



LEADING CHANGE

The **Cornell** Lab  of Ornithology

Annual Report to Members 2010

A Message from John Fitzpatrick

Change is an essence of nature. Whether expressed as a molting male Indigo Bunting (cover), the miraculous transformation from egg to flying bird, the seasonal migrations of birds across continents, or the shaping of earth's marvelous diversity of life over millions of years, the wild world is constantly changing.

More sobering to contemplate are the overwhelming changes that humans have wrought. Two hundred years ago, the very skies now outside my office window sometimes filled with Passenger Pigeons, once the world's most abundant bird. They're extinct now—we took every one of them, just as we did the enormous, ancient sycamores and gigantic sugar maples that once graced our eastern forests. Today, all around the world, we see fragments of natural places that once were whole. In them, some of the earth's most beautiful creatures are struggling for a foothold.

This situation cannot help but make us wonder...will we ever stop interacting with the world this way? I think the answer is that we're getting there. In virtually every culture today, humans are studying how we can build toward a more sustaining relationship with the natural world. At the Cornell Lab, we're tracking change, studying it, understanding it in ways we never have before—and we're using this knowledge to help change human behaviors, attitudes, and policies.

For the first time in history, we can track the global movements of birds and other wildlife at scales that show our influence on the planet in real time. By combining data from hundreds of thousands of citizen-science participants with satellite data, advanced computing techniques, and new technologies for monitoring wildlife, we are developing a global-scale "sensor" for our planet that can begin constantly tracking how we're doing, providing the impetus to act before it's too late. Key to this sensor are the birds!

This year, one of the worst environmental disasters in United States history occurred. As millions of gallons of oil poured into the Gulf of Mexico, stomach-churning images

of oiled birds symbolized much that has gone wrong in our relationship with nature.

In response, the Cornell Lab worked with partners, mobilizing bird watchers to report bird sightings along the Gulf. We created interactive web tools to visualize the data and deployed autonomous recording units in the ocean to listen for whales. This information will be used in recovery efforts, legal proceedings, and Congressional hearings to make changes for the better. Meanwhile, our Multimedia Productions team is still in Louisiana, video-documenting stories that will raise awareness of the Gulf Coast's immense value to wildlife and people—and what can be done to safeguard it.

Our work in the Gulf is just one example of how we lead change by providing the science-based understanding that people need in order to act, whether as political decision-makers, industry executives, or concerned citizens.

Thanks to your support, it was a watershed year for the Cornell Lab: we reached our highest numbers ever for membership (35,000), citizen-science participation (>200,000), web visitors (>6 million), accumulated bird data (>80 million records), and operating budget (>\$20 million). More than sheer volume, however, we are proud of the quality and impact of our science, education, and conservation programs.

Please read on to see some examples of how your support leads to real-world change benefiting birds, ecosystems, and people. Thank you for celebrating birds with us—and for supporting our mission.

Sincerely,



John W. Fitzpatrick, Louis Agassiz Fuertes Director

LOUISIANA'S BIRDS, AFTER THE SPILL: (FROM TOP) ROYAL TERN CHICK; LAUGHING GULL; SANDWICH TERN; SNOWY PLOVER; BLACK SKIMMER; ROYAL TERN. AT RIGHT, SALT MARSHES IN LOUISIANA'S BARATARIA BAY AREA, WHERE OIL WASHED ASHORE IN JUNE. BACK COVER: BLACK SKIMMERS, TERREBONNE PARISH, LOUISIANA. PHOTOS BY GERRIT VYN. FRONT COVER: INDIGO BUNTING © WWW.BRIANSMALLPHOTO.COM





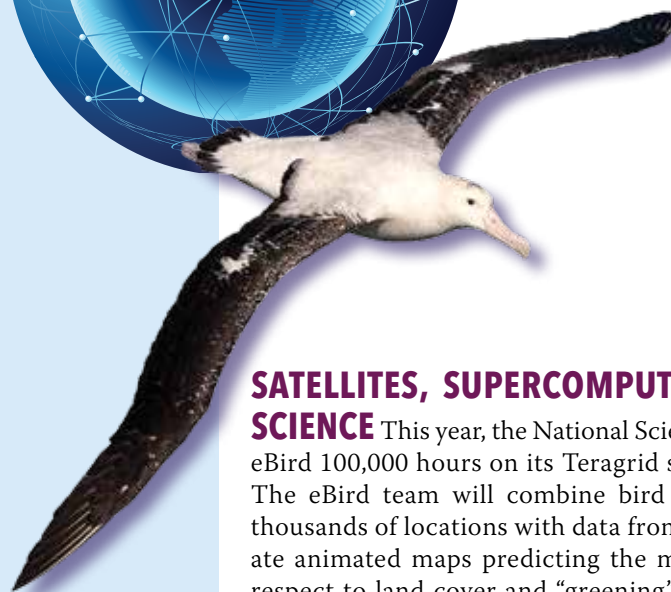
Citizen Science: Tracking Change

The power of citizen science is in the hundreds of thousands of people who extend their passion from simply watching birds to reporting what they see—creating an ever-changing, real-time view of birds across continents.

With new online tools and techniques developed at the Cornell Lab, scientists and the public alike can view, explore, and make sense of massive volumes of data, whether to satisfy curiosity about backyard birds, inform bird conservation, or track large-scale environmental change through time.



Arthur A. Allen completes dissertation on Red-winged Blackbirds and joins Cornell faculty



eBIRD: NOW TRACKING THE WORLD'S BIRDS

For the first time, birders around the world can contribute observations on any of the earth's 10,000 bird species to a single scientific database, using eBird. Participants have already recorded 8,650 species from 200 countries, putting powerful data into the hands of conservationists and birders worldwide.

SATELLITES, SUPERCOMPUTERS, AND CITIZEN SCIENCE

This year, the National Science Foundation awarded eBird 100,000 hours on its Teragrid supercomputer network. The eBird team will combine bird data from hundreds of thousands of locations with data from NASA satellites to create animated maps predicting the movements of birds with respect to land cover and “greening” in spring.

At right, screen captures from an animated map predicting occurrence of Indigo Buntings in (top to bottom) April, May, June, and July. Brighter areas indicate a higher likelihood of observing the species, based on eBird data and landscape information such as climate, elevation, human population, and habitat.



INDIGO BUNTING BY KELLY COLGAN AZAR

Lab establishes North America's first courses in wildlife conservation and game management

Cornell offers first U.S. graduate program in ornithology

"Laboratory of Ornithology" founded by Allen in McGraw Hall, Cornell campus

1910

1910

1911

1912

1913

1914

1915

1916

1917

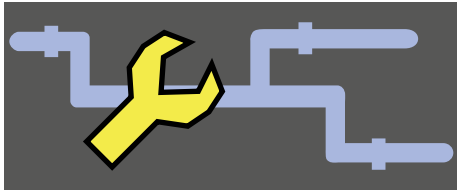
1918

1919

WANDERING ALBATROSS BY BRIAN SULLIVAN



YARDMAP: COMING IN 2011 Cornell Lab staff are creating new tools for online communities to document sustainable practices in backyards, gardens, and parks. Funded by the National Science Foundation, YardMap will offer a suite of online drawing tools to help participants measure their yards and the impact of their activities such as feeding birds, gardening, or reducing lawn size.



"SCIENCE PIPES" TAP INTO DATA For years, experts have tapped into millions of citizen-science records for scientific analyses. Now, they've created online tools so anyone can query the data and see results—simply by choosing and dragging icons across the screen. After seeing the tools at www.sciencepipes.org, a high-school teacher commented, "Fantastically easy for a non-tech person to use—and see the results!"



MAPS AND DATA: GOOGLE; CURRENT SPILL LOCATION: NOAA; FORECASTS: NOAA-NESDIS

BIRDERS DOCUMENT OIL SPILL IMPACT As oil poured into the Gulf of Mexico during the BP disaster, birders mobilized to watch for the birds. The eBird team's new online gadget (above) displayed updated species data to help prioritize cleanup and recovery efforts. Meanwhile, NestWatch participants recorded data to help researchers learn whether birds passing through the Gulf carry contamination that may lead to reproductive declines on distant breeding grounds. Citizen-science data will continue to be gathered to document any impact from the oil.



Citizen Science Impact

Scientific publications using data from Cornell Lab citizen-science projects since 1997:

>100

Number of citizen-science participants in Cornell Lab projects:

>200,000

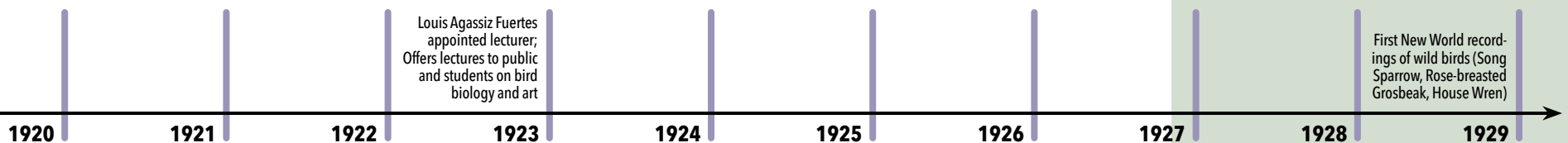
Number of bird observations in the Avian Knowledge Network:

>83,000,000



"So far, more than 70,000 observations have been collected by eBird in Chile—something that would have been unbelievable just a few months ago! The maps provide the best available distribution information for many species, and some Important Bird Areas have been proposed, thanks to data provided by eBird."

**—Fabrice Schmitt, eBirder,
Providencia, Chile**



Research: Understanding Change

Our fascination with nature inspires us to study it from every angle. The Lab of Ornithology is a global hub where scientists converge to use traditional methods, cutting-edge digital museums, advanced technology, and laboratory facilities—or to stage field studies around the world.

With the highest standards of scientific excellence, technological innovation, and collaborative spirit, we seek new insights that yield a better understanding of biodiversity and the earth's changing ecosystems.



FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY BY DANNY BALES

REVEALING PATTERNS, DECIPHERING CHANGE By analyzing immense data sets from citizen-science projects, researchers have documented the **dynamics of diseases** such as House Finch eye disease and West Nile virus; **declines in birds** such as Evening Grosbeaks; and the **spread of introduced species**, such as Eurasian Collared-Doves. Cornell Lab researchers are also using **new, powerful modeling and analysis techniques to uncover novel patterns in bird migration and distribution.**

New findings on West Nile virus based on 20 years of data from the Breeding Bird Survey suggest that American Crows are more likely to decline in urban areas and areas with high crow densities. The disease appears to spread more slowly in areas with diverse host species, and virulence declined from east to west as the virus spread.



UNDERSTANDING HUMAN IMPACTS

To save species, scientists must unravel the complex factors that affect survival and reproduction. Cornell Lab researchers study how **habitat fragmentation, climate change, pollution**, and other factors affect wildlife and ecosystems.

As Florida Scrub-Jay populations dwindled, scientists began studies 20 years ago that today reveal the importance of fire in saving the species. Fires maintain the unique scrub habitats that the jays require to survive.



REED BOWMAN



ERIC MENGES

1930

41 bird species recorded with equipment requiring three people to haul

Parabolic mic created; First published record of wild bird songs, *Bird Songs Recorded from Nature*

Allen publishes first of 20 articles in *National Geographic*

(1935) Expedition records sounds and images of rare wildlife, including Ivory-billed Woodpeckers; Lab moves from McGraw Hall to Cornell's Fernow Hall, NY State College of Agriculture

Leach's Storm-Petrel recorded via radio link from the Bay of Fundy

1930

1931

1932

1933

1934

1935

1936

1937

1938

1939



© LAURIE SMAGLICK JOHNSON

EXPLORING BEHAVIOR AND EVOLUTION

How do birds meet life's challenges, and how does this influence their ultimate success in survival and reproduction? Cornell Lab scientists tease apart the complexities in behavior, ecology, and evolution in diverse species including **Western Bluebirds**, **Acorn Woodpeckers**, **Australian Fairywrens**, and New Guinea's **birds-of-paradise**.

Left: A Blue-winged and Golden-winged warbler care for their hybrid young. Researchers use new genetic techniques to study how species are formed and maintained. Above: A chickadee at a "smart" feeder that records second-by-second behaviors of tagged birds, revealing how weather, competition, and habitat affect birds' activities.



Research Impact

Grants and contracts awarded to the Cornell Lab in 2009-10:

\$9,981,872

Unique DNA sequences contributed to public databases in 2009-10:

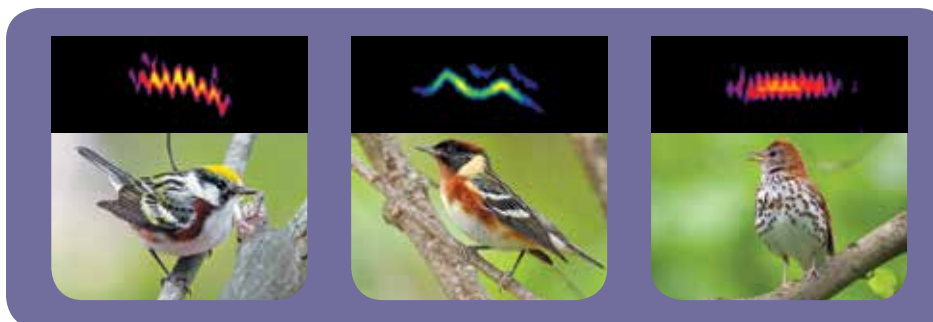
>1,400

Time needed to review one month of nocturnal flight call data using current technology:

12 hours

Time that will be needed to review one month of flight call data using automated web-based tools now in development:

5 minutes



CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER BY KEVIN BOLTON, BAY-BREASTED WARBLER BY BILL MAJOROS, WOOD THRUSH BY KELLY COLGAN AZAR

ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY

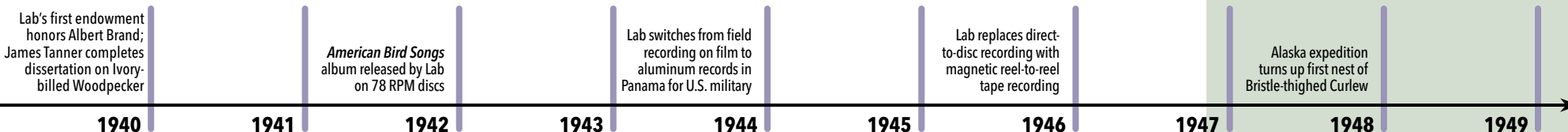
We develop **autonomous recording units**, **sound analysis software**, and **online data visualization tools** to help scientists study some of the planet's most elusive animals. We're now creating breakthrough tools to record and analyze the species, numbers, and locations of night migrants.

Left: A microphone, housed in a flower pot, records the night sky. Above, "voice prints" of nocturnal flight calls. New online tools, now in development, will revolutionize our ability to monitor and track bird migration.



"Research at the Lab is hugely rewarding because of collaborations with citizen-science participants and researchers at Cornell and around the world. I'm reminded of a quote by Claude Bernard: "Art is I; Science is we."

—Caren Cooper, research associate



Conservation: Change through Leadership

At sea and on land, the Cornell Lab is a world leader in monitoring wildlife. We proactively help industries, governments, and conservation organizations by documenting the impact of potentially harmful practices on wildlife and working toward new solutions.

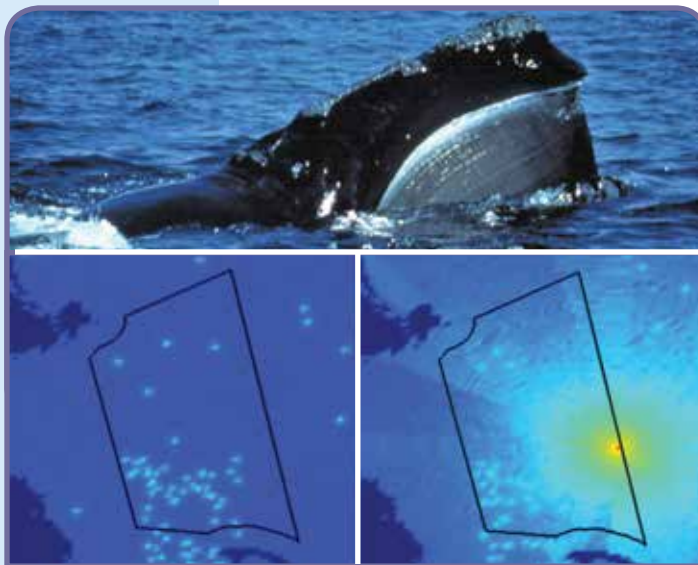
Using the best available technology and scientific data, we provide decision-makers with the understanding and insight to generate real-world change.



PROVIDING DATA ON OIL SPILL IMPACTS

As the Deepwater Horizon oil leak spread into the Gulf of Mexico, the Cornell Lab mobilized quickly to gather data on marine mammals using bioacoustics technology, and on bird abundance with help from citizen-science participants. These key sources of data will be used in legal proceedings and legislative decisions related to environmental recovery and regulations.

After the oil spill disaster in the Gulf, the Cornell Lab deployed marine autonomous recording units, like the one shown at left, to monitor sperm whales, Bryde's whales, and other marine life. The Cornell Lab will report on findings to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), BP, and others involved in the oil spill response.



RIGHT WHALE BY STORMY MAYO

REDUCING THREATS TO WILDLIFE Protecting wildlife begins with documenting the impact of harmful practices and finding solutions. Backed by scientific data, Cornell Lab scientists are working with local communities, industries, and governments to **halt poaching of endangered forest elephants** in Gabon and the Congo; to **stem the illegal caged-bird trade of wild birds** in Mexico; to **prevent ships from colliding with endangered right whales** along the Atlantic seaboard; and to **site wind turbines where they are least harmful to birds, bats, and marine mammals**.

Based on sound recordings, the maps at left show the acoustic space of northern right whales when they call to one another (bottom left) and the amount of noise from a passing ship, which prevents the whales from communicating (bottom right). Cornell Lab scientists use animated maps to show policy makers how human activities are affecting this endangered species—evidence that can lead to policy changes reducing ocean noise.

1950

Peter Paul Kellogg helps develop first portable tape recorder

1950

1951

Gift from Lyman K. Stuart enables Lab to acquire first parcel of Sapsucker Woods

1952

Allen retires from teaching, having advised more than 100 students earning graduate degrees

1953

First members join the Lab

1954

1955

Lab incorporated as department of Cornell University

1956

Stuart Observatory at Sapsucker Woods opens, funded by Lyman K. Stuart

1957

Recordings of 305 species issued on *A Field Guide to Bird Songs*

1958

1959



RECOVERING THREATENED SPECIES One of the biggest challenges in conservation is the need for population data on threatened species. Cornell Lab scientists conduct basic research on little-known species such as **Clark's Nutcrackers** and **Common Nighthawks** in the United States, **Slender-billed Vultures** in Asia, **Orange-breasted Falcons** in Guatemala, endangered **Sierra Madre Sparrows** in Mexico, and endangered **Black-capped Petrels** on Hispaniola. This year, the Cornell Lab and partners concluded a five-year search for **Ivory-billed Woodpeckers** in eight states. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that evidence supports the hypothesis that ivory-bills existed in 2004, but that their continued presence is inconclusive given the difficulty of reliably locating them. The Service issued a recovery plan and is poised to act if breeding pairs are discovered.



At left, an endangered forest elephant. Cornell Lab researchers use acoustic data to monitor elephants, quantify poaching, inform policy, and engage communities in conservation. Above right, a Golden-winged Warbler. The Cornell Lab provides data for effective management of habitats for golden-wings and other species.

Conservation Impact

Number of shared landbird species needing immediate conservation attention in U.S., Canada, and Mexico

148

Amount of funding recommended by Partners in Flight report for Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act:

\$10,000,000

Number of whale species acoustically monitored by Cornell Lab scientists:

11

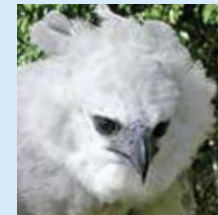
Endangered right whale calls detected in real-time in Massachusetts Bay (January to October) to prevent whales and ships from colliding:

9,499

9

LARGE-SCALE CONSERVATION We advance conservation by working with others, from local communities to international coalitions such as the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. With partners, the Cornell Lab produced two landmark documents for large-scale conservation this year. ***Saving Our Shared Birds: The Partners in Flight Tri-National Vision for Landbird Conservation***, is the first comprehensive assessment of the 882 landbird species shared by the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The **2010 State of the Birds Report on Climate Change** brought together the nation's leading science and wildlife organizations to inform national policy makers.

Left to right, species highlighted in the Partners in Flight Tri-National Vision: Maroon-fronted Parrot, Golden-winged Warbler, Ocellated Turkey, Tufted Jay, Tody Motmot, Harpy Eagle.

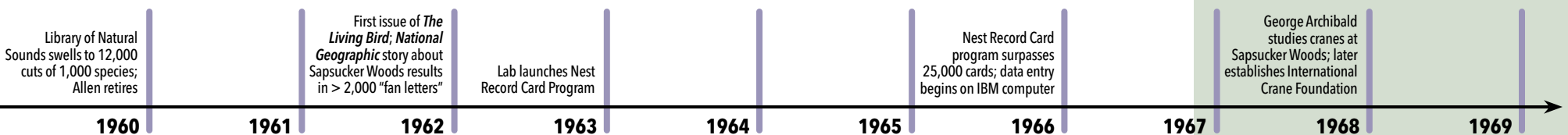


(L-R): RENÉ VALDÉZ, GERRY DEWAGHE (2), EDUARDO E. INIGO-ELIAS, GERRY DEWAGHE, KENNETH V. ROSENBERG



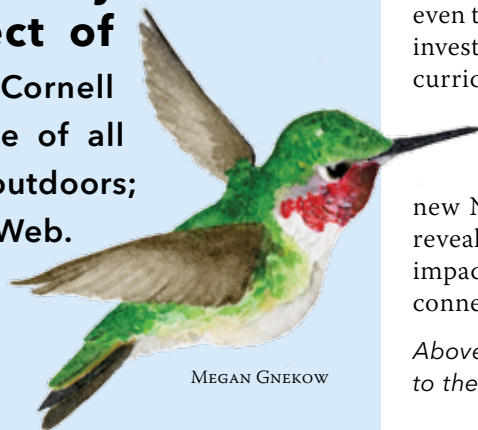
"I mainly joined the Lab because I realized that many of your projects support conservation, not just academic research for its own sake."

—Noah Kahn, Lab member, Maryland



Education: Change through Knowledge

Spanning nearly every aspect of education, the Cornell Lab engages people of all ages—in school or outdoors; in person, or on the Web. Our goal: to increase the understanding and appreciation of science and the natural world.



MEGAN GNEKOW

Whether developing K-12 curricula, mentoring aspiring biologists, or teaching our new online course for bird enthusiasts, our educators combine scientific expertise, digital technology, and the joy of birds, to teach and to inspire.

FOR K-12 STUDENTS The Cornell Lab engages even the youngest students in hands-on science. They investigate their own questions using our **BirdSleuth** curriculum, or count birds for science with **Celebrate Urban Birds**. High-schoolers explore biodiversity conservation, GIS, and other technologies in **Crossing Boundaries**. Our new NSF-funded educational video, **Sea of Sound**, reveals the science of animal communication and the impact of human-generated noise beneath the sea. At home in Sapsucker Woods, hundreds of youth connect with birds through the **Kids Discover the Trail** program and **Young Birders Event**.

Above, students explore Sapsucker Woods in "Kids Discover the Trail," which brings Ithaca's fifth-graders to the Lab each year.



JASON WELLS

Students conduct scientific investigations by observing birds, using the Cornell Lab's BirdSleuth curriculum at Tualatin Valley Academy in Oregon.

1970

Tom Cade's
Peregrine Fund
begins at Lab

1970

Olin Sewall Pettingill
launches first Home
Study Course in Bird
Biology; 500 students
enroll in first 9 months

1971

1972

Steve Kress transplants
Atlantic Puffins on Egg
Rock Island, Maine, to
establish new colony

1973

First 16 Cornell-bred
peregrines released
in wild; Colonial Bird
Register launched

1974

Lab helps launch New
York's endangered
species program with
hacking project for
young Bald Eagles

1975

1976

1977

1978

1979

FOR ASPIRING BIOLOGISTS This year, more than 100 of the nation's brightest and most committed **undergraduate and graduate students** engaged with researchers at the Cornell Lab to advance science and conservation. Reaching beyond Cornell, we are developing new opportunities for undergraduates everywhere, including the third edition of the *Handbook of Bird Biology* and **Online Research in Biology** enabling students to delve into data from citizen-science projects and the Macaulay Library's sound and video archive.

At right, Jay McGowan (Cornell '09) examines insects collected in Churchill, Manitoba, as part of a study investigating whether long-distance migratory Hudsonian Godwits time their arrival with peak insect abundance for their young.



MAIKEL CANISARES

FOR PROFESSIONALS The Cornell Lab offers **workshops** for scientists and educators, expanding the capacity to monitor, analyze, and conserve biodiversity around the world. We train hundreds of people through our **Sound Analysis Workshop** and **Sound Recording Workshop**, and through **BirdSleuth Workshops**, **Online Courses**, and **Crossing Boundaries Summer Institute** for educators.

At left, Cuban students learn science and conservation techniques from Cornell Lab scientists at the BIOECO Siboney-Jutici Ecological Reserve in Cuba.



CAMERON ROGNAN

FOR LIFELONG LEARNERS More than a thousand visitors joined us for our annual **Migration Celebration** to learn about birds across the hemisphere. Hundreds of bird enthusiasts took part in our **Spring Field Ornithology Course** and online course, **Investigating Behavior: Courtship and Rivalry in Birds**. Across the country, visitors to nature centers explored with **eBird Trail Tracker** kiosks and **Raven Exhibits** featuring animal sounds.

A Song Sparrow and a spectrogram of its song as displayed in the Cornell Lab's Raven Exhibit at museums, zoos, and nature centers across the country.

Lifelong Learning through Citizen Science

During the Great Backyard Bird Count or in the first weeks after...

17% of participants identified an unfamiliar species for the first time

25% shared their interest in birds with others for the first time

44% said their appreciation for birds and the natural world increased

51% said their knowledge about birds in their community increased

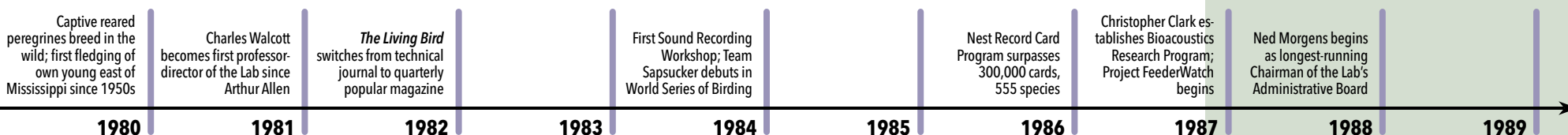
*Results based on data from 2,649 respondents in survey by the Lab's Program Development and Evaluation team.

11



"Few experiences make me as happy, and motivate me more, than sharing the knowledge gained here at Cornell with fellow young scientists in Latin America."

—Viviana Ruiz-Gutiérrez, Cornell Ph.D. '09



World-Class Resources for Enjoying Birds



◀ **ALL ABOUT BIRDS** 2010 Webby-Award Winner, Best Lifestyle Website. www.allaboutbirds.org

THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA ONLINE 719 species, 1,700 contributors, 85 fully revised accounts. www.bna.birds.cornell.edu

◀ **SIGNALS FOR SURVIVAL** Animal Behavior Film Festival award-winner for best non-commercial film in 2010. The film delves into the fascinating behaviors of Great Black-backed and Herring gulls.

BIRDSHARE 1,596 contributors, 50,937 photos. www.flickr.com/groups/birdshare

MACAULAY LIBRARY Scientifically curated collection of >100,000 digitized sounds, >50,000 video clips. www.macaulaylibrary.org

◀ **NEOTROPICAL BIRDS** 4,100 interactive maps; 1,200 species profiles begun, 127 complete. www.neotropical.birds.cornell.edu

"Your Raven sound exhibit is a technological feast for eyes and ears, displaying sounds, pictures, and natural history...our entire team has seen a marked difference in the number of people entering the exhibition area."

—Alice E. M. Pope, WDCS Wildlife Centre, Scotland

"I'm convinced that birds can and do change people's attitudes and behavior—steadily, inexorably, one song at a time. We just need to make it fun and easy to learn more about birds."

—John Fitzpatrick, director, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

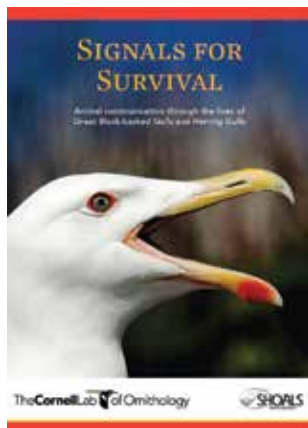
◀ **YOUTUBE CHANNEL** Relaunched with 51 bird videos; 123,143 views. www.youtube.com/labofornithology

FACEBOOK 13 Cornell Lab projects on Facebook, 10,000 "likes." www.birds.cornell.edu/connect

NESTCAMS 15 nestcams, 1.3 million page views per year. www.nestcams.org

WELOVEBIRDS.ORG New this year! 2,900 members, 382 community blog posts, 12,000 photos. www.welovebirds.org

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS 80,000 phone and email inquiries received by Lab staff each year. Cornellbirds@cornell.edu; (800) 843-BIRD



SCOTT OLMSTEAD



1990

Lab's BirdWatch national radio show airs; Library of Natural Sounds enters digital age

1990

Lab analyzes citizen-science data on wetland birds at request of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1991

First named faculty endowment, Edwin H. Morgens Professor of Ornithology; First NSF-funded citizen-science experiments

1992

(1993) FeederWatchers begin tracking House Finch Eye Disease; (1994) Seed Preference Test shows favorite foods of 30 species; 1,470 teams aid Project Tanager; PigeonWatch engages urbanites

1993

1994

(1995) John Fitzpatrick arrives as Louis Agassiz Fuertes director; Whales studied using Navy's undersea surveillance system; Development begins for acoustic monitoring of bird migration

1995

1996

BirdSource database launched; Imogene Powers Johnson senior scientist position established

1997

(1998) Great Backyard Bird Count, first online citizen-science project; (1999) Project Tanager data used in land manager's guide; Elephant Listening Project founded; Robert G. Engel Professor of Ornithology established

1998

1999



GENE HARRIMAN

◀ **CELEBRATE URBAN BIRDS** 140,000 kits distributed, 53 community mini-grants awarded. www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org

"The most nature involvement and most fun I've had in a long time!"

—Christopher Gillis, Celebrate Urban Birds participant

◀ **SINGING BOOKS** Five books with sounds from our Macaulay Library, >625,000 copies sold. www.birds.cornell.edu/shop

BIRDSEYE APP Millions of eBird observations help you find 857 species. www.getbirdseye.com

CLEMENTS CHECKLIST Free authoritative list of >9,000 bird species of the world. www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist



"We use your Raven Lite software in our physics classes, to study the characteristics of bird song. Students get a much richer understanding of wave properties like amplitude and frequency when they can see and hear it in a 3-D graph!"

—Matthew Anthes-Washburn, high-school teacher, Parkway Academy of Technology and Health, Massachusetts



CAMERON ROGNAN

◀ **SONGS OF THE WARBLERS** 57 North American warbler species, 311 recordings, now downloadable. www.macaulaylibrary.org



2010 Arthur Allen Award Honors Linda Macaulay

The Cornell Lab awarded Linda Macaulay with the Arthur A. Allen Award, which honors those who raise public awareness of birds and ornithology. The award recognizes Linda's contributions to ornithology, her indefatigable work in the field, and her dedication to building an unparalleled sound library. An expert recordist, she has contributed 5,689 wildlife sound recordings to the library that bears her name.

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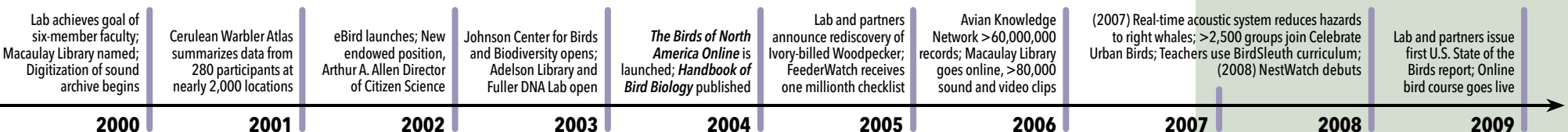


"I am astonished by how much I can learn just by watching closely. FeederWatch gives me the motivation to stop, watch, and learn, and I am happy to be helping the environment at the same time."

—Carolyn Bryant, Project FeederWatch participant, Maine

Visit the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website, redesigned in 2010

www.birds.cornell.edu



What Does the Future Hold for Cornell Lab Members?



If the recent past is any indication of our future growth at the Cornell Lab, we can expect even more great things. In the past two years membership in the Cornell Lab has grown by more than 25 percent. Thank you for being among our generous and consistent supporters. It is encouraging to know that more people are beginning to understand the tremendous impact they can have on birds and biodiversity through their support of the Lab. No other organization engages and trains as many people in the science and conservation of birds, while accomplishing cutting-edge research.

The future also promises great things for the new Golden-wing Society that was launched last fall. For many years members have inquired about travel and other engagement opportunities with the Lab. The Golden-wing Society is our new mid-level donor program that begins at \$500 and invites members to special seminars here at Sapsucker Woods, birding trips with director John Fitzpatrick, online seminars, and much more. Most importantly, as our operating budget is funded by our members, your additional gifts provide the critical resources that allow the Lab to flourish.

Because of the importance of our mission and the need to educate and engage the next generation of conservation leaders, we are striving to double the Lab membership over the next five years. You can help enormously in this effort. Please ask your friends to join, give gift memberships, and forward our publications and monthly eNewsletters to friends, family, teachers, and others. This holiday season is a great time to help the future of birds by introducing people to the Cornell Lab. Again, thank you so much for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Sean Scanlon
Senior Director, Development and Philanthropy
(607) 254-1105; sbs259@cornell.edu

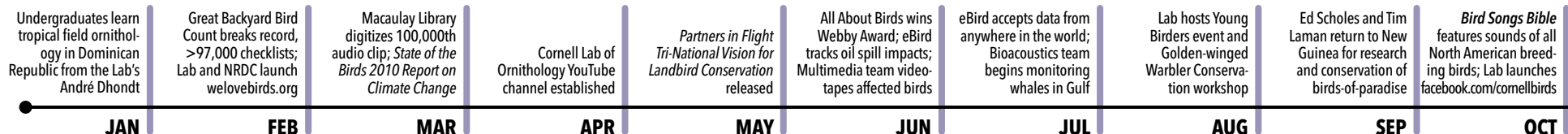
Estate Planning: A Lasting Legacy

It's easy to include the Cornell Lab in your estate plans, especially through a bequest or life income agreement. To make a bequest through your will, simply include the language: "I give and bequeath the sum of \$ _____ (or _____ % of my residuary estate) to Cornell University, an educational institution in Ithaca, NY, for the Lab of Ornithology to be used in support of its charitable purposes." Doing so can perpetuate your interest in birds and support of the Lab forever.

We would be honored to talk with you about these important issues, enabling you to fulfill your commitments to your family, bird study, and conservation. To learn more about estate planning opportunities that benefit you and the Lab of Ornithology, please call Scott Sutcliffe at **607-254-2424** or Sean Scanlon at **607-254-1105**. The Lab is pleased to acknowledge such friends in perpetuity as members of the Sapsucker Woods Society (see list on page 21).

WILLET © JACOB S. SPENDELOW, TRINGA.ORG. OPPOSITE: LAB STAFFER IAN FEIN AND WESTERN PAROTIA IN NEW GUINEA; PHOTOS BY TIM LAMAN.

2010





A PERPETUAL LEGACY As the Cornell Lab works on behalf of threatened and endangered species, one of our greatest challenges is limited sources of funding for these efforts. In 2010, we were honored to learn of a bequest from the estate of long-time donor Madelon Wehner. Mrs. Wehner's dream was to create a legacy that would enable the Cornell Lab to apply its resources toward the most endangered species we study. Already this is having a tremendous impact on our programs, including groundbreaking research on New Guinea's birds-of-paradise.

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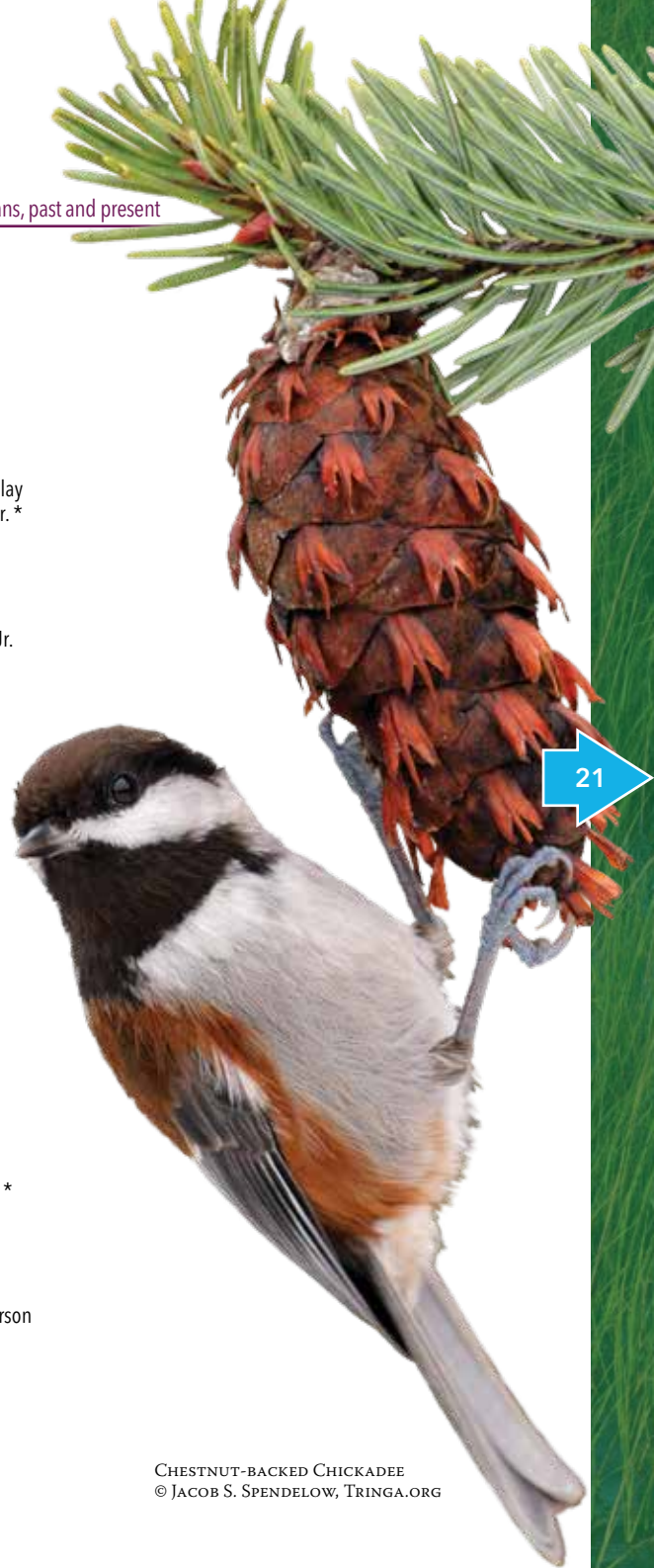
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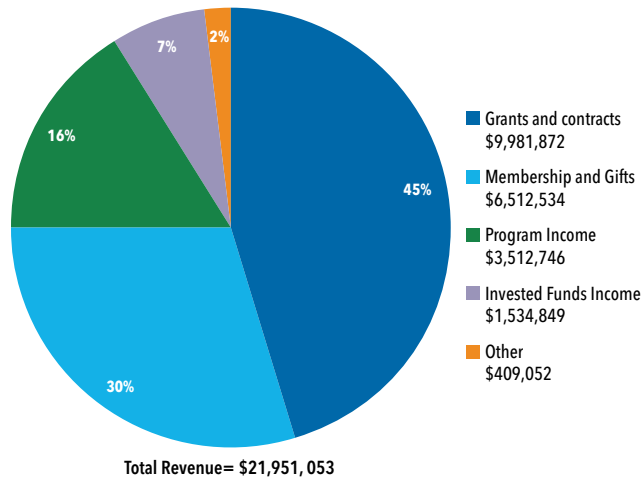
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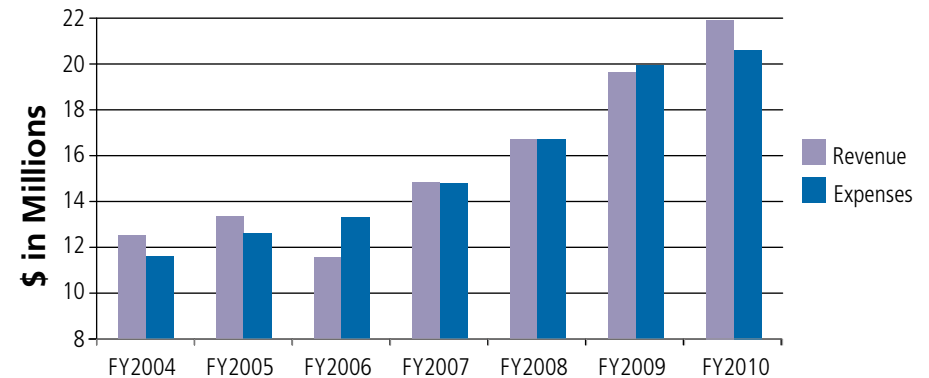
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Fiscal Year 2010 Financial Report (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010)

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