



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

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT MESOAMERICA SYMPOSIUM IN MEXICO

During the IV North American Ornithological Conference celebrated in Veracruz, Mexico from 2-8 October 2006, the Partners in Flight Mesoamerica Group (PIFMESO) held a symposium titled "Regional Conservation Efforts in Mesoamerica: Uniting efforts for our feathered friends." The purpose of the symposium was to show different regional efforts for the conservation of birds in Mesoamerica and to establish communication and work mechanisms between these initiatives. PIFMESO National Coordinators were invited as well as different guests that coordinate conservation projects in various countries. The presentations were: Partners in Flight Mesoamerica: A vision of cross-border work in the region, Jose M

Zolotoff-Pallais, Regional Coordinator Partners in Flight Mesoamerica, Fundacion Cocibolca, NICARAGUA; Regional Plan for the Conservation of Pine-oak forest and the Neotropical Migrant Bird *Dendroica chrysoparia*, Edgar Selvin Perez, Interim Coordinator for the Alliance, Fundacion Defensores de la Naturaleza, GUATEMALA; Waterbird population estimates for Central America, Oliver Komar, Science for Conservation Program Director, SalvaNatura, EL SALVADOR; A summary of the first four years of the Monitoreo de Supervivencia Invernal (MoSI) Program, Salvadora Morales, Central America Coordinator, NICARAGUA; Alianza Alas Doradas: Tracking distribution of migrating and wintering *Vermivora chrysoptera* in Mesoamerica, Mariamar Gutiérrez, Central America Coordinator, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua, NICARAGUA; Binational campaign about the ecology of *Ara ambiguus*, Nicaragua-Costa Rica, Olivier Chassot, Centro Científico Tropical / Executive Committee of the Biological Corridor San Juan-La Selva, COSTA RICA; Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Central America: Results of a region-wide inventory, David Diaz, Americas Secretariat, BirdLife International, ECUADOR; Important IBAs for migratory bird conservation in Central America, David Díaz, Americas Secretariat, BirdLife International, ECUADOR; Park Flight Migratory Bird Program: Conserving Migratory Birds through International Partnerships, Carol Beidleman, Park Flight Program, USA; The Potential Value of the Partners in Flight Species Assessment Process for the Conservation of Mesoamerican Bird Species, Terry Rich, USFWS, USA. During this event, donations of more than 40 books, 130 mist nets, 22 items for bird banding, 10 binoculars, among other materials to strengthen ornithological groups were distributed among the countries. This activity was possible thanks to the financial support of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, PIF Western Working Group, PIF Southeast Working Group, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Missouri Department of Conservation and an Anonymous donation. Donations of materials were received from Carol Beidleman - National Park Service/PIF; Marie Strassburger - US Fish and Wildlife Service; Susan Bonfield - International Migratory Bird Day; Tom Will - US Fish and Wildlife Service; Ken Rosenberg - Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Joni Ellis - Optic for the Tropics; Jim Parrish - Utah PIF; Linda McHan for Charles Baxter - Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture; Abby Powell - University of Alaska for Alaska Bird Observatory; Stefani Melvin - US Fish and Wildlife Service; Stephanie Jones - US Fish and Wildlife Service, Elissa La Voie - Birder's Exchange; American Birding Association; Bill Howe - US Fish and Wildlife Service; Hildy Reiser - National Park Service; Gail Garber - Hawks Aloft, Inc.; Brunton; Rua Mordecia, University of Georgia; and thanks to distributing agencies. For more information contact the symposium organizers: José M. Zolotoff, Fundación Cocibolca, <mailto:zolotoff@ibw.com.ni> and Carol Beidleman, National Park Service, <mailto:beidlemanc@aol.com>

SYMPOSIUM ON IMPORTANT CONSERVATION AREAS (IBAS AND KBAS) IN MESOAMERICA AND THEIR INTEGRATION IN EXISTING CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

During the X Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation held in Antigua, Guatemala from October 29 to November 3, a symposium coordinated and funded by BirdLife International and Conservation International was held on Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in Mesoamerica. The objectives of the symposium were: 1) Present results of the initial inventory of Important Bird Areas in Central America and Southern Mexico, 2) Present the KBAs initiative in Central America and Southern Mexico, and its ties with IBAs, 3) Present, based on the IBA inventory and KBAs, a regional analysis of gaps and conservation priorities (including connectivity) in the frame of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (CBM as initialed in Spanish), 4) Discuss the opportunities of integrating IBAs and KBAs into other conservation initiatives in Mesoamerica, CBM, Ramsar Convention, eco-regional plans, and other initiatives, and 5) Analyze the potential of a monitoring program of IBAs and KBAs for a follow-up of the state of conservation in the core areas of the CBM. The activity was organized thanks to the support of the Guatemalan Society of Ornithology (<http://www.avesdeguatemala.org/boletin.htm>). For more information contact: Rob Clay, BirdLife International <mailto:Rob.Clay@birdlife.org.ec> and Ruth Jimenez, Conservation International <mailto:r.jimenez@conservation.org>

SALVANATURA BIRD-A-THON SUPPORTS NEOTROPICAL MIGRANT MONITORING

Money raised by this year's Bird-a-thon will help SalvaNATURA (BirdLife in El Salvador) with the running costs of its permanent bird monitoring stations in three national parks. The stations are a vital part of a network of banding stations across Central America, which track migrants like Golden-winged Warbler

(*Vermivora chrysoptera*) and Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). Set up by SalvaNATURA's Head of Science, Oliver Komar, the stations initially depended on the goodwill of volunteers. "Support from Bird-a-thon sponsors over the last three years has enabled us to train three full-time professionals and more than 20 volunteers, who run mist-nets every week of the year at five stations in the El Imposible, Los Volcanes and Montecristo National Parks," Komar explains. All three national parks are soon to be declared Important Bird Areas. One monitoring station has been set up in a shade-grown coffee plantation in the buffer zone of Los Volcanes National Park. Komar says the presence of biologists in the national park helps local communities appreciate their immense value for birds. For more information on the Bird-a-thon and how to sponsor visit: <http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/10/bird-a-thon.html>.

2007 RED DATA BOOK - THREATENED BIRDS OF ECUADOR

On behalf of Aves & Conservación (BirdLife in Ecuador) and Corporación SIMBIOE we are pleased to announce the launching of the initiative for the 2007 Red Data Book - Threatened Birds of Ecuador. The process has the official support of BirdLife International, the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment and IUCN. In order to update information we will take advantage of the digital technology kindly provided by BirdLife through its discussion forums, allowing an open, participative, transparent, and cost-efficient process. The definitions of the discussion guidelines are in the final stages and very soon we will announce participation mechanisms. Every contribution will be acknowledged. This is a conservation initiative where your active participation will allow the updating of this fundamental tool for public and private decision-makers, as well as conservation, education and research investors, both in Ecuador and abroad. We hope to count with your valuable support for this initiative. For more information contact Aves&Conservación, Psje. Joaquín Tinajero E3-05 y Jorge Drom, Quito, Ecuador, Tel: (593 2) 2271800 - 2249968.

IBA DIRECTORY OF UK'S OVERSEAS TERRITORIES LAUNCHED

A new directory of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the United Kingdom's 14 Overseas Territories highlights their massive global biological importance. The UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) hold 34 bird species globally threatened with extinction and a further 13 species are Near-Threatened. Of these, 22 are confined to the UKOTs and a further 15 have vital breeding grounds in them. Threatened species include the Critically Endangered Montserrat Oriole *Icterus oberi*, which is confined to the Caribbean island and lost more than half of its range following a devastating volcanic eruption in 1997. Seven albatross and five petrel species with important nesting populations in the Territories are affected by the impacts of longline fishing in the Southern Ocean, particularly in the south Atlantic. Invasive plants and animals have had a devastating impact on native wildlife in the Territories too. The report, Important Bird Areas in the United Kingdom Overseas Territories; priority sites for conservation, is published by the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK) and identifies 78 IBAs in the Territories yet fewer than half have official protection. The report was launched in Jersey at a conference organized by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, with the support of the Overseas Territories Environment Program. For more information visit: http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/10/ukot_ibas.html

NEW LAQUIPAMPA WILDLIFE REFUGE IN PERU

The ex -Laquipampa protected zone has been definitively categorized as a Wildlife Refuge, the first of its kind in Peru. This great step forward allows us to carry out the necessary management actions to secure the long-term conservation of the Critically Endangered White-winged Guan (*Penelope albipennis*) and Spectacled Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), species that have important wild populations within Laquipampa. The equatorial dry forests of Laquipampa are considered not only a state protected area, but as key sites for the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) and as an Important Bird Area (IBA) on the Tropical Andes, since on its continuous forest belt ranging from 250 to 2500 meters above sea level, there are a total of 157 bird species, with 38 of them endemic to the Tumbesian region. Laquipampa is one of the easiest sites for observing wild populations of White-winged and Bearded Guans, the latter considered as Vulnerable. Other birds that deserve attention by being Tumbesian endemics, threatened or rare, can be seen on Laquipampa and make the Wildlife Refuge worth a visit are -among others- the Rufous-necked and Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaners, Watkins' Antpitta, Piura Chat-Tyrant, Ochre-bellied Dove, Gray-breasted Flycatcher, Black-cowled Saltator and the Blue Seedeater, being this place for the latter species only the second

confirmed site in Peru. Asociación Cracidae Peru congratulates the community of San Antonio de Laquipampa and the INRENA staff in charge of the Wildlife Refuge area administration for the success promoting the former Reserve to a Wildlife Refuge and vows to keep collaborating on the conservation of these 8000 hectares of dry forest. Cracidae together with other institutions and individuals has been collaborating with the refuge for six years, carrying out biodiversity inventories and White-winged Guan censuses, effectively helping on the re-categorization process. For more information contact: Fernando Angulo Pratonlongo, Director Asociación Cracidae Perú, (074) 238748 <mailto:chamaepetes@yahoo.com>
<http://www.pavaaliblanca.org>

MIGRATING RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD INFORMATION NEEDED

For those of you who live, travel, and/or work in Mexico or any Central American country (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama), I am interested in knowing autumn arrival dates for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, *Archilochus colubris*. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds breed in the U.S. and Canada and the vast majority of them depart in autumn to spend the winter months as far south as northern Panama. Adult males begin their southward movement as early as late July, but some birds--especially juveniles--may linger in the U.S. until mid-October. I would appreciate your sending me by e-mail any "early autumn" sightings you have for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, including the date and location (GPS coordinates preferred). If you are able to determine the age/sex of the bird, please include that information. Please send information to Bill Hilton Jr, RESEARCH PROGRAM, c/o BILL HILTON JR, Executive Director, Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History, 1432 DeVinney Road, York, South Carolina 29745 USA. <mailto:research@hiltonpond.org>, Tel: (803) 684-5852, Fax: (503) 218-0845.

RICE AND WATERBIRDS WORKING GROUP

A Rice and Waterbirds Working Group have recently formed under the auspices of the Waterbird Council. This group was created to promote conservation of aquatic birds using habitats associated with rice cultivation, by addressing needs associated with research, identification and promotion of best management practices and outreach. The current working group is small and currently focused on the Americas. We are interested, however, in reaching out and gaining input from others because one of the primary goals is to increase communication among people interested in the use of rice fields by birds. The group has also created a new web site to act as a central place for disseminating information about the group's activities and about Waterbird use of rice fields. The site is now public at: <http://www.fws.gov/birds/waterbirds/rice/rice.html>. If you have questions/comments about the web site, know of materials/link that could be added, or would like any other information about the group, please contact Chris Elphick, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut, 75 North Eagleville Road, U-43, Storrs, CT 06269, USA, Tel: (860) 486-4547, Fax: (860) 486-6364, <mailto:chris.elphick@uconn.edu>

PENGUIN POPULATION PLUMMETS DUE TO OVERFISHING

Humboldt Penguins that breed along the desert coast of Peru and Chile are in trouble. Once numbering over 20 million birds, the species is now one-tenth its former size due to overfishing in the region. Listed as Vulnerable to Extinction on the IUCN Red List, Humboldt Penguins feed in nutrient-rich waters which abound with anchovy and other small fish. This very abundance has attracted commercial fishing fleets that are poorly regulated by the Chilean and Peruvian governments. As fish stocks dwindle, the penguins are failing to breed in ever greater numbers. The Brookfield Zoo, together with the St. Louis Zoo and the Philadelphia Zoo, has a flourishing Humboldt captive-breeding program, and are helping to monitor the penguin population in the wild. The zoos are also helping pay for guards to prevent poaching of guano, birds, and eggs. They have also petitioned to have one of the main Peruvian breeding sites, Punta San Juan, designated as a Marine Reserve. For more information visit: <http://www.brookfieldzoo.org/O.asp?nSection=10&PageID=194&nLinkID=283>

HOPES FADE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE COZUMEL THRASHER

A team of researchers, led by Robert L. Curry from Villanova University and sponsored by American Bird Conservancy (ABC), has failed to find conclusive evidence of Cozumel Thrashers on the island of Cozumel, off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, leading to fears that the species may be extinct. Just twenty years ago, the

Cozumel Thrasher was common and easily found, but storms and introduced predators, such as cats and boa constrictors, decimated the species. Following Hurricane Gilbert, a Category Five storm that devastated the island in 1988, only one or two sporadic sightings were made. In 2004, Curry's research team located a single bird. Since then, however, two Category Four hurricanes have hit Cozumel and much of the island's forest cover was decimated. Nevertheless, some individuals may persist. The Island also holds two other endemic species and 15 endemic subspecies, including the rare Cozumel Great Curassow and Cozumel Roadside Hawk, which were glimpsed during the 2006 survey. For more information contact: Paul Salaman, ABC, <mailto:psalaman@abcbirds.org>

PROTECTION SUCCEEDS FOR THE BLUE-BILLED CURASSOW IN COLOMBIA

ABC and Fundacion ProAves are delighted to report that conservation efforts over the past two years are working to protect the Blue-billed Curassow, a Critically Endangered species that is now only found in Colombia's Magdalena Valley. In December 2004, ABC secured the purchase of almost 2,965 acres in the valley to establish the Paujil Nature Reserve (announced at the time in La Tangara), the sole protected refuge for the species. Fundación ProAves, which manages the reserve, immediately launched intensive research and monitoring efforts with the support of the BP Conservation Award. In 2004-5, these surveys indicated a population density of 1 individual per 80 acres. In 2006, using the same methods, biologists noted a 19% increase in the population density to 1 individual per 65 acres. While still well below the probable one-time density of 1 individual per 10 acres, this is tremendous news. It is the first evidence of a reversal in the curassow's fortunes, and provides a clear justification for acquiring and protecting the habitat, as well as educating and collaborating with hunters and local communities. The importance of the reserve as a safe haven for biodiversity is further confirmed by recent sightings of a family of rare spectacled bears within the reserve. For more information see: <http://www.proaves.org>

NEW BIRD CONSERVATION JOURNAL LAUNCHED IN COLOMBIA

In November, Fundacion ProAves launched the first issue of "Conservación Colombiana" - a journal dedicated to provide an outlet for bird and other biodiversity conservation projects to publish their results and experiences. The first issue is focused on threatened parrots and includes the National Threatened Parrot Action Plan, priorities and omissions analysis, and conservation actions in the Central Cordillera. For more information on how to acquire the journal see: <http://www.proaves.org> and click on "Revista de Conservación".

NEW MAGAZINE FROM THE NEOTROPICAL BIRD CLUB

The Neotropical Bird Club is pleased to announce the launch of its new magazine, 'Neotropical Birding', which will be published annually along with two issues each year of the well-established 'Cotinga'. Inspired by feedback from the Club's diverse membership, Neotropical Birding aims to publish articles of practical use for those birding in the Caribbean, South and Central America. It will provide up-to-date information on some of the best places to go birding in the Neotropics, showcase high quality photos of some of the rarer birds in the region, and contain articles on the identification of some of the more tricky species. The Neotropical Bird Club is now seeking articles for potential publication in forthcoming issues of Neotropical Birding. These should be along the lines of articles in the first issue. If you have an idea of an article you would like to contribute, please contact the editor, James Lowen, <mailto:lowen.james@gmail.com>. To join the Neotropical Bird Club and receive Neotropical Birding and the two issues of Cotinga which have already been published this year costs US\$40 and subscriptions can be taken out via the club's website at www.neotropicalbirdclub.org. Alternatively write to Neotropical Bird Club, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK.

FUNDING REQUEST

The Colombian biologist and current Scientific Director of the Natural Reserve IBANASCA, David Alfonso Bejarano Bonilla, has been accepted for graduate studies in Plymouth University, UK with a doctoral thesis on two threatened parakeet species, Golden-plumed Parakeet (*Leptosittaca branickii*) and Rufous-fronted Parakeet (*Bolborhynchus ferrugineifrons*). Mr. Bejarano has insured a loan from a Colombian organization;

however it is not enough to cover necessary expenses, so he is requesting funding. Any information, help or ideas will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Mr. David Bejarano at: <mailto:trumandavid01@yahoo.com>

WEB NEWS

UNOP-PERU. The Ornithologists Union of Peru (UNOP as initialed in Spanish) has been legally created and has launched its first informative newsletter. For more information write to: <mailto:grace.servat@gmail.com> or <mailto:UNOPPeru@yahoogroups.com>

CHARLES DARWIN'S WORKS GO ONLINE. Cambridge University has digitized some 50,000 pages of text and 40,000 images of original publications - all of it searchable. The resource is aimed at serious scholars, but can be used by anyone with an interest in Darwin and his theory on the evolution of life. Access is via <http://darwin-online.org.uk/>

LA CHIRICOCA, new electronic publication on Chilean Birdwatching, available only in Spanish at: <http://www.aveschile.cl/publicaciones.htm#chir>

CEMAVE (Centro Nacional de Pesquisa para Conservação das Aves) - the Brazilian Bird Banding Agency - has launched a new scientific journal called ORNITHOLOGIA. Currently, two issues are available for download at: http://www.ibama.gov.br/cemave/index.php?id_menu=372

OPERATION RUBYTHROAT banding expedition to Guanacaste Province is featured in "Costa Rica Outdoors" magazine at: <http://www.hiltonpond.org/pdf/CostaRicaOutdoorsMay2006.pdf>

ARARAJUBA AVAILABLE. The volume 4(2) of Ararajuba (presently Revista Brasileira de Ornitologia) is now available on-line at: <http://www.ararajuba.org.br>

USE OF RICE FIELDS BY MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS IN SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA: Implications for conservation and management at: <http://www.wetlands.org/publication.aspx?ID=b63bc18e-3d59-4e26-b173-a5c37802fa42>

CUBAN WATERBIRD BOOK AVAILABLE at: http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/10/cuba_waterbirds.html

FREE ACCESS TO ROYAL SOCIETY JOURNALS on-line for 2 months at: <http://www.royalsoc.co.uk/news.asp?id=5165>

BIOTROPICA 38(4) available free online at: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/btp/38/4>

CRACID SPECIALIST GROUP WEBSITE UPDATED. It is a faster, more navigable version with better graphics and web design. There are some new sections as well, such as a page of featured CSG projects, <http://www.cracids.org>. The last issue of Bulletin of the Cracid Specialist Group is available at <http://www.cracids.org/22.htm>

BOLETIN SAO Volume XVI (Special Issue) available at: <http://www.sao.org.co/publicaciones/boletinsao/Boletin%20sao.htm>

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND REPORT: Bird Species and Climate Change: The Global Status Report at: http://www.panda.org/news_facts/publications/index.cfm?uNewsID=86520

PATO-POC, Vol. 3 Bulletin of the Ornithological Society of Guatemala, available at:

<http://www.avesdeguatemala.org/boletin.htm>

PRESENTATIONS GIVEN DURING THE IBA-KBA SYMPOSIUM IN ANTIGUA GUATEMALA, 1-2 November 2006, are online at: <http://www.avesdeguatemala.org/simposio2006.htm>

IMPORTANT BIRD SITES

- "Cockpit Country" in Jamaica threatened by bauxite mining at:
http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/10/cockpit_country.htm
- World Bird Festival in Latin America, from Dominican Republic to Bolivia at:
http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/10/dom_rep_wbf.html
- Groups unite at last refuge for Ridgway's Hawk at:
http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/10/dom_rep_ridway.html
- Important Bird Areas of the Falkland Islands launched:
<http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/08/falklands.html>

FUNDING

FRANCOIS VUILLEUMIER FUND FOR RESEARCH ON NEOTROPICAL BIRDS

The goal of the Neotropical Ornithological Society's Francois Vuilleumier Fund is to award one or more cash grants per year for thesis studies of Neotropical birds to one or several graduate students from any country in Latin America and the Caribbean. The funds are provided to assist thesis research by students, enrolled in an institution in the neotropics who have little or no access to funds within their country or at their institution. Awards will be competitive and are expected to be in the range of \$500. Students from Latin America and the Caribbean enrolled in a graduate degree Program (Masters or PhD) at an institution in the neotropical region are eligible to apply. The application deadline is 10 December each year (e-mail receipt). Awards will be announced on 15 March each year. Fund information and guidelines are available on the Neotropical Ornithological Society website (<http://www.neotropicalornithology.org>). For additional information contact Dr. Joseph M. Wunderle at: <mailto:Wunderle@coqui.net>

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.

USFWS LATIN AMERICAN GRADUATES SMALL GRANTS OPPORTUNITY

This year the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife without Borders - Latin America and the Caribbean Program (WWB-LAC) is inviting graduates of four Latin American Master's Programs that the Service has a long history of supporting to submit proposals for conservation education support. Applicants must be a graduate of one of the four wildlife management programs financed by USFWS (Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Universidad Federal de Minas Gerais, UNELLEZ) and must be affiliated with an organization which can administer the grant funds. A database of graduates is available for conservationists wishing to submit a proposal in collaboration with a graduate. Grants will be considered

for up to \$10,000, and must be submitted by December 15th, 2006. Proposal guidelines can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/international/rfps/lachow.htm>. Proposals can be in English or Spanish. For more information or a list of graduates, contact: Marina Sansostri Ratchford, International Affairs Specialist, Division of International Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Suite 740D, Arlington, VA 22203, Tel: 703-358-2480, Fax: 703-358-2115, marina_ratchford@fws.gov

NORTH STAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSMITTER GRANT PROGRAM

North Star Science and Technology, LLC and American Bird Conservancy announce the 5th annual North Star Science and Technology Transmitter Grant Program. In the spirit of giving back to the research community that they serve, North Star will award a total of eight (8) satellite transmitters (Argos Platform Transmitter Terminals (PTTs)), to one or two recipients (8 PTTs to one project or 4 PTTs to each of two projects). PTTs are powerful, cutting-edge tools for the study of bird migration that greatly extend the range over which individual birds can be tracked. The program is open to projects throughout the world. Research that contributes to our knowledge of avian biology and that provides data useful for bird conservation, particularly of threatened species, will receive preference in the selection process. American Bird Conservancy (<http://www.abcbirds.org>) will handle the proposal submission process, review proposals, and select the winning projects. Please see <http://www.northstarst.com> for more information and proposal guidelines. Deadline for proposals is February 2, 2007. Any further questions about the program can be directed to George E. Wallace, American Bird Conservancy (<mailto:gwallace@abcbirds.org>); PH: 540-253-5780; FX:540-253-5782.

TRAINING / JOB OPPORTUNITIES

PARK FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS IN US NATIONAL PARKS

The Park Flight Migratory Bird Program works to protect migratory birds that share their habitat between national parks and protected areas in the U.S., Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean through activities such as bird monitoring, outreach and education programs, and opportunities for technical assistance and cooperation. The Park Flight Program is a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS), National Park Foundation, American Airlines, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the University of Arizona. The program includes internships for Latin American professionals from Central America and Mexico. Working through the NPS International Volunteers in Parks Program, Latin American biologists and educators assist with Park Flight efforts in national parks in the U.S. These international internships give the opportunity for an exchange of knowledge and experience including science, culture and language. The internships begin from April to August, and can last from two to five months. To apply the required skills are: experience with bird banding/monitoring and/or outreach and education, and at least an intermediate English speaking level (reading, writing, understanding and speaking). A few internships can accept a basic to intermediate level of English, but applicants must be able to understand safety and radio communications and give presentations in English. Some training is provided, and interns are asked to give presentations about bird conservation in their countries. Candidates must be able to apply the skills gained in the U.S. to bird conservation efforts in national parks or protected areas in their home countries. The program covers expenses of: airfare, housing, necessary equipment, a required J -1 visa, and medical insurance during their internship. Park Flight makes all the necessary arrangements. Interns receive US \$700.00 a month for food and other expenses. Applicants must be in their home country the 3 months prior to the internship for visa reasons. In 2007, there will be up to twelve internships available including at the following U.S. national parks, as well as others not yet selected: Point Reyes National Seashore, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks in California; Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico; Pinelands/New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route in New Jersey; and Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee/North Carolina. Top candidates will be able to review specific position descriptions and will be required to have phone interviews in English. Interested and qualified candidates from Central America and Mexico should send a CV (Spanish is okay), with a cover letter in English, by January 31, 2007, to the program coordinator, Carol Beidleman, <mailto:BeidlemanC@aol.com>.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY FOR BIRD MONITORING IN GUATEMALA

Volunteers are needed for project monitoring resident and migrant birds in the Department of Izabal, Guatemala with the Foundation for Ecodevelopment and Conservation (FUNDAECO as initialed in Spanish). Main duties include capture, banding and recapture of tropical forest birds. The program covers round trip transportation from Guatemala to Izabal, food and lodging for volunteers. We ask at least a 5 day commitment. To apply or for more information contact: Mónica Barrientos, Biological Research Coordinator, <mailto:monikelisa@gmail.com>, or Miguel Ramirez, Monitoring Program Regional Coordinator, mailto:miguel_sangil@yahoo.com.mx

VOLUNTEER FIELD ASSISTANTS IN ARGENTINA NEEDED

Six to eight volunteers needed from 10 Nov 2006 to 10 Feb 2007 (a minimum stay of 35 days within the period will be preferred) for a long-term monitoring project at Reserva de la Biosfera "Parque Costero Sur" (MAB-UNESCO), northeast of Buenos Aires, Argentina on Red Crested Cardinal (*Paroaria coronata*). Volunteers will live at a rustic field camp 25 km from the nearest town. Applicants must get along well with others, be willing to work hard, and be self motivated. Good physical condition, ability to make careful observations, and knowledge of Spanish preferred. We are looking for volunteers who can commit for the entire study. We provide lodging and required equipment. Volunteers must provide their own airfare to Buenos Aires, Argentina, and transportation from Buenos Aires to La Plata (55 km). Volunteers are required to pay a fee (\$ 60 USD/week) to cover food & lodging and help defray costs of project. To apply please send cover letter, time available and resume to Luciano N. Segura, <mailto:paroaria@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar>

VOLUNTEERS FOR GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER WINTERING STUDY IN CENTRAL AMERICA NEEDED

The endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler winters almost exclusively in one ecoregion (Central American Pine-oak Forest) considered critically endangered by the World Wildlife Fund. Data on winter distribution, relative abundance and habitat use, and population trends are needed to determine conservation priorities on a range-wide scale for the Golden-cheeked Warbler, an endangered flagship species for an endangered habitat. Six teams of researchers in five countries will expand knowledge of winter distribution, and quantify relative abundance and habitat use of Golden-cheeked Warblers at known and potential wintering sites across the entire winter range, from Mexico to Nicaragua, during one winter period. During December 2006 and January 2007, the teams will collect data at known and potential wintering sites for Golden-cheeked Warblers throughout the range and extent of the Central American pine-oak ecoregion. Site visits will last for approximately 6 days each (30 days of field work per team are planned). One or two observers may join one of 6 field teams for one or more of their several 6-day-long field trips. Volunteers will need to cover all of their travel costs, including food in the field, and possibly a modest contribution to cover part of the gas or vehicle rental costs. If interested, please email your available dates, preferred country (Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, or Mexico/Chiapas), a description of your birding experience, and your facility with Spanish to: Oliver Komar, Ph.D. (project director), Director, Programa de Ciencias para la Conservación, SalvaNATURA, Colonia Flor Blanca, 33 Av. Sur #640, San Salvador, El Salvador, C.A. Tel: (503) 2279-1515, Fax (503) 2279-0220, <mailto:okomar@salvanatura.org>

FIELD ASSISTANTS NEEDED IN COSTA RICA

Field Assistants needed to study behavior and communication in Yellow-naped Amazons in Costa Rica. Duration of project is 3 months, likely first week of January to first week of April. Work includes behavior observations/recording, playback experiments, and nest finding and observation. Prior field experience preferred. Must be physically fit, have a great work ethic, enthusiasm, ability to live in isolated field house with few other people, and tolerance of biting insects, heat, mud, crawling under barbed wire fences, and occasional tarantulas in your field house. Climbing experience and/or Spanish speaking ability a plus. Assistants will work six days per week, both early mornings (4:30 am or earlier) and afternoons. Flight to Costa Rica and housing is included, as well as \$1000 salary. Send cover letter, resume, email and numbers of 2 references (references preferred who can speak to field abilities), and copy of transcript to Christine Dahlin, 602 Texas Ave, Las Cruces NM, 88001, USA. <mailto:crdahlin@yahoo.com>

BIRDING AND NATURAL HISTORY GUIDE IN COSTA RICA

Our small Eco-lodge on the Peninsula de Osa in Costa Rica needs an extra guide for the 2007 high season from late December 2006 to the beginning of April 2007. February and March are the most important months and the other months are negotiable. Qualifications: Birding/ornithology background with experience in tropical biology and birding particularly in Costa Rica, ability to learn bird calls quickly, ability to study and absorb knowledge quickly, enthusiasm, pleasant personality, flexible, some Spanish language, good physical condition and interest in all natural history. A University Degree is not necessary. Birding is our main emphasis but we could consider a general tropical naturalist/biologist with some background in birding. We are located in the National Forest surrounding Corcovado National Park on the Peninsula de Osa. This area is said to be one of the most bio-diverse places in the world with approximately 2.5% of the species found worldwide. There are many local endemic species and the birding is excellent. This is a great opportunity to get to know the area. We will need 1-3 weeks (depending on the applicant's experience) for training. We are open to a field biologist combining research with the job. Generally, work hours will be 3-5 hours in the morning and 2-3 in the afternoon, or an approximate total of 6 hrs a day. Schedule is flexible and dependent on our occupancy. During most of the period there will be a fair amount of free time. We provide personal guiding so groups larger than 2 or 4 will be rare. Some interaction with our guests during down time is required. During low periods we may ask for help with lodge related work such as correspondence, trips to town, trail maintenance or natural history related projects and record keeping but this is negotiable. Two meals a day are provided and there is a private house nearby for the guide to rent (very inexpensive, \$60-\$75 per month). Compensation for services is provided. For more information about the area and our lodge, please visit <http://www.osaadventures.com> and for more info on the job opportunity, write to <mailto:info@osaadventures.com>

INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR BIRD MONITORING IN COSTA RICA

We have openings for Volunteer Bird Banding Interns at a bird monitoring station in the coastal Caribbean town of Tortuguero, Costa Rica. Positions are available throughout the year with the minimum length of stay around 2 months. Participants are expected to have experience in identifying birds, and they usually have removed from mist nets and processed at least 200 landbirds. The Primary Bander will have extensive experience operating a capture station and can be awarded up to half their airfare to and from San José, Costa Rica. Latin American Volunteers are especially encouraged and may be eligible for other reimbursements. All volunteers receive their room and board while they are staying at the well-appointed station of the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, Estación Biológica, in Tortuguero (<http://cccturtle.org/ccr-costarica.htm>). We and our collaborators in Costa Rica have been operating five monitoring stations near the village for over a decade. We operate mist nets for resident and migrant species and conduct migration censuses of the millions of diurnal migrants moving along the coast. For more information see <http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/topics/wildlife/birdmon/landbird/tortuguero/> Positions will be open until filled. Please send (email preferred) a resume highlighting your bird banding experience, ability with Spanish, dates available, three references and any questions to: Pablo A. Herrera <mailto:paherrera@fs.fed.us>, and Dr. C. John Ralph, <mailto:cjr2@humboldt.edu>, Phone: 707 825-2994 Fax: 707 825-2901, U.S. Forest Service, Redwood Sciences Laboratory, 1700 Bayview Drive, Arcata, California 95521. USA.

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.

FIELD RESEARCH ASSISTANT NEEDED IN BAHAMAS

One field research assistant and two to three volunteers needed from 1 March to 15 June 2007 for the second field season of a study to determine nest distribution and nesting requirements for the Bahama Parrot on Great Inagua Island, The Bahamas. Primary duties include searching for nests throughout the island using behavioral cues using predetermined protocol. Experience in nest searching is required. Applicants must be willing to work long hours in hot conditions. Applicants need to be self-motivated, organized, and able to work independently and take detailed notes. Housing is provided in Matthew Town; however some camping will be required. Travel will be covered along with a \$3,000 stipend for the season for field assistant. Flight to Great Inagua Island is provided for volunteers with commitment to entire field season. The project is being conducted through the Bahamas National Trust. Application deadline is 15 December 2006. If interested in applying please send cover letter, resume and references to Caroline Stahala, <mailto:bahamaparrot@hotmail.com>.

VOLUNTEER FIELD ASSISTANT POSITIONS IN PANAMA

Volunteer field assistant positions (2-3) available from March 5 to May 15, 2007 for an ongoing behavioral study of cooperation and mate choice in Lance-tailed Manakins (*Chiroxiphia lanceolata*) in Panama. Males of this small passerine species court females in cooperative pairs, and perform spectacular leaping displays on dispersed display territories. Assistants' responsibilities include conducting many hour-long behavioral observations at display sites, nest-searching through dense secondary-growth forest, and mist-netting birds for banding and blood sampling, as well as data entry and organizational tasks. Experience in one or more of these areas is strongly preferred. Applicants should have a very strong interest in birds, animal behavior, and field biology. This position is particularly suitable for people interested in graduate studies in behavioral ecology, and motivated assistants have the opportunity to develop independent side projects. The field crew will live and work on a remote island off of Panama's Pacific coast and share one-room housing, so experience working in isolated field settings and/or living in close quarters is highly desirable. Applicants should be enthusiastic and physically fit: the terrain is steep, the weather is hot and humid, and there's an abundance of biting insects and a healthy population of snakes. Expect to work long days (7am-6pm six days a week), be woken at 4 am by howler monkeys on a regular basis, and see some amazing bird behavior. Round-trip airfare to Panama (max of \$1000), food, housing, and required transportation within Panama will be provided. For more information on the research, see <http://www.orn.mpg.de/mitarbeiter/duval2.html>. To apply, send: 1) coverletter explaining your motivation to work on this project, 2) resume, 3) email and phone numbers of three references to: EMILY DuVAL <mailto:ehduval@orn.mpg.de>, Max Planck Institut fuer Ornithologie, Postfach 1564, HausNr. 5, D-82319 Seewiesen, Germany. Review of applications will continue until positions are filled. Please note that because assistants receive extensive on-site training, only applications for the entire field season can be considered.

FIELD ASSISTANTS NEEDED IN CENTRAL PANAMA

Two to four field assistants are needed for a long-term project on the demography and behavior of resident birds in central Panama. Assistants are needed from March 1 until August/September 2007. We ask that assistants commit to a minimum of 3 months work. The positions require nest searching, behavioral observations, radio-telemetry, mist-netting, banding, re-sighting color-marked birds, and other activities related to ongoing studies. This work is in collaboration with the University of Illinois and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. Applicants must have experience with nest searching, be in good physical condition, and be able to endure long field days in a tropical setting (beautiful, with lots of birds, but can be hot and humid with biting insects). Ability to drive a manual vehicle is mandatory and some ability in Spanish is helpful. We are looking for highly motivated people that are hard-working, work well independently, and have positive attitudes. Opportunities for independent work on side projects are available for questions related to ongoing projects. Housing and travel to and from Panama are provided. To apply, please e-mail a letter of interest, C.V. and three references (names, phone numbers, and e-mails) to COREY TARWATER <mailto:tarwater@uiuc.edu> no later than 20 Dec 2006. (Note: applications will be considered as they are received).

MEETINGS

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. On-line abstract submission, as well as other information about the conference, is available on the conference web site at: <http://www.nocvenezuela.org> Detailed information on how to submit your proposal is now available at the Congress web site, please check the -Call for Contributions- section. 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>

4TH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS IN FLIGHT CONFERENCE will be held 13-16 February 2008, at the new McAllen Convention Center in McAllen, Texas. The conference theme will be Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats and People, which will be shared with International Migratory Bird Day (<http://www.birdday.org/>) for 2008. The focus of the conference will be international connections of all sorts that further bird and habitat conservation throughout the Western Hemisphere. Concurrent paper sessions will focus on issues in bird conservation and will be of two types, 1) standard sessions typical of scientific society meetings, and 2) sessions followed by a facilitated discussion session. The goal of each of the latter sessions will be to produce a strategic action plan to be distributed to all partners within weeks of the conference. There will also be keynote speakers, vendors, social events, a poster session, a variety of single- and multi-day birding field trips, and a proceedings that will include papers developed from posters. Details will be posted on the Partners in Flight web (<http://www.partnersinflight.org>) and distributed through various bird conservation listservs as they develop. In the mean time, contact Terry Rich with inquiries at mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov

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

WATERBIRDS OF THE WETLANDS OF CUBA

(*Aves Acuáticas de los Humedales de Cuba*). A new book aimed at raising awareness of the cultural and intrinsic value of Cuban wetlands is available, thanks to support from the British Birdwatching Fair (BBWF). In 2001, visitors to BBWF, which takes place each year at Rutland Water, UK, helped raise a staggering US\$250,000 to support a BirdLife International project in eastern Cuba. One of the outputs from the project is *Aves Acuáticas en los Humedales de Cuba* by L. Mugica, D. Denis, M. Acosta, A. Jiménez and A. Rodríguez. Copies of *Aves Acuáticas en los Humedales de Cuba* can be purchased from the Natural History Book Service (NHBS), with a percentage of the cover price donated to the Cuban project. For more information visit: http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/10/cuba_waterbirds.html

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF COSTA RICA

By Richard Garrigues. The principal objective of this book is to help you correctly identify birds in Costa Rica. Each family of birds is introduced by a brief description that should help the novice birder determine to which group a bird belongs. Nearly every species is illustrated by one or more images, as needed. Corresponding to each species' illustration is a written account on the facing page. The account begins with the unique field marks to look for that will distinguish each species from similar ones. Following the description of unique markings is information about how common a species is and where it occurs

geographically. To the left of most accounts is a thumbnail map of Costa Rica showing the species' range within the country. Many species accounts include a description of vocalization. 416 pages, Soft cover, due May 2007. \$39.99 ISBN: 0713683694. For more information visit: <http://www.nhbs.com/title.php?tefno=148342>

RECENT LITERATURE

DuVal, Emily H., Harry W. Greene, Katharina L. Manno. 2006. Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) Predation on Coral Snakes (*Micrurus nigrocinctus*). *Biotropica*, 38: 566-568.

Hahn, I., U. Römer & R. Schlatter. 2006. Population numbers and status of land birds of the Juan Fernández Archipelago, Chile. *Senckenbergiana biologica* 86: 109-125.

Hahn, I. 2006. First reproductive records and nest sites of the endemic Juan Fernández Tit-tyrant *Anairetes fernandezianus* (Philippi 1857) (Aves: Tyrannidae) from Robinson Crusoe Island, Chile. *Zoologische Abhandlungen* 55: 177-190.

Hahn, I., U. Römer & R. Schlatter. 2005. First description of nesting ecology of the endemic Grey-flanked *Cinclodes* *Cinclodes oustaleti baekstroemii* from the Juan Fernández Islands, Chile. *Acta Ornithologica* 40: 165-169.

Hahn, I., U. Römer & R. Schlatter. 2005. Distribution, habitat use, and abundance patterns of land bird communities on the Juan Fernández Islands, Chile. *Ornitología Neotropical* 16: 371-385.

Hahn, I., U. Römer & R. Schlatter. 2004. Nest sites and breeding ecology of the Másafuera Rayadito (*Aphrastura masafuerae*) on Alejandro Selkirk Island, Chile. *Journal of Ornithology* 145: 93-97.

Komar, O. 2006. Ecology and conservation of birds in coffee plantations: A critical review. *Bird Conservation International* 16, 1-23.

Komar, O., de Gelder, A., Boyla, K. A., Angehr, G., Balderamos, P., & Allport, G. 2006. The first Central American record of White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*. *Cotinga* 26, 43-45.

Parrado-Rosselli, Angela., J. Amaya-Espinel. 2006. Feeding Behavior of Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*: Cotingidae) in the Colombian Amazon and Its Implications for Seed Dispersal. *Biotrópica*, 38: 561-565.

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<http://www.partnersinflight.org>

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