The Ninety-eighth Annual Meeting of The Wilson Ornithological Society was held in joint conference with the North American Bird Banding Council from Thursday, 9 March, through Sunday, 12 March, 2017, on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Florida. Jerome A. Jackson, Bette J. S. Jackson, and Kara Lefevre, Florida Gulf Coast University, co-chaired the Committee on Local Arrangements, which also included Melinda Averhart, Patty Borden, Jim Borden, Margaret England, Betsy Evans, Ryan Fox, S. Brent Jackson, Colleen Jackson, Danielle Shepard, and David Shepard. Audubon Corkscrew Sanctuary and Margaret England of Hendry/ Glades Audubon Society facilitated field trips to Corkscrew Swamp and Stormwater Treatment Area 5/6. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission provided bird checklists for attendees. Casey Garcia, Event Scheduler Planner for the FGCU Campus Reservations Office, provided friendly, thorough, and prompt assistance with the facilities planning for the conference. The FGCU College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences, and Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences provided support and logistical help.

The Council met from 16:14 to 20:04 on Thursday, 8 March, and again from 13:09 to 16:34, Friday, 9 March, in Room 115 Seidler Hall on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University. That evening there was a reception for the conferees and guests at Ochre Court Whitaker Hall.

The scientific program began on Friday morning with the 2017 Margaret Morse Nice Plenary Lecture, delivered by the 2017 Margaret Morse Nice Medal recipient, Frank R. Moore, and titled “Stopover biology of migratory songbirds: challenges, consequences, and connections.” The scientific program also included 39 papers organized into 7 sessions, 8 papers in a symposium on the conservation of Florida birds, 32 posters, and a North American Banding Council training workshop.

The Local Committee hosted field trips to local birding spots on Friday and Saturday morning, including Six-Mile Cypress Slough Preserve, Bunche Beach Preserve, and Lakes Park. In addition, the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University offered excellent birding opportunities. On Sunday, conferees had several longer field trips from which to choose, including Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, and the Stormwater Treatment Area 5/6.

On Saturday evening the conferees enjoyed a social gathering prior to the Annual Banquet. The evening events included dinner and afterwards WOS President Sara R. Morris, on behalf of all assembled, offered gratitude to the Local Committee for a successful conference. President Morris thanked the three elected members of Council who had completed their terms of office, Jeremy J. Kirchman, Diann J. Prosser, and Jeffrey A. Stratford, and welcomed the three newly elected members of Council, Auriel Fournier, Gretchen Newberry, and Kristen Covino. Having completed her two-year term as President of the Society, Sara R. Morris received a commendation for her many contributions in this role. Having completed 16 one-year terms as Secretary of the Society, John A. Smallwood, upon his retirement also received a commendation for his contributions. The following WOS awards and grants also were presented:

MARGARET MORSE NICE MEDAL
(for the WOS plenary lecture)

EDWARD’S PRIZE
(for the best major article in volume 128 of The Wilson Journal of Ornithology)
Maria Nandadevi Cortes-Rodriguez, Rachel J. Sturge, and Kevin E. Omland, “Morphological and genetic variation of the Yellow-backed Oriole