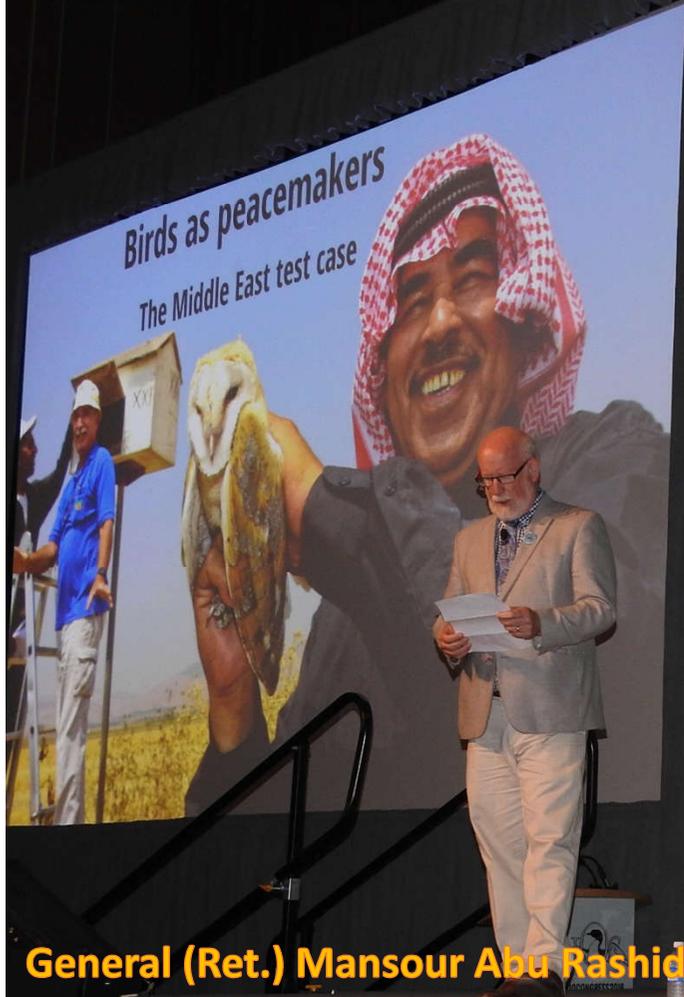


Impressions from the 27th International Ornithology Congress (IOC) Vancouver, Canada, August 19th-26th 2018



General (Ret.) Mansour Abu Rashid (Jordan), Prof. Alex Roulin (Switzerland), Prof. Yossi Leshem (Israel) and convener Dr. Richard Cannings
Presentation editors: Yossi Leshem, Sorrel Ritter and Omer Zlotnick



Advertising the event in the IOC program (see full program at link: <https://bit.ly/2NBQsZv>)



INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS
VANCOUVER, CANADA • AUGUST 19-26, 2018

#IOCONGRESS
2018

Vancouver Convention Centre
August 19-26, 2018



Birds as Peacemakers - A Middle East Case Study

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM | West Ballroom A

PRICE: Included with Full Congress Registration or Thursday, August 23 Registration Day Pass | NON-DELEGATES: \$25

**Ticket required and can be purchased at the Registration Desk*

In the framework of the Vancouver International Bird Festival for the public, Yossi Leshem (Tel Aviv University), Alexandre Roulin (University of Lausanne), and Mansour Abu Rashid (Amman Center for Peace and Development), will be giving a presentation, titled "Birds Know No Boundaries". This lecture will present their work during the last two decades, and their efforts to jointly advance projects for the conservation of bird species and their habitats, joint research, and extensive educational activities. But of no less significance, they will present their projects to connect between nations, between Muslims and Jews, with the birds constituting a tool for cooperation focusing on people-to-people activities at the levels of researchers, conservationists, farmers, schoolchildren, NGOs, and politicians.

Program of the Vancouver Bird Festival, held in the framework of the IOC
 (see link: <https://bit.ly/2LQ0pAU>)



**Get ready for the
 VANCOUVER BIRD FESTIVAL
 & 27TH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS
 August 19-26, 2018**

The Vancouver International Bird Festival (VIBF) was created to build on the success of Vancouver Bird Week which has taken place in the city and enjoyed by Vancouverites since 2013.

In 2018, VIBF is partnering with the International Ornithological Congress and Artists for Conservation (IOC) to celebrate the world of birds.

The Festival has many exciting events, speakers, and activities for all ages! Artists for Conservation will showcase their annual art show of renowned wildlife artists and their new 'Silent Skies' mural. Top contenders for prizes for the VIBF photography contest will be on display; indigenous artists will be creating art work in Vancouver and art workshops led by professional artists are planned around the city. Lectures by leading ornithologists, tour leaders and more will be featured throughout this exciting week.

www.vanbirdfest.com | www.iocongress2018.com

Event Calendar Includes:

AUGUST 20	Opening Ceremonies - Birds on Parade National Green Park to NCE (along the seawall / Free for all)	AUGUST 20	Canada Post Stamp Launch West Point Grey (Free / Open to Public)
AUGUST 21	Bird Festival Day at the Museum of Vancouver	AUGUST 22	Artists for Conservation Exhibit Opening Reception
AUGUST 23	Birds as Peacemakers in the Middle East	AUGUST 23	Nature & Birds Expo Open to the Public Including Artists for Conservation
AUGUST 24	Pumina Barman Lecture	AUGUST 25	Genes of Birds Family Day on the Expo Floor

**Four minute video filmed and edited by Jocelyn Demers about the regional cooperation
in the Middle East and our lecture at the congress:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D11qRKNWc4o4JjW5mCRlyRse8ztHnkw2/view?usp=sharing>



Before the congress, we took a boat trip to see killer whales (orcas), an amazing experience!!



Photo from the Prince of Whales website



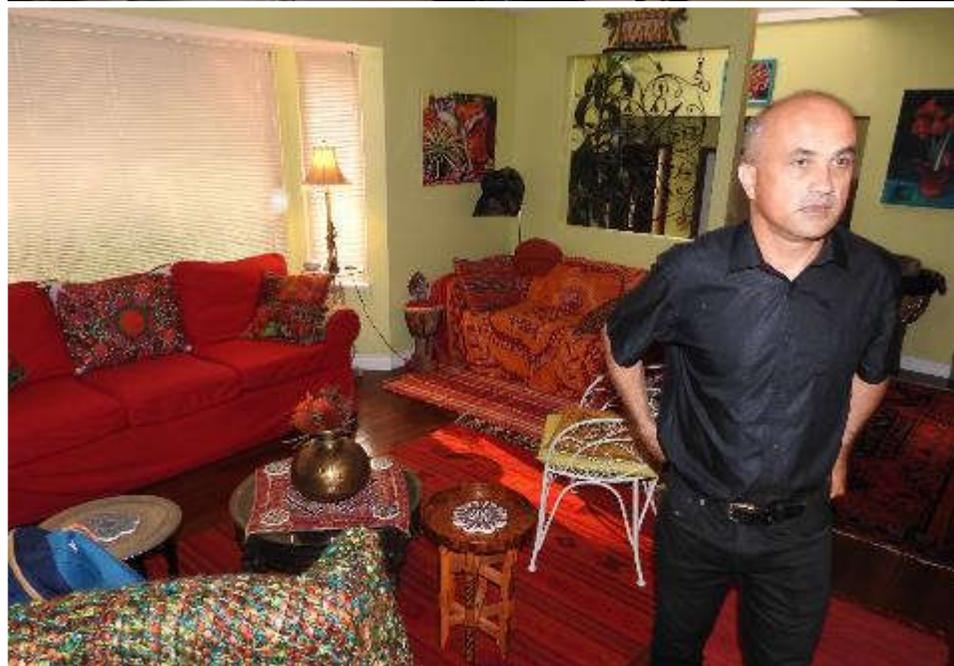
Photo from the Prince of Whales website







**Our video interview at the home of the producer who documented
our event at the IOC, Jocelyn Demers (top right)**



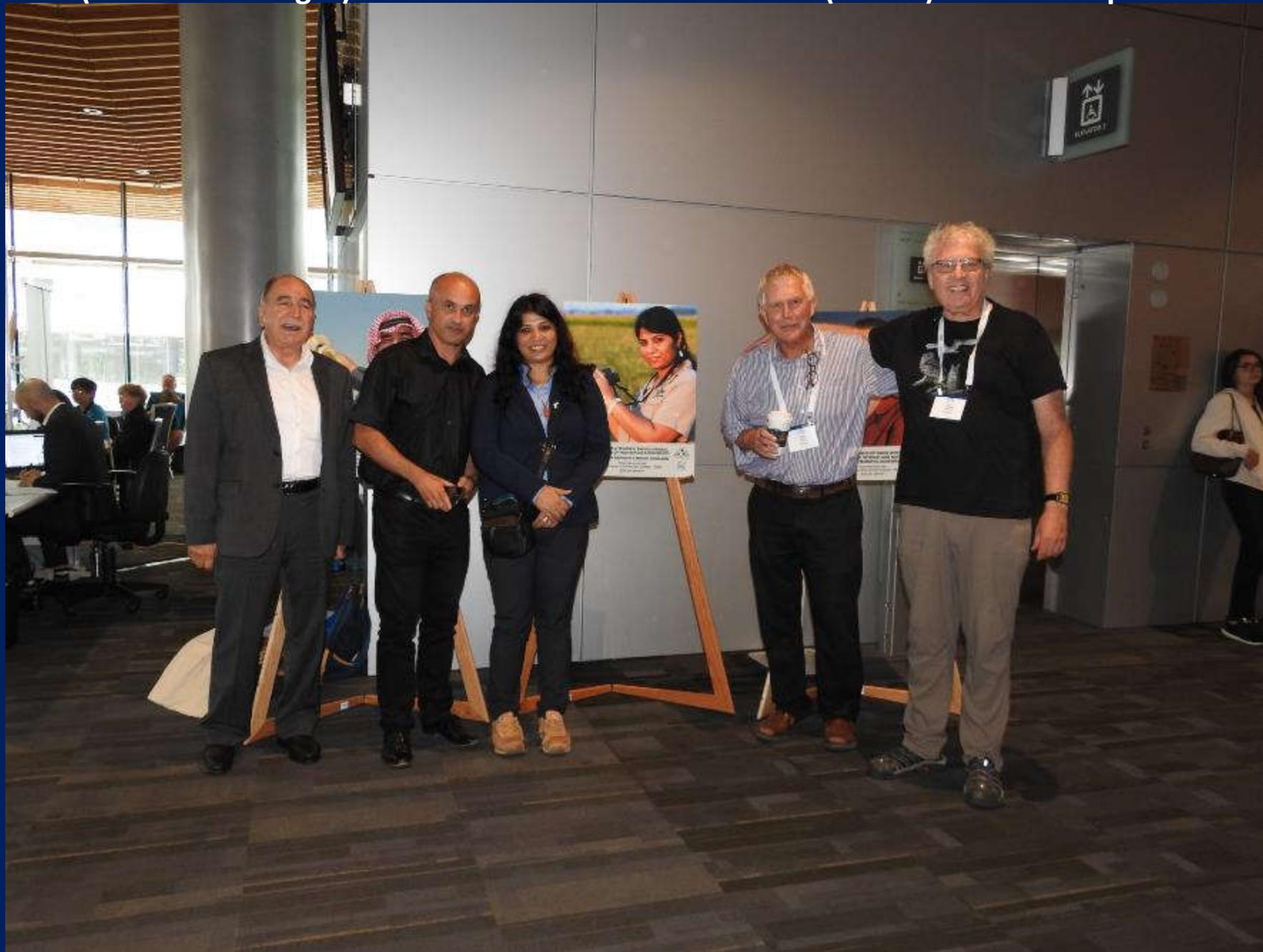
Alex Roulin, Yossi Leshem and General Mansour meeting with journalist Dr. Lesley Evans Ogden for a magazine article about our activities in the Middle East



**Advertising the three evening lectures in the congress corridors:
ours on left, Purnima Barman from India at center, well-known author Jennifer Ackerman on right**



With Prof. Bob Elner, President of the IOCongress2018 Organizing Society and Convener (second from right) and Purnima Barman from India (center) next to her photo



Lunch at the Cactus Club Cafe with Michael & Kathy Gallagher who donated towards our IOC event; on the right Prof. Elnor



The Cactus Club Café, adjacent to the congress center, became our “home restaurant” during the congress...



**Our booth, #609, on the festival floor which stretched over an enormous area;
Jordanian General Mansour helps with the construction of the booth**



The enlarged artworks from the exhibition at the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) which appear in the Dead Sea book launched at the congress





Wild Goat (Capra ibex) - Mountain Goat
The wild goat is a large mammal with long, curved horns. It is found in the mountains of the Middle East and Central Asia. It is a herbivore and feeds on grass and shrubs. It is a very hardy animal and can survive in high altitudes and cold temperatures.



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Birds As Peacemaker

609



Red Admiral Butterfly (Vanessa atalanta) - Butterfly
The Red Admiral butterfly is a large, dark butterfly with a distinctive white band across its wings. It is found in many parts of the world, including the Middle East. It is a common sight in gardens and parks. It is a very hardy butterfly and can survive in a wide range of climates.



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EXIT

VERIUS

Birds As Precipitation 403

MAKE THE DEAD SEA - THE LOWEST PLACE ON EARTH
البحر الميت - المنخفض في العالم
البحر الميت - المنخفض في العالم

The image shows a display of educational materials. The most prominent poster is titled 'MAKE THE DEAD SEA - THE LOWEST PLACE ON EARTH' and features a large illustration of a landscape with a blue lake and many birds. Below this illustration is text in Arabic and English. To the right, a poster titled 'Birds As Precipitation' features several smaller illustrations of birds. Other posters include close-up photos of birds and detailed illustrations of bird species. The display is set up in a room with a white wall and a black ceiling with recessed lights. An 'EXIT' sign is visible on the wall to the right.



Two volunteers manned our booth every day



Every day there were different volunteers at our booth



A booklet was produced especially for the IOC presenting our activities;
It can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2uzsVBI>



Birds As Peacemakers

The Middle East Test Case

Jordanian farmer holding a Barn Owl with Israeli farmer next to a nesting box in the Beit Shean Valley, Israel, part of the regional project for using Barn Owls and Common Kestrels as biological pest control agents in agriculture; 4,500 nesting boxes have been put up in this project (Photo: Hagai Aharon)



At our booth we displayed the brochure and Dead Sea book to the 30,000 visitors at the festival and the congress, together with pamphlets advertising a conference to be held in Eilat in spring 2019 and materials from the Canadian SPNI



The congress and festival opened with a march of about 200 birds carried by bird enthusiasts from Vancouver in an impressive parade with Native Canadian background music













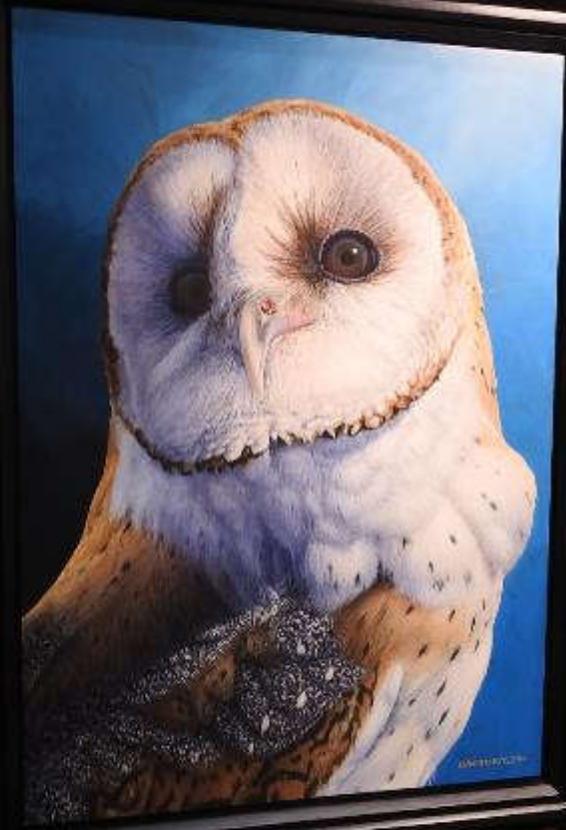
IOC President, Prof. Lucia Liu Severinghaus, with Alex and General Mansour



The entrance to the large booth of the Artists for Conservation organization



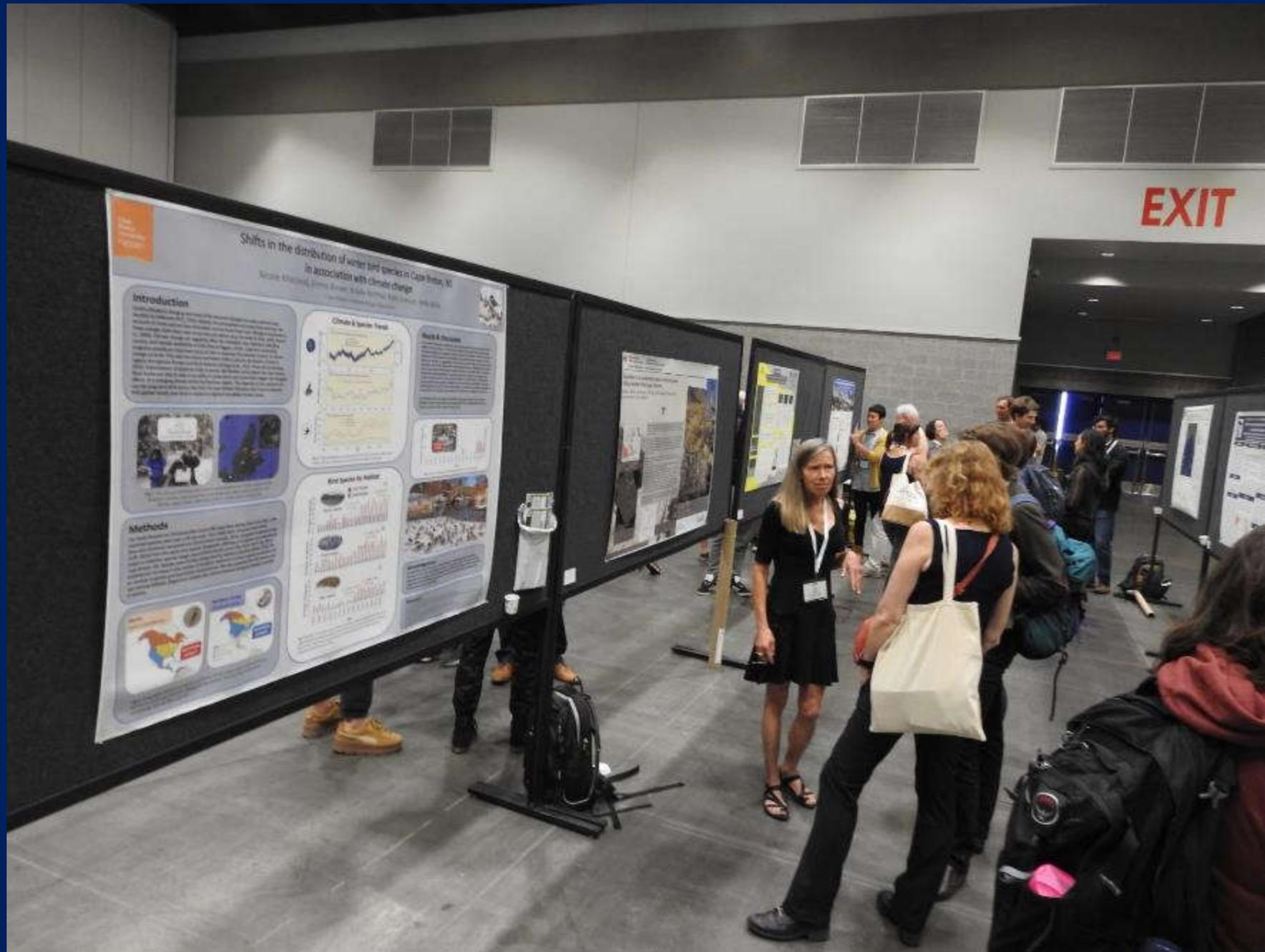




David Kitler

W/C Sprague Mendenhall

About 100 posters of researchers were displayed at the congress





Dr. Nir Sapir from the University of Haifa convenes a symposium at the congress

Prof. Ran Nathan from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem with a friend in front of our booth





Lectures about raptor conservation with trained birds





Tens of booths for selling research and photographic equipment at the festival





Getting ready for Canada Evening for 2,000 congress participants



Famous Canadian author Margaret Atwood was the main lecturer at Canada Evening and was happy to meet with Yossi again; they have a long acquaintance from BirdLife conferences and the Dan David Prize in Israel



Photo: Christian Artuso



Photo: Christian Artuso

Margaret Atwood touring in Israel in 2010, next to one of the Barn Owl nesting boxes; on the right Alex Roulin holding two chicks, Israeli author and nature lover Meir Shalev (with binocs), Yossi Leshem and Dan Alon, Director of the SPNI's Israel Ornithological Center





**Margaret viewing the nest
of a Common Kestrel in
the Jezreel Valley, Israel**



**Margaret holding
a kestrel chick**

Margaret's husband, Graeme Gibson, also a well-known author and enthusiastic birder



**Dr. Rob Butler, Chairman of the festival and a prominent figure at the congress,
with Prof. Lucia Liu Severinghaus**



With Joanne and Stanis Smith, friends of Prof. Bob Elner



Steven Price, President of the organization Bird Studies Canada, convenes at Canada Evening



The 2,000 seat hall is completely full



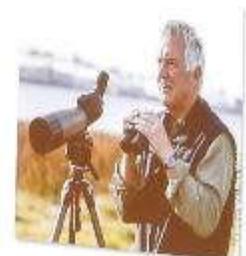
**Prof. Bob Elnor is awarded a prize for his significant contribution
to protecting the birds of Canada**







Doris Huestis Speirs Award



Dr. Robert W. Elner



Leadership Award



Margaret Atwood goes up the stage for her lecture dressed as a bird



Margaret Atwood's lecture was received very enthusiastically by the audience

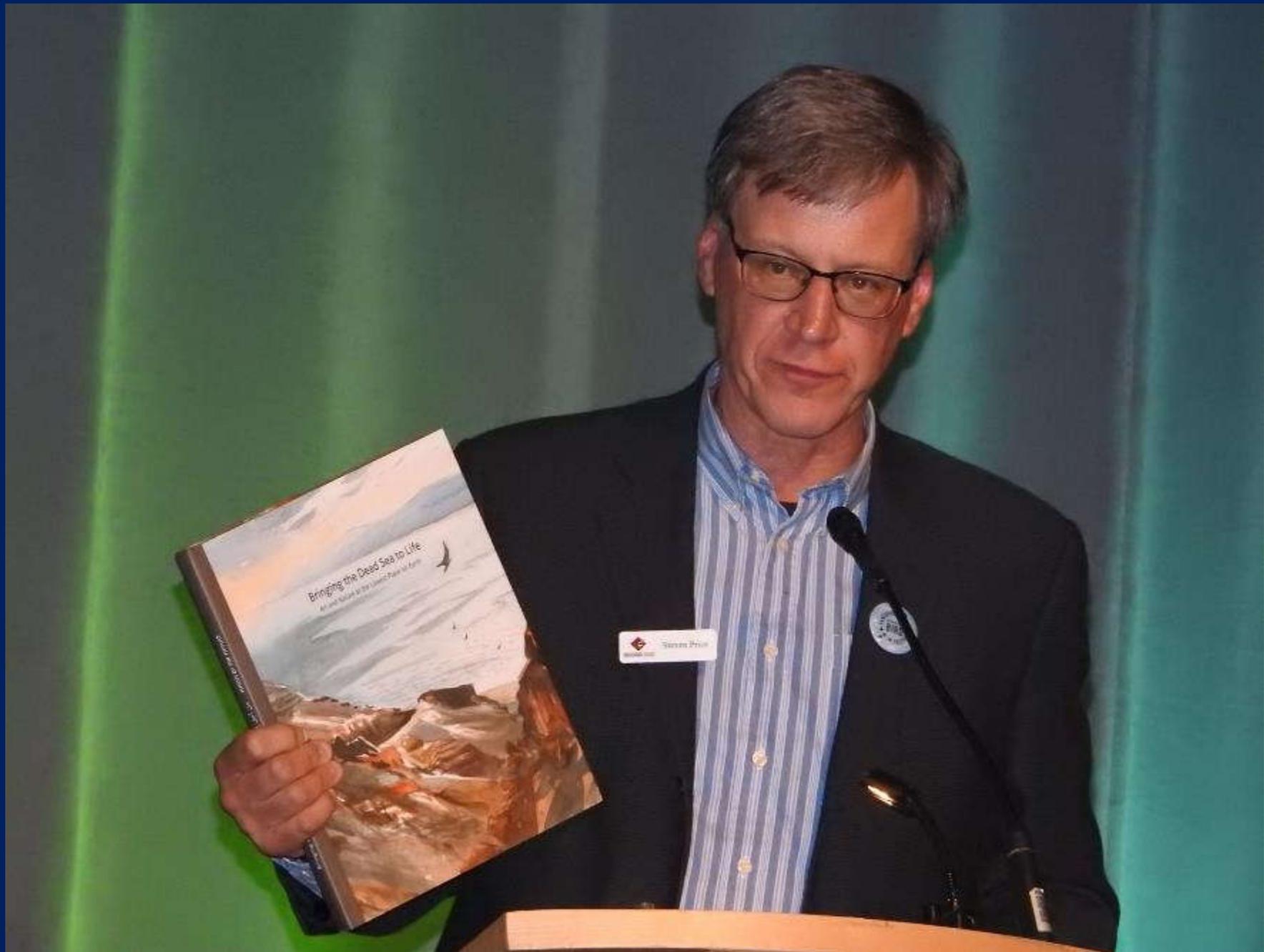




Margaret was presented with two book during the evening: Birds Nunavut



... and our book on the Dead Sea



www.ArtistsForConservation.org



Artists for Conservation™



Artists for
Conservation™
Supporting Nature through Art

The World's Leading Artist Group Supporting the Environment

A 33 meter (100 feet) long exhibit presenting artworks of 678 bird species in danger of global extinction painted by 96 artists, for raising awareness to the need for their protection





Artists for
Conservation®

Silent Skies Mural Project

"Silent Skies" is an international collaborative super-mural mosaic featuring all 678 endangered species of birds of the world that brings together many of the world's most recognized nature and wildlife artists. The 100-ft-long installation was unveiled for the first time at 8th annual Artists for Conservation Festival in conjunction with the 27th International Ornithological Congress and inaugural Vancouver International Bird Festival at Vancouver's Convention Centre on August 22, 2018. The mural will then tour internationally. A limited number of canvas giclee editions of each will be available for sale with proceeds supporting bird conservation and education.

www.ArtistsForConservation.org/Silent-Skies



**On the left, Artists for Conservation President, Jeffrey Whiting,
the moving force behind the extensive activities of this organization**





Silent Skies Mural Project

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www.ArtistsForConservation.org/Silent-Skies





Guadalupe Kingfisher
Aleochara exilis n.

Guadalupe - Spanish Island
Specimens collected, 1910's - 12
1941 - 1 - 1963 - 2 - 2015 - 1

MICHAEL DUMAS-MEYER



PAT LANAS
2018

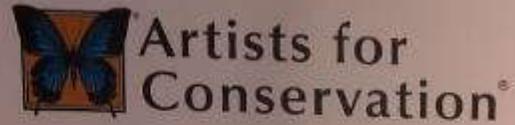




© Jennifer Miller 2011



Schoolchildren were also involved in this exciting initiative



Silent Skies Student Mural Project

The Silent Skies STUDENT Mural Project is a curriculum-based youth education program developed by Artists for Conservation in partnership with the 27th International Ornithological Congress and Vancouver International Bird Festival. It focuses on the study of conservation and endangered species through research, art and community engagement. The program is an extension of its parent project - the Silent Skies Mural. The program offers students,

educators, schools, parents and their respective communities, a unique opportunity for students to have their work published online and potentially selected for exhibit in a major international cultural and scientific event. A selection of 100 student artworks have been printed and mounted in this installation alongside the professional artist version at the aforementioned events.

Award Winners (Best-in-Grade for BC)



Grade 4 - 11 Awarded 1st



Grade 4 - 11 Awarded 2nd



Grade 4 - 11 Awarded 3rd



Grade 4 - 11 Awarded 4th



Grade 4 - 11 Awarded 5th

www.ArtistsForConservation.org/silent-skies









Artists for Conservation

Silent Skies Student Mural Project

The Silent Skies Student Mural Project is a collaborative effort between Artists for Conservation and the National Audubon Society. It is designed to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on birds and their habitats. The project involves students from across the United States creating and displaying their own murals of birds and their habitats. The murals are displayed in a large gallery, creating a powerful visual statement about the importance of protecting our natural world.

Award-Winning (Best in Show for BC)

www.artistsforconservation.org/silent-skies





MUNKITRICK

Two American swift enthusiasts, Diane Yorgason-Quinn and Faye McAdams Hands, who participated in the International Swift Conference we organized in Israel in March 2018, attended our event



Tracking System
**Collaborative
research
for
conservation**

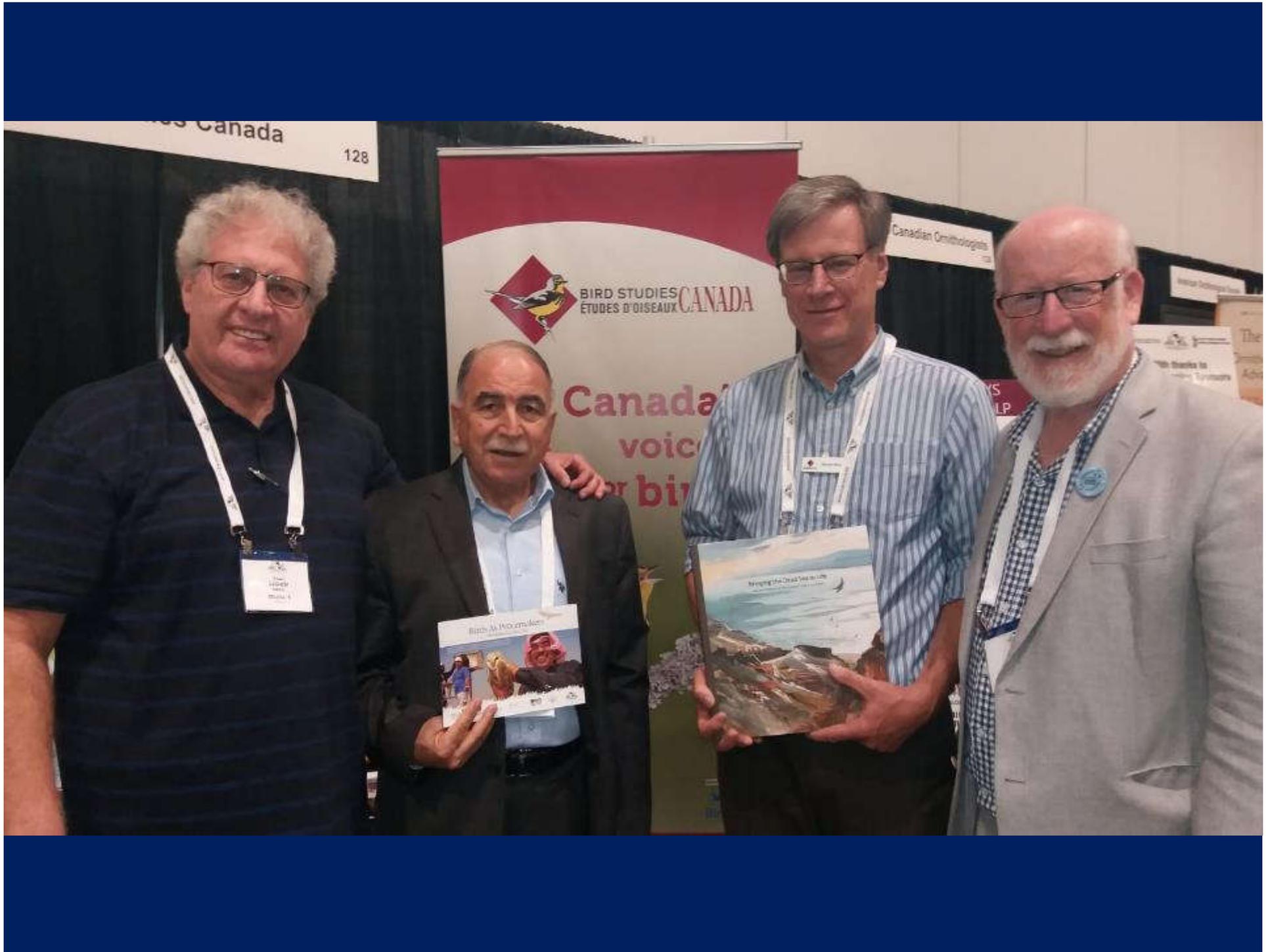


Handwritten notes on a piece of paper on the table.

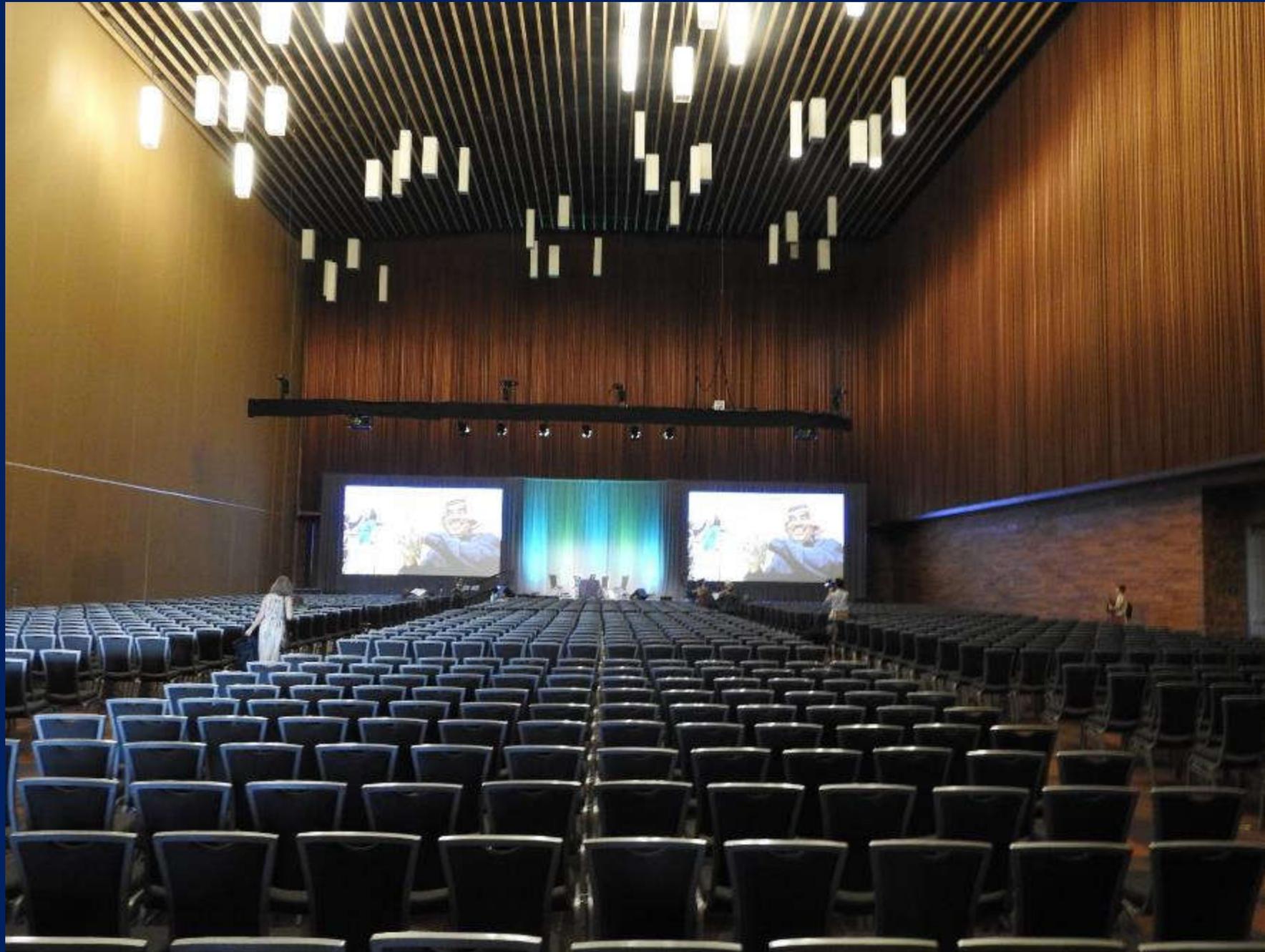


**BIRD STUDIES
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX**

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ce
d



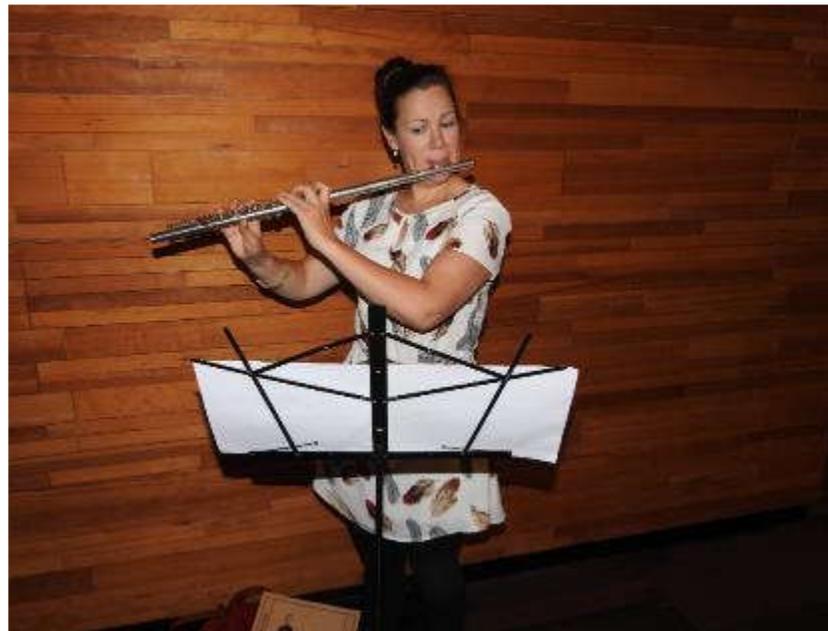
The hall is ready for our event “Birds as Peacemakers” on August 23rd, from 19:00-20:45



Jocelyn Demers filmed the whole event



11 flutists from the Tempest Flute Ensemble (scattered around the hall), opened our event with a musical interlude composed specially for the evening (link to the ensemble's website: <https://tempestflutes.com/about/>)





**Canadian MP, Dr. Richard (Dick) Cannings, birder and author
who has written 15 bird books, convened our event**





General Mansour, Alex and Yossi on the stage at the event



Yossi presenting Prof. Lucia Liu Severinghaus with the Dead Sea book



... and General Mansour to Beth, Bob Elnor's wife, in appreciation of her patience with her husband's intensive occupation with preparations for the congress, during four straight years!



Opening movie edited by Yuval Dax: <https://youtu.be/S4BJZSJ3lc>



In photo: 160 Jordanian schoolchildren came to learn about the conservation of the Dead Sea and take part in workshops with the artists;
link to the “Artists for Nature” movie edited by Yuval Dax: <https://youtu.be/pK6XsVwik7U>

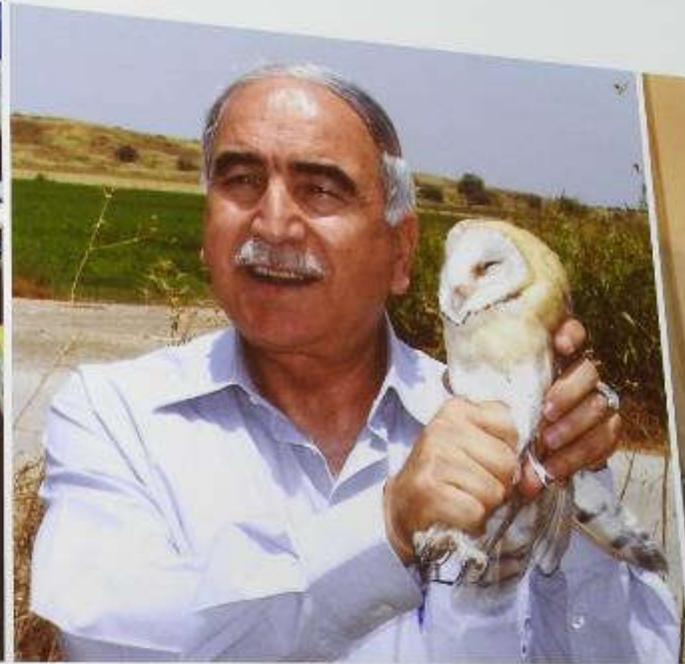


Opening lecture by Prof. Alex Roulin from the University of Lausanne,
showing a sign of the Jordan River in Vancouver





FROM WAR TO PEACE

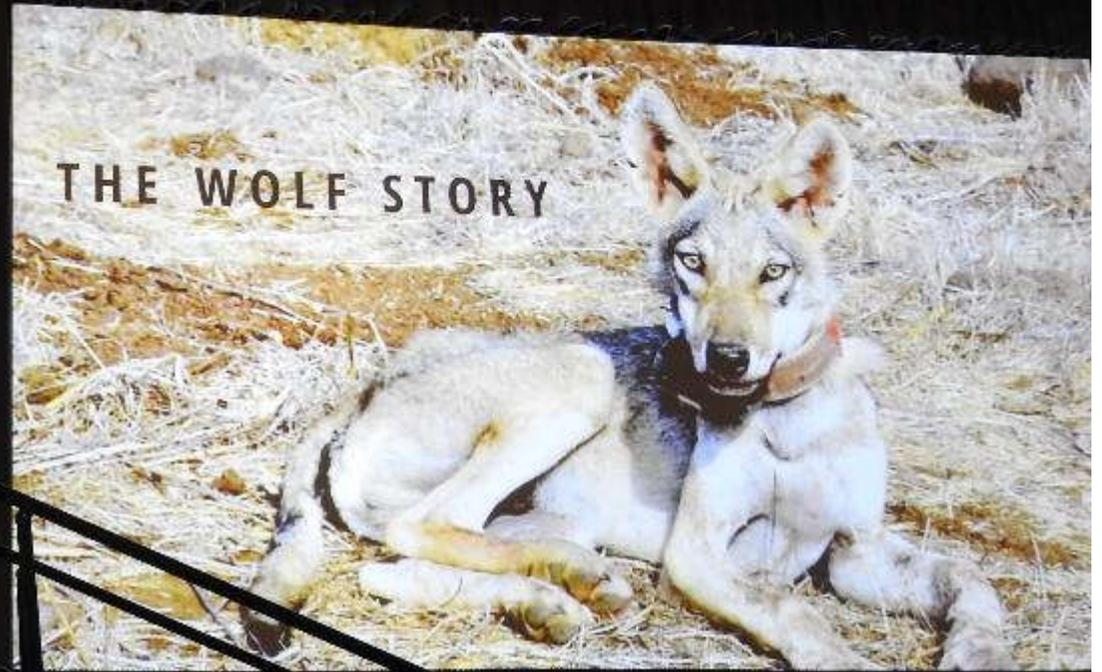


Next to lecture, General Mansour Abu Rashid from Jordan

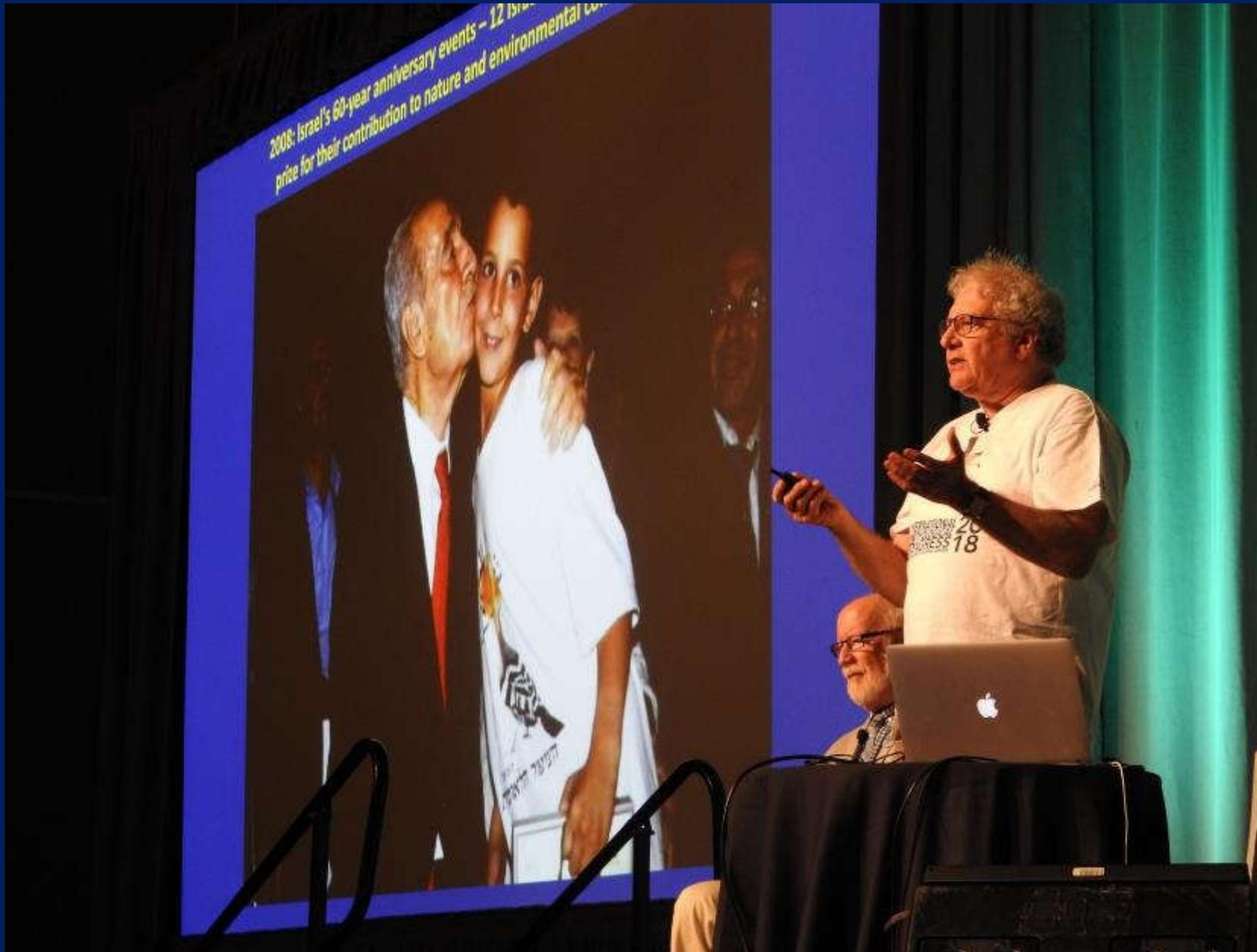




THE WOLF STORY



Last to lecture, Yossi Leshem, talks about the late President Shimon Peres who presented Yossi's grandson, Nadav, with an award at the Caesarea amphitheater for Yossi's contribution to bird protection, and said: "You're much nicer than your grandfather..."



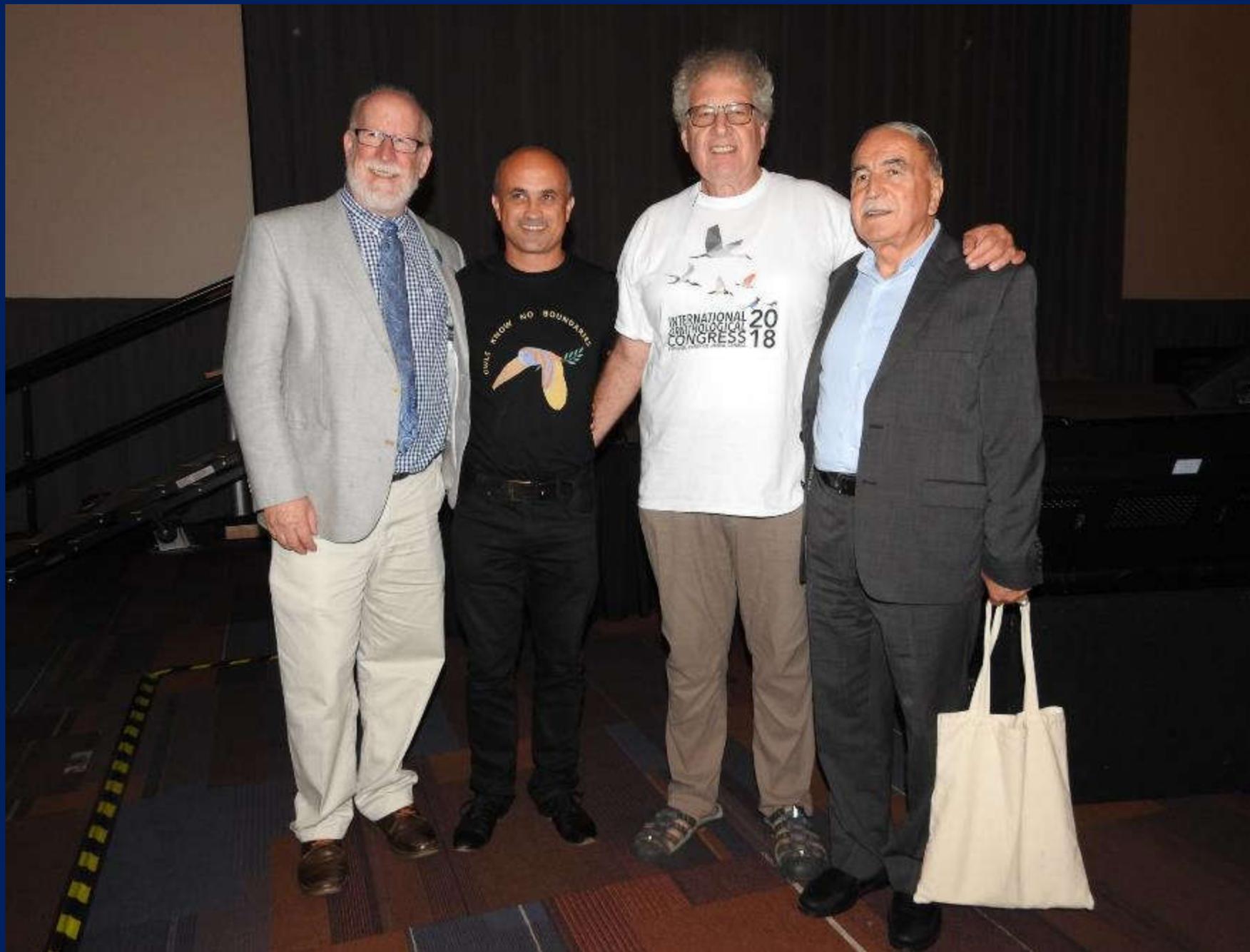
21:00: question time, it's starting to get late, Yossi fell asleep on the stage...



General Mansour presents a gift from Jordan to Prof. Bob Elnor – a sculpture of Petra



Meeting after an especially successful evening



The company Wildlife Acoustics from Massachusetts presented the Israelis with one of their recording machines for using in Israeli research; on the left Mona Doss, Vice President of Business Development



A day trip to the forests at Capilano Bridge, with Dr. Eshel Ophir
from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem











On the trip we met Prof. Woo Shin Lee (left), one of the most senior researchers in South Korea, who after hearing our lecture is enthusiastic to extend the idea of birds as peacemakers to his region





Prof. Franz Bairlein (right), founder of the IOU and former IOC President, at the closing meeting of the IOU before the end of the congress



Closing ceremony of the congress and festival outside the congress center halls



Dr. Judy Shamoun from the University of Amsterdam, looks very satisfied from the congress and meeting old friends from Israel



Newly elected President of the IOU and IOC, Prof. Dominique G. Homberger, speaking about the future of the IOU and IOC, and the next congress in Melbourne in 2022





Jim Wright and his partner saying farewell to General Mansour



Bird Festival Director and former IOC President, Prof. Severinghaus, saying goodbye to hundreds of participants at the closing ceremony



See you at the 28th IOC in Melbourne, September 2022!

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD



 CITY OF
VANCOUVER