

JOURNAL

FÜR

ORNITHOLOGIE

Band 135

1994

Nr. 3

Introduction

Fellow members of the Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft (DO-G) and Participants of the XXI International Ornithological Congress!

One hundred and ten years ago, in 1884, a group of inspiring ornithologists met in Vienna with the explicit aim of information exchange, coordination of research and development of international bird protection laws and observational methods. The patron of the meeting was none other than Crown Prince Archduke RUDOLF. It was held across the street from his residence, the Hofburg, in Eschenbachergasse 9. One hundred forty five participants from 29 republics attended this meeting, representing as state delegates, academic delegates (from universities, academies and societies) and participants. They had come from all over the world, as far as Argentina and Japan. It was a five day congress with plenaries, reports and open discussions which were reported as having often been intense and fiery. Topics ranged from poultry to bird protection and expedition reports. A century later, history seems to repeat itself with the same kind of international representation, aims as well as times and place. This time, however, the congress has moved across the street into the Crown Prince's former residence.

Ten different German ornithological societies were represented at this first congress, among them the forerunner of the present DO-G. Also the "Journal für Ornithologie" was presented to the organizers at that time. Later on the DO-G played an important role in the continued existence of the congress as organizers and functionaries up to the last congress in Christ Church. With their help the IOC has become the oldest international scientific congress. It is no surprise then that organizers of the conference in neighboring Austria have again turned to the DO-G, to help arranging and publishing the congress. The Journal für Ornithologie is, anyway, the oldest ornithological periodical and hence in our opinion a most appropriate place to publish the topics of the congress.

With DO-G support congress contributions are edited in two distinct volumes. In J. Orn. 135 (3), approximately one page articles have been submitted by various authors. These papers are the majority of symposia communications given at the congress. They were, first of all, grouped into six major thematic categories: **General Biology, Systematics and Evolution, Morphology and Physiology, Behavior, Ecology and Applied Ornithology and Conservation**. These categories were defined by a group of international scientists at the program committee meeting in Fadenthal, Austria, in 1991. Within these categories contributions have been separated into topics suggested and accepted for symposia by various scientists.

A second volume will be published as a Journal Supplement and will contain shorter papers which represent a large part of the poster contributions at the congress. Overall, with the number of articles in these volumes and the diversity of their content we hope that the publication can serve as an informative “snapshot” on actual research in ornithology worldwide. Finally the editor and IOC organizers would like to thank the DO-G for their support, and also all others involved in the publication of these volumes including FRANZ BAIRLEIN, PETER BERTHOLD, EINHARD BEZZEL, WALTER BOCK, RENATE VAN DEN ELZEN, ANDREAS HELBIG, LUKAS JENNI, HEINZ SPLECHTNA, MICHAEL TABORSKY, JOHN WINGFIELD and HANS WINKLER. It never could have been done without their help.

John P. Dittami
(General-Secretary IOC,
Editor J. Orn. 135 [3])