1) Focusing conservation at the level of the individual ignores the fact that all individuals die. Only populations and species can be conserved. 2) Unfamiliarity with population biology causes people to overlook the often high rates of mortality that occur annually (~38% adult mortality in wood warblers, for example). Collecting does not add to this (it is compensatory, not additive), and the vast majority of populations can easily withstand the relatively tiny amounts of take that scientific collecting represents. 3) A misunderstanding of scientific research can occur when permitting officials wish to know exactly what will occur in a field effort before allowing it to begin. In effect, this view can limit scientific progress only to approaches using the experimental method, when the comparative method is how most research collections have been built. Given the value of collections to science and society, we need to continue growing them in ways that have proven so useful. Institutional field efforts in particular need to continue to sample avian communities in ways that benefit the collective research resource, and what one encounters in the field can rarely be predicted with precision. 4) Typological thinking is a view that one or two individuals are sufficient. This ignores the many types of variation present in populations (e.g., individual, age, sex, time of year), that populations vary across a species’ distribution, and that these distributions themselves change across years. Sample sizes are generally quite low in research collections when you consider this variation. 5) The opposition of scientific collecting on moral grounds is a view to be respected but not to be imposed on others. Not only is collecting an extremely small source of avian mortality (and the only one preserving samples for science), we live in a society that kills billions of animals annually for food and by accident. Moral opposition to animal deaths can achieve much greater successes (with fewer downsides) when aimed elsewhere. And preparing specimens of salvaged birds would be an excellent outlet.