

# International Ornithologists' Union (IOU)



## Presidential Address

Dear ornithologists, colleagues and friends,



I am extending a warm invitation to the 26<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congress, which will be hosted by the Ornithological Society of Japan and convened by Professor Keisuke Ueda. Japanese ornithology has enjoyed a long and distinguished history in all areas of avian biology and maintaining a wide international network of collaborative studies. The host and sponsors of the 26<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congress are committed to enable as many avian biologists and ornithologists to attend the congress and present their studies.

International ornithological congresses have a long history of integrating all branches of science, from basic research in physiology, morphology, and molecular biology, to applied research in conservation, medicine, and agriculture, because birds are the experimental vertebrates of choice when trying to find answers to problems in these various areas. Birds have conquered all of the Earth's biomes; their body sizes range from the tiniest hummingbird to the enormous moas, and they share diurnality, color vision, visual and vocal communication, and three-dimensional space with us humans. Therefore, international ornithological congresses have maintained their unique position as "one-stop" events where it is possible to survey and integrate the latest advances in a great variety of scientific disciplines and to make new conceptual and professional connections. Ornithology also enjoys the distinction of attracting a large and increasing number of amateurs who are interested and involved in various research projects, and the 26<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congress will include programs that will be of interest to both professional and amateur ornithologists.

The 26<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congress will also offer a variety of pre-congress and post-congress tours, which will be accompanied by expert ornithologists, to destinations that are of special interest to ornithologists and often outside the more easily accessible spots.

For all the reasons mentioned, I hope that you will attend the 26<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congress and join me in welcoming the congress participants from all corners of the world.

### **Professor Dr. Franz Bairlein**

President, 26<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congress, Tokyo 2014

President, International Ornithologists' Union, 2010-2014

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President: Professor Dr. Franz Bairlein, Germany  
Vice-President: Professor Dr. Lucia Severinghaus, Taiwan  
Secretary: Professor Dr. Dominique G. Homberger, USA  
Treasurer: Professor Dr. Thomas Sherry, USA  
Past-President: Professor Dr. John C. Wingfield, USA

# Messages from 26<sup>th</sup> IOC Committee

## **Prof. Dominique Homberger**

Secretary of the International Ornithologists' Union



Dear Colleagues and Fellow Ornithologists,

I am looking forward to seeing you at the 26th International Ornithological Congress in Tokyo in August 2014. The idea for an IOCongress was conceived in the late 1980s, and planning started in 2000 at the Scientific Program Committee meeting for the 23rd IOCongress in Beijing. During my visit in Tokyo in 2008, I was impressed by the available facilities and support at the beautiful campus of Rykkyo University, the variety of affordable and comfortable hotels in the surrounding Ikebukuro District with its main railway station (with a direct line to and from Narita airport), the many restaurants with great Japanese food, the absolute safety of the streets, the possibilities for bird-watching in Tokyo's parks, and our wonderful Japanese colleagues and knowledgeable bird-watchers, who are convening the IOCongress.

The 2014 IOCongress will be the 10th IOCongress, which I have attended. The IOCongresses are very special events, which uniquely bring together ornithologists from all corners of the World. I know of no other international congress that moves its venues from one continent to the other, attracts participants from all continents (and at least partly supports some of them), and presents contributions from all fields of biology dealing with birds, from anatomy to ecology, migration, paleontology, physiology, and zoogeography (to name just a few areas). It is through the IOCongresses that I have built some of my closest and most enduring collaborations with colleagues in Australia, Africa, South America, Russia, and India. I am certain that other participants have had similar experiences. As our scientific community is becoming more global, with some of the fastest growth in ornithology occurring in Asia and South America, and as science is becoming more integrative and collaborative, the 26th International Ornithological Congress and future IOCongresses are perfectly positioned to support the interests and aspirations of ornithologists the world over.

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## **Prof. Erik Matthysen**

Chair of the Scientific Program Committee

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Dear colleagues and friends ornithologists,

The International Ornithological Congress has a strong tradition of bringing together the latest and best research on birds, with a mixture of review papers presenting an overview of their field, and topical contributions on recent findings. I am fully confident that the 26th IOC in Tokyo 2014 will continue this tradition and provide not only a highly enjoyable but also a scientifically rewarding environment, where we can meet, share ideas and insights, and strengthen our collaborations in the global science that ornithology has always been.

I therefore warmly welcome you to attend the 26th International Ornithological Congress and encourage you to submit your research for symposia talks, oral contributions and posters. Please consult the website [www.ioc26.jp](http://www.ioc26.jp) for all further information

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## **Prof. Keisuke Ueda**

Congress Convener

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Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 26th International Ornithological Congress, which will be held in Tokyo, Japan in the summer of 2014. Ornithology is developing rapidly and leading all levels of biology from ecosystems to molecules. The scientific and conservational activities have been advancing in Asia as well as in the world. Japanese nature and culture are also unique and wonderful.

The congress will be a great opportunity for all the participants to discuss on avian biology and to enjoy the nature and culture in Japan and the neighboring areas.