Antoon: 1916–April 16, 2003. Senior Member (Belgium).


vii+109 pp, including a DVD “A taped interview with Ernst Mayr”.


Appendix XX

Executive Committee of the IOCommittee 2006–2010

President: John Wingfield
Vice-President: Les Underhill
Secretary: Dominique G. Homberger
Treasurer: Thomas Sherry

10 elected members of the Executive Committee:

Continuing:

Sue Hannon (Canada)
Elisabeth Höfling (Brazil)
François Vuilleumier (USA)

New:

Tomasz Wesolowski (Poland)
Hiroshi Nakamura (Japan)
Mick Clout (New Zealand)
Ping Ding (China)
Charles Mlingwa (Tanzania)
Erik Matthysen (Belgium)
Patricia Escalante (Mexico)

Honorary President: Soekarja Somadikarta (Indonesia)

Honorary Vice-Presidents:

Richard Schodde (Australia)
Zafar Futehally (India)

Patron: Luc Hoffmann (France/Switzerland)

Appendix XXI

List of IOCommittee members by categories and countries

(as of August 30, 2006, for updates, see <www.i-o-c.org>)

Senior Members (* elected in 2006)

Australia

Fullagar*, Peter. CSIRO, Sustainable Ecosystems, 5 D’Arcey Place, Chifley, ACT 2606

Kikkawa, Jiro. University of Queensland, School of Life Sciences, St. Lucia, Brisbane, QLD 4072

Mees, Gerlof F. 31 West Street, Busselton, WA 6280

Rowley, Ian Cecil Robert. 53 Swan Street, Guildford Perth, Western Australia 6055

Schodde, Richard. Australian Biological Resources Study, Environment Australia, GPO Box 787, Australian National Botanic Gardens (Franklin Building), Canberra City ACT 2601

Austria


Thaler, Ellen, Alpenzoo Innsbruck-Tirol, Weiherburggasse 37, A-6020 Innsbruck

Belarus

Ivanovsky, Vladimir V. BOOR, Lenina Street 26/2, Vitebsk 210015

Belgium

Boag, David A. 6746 Amwell Drive, Brentwood Bay, British Columbia V8M 1A4

Erskine, Anthony J. 16 Richardson Street, Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 4H6

Falls, J. Bruce. 14 Tottenham Road, Toronto, Ontario, M3C 2J4

Keast, J. Allen, Queen’s University, Department of Biology, Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6

McNeil, Raymond. Université de Montréal, Département des Sciences biologiques, C.P. 6128, Succ. Centre-ville, Montréal, Québec H3C 3J7

China

Xu, Wei-shu. Beijing Commission for Science & Technology, 1–1–302 Apt., 30 Lin Nan Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100037
Switzerland
Géroutet, Paul. Avenue de Champel 37, CH-1206 Genève
Glutz von Blotzheim, Urs. Kappelmatth, Herrenngasse 56, CH-6430 Schwyz
Schifferli, Alfred. Im Wygart, CH-6204 Sempach

The Netherlands
Zweers, Gart A. University of Leiden, Institute of Evolutionary and Ecological Sciences, Kaiserstraat 63, P.O. Box 9516, NL-2300 RA Leiden

Uganda
Pomeroy, Derek. Makerere University, Institute of Environment and Natural Resources, P.O Box 7298 Kampala, Kampala

United Kingdom
Burton, Philip J. K. High Kelton, Doctors Commons Road, Berkhampsted, Herts., HP4 3DW
Cooke, Fred. Larkins Cottage, 6 Lynn Road, Castle Rising, Norfolk PE31 6AB
Perrins, Christopher M. Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology, Department of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS
Snow, David W. The Old Forge, Wingrave, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP22 4PD

Uruguay
Vaz-Ferreira, Raul. Faculdad de Ciencias, Sección Zoología Vertebrados, Calle Tristán Narvaja 1674, Montevideo C.P. 11200

USA
Balda, Russell P. Northern Arizona University, Department of Biological Sciences, Box 5640, Flagstaff, AZ 86001–5640
Bock, Walter J. Columbia University, Department of Biological Sciences, 1212 Amsterdam Ave., P.O. Box 2431, New York, NY 10027
Holmes, Richard T. Dartmouth College, Department of Biological Sciences, Hanover, NH 03755
James, Frances C. Florida State University, Department of Biological Sciences, Tallahassee, FL 32306
Kushlan*, James. P.O Box 2008, Key Biscayne FL 33149
Raylor, Melvin A. Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL, 60605–2496
Vuilleumier, François, 21 Piernmont Place, Piernont, NY 10968
Woolfenden, Glen E. Archbold Biological Station, 123 Main Street, Sydney, NSW 2010

National Representatives (* elected in 2006)

Argentina
Bucher, Enrique H. Universidad Nacional de Cordoba, Centro de Zoologia Aplicada, Casilla de Correos 122, Cordoba 5000
Reboreda*, Juan Carlos. Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Departamento de Ecología Genética y Evolución, Pabellón II Ciudad Universitaria, C1428EHJ Buenos Aires

Australia
Boles, Walter. Australian Museum, Bird Section, 6 College Street, Sydney, NSW 2010
Buttemer, William A. University of Wollongong, Department of Biological Sciences, Wollongong, NSW 2522
Clarke, Michael F. La Trobe University, Department of Zoology, Bundoora, Victoria 3086

Austria
Dittami, John. Universität Wien, Institut für Zoologie, Althanstrasse 14, A-1090 Wien
Gamauf*, Anita. Museum of Natural History Vienna, Department of Vertebrate Zoology - Ornithology, Burgring 7, A-1010 Vienna
Hoi, Herbert. Austrian Academy of Sciences, Konrad Lorenz Institut für Vergleichende Verhaltensforschung, Savoyenstrasse 1A, A-1160 Wien

Belgium
Devillers, Pierre. Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Rue Vautier 29, B-1040 Bruxelles
Louette, Michel. Royal Museum for Central Africa, Department of African Zoology, Leuvensesteenweg 13, B-3080 Tervuren
Matthysen, Erik. University of Antwerp, Department of Biology, Laboratory of Animal Ecology, Campus Drie Eiken, Universiteitsplein 1, B-2610 Antwerp

Brazil
Alves*, Maria Alice dos Santos. Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Departamento de Ecologia, IBrag, 524 Rua São Francisco Xavier, RJ, 20550-011 Rio de Janeiro
Antas, Paulo de Tarso Z. Ipê Consultoria em Meio Ambiente Ltda., PQN 408, Bloco A, apt. 112, Brasília, DF 70856–010
Donatelli, Reginaldo José. Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP), Department of Biological Sciences, P. O. Box 473, Bauru, SP 17001–970
Höfling, Elizabeth. Universidade de São Paulo, Instituto do Biodiversidade, Departamento de Zoologia, Rua do Matão, Travessa 14 n. 101, São Paulo, SP 05422–970
Miyaki, Cristina Yumi. Universidade de São Paulo, Instituto de Biodiversidade, Departamento de Genética de Biologia Evolutiva, Rua do Matão 277, São Paulo, SP 05508–090

Canada
Baker, Allan John. Royal Ontario Museum, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, 100 Queen’s Park, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6
Barlow, Jon C. Royal Ontario Museum, Department of Ornithology, 100 Queen’s Park, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6
Bird, David M. McGill University, Avian Science and Conservation Centre, 21,111 Lakeshore Road, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Québec H9X 3V9
Boag, Peter. Queen’s University, Department of Biology, Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6
Gauthier, Gilles. Université Laval, Département de Biologie and Centre d’Études Nordiques, Pavillon Vachon, Québec G1K 7P4
Hannon, Susan. University of Alberta, Department of Biological Sciences, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E9
Lein, M. Ross. University of Calgary, Department of Biological Sciences, 2500 University Drive N.W., Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4
Martin, Kathy. University of British Columbia, Department of Forest Sciences, Main Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z4
Italy
Fusani*, Leonida, Università di Siena, Fisiologia, Via Aldo Moro, I-53100 Siena
Gagliardo*, Anna, University of Pisa, Department of Biology, Via Volta, 6, I-56126 Pisa
Saino, Nicola. Università degli Studi di Milano, Facoltà di Scienze Matematiche, Fisiche e Naturali, Dipartimento di Biologia, Via Celoria 26, I-20133 Milano
Spina, Fernando. Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica, Via Ca’ Fornacetta, 9, I-40064 Ozzano, Emilìa (Bologna)
Violani, Carlo. Università di Pavia, Dipartimento di Biologia Animale, Piazza Botta 9, I-27100 Pavia

Japan
Higuchi, Hiroyoshi. University of Tokyo, Laboratory of Biodiversity Science, School of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Yayoi 1–1–1, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113–8657
Ishida, Ishiken. University of Tokyo, Department of Ecosystem Studies, 1–1–1 Yayoi, Bunkyo-ku, Nagaku 1, Tokyo 113–8657
Nakamura, Hiroshi. Shinshu University, Faculty of Education, Nishinagano, Nagano 380
Nishiumi*, Isao. National Science Museum Tokyo, Department of Zoology, 3–23–1 Hyakunin-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 169–0073
Takagi*, Masaoki. Osaka City University, Department of Biology, 3–3–138 Sugimoto, Sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka, 558–8585
Ueda*, Keisuke. Rikkyo University, Laboratory of Animal Ecology, Department of Life Sciences, 3–34–1 Nishikikubukuro 4, Toshima-ku, Tokyo, 171–8501
Wada, Masaru. Tokyo Medical and Dental University, College of Arts and Sciences, 2–8–30 Kohokudai, Ichikawashi–chi, Chiba 272–0827
Yamagishi, Satoshi. Kyoto University, Graduate School of Science, Department of Zoology, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606–8502
Yoshi, Masashi. Yamashina Institute of Ornithology, Bird Migration Research Center, 115 Konoyma Abiko, Chiba 270–1145

Kazakhstan
Levin, Anatoliy. Institute of Zoology, Ministry of Education and Science, Ornithology, 93 Al-Faraby Street, Almaty 480065

Kenya
Gichuki, Nathan N. University of Nairobi, School of Biological Sciences, P. O. Box 30197, Nairobi, 00100 GPO

Lithuania
Kurlavičius, Petras. Vilnius Pedagogical University, Faculty of Natural Sciences, 39 Studentu Street, Vilnius, LT–08106

Malaysia
Hussin*, Mohamed Zakaria. University Putra Malaysia, Faculty of Forestry, 43400 Serdang, Selangor

Mexico
Escalante-Piego, Patricia. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Instituto de Biología, Departamento de Zoología, Colección Nacional de Aves, Jefa del Departamento de Zoología, 04510 México City, D.F.
Navarro-Siguenza, Adolfo G. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Facultad de Ciencias, Museo de Zoología “Alfonso L. Herrera”, Apartado Postal 70–399, Segundo Piso Edificio B, 04510 México City D.F.

Nambia
Brown, Christopher J. Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Directorate of Environment Affairs, Private Bag 13306, Windhoek 9000

New Zealand
Bell, Benjamin. Victoria University of Wellington, School of Biological Sciences, Post Office Box 600, 709 New Kirk Building, Kelburn Campus, Wellington

Clout, Michael. University of Auckland, School of Biological Sciences, Tamaki Campus, Morrin Road, Glen Innes, Auckland 733, Private Mail Bag 92019, Auckland
Cockrem, John F. Massey University, Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, Conservation Endocrinology Research Group, Palmerston North
Davis, Lloyd. University of Otago, Department of Zoology, P. O. Box 56, Dunedin
Williams, Murray. Victoria University of Wellington, School of Biological Sciences, P. O. Box 600, 618 Kirk Building, Kelburn Campus, Wellington

Norway
Bech, Claus. Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Department of Biology, Realfagsbygget, NO-7491 Trondheim
Saether, Bernt-Erik. Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Department of Biology, Realfagsbygget, NO-7491 Trondheim
Slagsvold, Tore. University of Oslo, Department of Biology, P. O. Box 1050, Blindern, NO-0316 Oslo

Poland
Konarzewski, Marek. University of Białystok, Institute of Biology, Swierkowa 2OB, POB 109, PL–15950 Białystok
Wesołowski, Tomasz. Wrocław University, Department of Avian Ecology, Sienkiewicz 21, PL–50335 Wrocław

Romania
Kalabér, László V. 4225 Reghin County Mures Street, Eminescu 26

Russia
Andreev, Alexander V. Far-East Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Biological Problems of the North, Laboratory of Ornithology, Karl Marx ul. 24, 68510 Magadan
Bolshakov, Caismir. Zoological Institute of the National Academy of Sciences, Biological Station Rybachy, 238535 Rybachy, Kaliningrad Region
Ilyichev, Valery D. Russian Academy of Sciences, A. N. Severtcov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Laboratory of Avian Ecology and Behavior Control, Lenskii Prospect 33, 119071 Moscow
Ivanitski*, Vladimir. Moscow State University, Biological Faculty, Vorobyovy Gory, 119899 Moscow
Lebedeva, Natalia. Southern Scientific Center, Russian Academy of Sciences, Department of Marine and Ecosystem Research, Chekhova 41, 344006 Rostov on Don
Popovkina*, Anastasia. Biological Faculty of the Lomonosov Moscow State University, Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Vorobyovy Gory, 119992 Moscow
Tomkovich, Pavel S. Moscow Lomonosov State University, Zoological Museum, Bolshaya Nikitskaya Street 6, 125009 Moscow
Zubakin, Victor. Russian Academy of Sciences, A. N. Severtcov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Lenskii Prospect 33, 119071 Moscow

Singapore
Kang, Nee. Mediacorp Radio Singapore PTE LTD, Yishun Street 61, #07-366, Building No. 647, 760647 Singapore
Sodhi*, Navjot S. National University of Singapore, Department of Biological Sciences, 14 Science Drive 4, Singapore 117543
Slovakia
Kristin, Anton. Institute of Forest Ecology SAS, Department of Animal Ecology, Sturova 2, SK-96053 Zvolen

South Africa
Berruti, Aldo. African Gamebird Research Education and Development Trust, Executive Director, P. O. Box 87070, Houghton 2041, Johannesburg
Crowe, Timothy M. University of Cape Town, Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7700
Du Plessis, Morné A. University of Cape Town, Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7701
Kemp, Alan. Postnet Suite #38, Private Bag X 19, Menlo Park 0102
Underhill, Leslie Gordon. University of Cape Town, Avian Demography Unit, Department of Statistical Sciences, Rondebosch 7701

Spain
de Juana*, Eduardo. Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Zoología y Antropología Física, José Antonio Novais, 2, E-28040 Madrid
del Hoyo*, Josep. Lynx Edicions, Editor, Handbook of the Birds of the World, Montseny 8, E-08193 Bellaterra, Barcelona
Merino, Santiago. Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid (CSIC), Departamento de Ecología Evolutiva, José Gutiérrez Abascal 2, E-28006 Madrid
Moreno, Juan. Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (CSIC), Departamento de Ecología Evolutiva, José Gutiérrez Abascal 2, E-28006 Madrid
Oro, Daniel. Instituto Mediterrani d’Estudis Avançats IMDEA (CSIC-UIB), Interdisciplinary Oceanography, 21 Miquel Marques, E-07910 Esplugues
Soler, Manuel. Universidad de Granada, Facultad de Ciencias, Departamento de Biología Animal y Ecología, Campus Universitario Fuente Nueva S/N, E-18071 Granada

Sweden
Ekman, Jan B. Uppsala University Evolutionary Biology Centre, Department of Ecology and Evolution, Population Biology, Norbyvägen 18 D, SE-75236 Uppsala
Ericson*, Per. Swedish Museum of Natural History, Department of Vertebrate Zoology, P.O. Box 50007, SE-10405 Stockholm
Silverin, Bengt. University of Gothenburg, Department of Zoology, Zoomorphology, Box 463, SE 40530 Gothenburg
Smith, Henrik. Lund University, Department of Animal Ecology, Ecology Building, SE-22362 Lund

Switzerland
Bruderer, Bruno. Schweizerische Vogelwarte Sempach, Migration Department, Head, Luzernerstrasse, CH-6204 Sempach
Hegelbach, Johann. Zoologisches Museum der Universität Zürich-Irchel, Wissenschaftliche Abteilungen, Winterthurstrasse 190, CH-8057 Zürich
Jenni, Lukas. Schweizerische Vogelwarte Sempach, Luzernerstrasse, CH-6204 Sempach
Keller*, Lukas F. University of Zurich, Zoological Museum, Winterthurstrasse 190, CH-8057 Zürich
Schaub*, Michael. Schweizerische Vogelwarte Sempach, Luzernerstrasse, CH-6204 Sempach

Taiwan
Severinghaus, Lucia Liu. Academia Sinica, Research Center for Biodiversity, 128 Sec. II, Yen-chiu-yuan Road, Taipei, Taiwan, 115

Tanzania
Mlingwa, Charles. Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, P.O. Box 661, Arusha

Thailand
Poonsawad, Plai. Mahidol University, Faculty of Science, Department of Microbiology, Rama 6 Road, Bangkok 10400

The Netherlands
Drent, Rudi H. Rijksuniversity Groningen, Zoological Laboratory, Kerklaan 30, Box 14, NL-Haren, Groningen
Piersma, Theunis. Rijksuniversity Groningen, Zoological Laboratory, Kerklaan 30, Box 14, NL-Haren, Groningen
Spanns, Arie L. Institute for Forestry and Nature Research, P.O. 23, NL-6700 AA Wageningen
van Noordwijk, Arie J. Netherlands Institute of Ecology, Department of Animal Population Biology, Boterhockestraat 48, NL-6666 GA Heteren

Uganda
Dranzooa, Christine. Makerere University, Department of Wildlife and Animal Resources Management (WARM), Box 10066, P.O. Box 7062, Kampala

United Kingdom
Croxall, John P. Natural Environment Research Council, British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingly Road, Cambridge CB3 0ET
Feare, Chris. 2 North View Cottages, Graveswood Common, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2DN
Gosler, Andrew G. Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology, Department of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PS
Monaghan, Patricia. University of Glasgow, Environmental and Evolutionary Biology, Graham Kerr Building, Glasgow G12 8QQ, Scotland
Newton, Ian. Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wook Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE17 2L5
Parkin, David T. School of Medicine, Department of Genetics, 151 Nottingham Road, Trowell, Notts NG9 3PN
Rands, Michael. Birdlife International, Welbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA
Sutherland, William. University of Cambridge, Department of Zoology, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EJ

USA
Burger, Joanna. Rutgers University, Division of Life Science, 604 Allison Road, Nelson Labs, Piscataway, NJ 08854-8082
Carey, Cynthia. University of Colorado, Department of Integrative Physiology, Campus Box 354, Clare Small 113, Boulder, CO 80309-0354
Fitzpatrick, John W. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
Foster, Mercedes. USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, PO Box 37012, 10th and Constitution NW, Room 378 MRC 111, Washington, DC 20013-7012
Gill, Frank B. National Audubon Society, Department of Science, Almshouse Road, Ivyland, PA 18974
Gowaty, Patricia Adair. University of Georgia, Institute of Ecology, 517 Biological Sciences Building, Athens, GA 30602-2602
Homberger, Dominique G. Louisiana State University, Department of Biological Sciences, 202 Life Sciences Building, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-1715
Ketterson, Ellen D. Indiana University, Department of Biology, 1001 East Third Street, Jordan Hall, Bloomington, IN 47405
Peterson, A. Townsend. Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center, Ornithology, Jayhawk Blvd., Dyche Hall, Lawrence, KS 66045
Pietz, Pamela J. U. S. Geological Survey, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, 8711 37th Street Southeast, Jamestown, ND 58401
Ramenofsky, Marilyn. University of Washington, Department of Biology, Box 351800, 524 Kincaid Hall, Seattle, WA 98195
Ramos-Olmos, Mario. Global Environment Facility (GEF), Department of Biodiversity, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20433
Ricklefs, Robert. University of Missouri-St. Louis, Department of Biology, 8001 Natural Bridge Road, 223 Research Building, St. Louis, MO 63121-4499
Root, Terry. Stanford University, Department of Biological Sciences, Encina Hall E411, Stanford, CA 94305-6055
Sherry*, Thomas. Tulane University, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, 6055 General Meyer Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70131
Wingfield, John C. University of Washington, Department of Biology, Box 351800, Seattle, WA 98195

Venezuela
Bosque, Carlos. Universidad Simon Bolivar, Departamento Biologia de Organismos, Apt. 89000, Caracas 1080

Zimbabwe
Mundy, Peter J. National University of Science and Technology, Department of Forest Resources and Wildlife Management, P.O. Box AC 939, Bulawayo

Associate Members (* elected in 2006)

Algeria
Benyacoub, Slim. Université Annaba, Faculté des Sciences, Département de Biologie, B.P.-12, 23200 Sidi-Ammar

Chile
Jiménez*, Jamie E. Universidad de Los Lagos, Laboratorio de Ecología, Casilla 933, Osorno

India
Pitie*, Aasheesh. New Ornis Foundation, Editor, Indian Birds, Road Number 7, Banjara Hills 8-2-545, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh-500034

Korea
Choe*, Jae Chun. Ewha Woman’s University, Director, Natural History Museum, Seodaemun-gu Duhyun-dong 11-1, 365 Science Building, Seoul 120-750

Lithuania
Zalakevičius*, Mečislovas. Vilnius University, Institute of Ecology, Department of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Akademijos 2, LT-08412 Vilnius–12

Mongolia
Sundev*, Gombobaatar. National University of Mongolia, Faculty of Biology, Department of Zoology, PO Box 537, Ulaanbaatar 210646A

Morocco
Dakki, Mohamed. Université Mohammed V. Agdal, Institut Scientifique Rabat, Département de Zoologie et d’ Écologie animale, Avenue Ibn Batouta, B.P. 703 Rabat-Agdal, 10106 Rabat

New Caledonia
Barre*, Nicolas René Albert. Institut Agronomique néo-Calédonien, BP 25, 98 890 Païta

Tunisia
Selmi*, Slaheddine. Faculté des Sciences de Gabès, Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre, Zrig, Gabès - 6072

Report compiled by
Prof. Dr. Dominique G. Homberger
Secretary, International Ornithological Committee
Dept. of Biological Sciences
202 Life Sciences Building
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-1715, USA
e-mail: zodhomb@lsu.edu