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The Auk: Ornithological Advances is an international, peer-reviewed journal that publishes original research and scholarship advancing the fundamental scientific knowledge of bird species and broad biological concepts (e.g., ecology, evolution, behavior, physiology, genetics) through studies of bird species. Articles often introduce or employ innovative empirical and theoretical approaches and analyses.

Topics covered in the journal include:

- Evolutionary history and paleontology
- Systematics and nomenclature
- Behavioral ecology
- Foraging strategies and tactics
- Population biology and ecology
- Molecular ecology
- Community and landscape ecology
- Migration and orientation
- Spacing patterns and habitat use
- Genetics and genomics
- Epigenetics, and evolutionary development
- Physiology and biochemistry
- Morphology and anatomy
- Integrative and cross-disciplinary studies
- Theoretical and methodological advances
- Thematic reviews and opinion pieces

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The American Ornithological Society publishes two peer-reviewed, international journals of ornithology. *The Auk: Ornithological Advances* focuses on basic ornithological science. *The Condor: Ornithological Applications* focuses on applied ornithological study. The redefined, separate missions of the journals in 2014 created an opportunity for them to work together to publish the best science in basic and applied ornithology and to build on their long histories as top journals in the field of avian biology.



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City University of New York, markehauber@gmail.com

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On the Cover: Crested Ibis (*Nipponia nippon*) in Yang County, Shaanxi Province, China (see Ye et al. pp. 421–431). Once deemed extinct in the wild decades ago, in 1981, seven Crested Ibises were rediscovered in a remote village in Yang County. Photo credit: Naxun Zhao

Journal Information: *The Auk: Ornithological Advances* publishes original research and scholarship advancing the fundamental scientific knowledge of bird species and broad biological concepts (e.g., ecology, evolution, behavior, physiology, genetics) through studies of bird species. Appropriate topics include documentation, analysis, and interpretation of laboratory and field studies; theoretical or methodological developments; and reviews of information or ideas. Authors are encouraged to write papers from the perspective of general concepts and theories and to consider the relevance of their findings to taxa in addition to birds. Contributions are welcomed from around the world but must be written in English. *The Auk* was published from 1884 to 2016 by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), and as of 2016 is published by the American Ornithological Society (a merger of the AOU and the Cooper Ornithological Society). *The Auk* became *The Auk: Ornithological Advances* in 2014. *The articles in this journal reflect the research and opinions of the individual authors. As such, the articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or any official policy of the American Ornithological Society.*

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