



THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL  
Providing Scientific Information about Birds

**GUIDELINES TO  
THE USE OF WILD BIRDS IN RESEARCH**

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**Abbot S. Gaunt & Lewis W. Oring**

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Edited by

**Jeanne M. Fair, Editor-in-Chief**

**Ellen Paul & Jason Jones, Associate Editors**

## GUIDELINES TO THE USE OF WILD BIRDS IN RESEARCH

Jeanne M. Fair<sup>1</sup>, Ellen Paul<sup>2</sup>, & Jason Jones<sup>3</sup>, Anne Barrett Clark<sup>4</sup>,  
Clara Davie<sup>4</sup>, Gary Kaiser<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Los Alamos National Laboratory, Atmospheric, Climate and Environmental Dynamics, MS J495, Los Alamos, NM 87506

<sup>2</sup> Ornithological Council, 1107 17<sup>th</sup> St., N.W., Suite 250, Washington, D.C. 20036

<sup>3</sup> Tetra Tech EC, 133 Federal Street, 6th floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110

<sup>4</sup> Binghamton University State University of New York, Department of Biology, PO BOX 6000 Binghamton, NY 13902-6000

<sup>5</sup> 402-3255 Glasgow Ave, Victoria, BC V8X 4S4, Canada

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1107 17th Street, N.W.  
Suite 250  
Washington, D.C. 20036

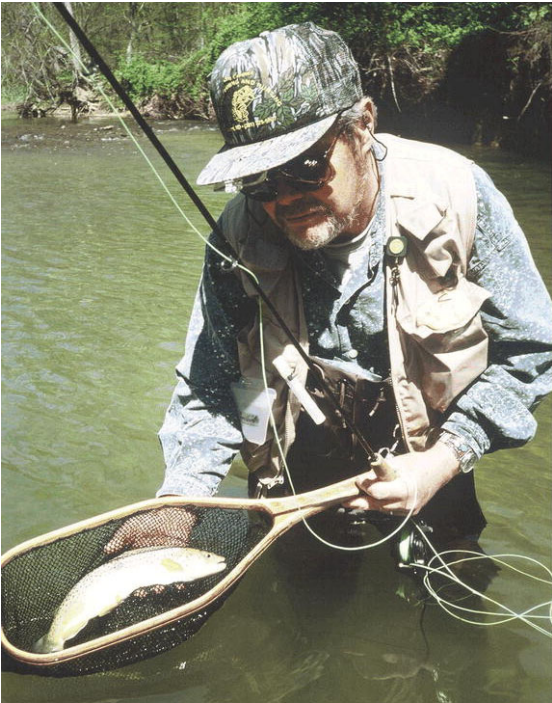
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## Dedication

The Ornithological Council dedicates this 2010 revision to Lewis W. Oring and the late Abbot (Toby) S. Gaunt, whose commitment to the well-being of the birds for whom ornithologists share a deep and abiding concern has served our profession well for so many years.



Toby Gaunt



Lew Oring

## **Acknowledgments and disclaimer**

### *Third edition*

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Jeanne M. Fair edited this edition with enormous skill, insight, and style. The expertise and diligent research of our section editors – Anne Barrett Clark, Clara Davie, Jeanne Fair, Jason Jones, and Gary Kaiser – resulted in a thorough and considered treatment of each topic. Additional contributions were made by Adrian del Nevo, Scott Carleton, and Ellen Paul. A number of anonymous reviewers generously devoted the time and expertise to help improve the content and presentation.

We also thank the American Zoo and Aquarium Association for sharing their housing and husbandry manuals with us and the North American Banding Council for allowing us to reprint some of their materials.

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### *First and second editions*

We received information and guidance from a wide variety of sources. Among our colleagues, those who provided special help include: Richard Banks, Jim Bednarz, Fred Cooke, Sandra Gaunt, Jerry Jackson, Fred Quimby, J. Van Remsen, Margaret Rubega, and Elizabeth Ann Schreiber. We are especially grateful to specialists Carol Anderson (USFWS), August Battles, D.V.M., Rich Benardski, D.V.M., Christopher Brand, and several anonymous reviewers (NWHC), Donald Burton D.V.M., Mary Gustafson (BBL), Buddy Fazio (USFWS), James M. Harris, D.V.M., Bill Kurrey (USFWS), Sharron Martin, D.V.M., Diana McClure, D.V.M., Dan Petit (then with the USFWS), and Steve Wentz (CWS). The American Birding Association kindly provided us with an updated version of their Code of Birding Ethics even before it had been distributed to their membership. Several veterinarians gave generously of their time and expertise in contributing to the Second Edition: Pauline Wong, D.V.M., John Ludders, D.V.M., Glenn H. Olsen, D.V.M., Ph.D., David Brunson, D.V.M., and F. Joshua Dein, V.M.D.

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When mentioned, brand names are exemplary. Some named products were drawn to our attention by investigators or veterinarians who have individually found them useful, but in no case is an endorsement by the Ornithological Council or any other ornithological society implied.

### **About the Ornithological Council**

The founding premise of the Ornithological Council is that the ability to make sound policy and management decisions regarding birds and their habitat requires the application of impartial scientific data and the continued collection of such data. The Council works to support this important mission. It serves as a conduit between ornithological science and legislators, regulators, land managers, conservation organizations, and private industry to assure that the scientific information needed for decision making that affects birds is available.

The Council was founded in 1992 by seven ornithological societies in North America: American Ornithologists' Union, Association for Field Ornithology, Cooper Ornithological Society, Pacific Seabird Group, Raptor Research Foundation, Waterbird Society and Wilson Ornithological Society. In recent years, the Society of Canadian Scientists, the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, the Neotropical Ornithological Society, and CIPAMEX have become members.

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With the publication of the 2010 revision of Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research, the print version is discontinued. We encourage you to cite the internet version by including the URL ([www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/guide](http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/guide)) and the date accessed, including the given date of any updates.

### **Questions and comments:**

We welcome your comments. Suggestions for substantive changes will be reviewed by a committee and if accepted, will be incorporated into the Guidelines. Questions are also welcome. Send comments to: [ellen.paul@verizon.net](mailto:ellen.paul@verizon.net).

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