



## **American Ornithological Society Meeting Tucson, 9-14 April 2018 – Two Free Public Events**

Please join us for the annual meeting of the [American Ornithological Society](#), to be held at the El Conquistador Resort in Tucson, Arizona, 9-14 April 2018. This meeting will offer a great opportunity for sharing and discussing scientific research in all areas involving birds. The meeting will place special emphasis on research and conservation focused on our 2018 meeting theme of **Celebrating Connections: Birds Across Borders**, including a binational [symposium](#) on desert bird research and conservation across our southern border. The timing of the meeting is perfect for viewing the peak of spring migration and we have several exciting [field trips](#) planned. The week will be capped off with the infamous [Bird Jam](#) featuring talented musicians from the Society and local area.

We have planned two events free and open to the public, co-sponsored by the [American Ornithological Society](#) and the [Tucson Audubon Society](#). No conference registration is required for these two events only. We encourage everyone to attend!

- **open to the public:** a special evening keynote address from **Dr. Ron Pulliam**, Borderlands Restoration Institute and Professor Emeritus, University of Georgia  
**Tuesday evening, 10 April, 7:00 pm, Presidio Ballroom, El Conquistador Resort**

### *On the diversity, coexistence and conservation of grassland sparrows*

Dr. Pulliam's talk will weave the AOS 2018 meeting theme together with perspectives from ecological theory, empirical field studies, and the pressing conservation issues of our time. His work on sparrows in southeastern Arizona has spanned several decades. He has published over 150 scientific articles and books on a wide range of topics including niche theory, animal foraging and flocking behavior, source sink dynamics, and the ecology of grassland birds. His former positions include President of the Ecological Society of America, Director of the National Biological Service, Science Adviser to the Secretary of Interior, and Director of the Institute of Ecology. He currently lives in Patagonia, Arizona where he is committed to connecting wildlife, land, and people in the Arizona/Sonora borderlands through the restoration of functional landscape processes.

- **open to the public:** a special evening symposium honoring the careers of Dr. Stephen and Ruth Russell, our Honorary Co-Chairs for the meeting.

**Thursday evening, 12 April, 6:00-7:30 pm, Presidio Ballroom, El Conquistador Resort.**

Attendees are welcome to stay for the evening poster session, which begins at 7:30 and includes snacks and a cash bar.

***Forty Years of Finding Birds in Southeastern Arizona: in honor of the careers of Dr. Stephen and Ruth Russell***

Southeastern Arizona has long attracted birders and ornithologists wishing to observe, document, and study Mexican species that just barely make it across the border of the United States into this unique region. The groundbreaking 1979 book, *Birds in Southeastern Arizona*, written by William A. Davis and Stephen M. Russell and published by Tucson Audubon Society, was the first regional guide to finding these species. In the nearly 40 intervening years, birders, citizen scientists, and ornithologists have collected a treasure trove of new information on bird records, distribution, life history, range expansions and contractions. As birding has become increasingly popular, so too, have the resources on when and where to find birds in Southeastern Arizona. Symposium attendees will not only enjoy photos of this region's most beautiful and sought-after birds, but will also learn about: range extensions of such rarities as Short-tailed Hawk, Flame-colored Tanager, and Slate-throated Redstart; changes in grassland bird habitat and associated bird species; Citizen Science survey results of Elegant Trogon distribution; hummingbird distributions in southeastern Arizona with estimates of how long they live; and an update on the northernmost Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owls in North America.

Presentations:

**Les Corey**, Tucson Audubon Board President.

*Honoring Two of Birding's Humble Warriors.*

**Chris Benesh**, Field Guides and past member of Arizona Bird Committee.

*Moving On Up: A Brief history of forty years of change in the Arizona birding community and the expansion of Mexican species into the state.*

**Ron Pulliam**, Borderlands Restoration Institute and Professor Emeritus, University of Georgia.

*Changes in Southeastern Arizona Grasslands and Birds.*

**Jennie MacFarland**, Tucson Audubon.

*A Touch of Elegance – Searching for trogons in Southeastern Arizona's Sky Islands.*

**Susan Wethington**, Hummingbird Monitoring Network.

*Hummingbirds in Arizona at the Turn of the Century.*

**Scott Richardson**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

*Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls in Arizona: Been there, done that, still doing that.*

**For more information:** <https://amornithmeeting2018.org/>