



Neotropical Ornithological Society

FRANÇOIS VUILLEUMIER FUND FOR RESEARCH ON NEOTROPICAL BIRDS

Goal of the Fund—The goal of the François Vuilleumier Fund is to provide one or more awards per year for thesis studies of Neotropical birds conducted by graduate students from any country in Latin America and the Caribbean. This includes the “Neotropical Region” as broadly defined by the Neotropical Ornithological Society. The funds are provided to assist thesis research by students enrolled in an institution in the Neotropics who have little or no access to funds within their country or at their institution. Awards will be competitive and are expected to be approximately **US\$ 1000**.

Eligibility—Students from Latin America and the Caribbean enrolled in a graduate degree program (Masters or Ph.D.) at an institution in the Neotropical Region are eligible to apply. Students must be members of the Neotropical Ornithological Society at the time of their application. Students enrolled in institutions from outside the region are ineligible for funding. Furthermore, neither Bachelor nor Postdoctoral students will be eligible for the fund.

Use of Funds—François Vuilleumier funds are expected to be used for thesis research-related expenses including equipment, supplies, travel and living expenses related to field work, etc. Grant monies will not cover salaries, stipends, travel to meetings, routine living expenses, overhead or indirect costs to the educational institution.

Application Calendar

Application Deadline / **15 March each year** (e-mail Receipt)

Announcement of Awards / 15 June each year

Application Guidelines—Please follow the guidelines as only proposals following the guidelines will be considered.

1. Proposals may be submitted in English, Spanish, or Portuguese.
2. Applications are to be sent by e-mail only (preferably as a single PDF file) to Francisco J. Vilella (fv1@msstate.edu) and must be received by 15 March of each year. A scanned copy of the original **signed** application cover page should be included as well.
3. Application should include **cover page, proposal** (as summarized below), **curriculum vitae** (2-4 pages maximum length), and **two letters of recommendation**, one of which should be from the major advisor. Letters should clearly describe both the qualifications of the student for the proposed study, how the proposed work fits in with the student’s graduate

program and should comment on the value of the study itself. Letters can be included in the original submission or can be sent directly via email. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that both letters arrive by the deadline.

Requested format for the cover page

APPLICATION TO THE FRANÇOIS VUILLEUMIER FUND
FOR RESEARCH ON NEOTROPICAL BIRDS

Applicant's Name:

Applicant's Address:

Telephone & Fax:

E-mail:

Institutional Affiliation:

Graduate Degree Sought & Date Expected:

Name of Thesis Advisor:

Title of Proposal:

Amount Requested:

Member of the Neotropical Ornithological Society?

Name and address (including e-mail address) of two references who have been asked by you to send letters of recommendation:

Signature of Applicant and Date:

Proposal guidelines

The text of the proposals is limited to **three single-spaced pages** (21.6 x 28 cm or 8.5 x 11 in), with 2.5 cm (1 in.) margins and 12-point font. The proposal should have the following format (suggested page lengths are simply for guidance and are not fixed):

Introduction—Provide relevant background information and explain the uniqueness of the project and how the proposed study will clarify or resolve an unanswered question in the literature. Place the study in the context of previous work by citing relevant literature. Explain how the study contributes to ornithological knowledge [1 page]

Objectives/Questions/Hypotheses—Clearly state the overall objectives of the proposed study as well as the specific objectives or questions to be addressed. If appropriate, state specific hypotheses to be tested (hypotheses are not required) [0.5 page]

Methods—Explain how the study will be conducted and if appropriate why the proposed approach is used rather than another method. Support the methods with references. If the project requires capturing or collecting (killing) birds provide justification and include evidence that appropriate permits have been obtained or the permit process has been initiated [1 page]

Significance – Describe the significance of the proposed research, both in terms of basic ornithological research and conservation, if applicable. Why is this study important and why should it receive funding? [0.5 page]

In addition to the three pages described above, please also provide:

Literature cited – Please include full citations for all references included in the proposal.

Preliminary studies—If available, explain and summarize preliminary data in text, tables or figures [1 page]

Facilities—Describe the availability of proposed study site(s), lab(s), equipment, etc. necessary to conduct the research. Clearly state that permission to use the proposed facilities has been obtained and that all necessary permits are granted or will be by the time of the study [0.5 page]

Timetable—Provide dates for initiation and completion of field work, lab work (if applicable), data analysis, thesis/manuscript preparation, graduation, and submission for publication [1 page]

Budget—Be specific and reasonable in requesting an amount limited to approximately US\$1000. List budget items in order of those funds and items actually awarded by other sources, budget items pending from other sources, and items requested from FV fund. Make certain to specify exactly which budget items are to be funded by the FV fund [0.5 page]

Budget justification—Specifically justify the needs for budget items that are to be funded by FV funds by relating the needs to the study objectives.

Statement of all pending applications—Students are encouraged to submit proposals to multiple funding agencies, however they may not accept more than one funding award for the same budget item. Please state agencies or organization to which applications are pending at the time of submission to the FV fund.

Curriculum Vitae [2-4 pages]

IMPORTANT:

At the conclusion of the study all recipients of a François Vuilleumier award will submit a brief (3-5 pages) report summarizing the results and ways in which the award contributed to the successful completion of their research. Please include photographs that illustrate study species, habitats and field activities.

Award recipients will submit the report no later than 30 days after the conclusion of the study. We are interested in developing an archive that highlights the scientific achievements of our award recipients and help to promote their contributions to our knowledge of Neotropical birds.