



Partners in Flight

LA TANGARA



Newsletter of the International Working Group of Partners in Flight
A Hemisphere-wide bird conservation initiative.

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CONTENTS

News and Announcements

- Call for information for Waterbird workshop
- Federal funding bill for America's migratory birds passes crucial committee vote
- Crucial site for Endangered birds in Colombia saved
- Mexican Grasslands Appeal
- International Migratory Bird Day 2006
- Caribbean Oriole Taxonomy Examined
- Praise for Paraguayan Conservation Efforts
- Call for Information for Second Edition of Colombian Guide
- Group of Experts formed in Mexico for possible dispersion of Avian Flu
- Avian Conservation and Ecology - New Issue Announcement
- Bird Banding Laboratory Announcement
- Proceedings of the II International Symposium for the Conservation of the Horned Guan

Web News

Funding

Training / Job Opportunities

Meetings

Publications Available

Recent Literature

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR INFORMATION FOR WATERBIRD WORKSHOP During the Waterbird Symposium held at La Ceiba, Honduras during the IX Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation, in November 2005, we announced the organization of a future Waterbird monitoring workshop in Veracruz in October 2006. For the organization of this workshop, it is necessary to consider your opinion for the design of the workshop in regards to the needs of the Mesoamerican area and the species you think should be considered a priority. Some of the questions are: 1) Which aquatic bird groups are a monitoring priority in the near-term?; 2) Are there monitoring projects already occurring for those species?

Who organizes these projects?; 3) Are protocols well established for the above projects? Is training/communication of these protocols adequate?; 4) Can these protocols be adapted to most habitats?; 5) Based on monitoring priorities, what topics or training would you recommend for a workshop? Please explain. Do you have an interest in attending this workshop? And would you be able to share your monitoring experiences with other partners at one workshop? We will be grateful for answers to these questions, as well as other comments. Please send your comments before April 30, 2006 to Ghisselle M. Alvarado Quesada, National Museum of Costa Rica, <mailto:octrop@racsa.co.cr> and Jennifer Wheeler, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service., mailto:Jennifer_A_Wheeler@fws.gov

FEDERAL FUNDING BILL FOR AMERICA'S MIGRATORY BIRDS PASSES CRUCIAL COMMITTEE VOTE

On 29 March 2006, the House Resources Committee passed unanimously the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act (HR 518). This is a vital step forward in the reauthorization of a bill that provides the only significant federal funding source for neotropical migratory birds. The original Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 2000 expired in 2005, prompting the new legislation. The new bill would increase funding from the previous \$5 million level by \$1 million each year, to reach a maximum of \$8 million by 2010. Further improvements are a reduction in the ratio of matching money that recipients must raise from three to one down to one to one, making the funds that much more accessible. The new bill also makes Canadian projects eligible for funding. American Bird Conservancy has been a major proponent of this legislation, helping to galvanize support for the bill and testifying at a recent committee hearing. The next step for the legislation is the House floor. Companion legislation in the Senate (S.1410) is also awaiting floor action.

CRUCIAL SITE FOR ENDANGERED BIRDS IN COLOMBIA SAVED

Fast action by an alliance of conservation groups battling global extinctions has saved one of the world's most important sites for endangered species. American Bird Conservancy (ABC), Conservation International (CI) and Fundación ProAves of Colombia stepped in to protect the 1,600-acre site on the northwest slope of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta massif, on the Caribbean coast of Colombia, before its development for vacation homes. The site is the key breeding ground for the Globally Endangered Santa Marta Parakeet. Another 18 endemic bird species and five threatened amphibians can also only be found on the reserve. NMBCA-USFWS sponsored monitoring work with ProAves identified the site as a vital stopover point for declining neotropical migratory birds, such as the Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers. All three conservation groups - ABC, CI, and ProAves - are among the 55 members of the Alliance for Zero Extinction (<http://www.zeroextinction.org>). The alliance issued a report in December 2005 that pinpointed 595 sites around the world containing the last significant habitat for one or more Endangered species of mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian and plant. It listed the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta site as one of the most crucial to protect. In late December, Fundación ProAves learned of the impending sale of plots from the site for construction of vacation homes. It alerted the Alliance for Zero Extinction of the crisis, and in less than a month, ABC and CI had secured the funds necessary for Fundación ProAves to buy the entire site on 31st March 2006, that now will be called the El Dorado Nature Reserve. The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta is one of the highest coastal mountain range in the world, rising from the shores of the Caribbean Sea to almost 19,000 feet. It contains extraordinary numbers of species found nowhere else across a multitude of isolated ecosystems. Protecting the new El Dorado Nature Reserve prevents destruction of unique and rare biodiversity, and also ensures a clean water source for coastal towns that depend on two watersheds that

have their sources in the new reserve. Visitors are welcome to stay at the reserve (contact <mailto:slara@proaves.org>) and for more information visit <http://www.proaves.org> and http://www.abcbirds.org/media/releases/santa_marta_release.htm

MEXICAN GRASSLANDS APPEAL

The Mexican Grasslands Appeal is the first international collaborative fundraising effort of the Bird Conservation Alliance (BCA). The funds generated by the appeal will protect the grasslands immediately adjacent to the new WHSRN Site of International Importance at La Soledad, Nuevo León, Mexico, south of the city of Saltillo. In addition to the area's value to shorebirds, the habitat is crucial for Mexican Prairie Dogs, Burrowing Owls, Ferruginous Hawks and the endemic Worthen's Sparrow. We encourage groups and individuals to contribute to this most valuable appeal. For more information, contact Alicia Craig, Director of the BCA, <mailto:acraig@abcbird.org>, or visit <http://www.birdconservationalliance.org>

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2006

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) celebrates the incredible journeys of migratory birds between their breeding grounds in North America and their wintering grounds in Mexico, Central, and South America. The event, which takes place on the second Saturday in May each year, encourages bird conservation and increases awareness of birds through hikes, bird watching, information about birds and migration, public events, and a variety of other education programs. The IMBD 2006 theme is "Boreal Forest: Bird Nursery of the North". For more information contact: International Migratory Bird Day, 2840 Iliff Street, Boulder, CO 80305, <mailto:MigratoryBirdDay@aol.com>. To register your IMBD event visit: <http://www.birdday.org/>

CARIBBEAN ORIOLE TAXONOMY EXAMINED

An examination of the "Greater Antillean Oriole" complex has concluded that it may in fact consist of four distinct species found on different Caribbean islands. Names proposed for the new splits are Bahamas Oriole *Icterus northropi* (Andros and Abaco, Bahamas), Cuban Oriole *I. melanopsis* (Cuba, Isla de Pinos), Hispaniolan Oriole *I. dominicensis* (Hispaniola) and Puerto Rican Oriole *I. portoricensis* (Puerto Rico). The study, by Garrido, Wiley and Kirkconnell, published in the journal *Ornitologia Neotropical* (16: pp.449-470), found plumage differences between the four forms were more marked in immature birds, with vocal differences considered more significant in adults. Within the group, Bahamian birds were considerably larger but appeared closest to Black-cowled Orioles *I. prosthemelas* of Central America in appearance, than to birds from the West Indies. If accepted, the splits have considerable conservation implications for the newly recognized endemic species. For example, Puerto Rican birds are frequently victims of brood parasitism following the recent arrival of Shiny Cowbirds *Molothrus bonariensis* on the island. Shiny Cowbirds are also a very real threat to the Bahamas Oriole. The orioles are believed to have been extirpated on Abaco and a 1997 study estimates just 50-100 birds on North Andros and 100-200 remaining on South Andros. There is no estimate for the number of birds on Mangrove Cay between North and South Andros. For more information visit: http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/02/bahamas_oriole.html

PRAISE FOR PARAGUAYAN CONSERVATION EFFORTS

The Vice President of Paraguay, Mr Luis Castiglioni, officially praised the purchase of a large tract of vital Atlantic Forest habitat by Guyra Paraguay (BirdLife in Paraguay). Mr Castiglioni referred to the unique efforts of Guyra Paraguay (with the support of international organizations) in securing the future of a further 2,100 hectares of the San Rafael Reserve, one of the largest remnants of Atlantic Forest in Paraguay. This will add to the 5,800 hectares they already own. The majority of the forest remains in private ownership however. Mr Castiglioni congratulated Guyra Paraguay and issued an international call to save the entire area, the first Important Bird Area (IBA) declared in Paraguay, and widely recognized as the top conservation priority in Paraguay. For more information visit: <http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/02/paraguay.html>

CALL FOR INFORMATION FOR SECOND EDITION OF COLOMBIAN GUIDE

Colombia's National Ornithological Association (ACO) is preparing the second edition of Hilty and Brown's "A Guide to the Birds of Colombia" in Spanish and aims to include as much new information on Colombian birds as

possible. We invite the ornithological community to participate in this effort by contributing with new information about the birds in the country. Information that may be considered worth sending are extensions of the reported elevation range of 300 m or more, extensions of distribution limits of 100 Km or more, or first reports in departments or regions with no previous records for the species; new vocalizations, undescribed nests or evidences of reproduction in different months or periods of the year (all with respect to Hilty and Brown's first edition). All people who contribute information will be credited by name; although ACO have not yet defined the final format, it is possible that these credits will appear alphabetically in the section of literature citations. If the new report is the result of an activity financed by a granting agency, or as part of your job, your agency will also be credited. Data entry form available at www.ornitologiacolombiana.org/avescolombia/formatinfoengl.xls. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions contact: <mailto:secretario@ornitologiacolombiana.org>

GROUP OF EXPERTS FORMED IN MEXICO FOR POSSIBLE DISPERSION OF AVIAN FLU

Considering that Avian Flu is dispersing rapidly throughout the world, that one of every two persons who contract the disease die, that the past century around 40 million persons died due to a strain of the disease genetically identical to the current one, that according to current projections it is only a matter of time for the disease to reach Mexico, that CIPAMEX A.C. is the institution that gathers the greatest amount of ornithologists and bird enthusiasts in Mexico, the Elected Directive Council of CIPAMEX has decided to form a commission to deal with Avian Flu in Mexico. This commission is currently forming and will start functioning soon. This commission will contribute, thorough its actions, to decrease the negative effects of the disease in wild birds in Mexico and reduce the possibility that people working with wild birds in the country get infected, supporting with its knowledge and actions, other institutions with similar goals. The actions stated initially for the commission will be the dissemination of information generated and coordination of actions between partners and allies of CIPAMEX and governmental institutions and other organizations. For more information contact: Dr. Raul Ortiz-Pulido, Elected President 2005-2009, CIPAMEX. <http://www.cipamex.org>

AVIAN CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGY - NEW ISSUE ANNOUNCEMENT

Editors-in-Chief, Tom Nudds and Marc-André Villard, are pleased to announce the publication of the inaugural issue of Avian Conservation and Ecology - *Écologie et conservation des oiseaux (ACE-ÉCO)*. ACE-ÉCO is an open-access, fully electronic scientific journal, sponsored by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and Bird Studies Canada. To view the full text articles, select the HTML or PDF links from the online Table of Contents <http://www.ace-eco.org>. ACE-ÉCO is published by the Resilience Alliance on behalf of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and Bird Studies Canada. For more information about Resilience Alliance Publishing, please contact Michelle Lee mailto:managing_editor@ace-eco.org

BIRD BANDING LABORATORY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) is pleased to announce that we have made serious progress with a new program for managing your banding data and producing schedules for submission. This is largely the result of your many requests for a more user-friendly program, but was also necessitated by our transition to our new Oracle computer database. A long-anticipated part of that transition is to eventually go "paperless". Another driving force was to address the needs of Mac users. This program will be usable on PC's or Macs. The early versions of the new program show great promise to answer the needs and dreams of banders. We feel it will take very little effort to convince you to convert to the new program. We prefer you switch as quickly as possible, although we currently do not require you to. You will be able to import your files from Band Manager. Our current plan is to continue accepting data via other methods through at least December 31, 2006. In the fall of 2006 we will assess the progress of the voluntary "switch-over". It is possible that, by January 1, 2007, we will require data to only be submitted via this new program; it is also possible that we will phase-out other methods over a longer period of time. Any bander still using CGS or BAND_OPS should be especially keen on switching to the new program. There are so few currently using these, that it is safe to say we will phase out CGS and BAND_OPS as of January 1, 2007. We will continue to offer Help Desk support for both versions of Band Manager until such time that we make the new program required for sending banding data. The BBL will lose programmer desk support from Bird Studies Canada for version 3.1

on March 31, 2006. Since most questions called into the BBL Help Desk do not require programmer assistance, we will be able to handle nearly all the calls that could come in. However, if you and/or the BBL Help Desk can't resolve a problem, it will be time to switch to the new program. We are currently testing the new program in-house. Soon there will be a limited beta testing phase, and then a more wide-spread testing phase. At that point we will have a downloadable version available on the web site:

(<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/homepage/resource.htm>) and encourage all banders to try it out. If you find any serious problems, report them to <mailto:bandmgr@usgs.gov>. The program will evolve over time, so please distinguish between "ideas for improvement" and "problems". At this time, we will only be able to address problems that seriously impact the functionality of the program. Lastly, we are also asking for your ideas on naming the new program. If you have any thoughts for a clever or catchy name, please email it to the same address with "Idea for Name" in the subject line. Canadian banders should continue to contact the Canadian Bird Banding Office (BBO) for Band Manager support. For more information on the developing program, or if interested in Beta testing, contact the BBO at mailto:BBO_CWS@ec.gc.ca or by phone 613-998-0524.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE II INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE HORNED GUAN *Oreophasis derbianus*

The symposium was celebrated April 7 - 9, 2005 in Reserva Los Tarrales, Patulul, Suchitepequez, Guatemala, with the collaboration of The Nature Conservancy, Saint Louis Zoo, Africam Safari, Brookfield Zoo Chicago Zoological Society, CONAP, Universidad de San Carlos, among others. The proceedings were edited by Javier Rivas, Estuardo Secaira, and Juan Cornejo. The Horned Guan (*Oreophasis derbianus*) is an endemic endangered species of the cloud forests of Chiapas and Guatemala. This publication covers advancements in research and conservation, reproduction in captivity and results from the working groups during the symposium. The proceedings are available to download at: http://www.tarrales.com/memorias_oreder.pdf. For more information contact Daniel Tenes, PIF MESO coordinator for Guatemala: lacandonguatemala@yahoo.com

WEB NEWS

DEFENSE OF ISLANDS AND COASTS OF PANAMA at:
<http://www.salvemoslascostasdepanama.blogspot.com>

FIRST ISSUE OF VOLUME 1 OF "KEMPPFIANA - SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL FOR NATURAL HISTORY, ECOLOGY, BIOGEOGRAPHY AND TAXONOMY" THE NEW JOURNAL OF THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY NOEL KEMPPFF MERCADO, SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA, AVAILABLE at:
http://www.museonoelkempff.org/Informacion/KEMPPFIANA_web.pdf

THE CORPORATION FOR AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS OF CHILE (CAACH) IS MAKING AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS: MANUAL FOR RATIONAL USE: "THE WETLANDS CAN'T WAIT" AND PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR STUDENTS "HANDS TO THE WETLANDS". The documents are available at: <http://www.humedalescoquimbo.cl/caach/2004/01/descargar-publicaciones.html>

BOLETIN SAO - New Issue XV (2) - December 2005 at:
<http://www.sao.org.co/publicaciones/boletinsao/Boletin%20sao.htm>

TELENAX, NEW TELEMETRY COMPANY FOR WILDLIFE, forms new network of wildlife researchers with free electronic newsletter available at: <http://www.telenax.com>

AVIAN CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGY. A new electronic journal available through the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO) and Bird Studies Canada at: <http://www.ace-eco.org/index.php>

BIOTROPICA free subscriptions. To gain access, send: name, complete address of institution, email, and proof of student status (e.g. copy of student ID, a signed letter from thesis advisor or department professor) to: membershipservices@blackwellpublishing.com or send through post to: MEMBERSHIP SERVICES, Blackwell Publishing, Inc., 350 Main St., Malden, MA 02148 USA

CATALOG OF FIELD EQUIPMENT for birds from AFO Banding Supplies available at:
<http://www.afonet.org/english/mistnets.html>

BIRDING HONDURAS, the site offers resources for birders interested in Central America, with more specific information available on the birds of Honduras at: <http://www.birdinghonduras.com>

BIRD SKIN COLLECTION of the Museo Universitario, Universidad de Antioquia at:
<http://quimbaya.udea.edu.co/~museopieles/final2/index.html>

L&M LEGBANDS, information on bands for various sizes of psittacines at:
<http://home.earthlink.net/~lmbird/>

IMPORTANT BIRD SITES

- Avian Influenza: what ornithologists and bird banders should know at:
<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/OC/avianinfluenza.html>

- For information on Avian Influenza visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/>,
http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/, http://www.oie.int/eng/en_index.htm,
http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/avian_influenza/index.jsp

- American Bird Conservancy's Position Statement on Avian Flu at:
http://www.abcbirds.org/media/releases/avian_influenza.htm

- BirdLife Statement on Avian Influenza at:
http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/species/avian_flu/index.html

- New species of honeyeater discovered in New Guinea, whole story at:
http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/02/new_guinea.html

FUNDING

THE 2006 CANON NATIONAL PARKS SCIENCE SCHOLARS PROGRAM FOR THE AMERICAS

The Canon National Parks Science Scholars Program is pleased to announce its 2006 competition. The program is a collaboration among Canon U.S.A., Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the US National Park Service. Thanks to a generous commitment by Canon U.S.A., Inc., the program will be awarding eight US\$80,000 scholarships to Ph.D. students throughout the Americas to conduct research critical to conserving the national parks of the region. Research projects in the biological, physical, social and cultural sciences are eligible, as well as projects in a new category—technology innovation in support of conservation science. Applications must be received by 3 May 2006. For information about the Canon National Parks Science Scholars Program and a copy of the Application Guide, please visit the website at: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/canonscholarships/>

CALL FOR RAMSAR SGF PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR THE 2006 CYCLE

The Ramsar Small Grants Fund was established by Ramsar COP4 in 1990 as a mechanism to assist developing countries and those with economies in transition in implementing the Convention and to enable the conservation and wise use of wetland resources - since that time, it has provided funding and co-funding. The call for proposals is now being made for the 2006 cycle, with a deadline of 30 June 2006 for application and with a decision by the Standing Committee around November. The current edition of the "SGF Operational Guidelines", which includes complete information and the required forms, is now available on the Ramsar Web site in Word and PDF formats, as well as directly from the Secretariat. The Secretariat's regional teams also offer an advisory service to help with the preparation of suitable proposals, for which drafts should be submitted to the Senior Regional Advisors by 15 April 2006. Readers can also find lists of the successful project proposals for each year since 1992 and news reports of successfully completed projects, which may provide useful tips as to the kinds of projects and approaches most often selected for assistance, on the Ramsar Web site at http://ramsar.org/key_sgf_index.htm.

CLARK FRAZIER SMALL GRANTS FOR NEOTROPICAL BIRD RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, Inc (CSTB), small grant is in honor of Clark Frazier a talented artist who did a number of drawings for CSTB before his untimely death. Grants general range between \$500.00 and \$700.00 and can be renewed annually. Proposals are reviewed quarterly. Projects involving local people and resident species preferred over funding non-residents to study non-resident (migratory) species. Projects should also have an educational or management benefit, and not be purely academic in nature. If doubts exist e-mail an abstract of the study to <mailto:cstbinc1@aol.com>. Formal requests should include justification, methods, budget, timeline and list of participants.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIPS

The National Geographic Society awards grants supporting scientific field research and exploration, through its Research and Exploration Committee in the areas of anthropology, archeology, astronomy, biology, botany, geography, geology, environment, oceanography, paleontology, and zoology. Applicants must have a doctorate or equivalent, be involved with an educational entity and have published a minimum of three articles in recognized scientific publications. Most of the nearly 250 scholarships granted in a year, range from 15,000 and 20,000 dollars. Interested people must send a brief project proposal in English to the committee, who will send an application to appropriate candidates. This is a permanent call and is flexible in its conditions. For more information visit: <http://www.esmas.com/nationalgeographic/lasociedad/>.

TRAINING / JOB OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY IN PARROT RESEARCH PROJECT IN MEXICO

The Environmental Ecosystem Management Program (PMSE) from ITESM Campus Monterrey is looking for volunteers for the 2006 field season with the project: Ecology and conservation of Thick-billed and Maroon-fronted parrots (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha* & *R. terrisi*)." Since 1995 PMSE has monitored the nesting activity of these species, along this time, we have been able to identify almost all important nesting areas, documented several subjects such as reproductive biology, diet and parasitism. We are looking for collaboration to carry out nesting monitoring during the 2006 field season from June to November. The research for Thick-billed parrot is carried out using climbing techniques to directly access the nests or through the use of probes. Volunteers will not climb trees; they will help with flock counting, chick measuring and new nest finding. Maroon-fronted parrot: Nest cliff monitoring and reproductive behavior observation. Volunteers will help on monitoring a cliff per day; usually this is done by one person during 7 hours continuous. This opportunity is open to Natural Sciences, Veterinary or Biology students, people interested in conservation, especially birds or interested in learning more on conservation projects in Mexico. During field trips volunteers will use project facilities, will stay at local people's houses or camping. Participants must be disciplined, responsible, patient, and have the ability to get along with different people in remote places, as well as to carry out field work with little supervision; enough patience to monitor

continuously up to seven hours and willing to work daily up to ten hours; resistant to adverse climate conditions. Also people will have to be in shape in order to walk through difficult trails at altitudes up to 2000m above sea level. Spanish speaking is preferable or at least with some knowledge of the language and committed to stay in the project at least during one month. Volunteers will pay their travel expenses to Monterrey or Chihuahua, Mexico, depending on the project. Food and travel expenses during the field trips are covered by the project. To apply send a brief resume, 3 professional references (including e-mail) and an intention letter addressed to Rene Valdes Peña, <mailto:ravp@itesm.mx>. Deadline for applications is May 1, 2006. For more information please contact: Rene Valdés Peña, Programa de Manejo Sostenible de Ecosistemas, ITESM Centro de Calidad Ambiental, CEDES 5 piso, Av. E. Garza Sada 2501 sur 64849 Monterrey, N.L. México. Tel: 52 (81) 8358-2000, 8358-1400 Ext 5267, Fax: 52 (81) 8359-6280, <mailto:ravp@itesm.mx>, URL: http://uninet.mty.itesm.mx/1_8_1_1.htm.

FIELD BIOLOGIST NEEDED IN COSTA RICA

Amigos de las Aves is a non profit organization running a re-introduction program in Costa Rica with the Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*) and the Great Green Macaw (*Ara ambigua*). We have two release sites in Costa Rica and are currently starting work on our third. We have a comprehensive study including nesting, behavioral, feeding regimes and integration into existing flock, and we would like to continue this, but we would also be open to enhancing the study with extra research if feasible, although we do not wish our birds electronically tagged. We are seeking a 'field biologist' to join our team to work at all our release sites, based primarily at one, supervising all the sites and building up the new site. You may be working on your own or you may be supervising volunteers/interns/biologists. You will live on site and accommodation is provided at two sites and a minimal amount at the third. There is a livable wage of \$300 per month plus reasonable expenses and also local health insurance once committed. You will need to build up good relations at the release sites with the owners and the local community - especially as the locals tend to be very proud of their birds and provide vital information upon the bird's whereabouts. Education within the community is also important. You will need to be willing to learn Spanish and preferably have some basic understanding of the language. You will also need to apply for the correct permits to study which can be done within the country. As we are a small but enthusiastic team, you will be expected to mix in well with all personnel, volunteers, government officials, site owners and the community. You will need to be motivated, sensible, down to earth, trustworthy, loyal and enthusiastic; most importantly, we are looking for someone who is passionate about birds, preferably had some sort of 'hands on' experience and knows how birds think and totally committed to ecology and conservation primarily and has at least an undergraduate degree in a related subject. Please apply sending a current CV with two references to Marti Everett, Amigos de las Aves, <mailto:richmar@racsa.co.cr>, URL: <http://www.hatchedtoflyfree.org>

CONSERVATION INTERN - LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN PROGRAM

Ducks Unlimited, Inc., the leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation, is seeking an intern for the Latin America and Caribbean Program (LAC) at its National Headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee, USA. Start date is flexible but May/June 2006 is desired. Responsibilities: Collaborate with a small team of biologists in the management of LAC projects; conduct background research during project development; assist in data analysis; developing conservation and education materials for project partners; and maintain contact with colleagues in Latin America and the Caribbean. The intern serves also as one of the primary contacts for conservation inquiries about LAC. Qualifications: A degree (Master of Science preferred) in biology, zoology, natural resources, conservation or earth science is necessary. Background in wildlife management, wetlands ecology, restoration, and/or GIS/RS a plus. Strong interest in the wetlands and waterfowl of Latin America and the Caribbean is required. The ideal candidate will have strong communication skills in English and Spanish. Salary: \$1300 a month stipend. Deadline for applications: open until filled. Please send resume (maximum 2 pages) and cover letter in either English or Spanish to: Latin America and Caribbean Program, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. One Waterfowl Way Memphis, TN 38120, <mailto:lac@ducks.org>

HARPY EAGLE HACK SITE VOLUNTEER 2006

The Peregrine Fund is a nonprofit organization working to conserve birds of prey and their habitats worldwide. Successful applicants will be provided with the rare opportunity to monitor and look after young

Harpy Eagles prior to and after they are released in the forests of Panama or Belize. Specific responsibilities include: monitor, feed, radio track, and ensure the well being of young Harpy Eagles during the entire process of release; communicate with Raptor Release Coordinator and local partners on a regular basis; keep detailed field notes of the eagles' behavior, movement patterns, interactions with other species, etc. Qualifications and experience required: Biologist or biology student with basic Neotropical flora and fauna knowledge; knowledge in raptor biology and ecology desirable; knowledge of radio tracking techniques, use of GPS, compass, and maps, and experience with four-wheel-drive vehicles is desirable; willingness to live and work in remote, rugged areas with snakes, biting insects, etc; capable of walking long distances in extreme weather conditions (heat, humidity, and rain); fluency in written and spoken English or Spanish; willing to commit to the release project a minimum of six months; understanding of and commitment to The Peregrine Fund's mission and approach to raptor conservation. Compensation: accommodation (may be only a tent) and board will be provided; training in behavioral data collection, radio tracking techniques, compass and GPS usage; appropriate recognition in scientific papers and personal references; volunteer is expected to cover his/her travel costs and provide proof of medical insurance; great field experience and the opportunity to work in pristine Neotropical rainforest and reintroduce an endangered species into the wild. Send cover letter, resume, names and contact information of three references and potential availability to: Raptor Release Coordinator, The Peregrine Fund/ Fondo Peregrino, PTY 3150, 4440 NW 73rd Ave, Miami, FL 33166, USA or to <mailto:fpp@fondoperegrino.org>

INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION FIELD COURSE

The Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation is offering a field course in July. This course, taught in Spanish, is open to graduate students. The professor has great experience in Latin America and Panama specifically. If you are interested, visit the course web site at: <http://www.itec-edu.org/spanishbird.html>

RESEARCH ASSISTANT NEEDED in Tobago, West Indies

1 May - Jul 2006. Seeking volunteer field assistant for a Masters project, developing a management plan for the White-tailed Sabrewing, this is a threatened species of hummingbird, that exist in north Venezuela and Tobago. This project seeks to determine population size and possible habitat range of the Tobago population. Fieldwork involves mist netting, banding, point counts, nest searching and behavioural observations. Applicants should have a strong interest in birds, field biology, and be prepared to work long days. You should have bird banding experience, be able to follow prescribed protocols, be meticulous in collecting and recording data, and in good physical condition. Experience with hummingbirds a plus but not necessary. Assistant must arrange their own travel to Trinidad; travel to Tobago, food and accommodation will be provided. To apply, please send (via email) a letter of interest, resume, and contact information for 3 references to: DAVEKA BOODRAM, <mailto:boodramdaveka@yahoo.com>. Deadline for application: 15 Apr 2006

MEETINGS

BIODIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM: CONSERVING BIRDS IN HUMAN-DOMINATED LANDSCAPES, Thursday and Friday, April 27 and 28, 2006, American Museum of Natural History, New York City, <http://cbc.amnh.org>. The American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC) will focus its eleventh annual symposium on conserving bird diversity in the areas most heavily impacted by human activities. While there have been many opportunities for scientists and managers to discuss the conservation of rare birds in the wild, this conference will examine new approaches for managing bird diversity in urban, suburban, agricultural, and industrial areas; and explore possibilities for conservation in the face of an increasingly developed and industrialized world. Poster abstracts will be considered for inclusion in the symposium's poster session. For detailed information about the symposium, poster session, and lecture, please email <mailto:biodiversity@amnh.org> or visit the CBC website at <http://cbc.amnh.org>.

FIFTH BINATIONAL MACAW FESTIVAL 2006

Boca Tapada, San Carlos, Costa Rica, May 5-6, 2006. This festival unites the two countries of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. There will be non governmental organizations, representatives of institutions that work with the environment, producers, macaw tree-nest keepers, children, young adults, municipal governments and leaders, among other participants. The Festival is a cultural and environmental celebration that allows the development of the cultural expressions of both countries, such as dance, poetry, story telling, song, sports, exhibits, forums and awards to macaw tree-nest keepers of both countries. For more information contact: Guisselle Monge, Olivier Chassot, Proyecto Lapa Verde, Costa Rica, <mailto:lapa@cct.or.cr>, Antonio Ruiz or Teresa Mariscal, Centro Científico Tropical Fundación del Río, Nicaragua, Tel: (+506) 253-3267 / Fax: (+506) 253-4963 Telefax: (+505) 583-0035, <mailto:manatiantonio@yahoo.es>

II INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF POLYLEPIS FOREST (CONPOLYLEPIS II). May 7-12, 2006, Cusco, Peru. The congress has the main objective of promoting the conservation and sustainable use of Polylepis forests and their associated biodiversity in all countries where this genus is present. For more information visit: <http://www.conservaciondepolylepis.org>

24TH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS, Hamburg, Germany. August 13-19, 2006. See the 2nd Circular for details at <http://www.i-o-c.org>. If you should have problems in visiting the website, you can get the 2nd Circular by e-mail from <mailto:info@i-o-c.org>

4TH NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE, Veracruz, Mexico, October 3-7, 2006. The 4th NAOC is being organized jointly by the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, CIPAMEX (Sección Mexicana de Consejo Internacional para la Preservación de las Aves, A. C.), Cooper Ornithological Society, Raptor Research Foundation, Society of Canadian Ornithologists / Société des Ornithologistes du Canada, Waterbird Society, and Wilson Ornithological Society, with CIPAMEX acting as local host. For more information visit <http://www.naoc2006.org/> or contact: naoc2006@sgmeet.com

WESTERN HEMISPHERE SHOREBIRD RESERVE NETWORK (WHSRN) Hemispheric Council meeting, January 2007, Quito Ecuador. For more details visit <http://www.manomet.org/WHSRN/>

VIII NEOTROPICAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS, together with the Unión Venezolana de Ornitólogos will be held in Maturin, Mongas, Venezuela, 13-19 May 2007. Contact: Carlos Bosque, <mailto:carlosb@usb.ve>

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

BIRD CONSERVATION IMPLEMENTATION AND INTEGRATION IN THE AMERICAS: PROCEEDING OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS IN FLIGHT CONFERENCE

The publication of the Asilomar proceedings - "Bird Conservation Implementation and Integration in the Americas: Proceedings of the Third International Partners in Flight Conference," edited by C. John Ralph and Terrell D. Rich. This 2-volume publication covers a broad array of subjects, including management planning, conservation, educational outreach programs, ornithological research, research methodologies, along with the some of the newest technologies for research and dissemination of information. Hard copies are currently being distributed to authors, conference participants, and conference sponsors. It will be available in hard copy and CD from Richard Schneider, Rocky Mountain Research Station, 240 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526-2098 or rschneider@fs.fed.us. It will soon be accessible at <http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/gtrs.shtml>. The actual publication date was June 2005 when the pdf files were available and distributed. The hard and CD copies complete the publication process.

PARROTS OF THE WORLD: AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

By: Joseph M. Forshaw, illustrated by Frank Knight. Princeton University Press, 2006. Over 350 species, with more than 120 color plates, black and white illustrations, maps. Ecology, behavior, complete natural history. 416 pp. \$65.00. For more information visit: <http://www.buteobooks.com/archives/parrots.html>

DIVERSIDAD BIOLOGICA EN CHIAPAS / BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN CHIAPAS

Edited by Mario González, Neptalí Ramírez and Lorena Ruiz. The book is an updated work on the immense biological richness in Chiapas elaborated by 25 specialists, mainly researchers from Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR). The book includes 11 chapters that offer a complete vision on groups like insects, birds, fish, mammals, and trees; and also subjects rarely included and of great importance like mushrooms and epiphytes. The book is on sale at the department of diffusion with Ms. Adriana Cisternas, <mailto:acistern@sclc.ecosur.mx>, price to the public: \$38 USD. For more information visit: <http://www.ecosur.mx/difusion>

BIRDS OF THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES: GUIDE FOR THEIR RECOGNITION

By: Tito Narosky and Christian Henschke; illustrations by Dario Izurieta; photographic edition by Jose Leiberman. Buenos Aires is, probably, the city with the most birds in the world, and where you can observe them with greatest of easy. In the city live some 300 species, more than in all the territory of many European countries. The book "Aves de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires" - written in Spanish and summarized in English- magnificently illustrated with drawings and full color photos, will marvel you with this natural characteristic that make Buenos Aires a unique city in the bird watching world. From the same authors of "Guia para la identificación de las Aves de Argentina y Uruguay", this book is essential for the identification of all the birds in the city of Buenos Aires and surroundings areas, since it clearly describes main physical characteristics and behavior, common and scientific names, and much more. 120 full color pages. Price: \$160 USD. For more information or to order, contact: <mailto:pamenei@adinet.com.uy> or <mailto:info@pabloameneiros.com>, Telefax: 5982-2042756, Montevideo. Visit the web page: <http://www.pabloameneiros.com>

BIRDS OF URUGUAY: THE COUNTRY OF PAINTED BIRDS

Aves del Uruguay: El País de los Pájaros Pintados. By Gabriel Rocha, re-edited 2005. Includes color illustrations. 142 pages. Price \$25 USD. For more information or to order contact: <mailto:pamenei@adinet.com.uy> or <mailto:info@pabloameneiros.com>, Telefax: 204 27 56, Montevideo. Visit: <http://www.pabloameneiros.com>

BIRDS OF URUGUAY: THE COUNTRY OF PAINTED BIRDS VOLUME 2

Aves del Uruguay: El País de los Pájaros Pintados, Tomo 2. By Gabriel Rocha. 2005 Edition. 143 pages presented in special glossy paper. This second volume includes 160 technical cards and full color photos, as well as new chapters on bird nesting and ornithological research. This is a useful resource for students, nature enthusiasts and bird watchers. Price \$25 USD. For more information or to order contact: <mailto:pamenei@adinet.com.uy> or <mailto:info@pabloameneiros.com>, Telefax: 204 27 56, Montevideo. Visit: <http://www.pabloameneiros.com>

BIRDS OF SOUTH AMERICA: NON-PASSERINES: RHEAS TO WOODPECKERS

By: Francisco Erize. Paperback, 376 pages, English language. Published by Princeton University Press. Here in an easy-to-use format is the first guide to the nearly 1,300 species of non-passerine South American birds. One of things that make this book special is its use of masterful and alluring illustrations; most neotropical birders will want the book for the illustrations alone. The text concentrates on the key identification features of each species and follows the layout of other books in this series. The book may be used in conjunction with regional and country field guides. For ordering information visit: http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0691126887/ref=pe_snp_887/102-1541461-1312107?n=283155 or <http://pup.princeton.edu/titles/8168.html>

AVES DE CHILE

"Field guide to the birds of Chile" is now available in Spanish, published by Lynx Edicions as "Aves de Chile" by Jaramillo, Burke and Beadle. For ordering information visit:

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RECENT LITERATURE

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