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Mission and Scope

The Auk: Ornithological Advances is an international, peer-reviewed journal that publishes original research and scholarship advancing the fundamental scientific knowledge of bird species and broad biological concepts (e.g., ecology, evolution, behavior, physiology, genetics) through studies of bird species. Articles often introduce or employ innovative empirical and theoretical approaches and analyses.

Topics covered in the journal include:

- Evolutionary history and paleontology
- Systematics and nomenclature
- Behavioral ecology
- Foraging strategies and tactics
- Population biology and ecology
- Molecular ecology
- Community and landscape ecology
- Migration and orientation
- Spacing patterns and habitat use
- Genetics and genomics
- Epigenetics, and evolutionary development
- Physiology and biochemistry
- Morphology and anatomy
- Integrative and cross-disciplinary studies
- Theoretical and methodological advances
- Thematic reviews and opinion pieces

Joint Publishing Venture

The American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society have redefined and are jointly publishing their peer-reviewed, international journals of ornithology beginning in 2014. *The Auk* has become *The Auk: Ornithological Advances* and focuses on basic ornithological science. *The Condor* has become *The Condor: Ornithological Applications* and focuses on applied ornithological study. The redefined missions create an opportunity for the journals to work together to publish the best science in basic and applied ornithology and to build on their long histories as top journals in the field of avian biology.

The Auk: Ornithological Advances and *The Condor: Ornithological Applications* are managed by the Central Ornithology Publication Office (COPO), the joint publication management office of the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society.

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On the Cover: The decision to breed by waterfowl, including the Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*), is critically influenced by past performance and current condition. For more details, see Warren et al. (*The Auk: Ornithological Advances 131*(3), 287–297). photo credit: B. Bolduan/VIREO

Journal Information: *The Auk: Ornithological Advances* publishes original research and scholarship advancing the fundamental scientific knowledge of bird species and broad biological concepts (e.g., ecology, evolution, behavior, physiology, genetics) through studies of bird species. Appropriate topics include documentation, analysis, and interpretation of laboratory and field studies; theoretical or methodological developments; and reviews of information or ideas. Authors are encouraged to write papers from the perspective of general concepts and theories and to consider the relevance of their findings to taxa in addition to birds. Authors are encouraged to submit high-resolution photographs to accompany their articles. Contributions are welcomed from around the world but must be written in English. *The articles in this journal reflect the research and opinions of the individual authors. As such, the articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or any official policy of the American Ornithologists' Union.*

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