NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRIORITY MIGRANT E-BIRD LAUNCH
The Golden-winged Warbler Working Group (Alianza Alas Doradas) and the Cerulean Warbler Technical Group (El Grupo Cerúleo) announce the launch of Priority Migrant e-Bird. This program will facilitate the collection of distribution and abundance data for five birds that migrate or winter in Central and South America. Detailed data on non-breeding distributions are needed to generate effective range wide conservation strategies for long-distance migratory species that have experienced recent precipitous population declines. We’re asking contributors to submit records for the following target species: Cerulean Warbler (Dendroica cerulea), Golden-winged Warbler (Vermivora chrysoptera), Blue-winged Warbler (Vermivora pinus), Canada Warbler (Wilsonia canadensis), Olive-sided Flycatcher (Contopus cooperi). If you are conducting bird research or banding, are leading a tour group, or are just enjoying birding on your own in the Americas, we need your help. Please join us in this exciting new venture and enter your observations in either Spanish or English. It’s quick, easy, and will help lead to important habitat conservation for these focal species of concern. All past and present records are welcome. If you’ve already contributed records for golden-wings and blue-wings as a result of a fall 2005 and spring 2006 query, you do not need to re-enter this data. We appreciate your contribution to this effort and will enter the data into the database for you. Visit [http://www.ebird.org/primig](http://www.ebird.org/primig)
INFORMATION NEEDED ON THE GOLDEN CHEEKED WARBLER
The Alliance for the Conservation of the Ecoregion of the Central American Pine-oak forests and its birds with support from The Nature Conservancy is seeking information on the distribution of the Golden-cheeked Warblers on its wintering range. The information will be used to elaborate a Regional Plan including a distribution map for the species and its habitat. All records are welcome, including country, date of observation, coordinates, name of the researcher, sex. If you want to contribute with information please send it to Edgar Selvin Perez, Coordinador Plan de Conservación Regional de los bosques Pino-encino, Defensores de La Naturaleza, Guatemala, mailto:dendroica@defensores.org.gt or to learn more about the project visit: http://www.defensores.org.gt/index.php?id_category=28&id_subcat=45&parent_id=33

HUMMINGBIRD SOCIETY TO BE SPONSORED BY CLOS LaCHANCE WINERY
The Hummingbird Society, a nonprofit organization devoted to hummingbirds, announced it has joined with Clos LaChance Winery in a new plan to support the Society’s preservation and conservation efforts of hummingbirds throughout the Americas. In addition to annual sponsorship, Clos LaChance will produce a special blend each vintage, supporting the hummingbird preservation efforts of the Society. These limited production wines will be named after the individual hummingbirds on the IUCN Threatened species Red List. A portion of the proceeds from the sales of these wines will go directly to the Hummingbird Society to fight the potential extinction of this beautiful bird. Today, there are 28 species of hummingbirds considered at risk of extinction on the IUCN Red List. One in three of these birds is ranked Critically Endangered, with an estimated 50% chance of being extinct within the next ten years. For more information visit: http://www.hummingbirdsociety.org and http://www.clos.com

GRIMMER PICTURE PAINTED OF RECENT EXTINCTIONS
According to the IUCN Red List, 131 bird species have become extinct since 1500, with an additional four species surviving only in captivity and classified as Extinct in the Wild. But a new paper by BirdLife’s Stuart Butchart and Alison Stattersfield and Conservation International’s Tom Brooks argues that the number of recent extinctions documented on the Red List is likely to be "a significant underestimate". The paper, Going or gone: defining ‘Possibly Extinct’ species to give a truer picture of recent extinctions (published in The Bulletin of the British Ornithologists’ Club), describes the method the authors have developed to identify 15 Critically Endangered species as Possibly Extinct (PE). "A precautionary approach by IUCN to classifying extinctions is appropriate in order to encourage continuing conservation efforts until there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual of a species has died," says lead author Dr Stuart Butchart, BirdLife’s Global Species Programme Coordinator. However, this approach means that analyses of recent extinctions are likely to come up with unduly optimistic figures. "We defined ‘Possibly Extinct’ species as those that are, on the balance of evidence, likely to be extinct, but for which there is a small chance that they may be extant and thus should not be listed as Extinct until adequate surveys have failed to find the species and local or unconfirmed reports have been discounted," Butchart explains. "Adding this tag to the Red List allows more realistic assessment of extinction rates without giving up on species prematurely."
Some Possibly Extinct species have not been recorded for more than 50 years, with the record being held by Hooded Seedeater *Sporophila melanops* - not seen since it was discovered in central Brazil in 1823. Others have undergone well-documented declines, such as the *Oloma'o Myadestes lanaiensis*, a Hawaiian thrush that was last seen in 1980 following its disappearance resulting from habitat destruction and introduced avian malaria. "Combining data on these 15 species with data for 135 Extinct and Extinct in the Wild species shows that over the last century bird species have become extinct at a rate of one every 18 years," says Butchart. "Habitat loss and degradation, invasive species, and exploitation have been the main causes of extinction."

PABLO CANEVARI 2006 AWARD.
The Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences (Manomet) is pleased to announce that the winner of the Pablo Canevari Memorial Award for 2006 is Brazilian shorebird biologist and researcher, Inês de Lima Serrano, of CEMAVE (Centro Nacional de Pesquisa para Conservação das Aves Silvestres) part of IBAMA (Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e das Recursos Naturais Renováveis). Inês and CEMAVE are
considered to be among the first, perhaps the first, to develop research and conservation projects for migratory shorebirds in South America. Inês is also currently a Ph.D. student at the Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi and Universidade Federal do Pará, under the supervision of Dr. José Maria Cardoso da Silva (vice-president of Conservation International in Brazil). Her thesis topic is "Distribution, Ecology and Conservation of shorebirds in Brazil." For more information visit: http://www.manomet.org/

WANT TO HELP TO WRITE A FIELD GUIDE?
The author of the forthcoming Field Guide to the Birds of Paraguay is seeking paying volunteers to assist with field work at major sites of birding importance in Paraguay. This is a non-profit scheme in association with Guyra Paraguay, the BirdLife International partner, all funds raised being used to fund further work. Field work will include a full species inventory of a single site - censusing, mist-netting and recording of plumage/weight/measurements etc, side-projects on species of special conservation concern and detailed recording of behavioral and plumage traits. In addition to collecting field observations for the main field guide, volunteers will also actively assist in the writing of a "bilingual mini-field guide" to their chosen project site. This guide, in English and Spanish, is part of a series projected to cover all of the major Paraguayan birding destinations being produced to promote conservation and interest in birds in Paraguay. Projects run for a calendar month and cost US$1600 (US$1100 for students in full-time education), the price including all accommodation, food and transport within Paraguay, but not flights or travel insurance. We also seek an illustrator for the guide who as a volunteer and subject to acceptance will receive a $500 reduction on the volunteer fee. For further information check out the AOU website and ORNJOBS, or contact Paul Smith (project leader) at mailto:paraguaybirds@yahoo.com.ar. All participating volunteers will receive an introductory pack before arrival, a copy of the mini guide that they helped to write, a souvenir photo disc of the project, credit for their help as a volunteer in the main field guide and the satisfaction of knowing that they have helped contribute towards greater understanding of the avifauna of a much neglected, little-known and beautiful country.

ADVANCING THE IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS PROGRAM IN COLOMBIA
(BLI E-Bulletin May 2006)

After completing the publication of the Directory Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the Tropical Andes in 2005, the Instituto Alexander von Humboldt in Colombia has continued working in the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) Program. As a result, an additional 10 new IBAs have been approved bringing to a total 116 IBAs in Colombia. The IBA Directory is being distributed in Colombia along with supporting materials that include a Manual on Methods for the Development of Biodiversity Inventories, a Manual for Identifying CITES Birds in Colombia, Diurnal Raptors of Colombia, to name just a few. Later this year, the Instituto Alexander von Humboldt will release a CD-Rom of the IBAs of Colombia. This interactive guide to Colombian IBAs will include maps, lists of species, songs of some bird species and practical instructions for implementing bird conservation activities at IBAs. Ana María Franco, IBA Program, Instituto Alexander von Humboldt, Colombia,mailto:amfranco@humboldt.org.co

BIRDLIFE AT THE II MESOAMERICAN PROTECTED AREAS CONGRESS
(BLI E-Bulletin May 2006)

The II Mesoamerican Protected Areas Congress was held in Panama from 24-28 April 2006. BirdLife hosted a side event at the congress, with presentations covering an introduction to the IBA program, the Panamanian IBA program and their application of the WHSRN site-evaluation tool, Ramsar sites in Central America, and the links between Important Bird Areas (IBAs), Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites. The presentations were followed by a round-table discussion with the IBA coordinators from each Central American country, moderated by Lenin Corrales of The Nature Conservancy. The discussions highlighted the important role that IBAs can play in the Central American ecoregional evaluation process, and in the national Gap analyses. BirdLife also gave two presentations during the congress, about the potential role of IBAs in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and profiling the IBA monitoring framework. Immediately prior to the congress, a Central American IBA workshop was held at
the Ramsar Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere, with representatives from all seven countries and Conservation International - Mesoamerica. The meeting established a Technical Committee to coordinate the identification of IBAs in Central America. Special thanks are due to IUCN-Mesoamerica for supporting participants from each country, and to Panama Audubon Society for organizing the meetings and hosting the participants. For more information contact Rob Clay, Conservation Manager, BirdLife International, mailto:rob.clay@birdlife.or.ec or visit: http://www.birdlife.org/

WEB NEWS

THE LATEST AOU CHECKLIST SUPPLEMENT: http://www.aou.org/checklist/Suppl47.pdf


WATERBIRDSNETWORK is an electronic mailing list of approximately 500 people interested in waterbird conservation in the Americas. Its purpose remains the same: to provide a means of sharing information on activities relating to waterbird conservation, especially in association with the Waterbird Conservation for the Americas initiative. For more information visit: www.waterbirdconservation.org

ASOCIACION CALIDRIS. On the website you will find information on its projects, as well as the results of the National Census of Water Birds (CINNAA for its initials in Spanish), initiatives to protect the Buenaventura Bay, the urban birds a work with children, and information on the Spotted Sandpiper (Actitis macularius) at: http://www.calidris.org.co.

SPECIAL NUMBER OF THE SOCIEDAD ANTIOQUEÑA DE ORNITOLOGÍA (SAO) BULLETIN. This special number was devoted to the endangered Yellow-eared Parrot (Ognorhynchus icterus) at: http://www.sao.org.co/publicaciones/boletinsao/Boletin%20sao.htm


MANAKIN VIDEO at http://scienceblogs.com/grrlscientist/2006/06/moonwalking_birds_video.php

Ethnoornithology Research & Study Group (ERSG) Newsletter, June 2006, has been published and is now available at the ERSG website at: http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Ethnoornithology.

"IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS OF TROPICAL ANDES" is available to download as a PDF file at: http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/andes_ibas/download.html.

IMPORTANT BIRD SITES
- Dodo skeleton discovered in Mauritius at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/5133372.stm
- The Nature Conservancy has been making many of its publications and even some internal documents available at: http://www.conserveonline.org/
FUNDING

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, arqueology, 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

FIELD RAPTOR MONITORING BIOLOGISTS NEEDED
Pronatura Veracruz’s River of Raptors Project, located at a geographic bottleneck where the world’s greatest raptor migration has been documented (an average of 5.2 million raptors are tallied each year, with single days with over one million birds) is seeking two qualified field biologist to perform migration counts from 20 Aug through 20 Nov 2006. Duties include identifying and counting/estimating large numbers of migrants of 33 species of vultures, raptors, and wading birds. There are opportunities to observe many of the >230 species of Neotropical migrants recorded for the region in addition to many tropical and Mexican endemic species. Migration counts are done daily from 800-1800 EDT from two localities, Chichicaxtle and Cardel. Field biologists have a calendar working two consecutive days and have one day off, rotating among teams and localities. Raptor biologists are expected to attend a pre-field season training session and to collaborate with data proofing and data entry in electronic, on-line database, as well as with housing and field equipment maintenance chores and expected to live under primitive housing conditions. Team work skills are a must, as well as a previous experience in raptor monitoring sites, a good pair of 8 or 10 power binoculars, and willingness to spend long hours working under bright skies and heat at the beginning of the field season. Knowledge of Spanish is desirable but not necessary. During this fall season, the North American Ornithological Conference will take place in Veracruz City, and field crew is welcome to attend scientific programs during their days off. Opportunities also exist to visit nearby birding hot spots and historic/pre-hispanic sites. Selected applicants are expected to pay for their flight/travel expenses to/from Veracruz. Pronatura Veracruz will provide housing, medical insurance and a $600 dollar a month stipend (its equivalent in Mexican pesos) to cover meals and local transportation. Applicants must submit a resume and names and contact information (email and phone number) for 2-3 references acquainted with applicant’s field work. Interested applicants should contact Eduardo Martinez-Leyva by email (preferred) mailto:bichodemonte@gmail.com or by regular mail at Pronatura Veracruz, Apartado Postal 399, Diego Rivera 49, Fracc. Coapexpan, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico 91070, Tel. 011 52 (228) 817-9617, 818-6545 and 818-6546. You can learn more about Pronatura’s conservation work on the web at http://www.pronaturaveracruz.org.

BIOACOUSTICS WORKSHOP
Bioacoustics Workshop will be held previous to IV North American Ornithological Conference. For more information on the workshop, visit: http://www.ecologia.edu.mx/sonidos/cursos.htm

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATORY
The Alaska Bird Observatory (ABO) is a non-profit corporation dedicated to advancing the appreciation, understanding, and conservation of birds and their habitats through research and education. The Alaska Bird Observatory is looking for an experienced leader with a proven record of non-profit or general business management who is committed to the mission and work of ABO. The ability to sustain and nourish organization-wide vision and cohesion are essential. Excellent verbal and written communication skills, experience developing and managing budgets, and the ability to manage research and education programs are
critical qualities. The position requires experience with fundraising, supervision, and human resource management. Responsibilities of the Executive Director include: program administration, fundraising, community relations, financial management, human resource management and facilities and technology development and oversight. For position details see: http://www.alaskabird.org. Applicants should provide a cover letter, detailed resume and contact information for 3 references. Direct inquiries and application materials to the search committee care of Kelly Wien at mailto:KWien@alaskabird.org. Application review will continue until a suitable candidate is selected.

PROFESSIONAL MASTERS IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The University of Costa Rica, through the International Institute of Wildlife Management and Conservation (ICOMVIS as initialed in Spanish) and the Mesoamerican Center for the Development of the Dry Tropics (CEMEDE as initialed in Spanish), announces the opening of the "Professional Masters in Wildlife Conservation and Development", with the objective of forming professionals in the field of conservation and biodiversity management. The program will take place in Heredia, "Omar Dengo" Campus, Costa Rica and starts in February 2007 lasting 18 months. Classes will take place on the weekends. For more information contact: Msc. Jorge A. Gonzalez Villalobos, Centro Mesoamericano de Desarrollo del Tropico Seco (CEMEDE), Telephone (506) 835 4436, mailto:jorgearturog@racsa.co.cr

MEETINGS

24TH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS, Hamburg 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/

VIIIth NEOTROPICAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS, Maturín, Venezuela, May 13 - 19, 2007. The Neotropical Ornithological Society and the Venezuelan Ornithologists' Union are pleased to announce the VIIIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress. The Congress will honor the memory of William H. Phelps and William H. Phelps Jr, pioneers of Venezuelan Ornithology. The Co-chairs of the Scientific Program Committee invite ornithologists working in the Neotropics to submit proposals for plenary speakers, symposia, workshops and round-tables. Detailed information on how to submit your proposal is now available at the Congress web site, please check the -Call for Contributions- section. PLEASE NOTE, the general call for oral communications and posters will be sent out later in 2006. Submission will take place from August 15, 2006 to January 12, 2007, through the web page of the Congress. Registration will open August 12, 2006. For more information visit: http://www.nocvenezuela.org

XII Argentinean Meeting on Ornithology, 5-8 March 2008, in San Martin de los Andes, province of Neuquen, Argentina. Information is available at the official site for the meeting at http://www.rao.org.ar. Contact information mailto:info@rao.org.ar
NEW CHILDREN’S GUIDE TO HAITI’S BIRDS

Children in schools across Haiti have the opportunity to learn about their special birds – including 24 found only on the island of Hispaniola – thanks to a new guide, *A la découverte des oiseaux d’Haïti* (Discover the birds of Haiti), produced by Ms Florence Sergile. The book has many novel features, including a sparrow character to guide children through simple, fun exercises aimed at increasing their appreciation of Haitian natural heritage that includes todies, tanagers and the unique Palmchat *Dulus dominicus*. 92 species are covered, with French, Creole and English names all given, and including most common resident and migratory birds. After seeing copies of the guide at a recent Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) meeting, several countries have expressed a desire to adapt it for local use, and the landmark publication may become a model for similar guides the length and breadth of the Caribbean. The book was funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Philippe Bayard, Bayard and Bayard Exchange, Banque de la République d’Haïti, SCSCB and the authors of *A guide to the birds of the West Indies*. Valuable contributions were also provided by BirdLife, the Haitian Environmental Foundation, the University of Florida, Marlene Etienne, Françoise Dupuy, Charles and Elen Woods, George Régnier and Evelyne Bouchereau. Signed copies of the guide can be purchased by sending a check for US$45.00 (which includes shipping and handling) to: Florence Sergile, 3407 NW 54th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32653. Alternatively, the guide is available in Haiti at the following libraries and stores: La Pleiade, La Procure de St. Pierre, Asterix, Fleur de canne, Villa Creole, Hotel Montana and Calalou at the international airport. For more information, please contact: Tel. 352/372-2853, mailto:fsergile@yahoo.fr

BIRDS OF VENEZUELA MP3 SOUND COLLECTION

By Peter Boesman. This material includes 1050 tracks of over 950 species, with lots of new additions to the previous CD-ROM. Contributors are Chris Sharpe, Mark Van Beirs, Gunter De Smet and the late Paul Schwarz with the rest made by the author. This MP3-CD is meant to be uploaded to a digital player, plus, the MP3’s also have info embedded about date, place and author. More info can be found on: 
https://www.birdsounds.nl/index.php?pg=newarticlesitem&id=584&jsd=1 or
https://www.birdsounds.nl/index.php?pg=productoverviewitem&id=584

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE BIRDS OF BRAZIL

By Rolf Grantsau. Text in Portuguese and English, 800 pages, 2772 color illustrations, 1824 species described and illustrated, 160 color plates, complete list of all subspecies with geographic distribution and synonyms, and keys for the classification of families and genera. For more information visit 
http://www.brazilimagebank.com/ptbr/component/option,com_facileforms/Itemid,40/


Migratory birds: from messengers of life to ambassadors of death?

While some media are still portraying birds as the main vectors of the spread of avian flu, the United Nations Environment Programme with its associated Convention on Migratory Species and the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement are launching a campaign to remind the world that migrations are essential to natural processes for the effective functioning of our ecosystems. We must not make the mistake of blaming migratory birds for the creation and spread of deadly new viruses when human destruction of the natural world is the real culprit.

For the complete article visit: http://www.cms.int/avianflu/index.htm
**RECENT LITERATURE**


