

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

JOHN A. SMALLWOOD, SECRETARY

The eighty-eighth annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society (WOS) was held Thursday, 22 March, through Sunday, 25 March 2007 at the Sheraton Colonial Hotel, Wakefield, Massachusetts, at the invitation of the Massachusetts Audubon Society (Mass Audubon), and sponsored by the Houghton Mifflin Company and the Nuttall Ornithological Club. Wayne Peterson, Director of Mass Audubon's Important Bird Areas Program, chaired the Local Committee, which also included Taber Allison, Shawn Carey, Sandy Cofran, William Davis, Scott Edwards, Ellen Garcia, John Kricher, Carolyn Marsh, Betty Petersen, Robert Stymeist, Jeremiah Trimble, and Susie Vancura. On Saturday, 24 March, the WOS met jointly with Mass Audubon's Annual Birder's Meeting.

The WOS Council met from 1300 to 1800 hrs on Thursday, 22 March, in the Franklin Room of the Sheraton Colonial Hotel. That evening there was an "ice-breaker" reception for the conferees and guests.

The opening session on Friday convened in the Grand Ballroom at 0800 hrs with welcoming remarks from Wayne Peterson and WOS President Doris J. Watt. WOS First Vice President E. Dale Kennedy offered comments on the scientific program. The opening ceremony concluded with a presentation by Edward H. Burt Jr., "Alexander Wilson: peddler, poet, pedagogue, and father of American ornithology."

The scientific program included 45 contributed papers and 25 contributed posters, which were organized into four paper sessions, a poster session, and a symposium on radar studies of avian migration. In addition, WOS hosted the Margaret Morse Nice Lecture, described below, and Mass Audubon hosted four feature presentations, "Arctic wings: birds of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge" by Stephen Brown, "Marshes: the disappearing Edens" by William Burt, "Conservation of birds in open habitats in New England" by Robert Askins, and "Shorebirds by impression: a simpler method of field identification" by Kevin Karlson.

The evening program on Friday included a

reception at the Harvard Natural History Museum hosted by the Nuttall Ornithological Club. The reception was followed by the Margaret Morse Nice Lecture, "Not exactly your 'nice' sparrow," by Douglas W. Mock and Patricia L. Schwagmeyer.

In addition to informal birding forays in the vicinity of the Sheraton Colonial Hotel on Friday and Saturday mornings, two longer trips were scheduled for Sunday: one to Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (Plum Island), and the other to Cape Ann. Both venues are premier birding sites in the state.

The attendees enjoyed a 60-min social gathering prior to the annual banquet, which was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Colonial Hotel. After an enjoyable dinner, WOS President Doris J. Watt introduced Wayne Peterson, Chair of the Local Committee, who joined those assembled in thanking the many people whose hard work had resulted in a successful conference. President Watt also thanked the three elected members of council who had completed their terms of office, Mary Bomberger Brown, Robert Curry, and James Hill and welcomed the three newly elected members of council, Rebecca Holberton, Robert S. Mulvihill, and Timothy J. O'Connell. The following WOS awards and commendations also were presented:

MARGARET MORSE NICE MEDAL

(for the WOS plenary lecture)

Douglas W. Mock and Patricia L. Schwagmeyer, "Not exactly your 'nice' sparrow."

EDWARD'S PRIZE

(for the best major article in volume 118 of *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*)

Cynthia A. Staicer, Victoria Ingalls, and Thomas W. Sherry, "Singing behavior varies with breeding status of American Redstarts (*Setophaga ruticilla*)."

WILLIAM AND NANCY KLAMM

SERVICE AWARD

(for distinguished service to the Wilson Ornithological Society)

George A. Hall is the first recipient of this new award.