



## **THE WESTERN FOUNDATION OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY**

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The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WVZ), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, holds the largest collections of birds' eggs and nests in the world. The Foundation's fundamental mission is to obtain, protect, and manage ornithological collections in a manner that ensures their continued survival and accessibility to the national and international research community, educators, students, and the public.

The WVZ houses scientific specimens and an important library on birds and natural history: more than 190,000 egg sets (> 1,000,000 individual eggs) and thousands of egg fragments, including specimens available for destructive sampling for pesticide and other analyses; more than 18,000 nests; 55,000 bird study skins; teaching materials (consisting of 1,500 study skins, 100 wing sets, 2,000 egg sets, 100 nests, and 600 live-mounts) available for use by local educators, and used in our own presentations and classes; and a specialized avian library containing approximately 10,000 volumes of books and monographs, more than 400 journal serials, and the unpublished historical papers and field notes from more than 130 natural historians.

The Foundation has four primary Programs:

(1) *Specimen Acquisition and Preservation*: One of our primary missions is to actively locate and obtain scientifically valuable avian specimens from private and institutional sources around the world. As a result, we receive hundreds of specimens each year. We curate and maintain our collection materials to the highest professional standards so that they will be available to researchers in perpetuity.

(2) *Education*: On a by-appointment basis we provide tours to students from 4<sup>th</sup> grade through College, to professional biologists, and to civic groups. We also provide monthly public tours, loan teaching materials to local educators, offer training in study skin and egg preparation and curation, and offer internships for upper-division undergraduate students. We also teach Ornithology and Oology courses for university students and members of the community.

(3) *Information-sharing Program*: (see details below)

(4) *Field and Collections-based Research*: The Foundation's staff conducts research and management projects in neotropical regions and California that are subject to environmental degradation, or where long-term monitoring is necessary to detect changes in bird populations. In some instances our work includes the collection of specimens to document the biodiversity of an area, to have a record of species that are poorly represented in avian collections, and to assist with species' conservation. All of our research efforts are conducted for the benefit of the species or habitat in question.

The WVZ is not supported by the state or a University. Instead, we rely on charitable donations and gifts from individuals and corporations, and grants for specific projects from foundations. We also have Membership and Volunteer Programs, through which individuals and families can partner with us. If you like what we do, we hope you will consider making a donation so we can continue expanding our Services and taking great care of our specimens! All donations are tax-deductible. For more information on our programs, or to become a Member or Volunteer, please visit our website ([www.wfvz.org](http://www.wfvz.org)) or call us (805/388-9944). Thank you for your interest, and **see reverse side of this sheet for services provided to researchers!**

## Information-sharing Services Provided by the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology

1. **Data provision** – we provide study skin, egg, and nest data in electronic format, or as photocopies; we also provide photocopies of field notes. Additionally, we provide measurements of eggs (length, breadth, thickness), nests, and study skins, as well as digital images (for a small fee) if requested. Data are provided to qualified researchers working on legitimate avian research projects – not to the general public. Requests may be submitted to René Corado, Collections Manager ([rene@wfvz.org](mailto:rene@wfvz.org)), or Dr. Linnea S. Hall, Executive Director ([linnea@wfvz.org](mailto:linnea@wfvz.org)) by email or letter, in English or Spanish, and must be accompanied by a brief project proposal. Partial data on all of our computerized specimens are also available via ORNIS (<http://olla.berkeley.edu/ornisnet>); additional information can be obtained by contacting either staff member listed above.

Note: as of July 2008, 100% of the WFVZ's study skin records are computerized (55,000 records) and 33% of the egg sets and nests are computerized (62,400 records).

2. **Material loans** -- skin specimens are loaned to qualified, professional ornithologists at qualified institutions. Study skins are not currently loaned outside of the U.S., and the WFVZ does not loan egg or nest specimens. Initial inquiries should be addressed to René Corado or Linnea Hall, as above. Loan requests for graduate students may be required on institution letterhead, signed by a sponsoring faculty member. All requests must be accompanied by a brief project proposal.

3. **Literature photocopies** -- we provide photocopies of articles from our journal serials, and of chapters from books. Reimbursements for copies (at \$0.10 per page) and mailing expenses are appreciated. For members of the Cooper Ornithological Society, 25 photocopied pages are provided for free per year; above this, reimbursement is requested at the \$0.10 per page rate. A list of our journal titles is available on <http://www.wfvz.org/html/journals.html>. WFVZ book titles will be available for remote Internet searching in the future.

4. **Publications** – the WFVZ publishes three journal series: Proceedings, Occasional Papers, and Monographs. In addition, we have published various regional checklists of birds, one hardcover book on the Puerto Rican Parrot, and the proceedings of an international conference on shrikes. We are open to receiving submissions from ornithologists for consideration for publication; please call first for details. Page charges will be levied for manuscripts over 5 printed pages. Dr. Linnea Hall serves as the Editor-in-Chief on all WFVZ publications.

WFVZ publications are listed on the web page [http://www.wfvz.org/html/pub\\_prog.html](http://www.wfvz.org/html/pub_prog.html). For orders within the U.S., we do not charge shipping & handling on any WFVZ publications printed prior to 2004. California residents will be charged sales tax. Credit Cards can be used to purchase publications via PayPal on our website. For non-US orders, please call for shipping & handling charges before making a purchase.

5. **Studies in Avian Biology and Condor back issues** – as of 2008, the WFVZ no longer processes orders for *Studies in Avian Biology*, but we do process orders for back issues the *Condor* (prior to the most recent 2 years). Call (805/388-9944) or e-mail the WFVZ ([bookkeeper@wfvz.org](mailto:bookkeeper@wfvz.org)) for information on particular issues.

6. **California Bird Records Committee files** -- The WFVZ holds and maintains the records of the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC), a subcommittee of Western Field Ornithologists. This committee is responsible for deciding what birds occur in California, and thus make it onto our state list. They also help increase knowledge of the birds of California and establish standards of observation and reporting against which field observers may compare their own techniques. To request photocopies of CBRC materials, please contact the WFVZ ([wfvz@wfvz.org](mailto:wfvz@wfvz.org)) or visit the CBRC website (<http://www.wfo-cbrc.org/cbrc>).

7. **Specimen preparation and other ornithological training** – the WFVZ offers museum study skin and egg preparation training to interested researchers. Please call for details (805/388-9944). In addition, classes in Ornithology and Oology are offered. Please contact the WFVZ for more details ([wfvz@wfvz.org](mailto:wfvz@wfvz.org)).