



# 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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## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RAINFOREST ALLIANCE OFFERS FREE, ONLINE REFERENCE TO PROMOTE WESTERN HEMISPHERE MIGRATORY SPECIES CONSERVATION

A free online reference is now available to wildlife managers and conservationists working to conserve migratory species in the Western Hemisphere. The Rainforest Alliance's Migratory Species Pathway offers detailed information in English and Spanish about more than 50 initiatives to conserve migratory species in the Americas and the Caribbean, along with interviews and advice from conservation leaders. With support from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's International Division, the Rainforest Alliance took on the challenge of creating a space on the Internet where the migratory species conservation community could easily come together to share information. The new Pathway features a "Projects and Tools" section, which includes a list of specific needs identified at the first Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference, held in Chile in 2003. The Migratory Species Pathway is part of the Rainforest Alliance's Eco-Index, a searchable database of more than 800 conservation projects, managed by more than 500 NGOs, government

agencies, and research personnel in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Eco-Index also features a bilingual, searchable database of sustainable tourism businesses in Latin America and the Caribbean for responsible travelers. In addition to project information, the Migratory Species Pathway includes links to related interviews, articles, reviews of reports available on the Internet, information about project monitoring and evaluation, and more. The site is online at: <http://www.eco-index.org/migratory> for English; for Spanish visit: <http://www.eco-index.org/migratorio>. For more information or to participate in the Pathway, please contact <mailto:eco-index@ra.org>. Read more about the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative: [www.eco-index.org/migratory/whmsi](http://www.eco-index.org/migratory/whmsi)

#### PARROT CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN IN ECUADOR

With the slogan ¡Si vuelan las Palmas, palman los loros! ("If the palms fly away, the parrots will too!"), a national campaign was launched in Ecuador for the conservation of the Wax Palm (*Ceroxylon quindiuense*), the Yellow-eared Parrot (*Ognorhynchus icterotis*) and the Golden-plumed Parakeet (*Leptosittaca branickii*). The campaign is being organized by Aves&Conservación (BirdLife in Ecuador) and the Jocotoco Foundation, and has received official support from the Ecuador Ministry of Environment. The Yellow-eared Parrot was once a common parrot in the northern Andes provinces of Ecuador, where Aves&Conservación is focusing its conservation efforts; while the Golden-plumed Parakeet was formerly common across the whole country but is now confined to the southern Andes provinces, where the Jocotoco Foundation is leading the work. The main threat for these two parrot species is the disappearance of the wax palm which is being exploited in an unsustainable fashion each year for the celebration of Palm Sunday. Thousands of wax palms are "harvested" every year to fulfill the demand for palms at this Easter Catholic celebration. The extraction of the central leaves of the palm prevents its development and often causes the death of the specimen. Wax palms need around 25-30 years to reach their reproductive stage and more than 75-100 years to die off naturally and become suitable places in which the parrots can rest and build nests. Aves&Conservación has established links with the Catholic Church in Ecuador and is lobbying to receive its official endorsement to promote the use of alternatives, such as corn leaves and eucalyptus, instead of wax palm. Materials produced by Aves&Conservación and the Botanical Gardens of Quito (with the support of several other organizations), are being distributed before Easter at the Botanical Garden as well as outside Churches in the three main cities of the northern Andes Provinces. For more information visit: [http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/04/yellow-eared\\_parrot.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/04/yellow-eared_parrot.html)

#### INFORMATION ON WINTERING PURPLE MARTINS NEEDED

The BC Purple Martin Stewardship and Recovery Program, is a Canadian group concerned with the recovery of Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) in western Canada. Every summer for the past 10 years they have banded most of the Martin nestlings born in British Columbia, and have been able to monitor individual movements between breeding colonies. However, there is no data on where exactly these Martins go in the winter; it is thought they probably go to South America, and probably to Brazil, but no bands have ever been recovered and reported from their winter range. The Program would like to alert Central and South American bird monitoring stations to keep an eye out for any banded Purple Martins they find. These birds usually have a silver US federal band on one leg and a colored metal or plastic band on the other leg (though for two years only a federal band has been used). Only the number of the silver federal band is needed. Though the main concern is band data, also we would like to know if the bird was alive or dead when sighted, and if possible the gender and general age (SY or ASY). Any information about communal roosting sites, numbers of birds seen, or dates when migrating flocks passed through would also be appreciated. All reports should include the date and location of the sighting, and some personal contact information (email, address, etc.). Reports can be in English or Spanish. For reports or more information contact the Recovery Program directly at: GBEARs 133-4176A Departure Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC, Canada V9T 4V7. Tel: (250) 758-2922. <mailto:gbears@island.net>,

#### BUILDING MIGRATORY BRIDGES PROGRAM IN PANAMA

The tiny village of Achiote is near both the Panama Canal and one of the hottest bird spots on the planet, the San Lorenzo Protected Area. Achiote is also very poor with 80 percent of its inhabitants considered to be extremely poor. A Panamanian social action group known by the letters CEASPA has been working within

the community to help it become a "bird friendly" community that supports sustainable agriculture and eco-tourism. CEASPA sponsors a program called Building Migratory Bridges - bridges that are for both birds and cultures. Through this program CEASPA joins Marvelwood School and the Sharon Audubon Center in Connecticut, USA in an exchange of science and cultures. Using neotropical migratory birds as their focus, the school and the Audubon Center not only track and band birds in Sharon, Kent and the small village of Achiote, but also help bring students and cultures together. In January students from Connecticut traveled to Achiote to spend two weeks banding and tracking migratory birds; and recently, students from Achiote and biologists from Panama who work with the Smithsonian Institute and Panama Audubon, visited the US to band birds. The Panamanians joined the banding efforts in a MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity) Station, deepening their knowledge gained from running MoSI (Monitoring Overwintering Survival) Stations in Panama. In their MoSI Stations they capture and band up to 25 species of North American neotropical migratory birds.

#### 2006 BIOTROPICA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TROPICAL BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

The Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation and the Editorial Board of Biotropica have announced the winner of the 2006 Biotropica Award for Excellence in Tropical Biology and Conservation, presented to the author of a paper published in Biotropica during 2005. The award recognizes an outstanding contribution based on original research conducted in tropical regions. Criteria include clarity of presentation, strong basis in natural history, well-planned experimental and/or sampling design, and novel insights gained into critical processes that influence the structure and functioning of tropical biological systems. The 2006 Award is presented to Carlos Garcia-Robledo, Gustavo Kattan, Carolina Murcia, and Paulina Quintero-Marin for their paper entitled "Equal and Opposite Effects of Floral Offer and Spatial Distribution on Fruit Production and Predispersal Seed Predation in *Xanthosoma daguense* (Araceae)" published in Biotropica 37 (3): 373-380.

#### THE JOURNAL ELHORNERO AVAILABLE ONLINE

A few months ago the journal El Hornero was included in the Internet site SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online), a complete electronic library that allows free access to complete texts and PDF versions of a select collection of scientific journals in America. SciELO Project is a regional initiative that currently includes sites from Brazil, Chile, Spain, Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Uruguay and Argentina. Its objective is to offer the content of high quality scientific journals of all areas of knowledge, show national scientific production and facilitate universal and direct access to as many users as possible. Currently, the complete volumes of Hornero from 2004 and some from 2005 are available. We are incorporating the missing issues from 2005 and soon we will be completing volumes from previous years, starting with 2001. In addition to contents, there is also general information on the journal, including instructions for authors and subscription. Within the site you can use a search engine (author, subject), not only for Hornero, but for the complete collection in SciELO. Access is free and available at:

<http://www.scielo.org.ar/>

#### PIFMESO HONORS CHANDLER ROBBINS

To honor the 30 plus years dedicated to the formation of new ornithological values in the region, PIF-MESO has decided to collect information throughout the region from everyone that has participated in training workshops with Dr. Chandler Robbins. We are requesting a two or three line quote on an aspect you would like to highlight about Dr. Robbins, as a friend, a teacher or a person, etc, your name and country, and this way compile them in the PIF web page (<http://www.partersinflight.org>). If you have a photo (not too big) from training workshops please send it. Materials can be sent to: José M Zolotoff-Pallais, PIF MESO Regional Coordinator, Editor La Tangara, Tel: 505-24882/34-35, <mailto:zolotoff@ibw.com.ni>, Managua, Nicaragua.

#### NEW BIRD DISCOVERED NEXT TO CERULEAN WARBLER BIRD RESERVE

A new bird for science has been discovered on Serranía de los Yariguíes range, next to the Cerulean Warbler Bird Reserve in Colombia. It has been named "Yariguíes Brush-Finch", with the scientific name *Atlapetes latinuchus yariguierum*. It was described by a team of biologists from Fundación ProAves and published in

June in *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists Club* (Vol. 126: 2006). The new bird is named for the Yarigués indigenous people who formerly inhabited the mountain range where the bird was found, but committed mass suicide after aggressive colonization attempts. This new taxon is noteworthy in that the type specimen was released unharmed, after a DNA sample, description and photographs were taken. This is the first time that a live type specimen has been used for the description of a new bird following the approval by the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature of such techniques last year. The biological results from these expeditions were essential in establishing the Cerulean Warbler Bird Reserve in 2005, and recently creating the Serranía de los Yarigués National Park by the Colombian government. For more information visit: <http://www.proaves.org>.

#### MARVELOUS SPATULETAIL PROTECTED BY CONSERVATION EASEMENT IN PERU

The first conservation easement in northern Peru has been signed between a local community and Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN), with the support of American Bird Conservancy. The protected land lies on steep slopes above a remote Andean valley, and provides a lifeline for the survival of the Endangered Marvelous Spatuletail. The site where the birds occur was identified last year as a global conservation priority by the Alliance for Zero Extinction, an international network of conservation groups that aims to protect sites around the world that are the last refuges for endangered species reliant on single remaining locations for their survival. Conservation plans for the area include a visitors' center run by the local community and a larger protected area nearby that will conserve a range of other highly threatened bird species. The work is funded by a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, with additional support from BirdLife International.

#### ANDEAN WELCOME FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS THIS OCTOBER

Projects supported by USFWS Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act and American Bird Conservancy in Colombia (Fundacion ProAves), Peru (ECOAN) and Ecuador (Fundacion Jocotoco) have teamed up to initiate a massive awareness campaign to welcome home migrants this October. They aim to raise awareness of these "maravillosas viajeras" and especially draw attention towards threatened migrants, such as the Cerulean Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher that depend on Andean subtropical and montane forests for their survival. Field projects in the Andes can join in and receive posters, leaflets, stickers and other material on request in Colombia (<mailto:slara@proaves.org>), Peru (<mailto:caucca@ecoanperu.org>) and Ecuador ([mailto:jocotoco\\_sur@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:jocotoco_sur@yahoo.com.ar)) or see <http://www.proaves.org> for more information.

## WEB NEWS

ARTICLE ON BIRDS AND BIRDING IN NICARAGUA at:

<http://www.americanbirding.org/pubs/wingingit/archives/>

TO BE A MEMBER of the Guatemalan Ornithological Society visit: <http://www.avesdeguatemala.org>

TODYSOFTWARE ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF A NEW PROGRAM PRODUCT for "Woodstar FieldDiary 1.0."

This is an electronic field diary developed for filing of your sightings. For more information visit:

<http://www.tody-soft.com/ProductBuy.aspx?prod=FiDi&Lang=en>

THE PROGRAM FOR NAOC 2006 IS NOW AVAILABLE IN PDF ON THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE at:

[http://www.naoc2006.org/files/naoc2006\\_pgmbk-en.pdf](http://www.naoc2006.org/files/naoc2006_pgmbk-en.pdf)

The recently developed website for THE JOURNAL OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY (formerly El Pitirre) is located at the recently developed website for the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds at: <http://www.scscb.org>

ENGLISH-SPANISH GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS USED IN ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION, AND SYSTEMATICS, WITH EMPHASIS IN ORNITHOLOGY at: <http://biologyglossary.pbwiki.com>.

A WEBSITE TO STANDARDIZE NAME TREATMENT FOR SOUTH AMERICAN BIRDS ON THE AOU SACC's list: <http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCprop214-217.html>

NEW ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN SAO JOURNAL PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIEDAD ANTIOQUEÑA DE ORNITOLOGÍA IS AVAILABLE at: <http://www.sao.org.co/publicaciones/boletinsao/XVI1.htm>

THE WESTERN HEMISPHERIC SHOREBIRD RESERVE NETWORK (WHSRN) is pleased to announce the launch of its newly completed web site: <http://www.whsrn.org>

BIRD RECORDING TECHNIQUES IN SPANISH:

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/MacaulayLibrary/contribute/fieldtechniquesspanish.html>

NEWLY REVISED FACT SHEET "AVIAN INFLUENZA: WHAT ORNITHOLOGISTS AND BANDERS SHOULD KNOW" at: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/OC/avianinfluenza.html>.

DOWNLOAD FREE PAPERS at <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/btp/38/4>

SURVEY OF NEOTROPICAL ORNITHOLOGY COLLECTIONS, compiled by Patricia Escalante at: <http://www.aou.org/collectionscommittee.php3>

INDEX OF THE 10 FIRST NUMBERS OF THE BOLETIN CHILENO DE ORNITOLOGÍA at: [http://www.unorch.cl/documentos/bibliografia\\_boletin\\_chileno\\_ornitologia.pdf](http://www.unorch.cl/documentos/bibliografia_boletin_chileno_ornitologia.pdf)

## IMPORTANT BIRD SITES

- Caldasia journals starting from 2002 available at: <http://www.unal.edu.co/icn/publicaciones/caldasias.htm>
- Information on MoSI work shop at the IV NAOC in Advanced Bird Banding available at: <http://www.naoc2006.org/en/workshop-advbanding.htm>
- Website XENO-CANTO is now available in Spanish at: <http://www.xeno-canto.org>
- Avian Influenza: Protection measures and import bans prolonged at: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/avian/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/avian/index_en.htm)
- On Avian Flu: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>
- Where are all the birds? <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/07/04/MNGAHJORP61.DTL>
- Campaign for palms and parrots: [http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/04/yellow-eared\\_parrot.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/04/yellow-eared_parrot.html)

## FUNDING

AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY'S WILLIAM BELTON CONSERVATION GRANTS FUND  
ABC's William Belton Conservation Grants Fund, the world's longest running bird conservation grants program, will again provide support for projects to conserve Critically Endangered and Endangered bird species in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2007, especially at Alliance for Zero Extinction sites. Requests can include funding for the development and implementation of conservation plans and new protected areas, research, and monitoring to protect key sites. Awards are typically up to \$5,000. Proposals can be submitted in English or Spanish by 30 September 2006. For more information visit: [http://www.abcbirds.org/international/grants\\_2007.htm](http://www.abcbirds.org/international/grants_2007.htm) or email Dr. Robert Chiple at <mailto:rchipley@abcbirds.org>



### AOU COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

The American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) aspires to increase its role as advocate for the study and conservation of birds throughout the Americas. Therefore, the AOU hereby establishes an international grants program to support Western Hemisphere professional ornithological societies through funding of activities to develop infrastructure, train ornithologists, and build strategic partnerships within the Western Hemisphere. Activities that will be considered for funding include, but are not restricted to: costs of startup and growth of fledgling ornithological societies; web-based (or other) activities that link ornithological societies from different Western Hemisphere countries to achieve common, concrete objectives; and activities that provide international expertise to ornithological societies to provide training or solve a local problem (e.g., training through technical workshops on research design, field techniques, fund-raising, publishing, science-based conservation activities). This program aims in particular to fund the participation by representatives of non-North American ornithological organizations in meetings or workshops that are held in conjunction with a North American Ornithological Conference (NAOC) and whose specific purpose is to promote hemispheric ornithological initiatives. The purpose of this program is not to fund single events, but rather to invest in organizations and infrastructure that demonstrate the greatest promise to increase their impact on the study and conservation of birds. A total of \$5,000 is available in 2006, and proposals will be considered for grants in the amount of \$1000-3000, for a period of one year. The due date of proposals for the first competition is October 1, 2006. Proposals should be in the form of a narrative letter (English or Spanish) of no more than four pages, typewritten, double spaced; as well as a brief budget. The whole document should be sent in either Microsoft Word or, ideally in PDF format as an e-mail attachment, and submitted to the AOU Competitive Grants Program. The narrative letter should describe as specifically as possible in the available space the nature of the organization, the proposed activities and use of the funds, and the intended impact of the activities. The review committee will consist of members of the AOU International Affairs Committee. Checks will be made out to an organization, not an individual. Successful grants carry the obligation of a report due 15 months after the issuance of the check. The report must contain a detailed itemization of how funds were spent (with a return of any unspent portion), including what funds were used for and what they accomplished. This information will be used to assist the AOU in targeting the most promising programs for future support. To apply send materials to: Brent Burt, <mailto:dbburt@sfasu.edu>. A PDF of the announcement can be obtained at the following address: <http://www.faculty.sfasu.edu/Dbburt/aougrantsprogram.pdf>

### NEOTROPICAL BIRD CLUB CONSERVATION AWARDS

For nearly ten years, the Neotropical Bird Club has run an awards program to help fund small conservation projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. Both the size of the NBC's conservation budget and the number of applications has grown steadily and we are keen to encourage more potential project leaders to submit applications to the club. The program supports projects on threatened birds, habitats and sites important to them, and projects that have conservation benefit as a significant element of their objectives. The scheme is open to residents and/or nationals of the Neotropical region regardless of how they have gained competence in working with birds (previous beneficiaries include NGO-volunteers/employees, park rangers and students). Our maximum award is US\$1500, which must represent a significant proportion of the total project budget. For more information, please visit <http://www.neotropicalbirdclub.org> (click on 'conservation Fund'), or write to <mailto:awards@neotropicalbirdclub.org> or Neotropical Bird Club, Conservation Awards Fund, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, United Kingdom.

## TRAINING / JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### MOSI WORKSHOP IN VERACRUZ, MEXICO

The workshop, "Advanced Bird Banding and the MoSI program" will be held at the La Mancha Coastal Research Center from October 8-12, 2006 immediately after the North American Ornithological Congress (NAOC). Mornings will be spent mist netting and banding birds; field instruction will be focused primarily on ageing and sexing birds by plumage and molt criteria. There will be several highly-qualified instructors

present, including Peter Pyle. Peter will also lead an afternoon session in the lab aimed at fostering a greater appreciation for molt patterns and their use in age determination. We will also cover details of MoSI station establishment, protocols, and data collection. In addition, we will discuss how MoSI fits in with larger efforts to monitor birds in the neotropics, and discuss other banding efforts that can be extended from the infrastructure created by MoSI. The cost of attending these workshops will be around \$100 per participant (exact cost to be determined) for the 5 days extending from the morning of 8 October until about mid-day on 12 October. This cost will include transportation between Veracruz and La Mancha, meals (vegetarians can be accommodated), and housing. For more information, visit:

<http://www.naac2006.org/en/workshop-advbanding.htm>

#### WORKSHOP: BIRD BANDING IN THE AMERICAS

The North American Banding Program is hosting a workshop entitled Bird Banding in the Americas from October 8 - 9th 2006, in La Mancha Coastal Research Center, Actopan, Veracruz Mexico. Bird banding and marking provide indispensable tools for ornithological research, management, and conservation of migratory birds on migratory routes, breeding and non-breeding grounds. This workshop will bring together key migratory bird specialists, government officials, academics, conservation personnel, and technical field personnel. The Bird Banding in the Americas workshop will address issues surrounding the coordination of an Americas' approach to bird banding. There are two main goals of the workshop: 1) to discuss and explore opportunities for international collaboration, coordination, and administration of bird banding programs in the Western Hemisphere and 2) to provide an opportunity for interaction between bird banders working in Latin America and individuals and organizations involved in the development of coordinated bird banding efforts. If you are interested in attending the Bird Banding in the Americas workshop please contact Lesley Howes <mailto:Lesley-Anne.howes@ec.gc.ca>, Monica Tomosy <mailto:mtomosy@USGS.gov> or Ariel Rojo Curiel <mailto:ariel.rojo@semarnat.gob.mx>

#### ADVANCED BANDING COURSE IN SAN ANDRES ISLAND

Fundación ProAves is inviting 25 participants to join the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Advanced Banding Course being held between 13-25 October, in the San Andres Island, 100 km east of Nicaragua. Professional instructors from British Trust of Ornithology, Klamath Bird Observatory, Institute for Bird Populations, American Bird Conservancy, and The Wetland Trust will be undertaking the training. The cost of the course is \$500, but support from NMBCA, Western Bird Banding Association, and The Wetland Trust has provided 15 scholarships for \$250 for applicants. San Andres Island is a migratory hotspot and last year a huge wave of migrants, estimated at over 5 million birds, arrived on the first day of the course, while over 3200 birds of 76 species were caught, studied and banded. San Andres is served by direct flights from Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador and Canada. Apply before 1 October to Camila Gomez <mailto:cgomez@proaves.org> or check <http://www.proaves.org> for more details of this great learning opportunity.

#### VOLUNTEER FOR PROJECT ON WILDLIFE DISEASES IN MEXICO

The project consists in monitoring the main diseases of wildlife, especially of birds and mammals, like New Castle, Salmonella, Avian Flu and West Nile Virus. The monitoring methods will be population surveys and mist-netting. Duration of the project is one year and there is no scholarship or stipend, but we are available to help acquire scholarships. We are providing per diem and lodging in the field, all the materials for the realization of the thesis and advisement. Contact telephones: 019616144700 and 6144701, ext 51048 (Curator of Birds) with Pedro Sánchez Montero, <mailto:ksabaxillare@yahoo.com.mx>

#### RESEARCH FIELD ASSISTANT/VOLUNTEER NEEDED IN MEXICO

Volunteer (1) needed from November 2006 through March 2007 for winter ecology study of Surf Scoters in Baja California, Mexico (Bahia San Quintin and Laguna Ojo de Liebre). Assistant will assist with mist net captures of Surf Scoters, radio telemetry surveys, and age- and sex-specific surveys. Much of the work will be done in motorized boats in the ocean and will occasionally involve camping on remote beaches and night work. Preference will be given to applicants that have competence in handling motorized boats and radio telemetry experience. Housing and transportation to the study site is provided. Please send a letter of

interest, resume or CV, and three references to Kathy Brodhead, <mailto:Brodhead@sfu.ca>, Centre for Wildlife Ecology, Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC Canada V5A 1S6.

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BLUE-THROATED MACAW PROJECT IN LOS LLANOS DE MOXOS, BOLIVIA

Volunteers are needed for the following field season with the critically threatened Blue-throated Macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*) in Los Llanos de Moxos, Bolivia. The World Parrot Fund has been developing intense conservation work with this species since 2002 with the firm objective of increasing reproductive success of the species. Duties include nest searching, safe keeping of active nests from predators and periodic checks to maintain control on health and development of chicks. It will be necessary that field assistants reach the nests using climbing techniques like use of rope and most resist harsh field conditions. Los Llanos de Moxos is a vegetation mosaic with savannah and forest patches, comparable to the Pantanal, with rich wildlife. Applicants with previous field work with birds and people with good experience will have preference. Field assistants must commit to the project for a minimum of three months from August to October 2006 or November 2006 to February 2007. The volunteers are responsible of covering their expenses to travel to Trinidad, in the Department of Beni, Bolivia. Food and lodging is covered by the project. Please send applications with a resume and two personal references to <mailto:kyle@worldparrottrust.org> specifying the study period you wish to apply for. We recommend people from other countries interested in volunteering to check cost of flights to Bolivia before applying.

#### VOLUNTEER FIELD RESEARCH ASSISTANTS IN TROPICAL MEXICO

Two volunteers needed from 1 Oct - 1 Dec 2006 (2 months) -- for research on plumage signaling and territorial behavior of Streak-backed Oriole in tropical Mexico (Sierra de Huautla). Successful applicants will primarily assist with capturing, marking, and conducting behavioral observations. Additional duties will include: establishing territorial boundaries, GPS mapping, behavioral observations of caged orioles, and data entry. Assistants must be: confident in distinguishing colored leg bands at a distance in the field, self-motivated, able to think and work independently, able to work well with others, and must be comfortable living in a small town in a developing country. Must also be willing to partake in manipulative research with animals. Spanish language experience preferred but not required. Room and board provided (transportation costs to and from field site are paid by assistants). Study site is located in the charming pueblo of Huautla, Morelos, tucked in the heart of the Sierra de Huautla. This project offers great biological training and experience, and also rich cultural immersion. To apply please include a summary of your background and interests, your reasons for applying, and the names and email addresses of 3 people who can fairly evaluate your qualifications. Contact Troy G. Murphy, <mailto:tgm3@cornell.edu>, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, 1000 Hilltop Circle Baltimore, MD 21250, USA.

#### MACAW PROJECT VOLUNTEER NEEDED IN PERU

Volunteers needed in Peru from Oct 2006 - May 2007 (2 - 3 month stay requested) to join the ongoing macaw and parrot research program doing daily counts of hundreds of parrots and macaws. The study site, Tambopata Research Center, is located in some of the world's most diverse rain forests. The area boasts the highest avian diversity in the world (about 600 species) including toucans, trogons and 20 species of parrots. Good opportunities exist to see tapirs, monkeys and other rain forest specialties. The study site is a tourist lodge run by Rainforest Expeditions (<http://www.perunature.com>) an ecotourism company that supports the research program. Volunteers will share accommodations with company guides and other investigators. Duties will include observation of birds at clay licks, radio tracking, parrot point counts, foraging observations and plant phenology work. Applicants must be self-disciplined, responsible, patient, and able to get along well with others in remote field setting and must be able to tolerate insects. Preference will be given to those with knowledge of Spanish. Six week commitment minimum, 2 - 3 month stay preferred. Volunteers must pay their transportation to Puerto Maldonado, Peru and \$10 per day to cover the cost of food and lodging. To apply please send resume, dates of availability, e-mails for 3 references, and a brief letter of introduction to <mailto:jefedecampo@rainforest.com.pe> and copy to Don Bright Smith, Texas A&M University, <mailto:dbrightsmith@cvm.tamu.edu>. For more information visit the Tambopata Macaw Project web site at: <http://www.duke.edu/~djb4>



## MEETINGS

SECOND MESOAMERICAN SYMPOSIUM ON PSITTACIFORMS. Antigua, Guatemala, October 30-31, 2006, during the X Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation. The Mesoamerican Network for the Conservation of Psittacids wants to gather the scientific community to share and systemize advancements in knowledge on management, research and conservation of parrot species to promote priority planning actions for the conservation of parrots in Mesoamerica. Also, this symposium seeks to strengthen alliances for the conservation of parrots in our region, allowing the recommendations of the II Symposium to be evaluated. COPA Airlines, the official airline of the Symposium is offering a 20% discount over its non-promotional fares. To participate as a presenter in the X Congress SMBC you must register and send a participation format to the Local Organizing Committee and to Olivier Chassot <mailto:olivier@lorosmesoamericanos.net> from the Symposium Organizing Committee. For more information on memberships, SMBC and Antigua, Guatemala, you can find the second circular in the Society's webpage: [www.socmesoamericana.org](http://www.socmesoamericana.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](mailto: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/>

VIIIITH 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 15, 2007, through the web page of the Congress. 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>

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

### HUMMINGBIRDS OF COSTA RICA

By: M. Fogden and P. Fogden. Features 44 of the 45 species of hummers that inhabit Costa Rica. Each bird is depicted in its natural habitat and with the flower with which it naturally associates. 153 pages. Hardcover. Lyons Press, USA. Available at: <http://www.nhbs.com/title.php?tefno=145153>

A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF THE WEST INDIES, by Mike Flieg and Allan Sander. New paperback edition provides comprehensive coverage of 252 species of birds that inhabit the islands of the

West Indies, with detailed descriptions and a color photograph for each species. 144 pp, 300 color photos. Soft-cover due October 2006 from New Holland Publishers.

#### MINUTES OF THE FIRST SYMPOSIUM ON PSITTACIFORMES AVAILABLE

The Minutes of the First Mesoamerican Symposium on Psittaciformes, celebrated during the IX Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation, in La Ceiba, Honduras in 2005 is now available. The articles compiled were published in *Mesoamericana* 10 (2) and 10 (3). It is also available to download as a PDF file at: <http://www.lorosmesoamericanos.net/simposio.html>.

#### COLLINS FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS OF SOUTH AMERICA

(Guía de Campo Collins Aves de Sudamerica) By: Jorge Rodríguez Mata, Francisco Erize, and Maurice Rumboll. Illustrated by Jorge Rodríguez Mata. 384 pages. Birds of South America is a beautifully illustrated field guide that includes all non-passerines you can observe south of Peru. It provides information on key features and habitat for 1273 species. The guide has 156 color plates and distribution maps. This book is available from Distribuidora de Libros Pablo Ameneiros, Montevideo, Uruguay. Emails: <mailto:pamenei@adinet.com.uy> and <mailto:info@pabloameneiros.com>, Telefax: 5982-204.27.56. Website: <http://www.pabloameneiros.com>

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