



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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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear readers,

During the IV International Partners in Flight conference in McAllen, Texas, 13-16 February 2008 the Partners in Flight Mesoamerica Group held a symposium titled: "Avian Conservation In Central America: Ongoing Projects and Future Needs." This session emphasized the importance of continuing to build and strengthen links between the United States and other countries within the Western Hemisphere so we can improve our mutual ability to conserve avian population and their habitat. Important bird projects throughout the Mesoamerican region were presented and at the end of the session a round table addressed bird conservation needs and ways to work with our partners in the North. Twelve participants from all Mesoamerica (Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama) including the PIF MESO coordinators plus Park Flight were invited to give presentations on their major ornithological projects in the region. Fifty people attended the session.

Also, a raffle was held to help support La Tangara, since for the past year we have been working without any funding.

Throughout the conference, the PIF MESO group had several meetings to exchange experiences and to establish collaborations between their countries and other ornithological groups, NGOs and the private sector. The group received a donation of binoculars, banding supplies, books and environmental material to take to their countries and distribute to their ornithological groups from the U.S Partners in Flight (Western Working Group and others), Optics for the Tropics, Environment for the Americas: International Migratory Bird Day, Birders' Exchange, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Buteo Books, among others. All PIF MESO coordinators, both present and former, received the Partners in Flight Leadership award during the congress for their outstanding contribution to bird conservation.

Other activities included a proposed collaboration agreement to be signed between PIF USA and the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation for the development of workshops (banding, proposal writing, etc.), projects (e-bird, PIF species assessment), and environmental activities (bird festivals) among other activities for the region.

Finally, I would like to thank PIF, USDA and other organizations for the travel support of all the attendees to the symposium and to all the people who contributed with funds to keep La Tangara going this year.

Cheers,

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PEREGRINE FUND WINS GRANT FROM ZOO BOISE FOR ANDEAN CONDOR IN ECUADOR

Zoo Boise recently awarded a \$16,025 grant to The Peregrine Fund for a project to study Andean Condors, whose numbers are declining in Ecuador, Colombia and other regions in the northern Andes Mountains. No more than 65 condors are believed to remain in this region. Historically, the species was widespread but after 1970 it declined in range and abundance, probably due to human persecution, insufficient food supplies and loss of habitat. The grant will be used to conduct the first systematic census of condors in the region; determine group and family dynamics in the population; identify main threats to survival; and to train two Ecuadorian university students in census and ecological monitoring techniques. The grant money raised by Zoo Boise came from 25 cents of every zoo admission and a portion of each membership.

AMIGOS ALADOS PROJECT JOINS CALIFORNIAN AND MEXICAN STUDENTS IN THE STUDY OF BIRDS

Amigos Alados or Winged Friends is an exciting educational project between fourth graders at Ross School in Marin County, California, and fourth graders of the Primaria Cuauhtémoc in Los Espinos, Jalisco, Mexico. Beginning in fall of 2007, students in both schools will be studying birds that migrate between the San Francisco Bay Area and the Sierra de Tapalpa and sharing their research and observations with each other. Fourth graders at Ross School have been studying endangered California birds for several years in conjunction with STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed) and ornithologists from PRBO (Point Reyes Bird Observatory). The project was born out of the idea to give kids binoculars and digital cameras to "shoot" pictures of birds, instead of shooting them with slingshots. Besides helping to sensitize kids in both countries to nature and the need to preserve and protect it, this project also offers an opportunity for a friendship and penpal program between the schools. The students at Ross School take Spanish three times a week, and a penpal project can only help to give their language study new meaning and utility and to enrich their understanding of the longstanding, close relationship between the cultures of Mexico and California. This is a pilot project, and hopefully more schools will participate in the future. For more information, contact: Alison Quoyeser, 249 Greene Street, Mill Valley, CA 94941, USA, Phone: 1-415-383-8569, <mailto:aaquoyeser@aol.com>

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS FOR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND OTHER ISLANDS

Grupo Jaragua and the BirdLife Caribbean Program are happy to announce that the Important Bird Area (IBA) accounts for the Dominican Republic and other islands/nations are now available on line. This is one of the main results of the regional project *Sustainable Conservation of Globally Important Caribbean Bird Habitats*, which has recently concluded its initial phase. This project was developed with support from BirdLife International and the Global Environment Facility through the United Nations Environmental Program. Due to the support, tenacity, motivation, steering and participation of a great number of individuals and institutions, Grupo Jaragua was able to successfully carry out the Dominican Republic component of the IBA program. We are deeply thankful to all the people and institutions that collaborated with us throughout the past five years. Without these contributions such achievement would have not been possible. To access the Caribbean IBA accounts, please go to <http://caribbean.birdlife.org> (click on IBA, select the country of preference from the list, and click on Search). IBA *On Line* is a process is continuous progress you *can* be a part of, if you wish to do so. For further consultation, more information, feedback or comments contact: Verónica Anadón-Irizarry, Caribbean Program Coordinator, Caribbean Program - Americas Secretariat, BirdLife International Puerto Rico, <mailto:nesospingus@yahoo.com>.

AMERICAN WATCHLIST REVEALED

One hundred and seventy eight species in the continental U.S. and 39 in Hawaii have the dubious distinction of being on the latest list of America's most endangered birds. WatchList 2007, a joint effort between Audubon (BirdLife in the US) and American Bird Conservancy, reveals those in greatest need of immediate conservation help. The new Audubon/American Bird Conservancy WatchList identifies 59 continental and 39 Hawaiian "red list" species of greatest concern, and 119 more in the "yellow" category of seriously declining or rare species. It is based on the latest available research and assessment from the bird conservation community along with data from the Christmas Bird Count and the annual Breeding Bird Survey. Despite ongoing challenges and their continued place on the list, the status of some WatchList species is improving, according to the new data, as broader awareness of their plight has spawned effective conservation action. Several species have benefited from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and now show stabilizing, or even increasing populations. Lacking an ESA designation or the political support needed to secure strong protective measures, others continue to decline. For full story visit: http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/11/watch_list.html. To download the Watchlist visit: <http://www.audubon.org/news/pressroom/WatchList2007/Report.html>

ILLEGAL PARROT TRADE IN BOLIVIA

In a recently published paper, Asociación Armonía (BirdLife in Bolivia) monitored the wild birds which passed through a pet market in Santa Cruz between August 2004 to July 2005, and recorded nearly 7,300 individuals of 31 parrot species, four of which were threatened. There are four other pet markets in Santa Cruz, all of which may be handling similar numbers of parrots, and Armonía expects that the situation is comparable in the Bolivian city of Cochabamba. In fact, Bolivian Environmental Law states that all persons involved in trade, capture and transportation without authorization of wild animals will suffer a two-year prison sentence together with a fine equivalent to 100% of the value of the animal. Bolivia has ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). This means Bolivia has agreed to control international trade in species listed on CITES Appendix II, such as Blue-fronted Parrot *Amazona aestiva*, and not export those on Appendix I, such as the Bolivian endemic Red-fronted Macaw *Ara rubrogenys* (Endangered). But the illegal pet trade continues in Santa Cruz, and although many traffickers have been arrested and charged, they have subsequently been released. By monitoring the parrots passing through the market, Armonía sought to gather data on the level of trade, to determine primary trafficking routes, and begin to understand some of the social aspects associated with trading activities. The most frequently sold species were the Blue-fronted Parrot *Amazona aestiva* (1,468 individuals), Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* (1,342) and Blue-winged Parrotlet *Forpus xanthopterygius* (1,243). Armonía's Red-fronted Macaw conservation program is working to counter the trade in this species through education programs, and by involving local people and rural communities in conservation solutions which provide more sustainable economic incentives, such as the creation of a tourist ecolodge in an important breeding area for the macaw. This is modeled on the earlier program for the conservation of the Critically Endangered Blue-throated

Macaw *Ara glaucogularis*, developed by Armonía and Loro Parque Fundación. This species was formerly heavily traded, and its absence from the market during the monitoring period may point to the effectiveness of the programme. For full story visit: http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/12/bolivia_trade.html

NEW COLOMBIAN FINCH SPECIES ENDANGERED

A new bird species - the Antioquia Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes blancae*) - has been described as a result of studies supported by Fundación ProAves in Colombia. Ornithologists are concerned about the conservation of the new species, as nobody knows whether or not it still exists. The description of the Antioquia Brush-Finch was published in the latest edition of the Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club by Thomas Donegan of ProAves. Three mid-20th century specimens of *Atlapetes blancae* were found in the natural history museums of Colombian universities, all of which were likely collected near a seminary of La Salle University in Antioquia department of Colombia. *Atlapetes blancae* has distinctive plumage, confirming its identification as a previously undescribed species. Various explorations in the region where the species was collected over 35 years ago have taken place but none resulted in any observation of the new species. For more information visit: <http://www.proaves.org>

THE WETLANDS OF THE SOUTH EAST REGION OF CORDOBA, ARGENTINA NEEDS ATTENTION

Since the strategic plan 2003-2008 of the Ramsar Convention, the education component of the project Our Wetlands, has been subsidized with resources from the Wetland Fund for the Future. The project is being carried out in the southeast of the Cordoba province (Argentina), where the existence of a great number of wetlands rule the social-economical conditions of a vast population, amongst whom prevails ignorance about the function and importance of those wetlands, bringing great losses to the environment and flora and fauna. Because of this, in 2006, we started to work with the project in different education centers in the region, approaching in distinct, integrated, and significant ways the knowledge provided by the school curricula, to advance the use of the information that people's lives demand; working directly with students of all education levels referring to concepts about wetlands, birds and the problems affecting them, while systematically linking all the different social actors, the environmental functions and noting the interrelations between the fundamental ecological components. To avoid the loss of these little-known environments, it is necessary to incorporate a variety of research and education projects, which could be developed by this team, were it not limited by the lack of economic resources, besides the grants by FHF, US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Department of State. Therefore, we take this opportunity to request the support of other institutions. For more information contact Miguel Ángel Ávalos - Agrupación Amigos para la Conservación de las Aves y Parque Ecológico Urbano de Río Cuarto, <mailto:bioquelmi@hotmail.com>

BIRD CLUB "AGUILILLAS DE SAN PEDRO" IN SONORA, MEXICO

This club was launched because of an interest to conserve habitat for thousands of birds that migrate year after year alongside the river and grasslands of the Rio San Pedro Watershed, in the Northeast of the State of Sonora, as well as to participate in environmental education campaigns to generate awareness in the local people and make them participants in these great events happening in this region of Sonora. The group is formed by 18 young people from the rural areas of the Rio San Pedro Watershed and other sites from the City of Cananea. All of them participate in different activities in and out of the watershed. Among the members there is a lot of youth with potential in creativity, graphic arts, and natural leaders, and most importantly we work with a participative and democratic club, to learn more about biodiversity and learn about the perspective of the region's people. Therefore, our main objective consists in updating and detailing our bird monitoring, having a better identification and strengthening our data base to learn more about the birds in our ecosystem; as well as sharing experiences we've had in the region preserving migratory birds as a conservation objective for the watershed. For more information contact Sergio Juárez Arellano, mailto:sergio_justdoit@hotmail.com

INFORMATION NEEDED ON WILSON'S PLOVER IN NICARAGUA

The Wilson's Plover Species Conservation Plan for WHSRN/Manomet Science requests any reports or data on Wilson's Plover in Nicaragua. All data are welcome. If possible, please include a list of any breeding and wintering sites for Wilson's Plovers with numbers of birds, GPS coordinates for sites, basic habitat

descriptions, site status and please include any conservation concerns you have for shorebirds. We are also working on population estimates, so any information on existing Wilson's Plover habitat will be of value. You will of course be properly credited for all data used. Please submit reports to: Margo Zdravkovic, National Audubon Society, Coastal Bird Conservation Program, Field Director, Phone 561-504-4251, <mailto:MargoGZ1@aol.com>

COSTA RICA SIGNS COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

In December 2007, Partners in Flight Costa Rica and the Costa Rica Ornithological Association (AOCR) signed a cooperation agreement with American Bird Conservancy to develop a joint project to conserve 2000 ha of forests adjacent to Braulio Carrillo National Park and La Amistad International Park, a Biosphere Reserve. This project expects to reach its conservation goals through environmental education programs and community training, as well as assistance in low impact production techniques and subscribing to conservation agreements. The project takes place in many countries including Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Mexico, and its main objective is the conservation of pine-oak forests, which constitute an important ecosystem for migratory birds. The funds come from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and includes as a match \$156,000 of which Costa Rica has \$37,600 for the complete development of the project, this is the first time Costa Rica has participated in this initiative. The conservation of 4500 hectares of forest is to be guaranteed at a regional level. All of the sites form part of the Alliance for Zero Extinction. <http://avesdecostarica.org/junta.html>

COSTA RICAN BIRD ROUTE MOVES TOWARDS OPENING IN 2008

The Costa Rican Bird Route: Section San Juan- La Selva (CRBR) has continued to advance and is working its way to opening in 2008. This birding trail in the northern Sarapiquí / San Carlos region of Costa Rica will consist of 13 reserves within 12 official Costa Rican Bird Route sites. In total the Costa Rican Bird Route, a project of the Rainforest Biodiversity Group, encompasses 5001 hectares (12,253 acres). The development of the CRBR has directly led to the new protection of 1297 hectares (3178 acres), as well as secured the protection of 340 additional hectares (833 acres) of bird habitat by enrolling the new reserves into the Costa Rican Private Reserve Network. All of these sites are now under contract to participate in this route for at least 3 years. Sites are either considered Remote or Portal. Portal sites are those that have established tourism at their site and offer tours to remote sites. Remote sites are sites that are not receiving tourism at the moment and are privately, or in one case community, owned. The Costa Rican Bird Route Website: <http://www.CostaRicanBirdRoute.com> is now up and running as well. In the coming months the Costa Rican Map and Guide will be produced, the route operation plan will be published, community outreach programs will be conducted and a Bird Route Coordinator position will be filled. Funding for a coordinator of the Costa Rican Bird Route is still necessary. Please contact the Rainforest Biodiversity Group (RBG) <http://www.greatgreenmacaw.org> at <mailto:rainforestbiodiversitygroup@riseup.net> for more information on the CRBR or to make a financial contribution.

NEW NATIONAL AVIARY

The Department of Conservation & Field Research at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, PA was created to study and address the impacts of human population and resource consumption on birds and the environment. Our projects are founded on the belief that field research, conservation and community education are fundamentally linked and are best done in concert. We approach these issues with targeted programs that maximize our impact for protection of biodiversity, and meet otherwise unaddressed conservation priorities. Staffed by Dr. Todd Katzner and Dr. Steven Latta, the National Aviary conducts field research and conservation programs in the United States and abroad, including Kazakhstan, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and the Philippines. Our spring 2008 newsletter, *Flight Path*, can be downloaded at: <http://www.aviary.org/nlet/birdcalls.php>. Subscriptions to future issues of the newsletter are free: email the editor at <mailto:steven.latta@aviary.org> and specify your preference for hard copies or the electronic version.

WEB NEWS

AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY (ABC) HAS CREATED THE BIRD NEWS NETWORK, an up-to-the-minute source for all news about birds and bird conservation. ABC collects news from a variety of sources and sends it out on BNN. If you subscribe, you could receive this news directly into your email inbox or Web browser. Visit ABC's Website to see the latest headlines or to subscribe: <http://www.abcbirds.org/>

US FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS INVITES YOU TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST ACTIVITIES at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/news/>

THE SECOND ISSUE OF 'NEOTROPICAL BIRDING' HAS BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE NEOTROPICAL BIRD CLUB. For further information visit: <http://www.neotropicalbirdclub.org/>

THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HAS ISSUED AN UPDATE TO THE 2000 REPORT OF THE PANEL ON EUTHANASIA WITH A NEW TITLE, AVMA GUIDELINES ON EUTHANASIA. The AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia are posted at: <http://www.avma.org/resources/euthanasia.pdf>

LA CHIRICOCA #4 IS AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD FROM AVESCHILE at: <http://www.aveschile.cl/publicaciones.htm#chir>,

STUDY SAYS WILD BIRDS UNLIKELY TO BRING H5N1 TO AMERICAS. Full story at: <http://ealerts.nature.com/cgi-bin24/DM/y/ehq30Sp65r0H6m0Bh8i0EL>

THE LIST OF COMMON NAMES OF COMMON BIRDS OF COLOMBIA IS UPDATED AND AVAILABLE at: <http://www.ornitologiacolombiana.org/nombrescomunes/nombcomunes.htm>. To submit common names in your regions or localities, send a list of species with their common names in Word or Excel format along with your name, city of residence, entity and region to: Diego Soler Tovar, <mailto:dsolert@gmail.com>

MINI-GUIDE TO HUMMINGBIRDS OF THE MADRE DE DIOS WATERSHED, PERU. A pdf of this publication is now available online at: <http://fm2.fieldmuseum.org/plantguides/guideimages.asp?ID=356&lang=eng>. High resolution version at: <http://www.zoo.ox.ac.uk/eqi/>

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION AND STUDY OF CARIBBEAN BIRDS (SCSCB) NEWSLETTER IS NOW AVAILABLE at: <http://www.scscb.org>

IMPORTANT BIRD SITES

- BirdLife's 2007 World Round-up - Part 3: Rediscoveries and reintroductions http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/12/2007_roundup3.html
- II Brazilian Birds Photo Contest, information at: <http://www.avistarbrasil.com.br/concurso>
- Aves magazine at: <http://www.avesmagacin.com.ar>
- Raptors from Chile at: <http://www.ceachile.cl/publicaciones.htm>
- Avitourism in Guatemala at: <http://www.birds-guatemala.org/en/>

FUNDING

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

BIRD-BANDING WORKSHOP IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON

Ten day workshop from May 3-13, 2008 for bird surveying and bird-banding as we continue to document the avifauna of a private reserve on the Tambopata River, Madre de Dios, Peru. The workshop will include training in bird survey and capture techniques (ground and canopy mist nets and bal-chatri traps). It will also offer a rare opportunity to examine plumage variation by species, age and sex up close on rainforest birds in the hand. Birds will be individually marked for long-term monitoring and research. We plan to work in different habitat types around the reserve and will leave plenty of time for birding and independent explorations of the surroundings. A field trip to the nearby Lago Sandoval is also included. The workshop will take place at the Centro de Educación, Ciencia y Conservación Tambopata (CECCOT), a young conservation, education and research center dedicated to promote the knowledge and conservation of the region's natural history with a minimal human footprint. Requirements: serious interest in birds and willingness to stay in very rustic/shared conditions in the rainforest. Good mobility. Yellow fever shot, immunizations and your own travel insurance. Cost: US\$2100 includes: Roundtrip air-fare to Lima (either from Los Angeles or Miami), in-country transportation and airport taxes, lodging and meals, field trip costs, materials and instructional fees. Group size 8-12. For detailed information and to determine availability, contact us soon: DANIEL FROEHLICH <mailto:danielfroehlich@gmail.com>, PH: 206-595-2305 or URSULA VALDEZ, <mailto:ursvaldez@hotmail.com>, PH: 206-219-9924.

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 (URL: <http://cccturtle.org/cc-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 (emailed text documents preferred) a resume and a cover letter that includes your bird banding experience, ability with Spanish/English, 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, FX: 707 825-2901, U.S. Forest Service, Redwood Sciences Laboratory, 1700 Bayview Drive, Arcata, California 95521.

VOLUNTEER FIELD ASSISTANTS NEEDED IN PANAMA

Volunteer field assistants (3) needed from 27 Feb - 30 Jun 2008 for an ongoing behavioral study of Lance-tailed Manakins (*Chiroxiphia lanceolata*) in Panama. Males of this manakin species form cooperative pairs and perform displays on dispersed display territories. Assistants' responsibilities include conducting many hour-long behavioral observations at male display sites, monitoring birds using radiotelemetry, nest-searching, and mistnetting birds for banding and blood sampling, and data entry. Experience in one or more of these areas are required, and experience working in isolated field settings and/or living in close quarters with a small field crew is strongly preferred. Field conditions are hot (frequently > 95 degrees F), extremely humid, and buggy, with steep terrain and a very real possibility of snake encounters, wasp and bee stings, heat exhaustion, and being caught in tropical downpours. Communication is limited at best, and field assistants can expect to be out of touch with most of the world for 2-3 weeks at a time. Applicants must have excellent color vision, be in reasonably good physical condition. Ability to interact well with other field crew members (who will share a one-room hut), tourists, and members of the community is essential; ability to speak Spanish is highly desirable but not required. The field site is a 50 ha plot of secondary-growth dry forest on a large island in Panama's Gulf of Chiriquí. The site is home to many other resident and migrant bird species, howler monkeys, anteaters, iguanas, boas, eccentric locals. Assistants will work long days (7 am to 6:30 pm) six days a week, with an opportunity to go into town for one day every other week. This work is most appropriate for people who are interested in pursuing a career in behavioral ecology, and who have previous field experience. Food, housing, and required transportation within Panama will be provided, as well as the cost of travel to Panama (up to \$1000). Additional information on the research project can be found at: http://bio.fsu.edu/duval/DuVal_research.html. Apply via email with (1) a cover letter explaining why you want this (difficult!) job, (2) a CV, and (3) names and email addresses of three references familiar with your field skills and personality. Contact: EMILY DUVAL, Florida State University; <mailto:ehduval@gmail.com>. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until positions are filled.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) is a division of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC and maintains research facilities for marine and terrestrial research at various locations on the Isthmus of Panama. STRI offers fellowships for undergraduate, predoctoral and postdoctoral research in the areas represented by its scientific staff. Disciplines include ecology, anthropology, paleontology, paleoecology, evolutionary biology, molecular phylogenetics, biogeography, animal behavior, neurobiology, soils sciences, and physiology of tropical plants and animals. Fellowships administered directly by STRI: (1) Short Term Fellowships (deadlines: February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15 of each year). Support is provided to carry out short-term research projects in the tropics. (2) Fellowship Program for students in Latin America (deadlines: February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15). Support is provided for short-term projects and internships. Candidates must be from universities in Latin America, particularly Central America and Panama. (3) Stanley Rand Fellowship Program (deadlines: February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15). Support is provided for short-term research in the tropics focused on animal behavior, natural history, evolutionary biology, plant and animal ecology and environmental monitoring. Applications to STRI may be submitted in either English or Spanish. They should consist of one (1) printed copy, plus one electronic copy of all requested materials. The electronic copy should be submitted on a CD or by e-mail (to <mailto:fellows@si.edu>), as a single file in Word, WordPerfect, or preferably PDF, including application form, proposal with budget and CV. Send hard copy of the application to STRI/Office of Academic Programs, Unit 0948, APO AA 34002-0948 (from the US); or Apartado 0843-03092, Balboa, Panama from elsewhere. For more information and instructions about STRI fellowships visit <http://www.stri.org>, or contact <mailto:fellows@si.edu>.

DOCTORAL ASSISTANTSHIP IN PUERTO RICO

Ph.D. research assistantship will be available spring/summer 2008 to study movements, habitat selection, and survival of the Scaly-naped Pigeon (*Patagioneas squamosa*) and Plain Pigeon (*Patagioneas inornata*)

wetmorei) in Puerto Rico. This study will examine hypotheses related to the population and spatial ecology of two insular sympatric forest-dwelling pigeon species. The study will also address conservation efforts for the Scaly-naped Pigeon (game species) and the Plain Pigeon (endangered species) in private lands and associated forest habitats of Puerto Rico. Qualifications: Completion of M.S. in zoology, ecology, conservation biology, wildlife management or related field. Upper percentile undergraduate and graduate course transcripts and GRE scores required. Experience with avian capture and handling, and radiotelemetry preferred but not mandatory. Fluency in Spanish also not mandatory but highly desirable. Salary: \$22,000 including tuition and fringe benefits. Application: Send letter of interest, resume, copy of academic transcripts, GRE scores, and 3 references to: DR. FRANCISCO J. VILELLA, USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Box 9691, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762, PH: 662-325-0784, FX: 662-325-8726, <mailto:fvilella@cfr.msstate.edu>.

EDITOR FOR ORNITOLOGIA NEOTROPICAL

The Neotropical Ornithological Society is in search of a new editor for its journal *Ornitología Neotropical*. The new editor will replace the current editor who plans to retire from his editorial duties in 2009. Potential candidates should be capable of editing manuscripts in both English and Spanish. An ability to read Portuguese is also useful. The journal is published four times a year with approximately 660 pages per volume based on receipt of 4 to 5 manuscripts per week. The editor is responsible for identifying and communicating with reviewers as well as making final decision on manuscripts and providing editorial comments. The editorial board may be enlisted to assist with the review process or suggest appropriate reviewers. The society is presently exploring the possibility of making the journal available online to its membership. Those interested in the position of editor or those who wish to suggest names as candidates for a new editor should contact Dr. John Bates at: <mailto:jbates@fieldmuseum.org>.

VOLUNTEER NATURALIST GUIDE / HOST NEEDED

Volunteer Naturalist guide/host needed at cloud forest lodge Tandayapa Bird Lodge, Ecuador. (URL: <http://www.tandayapa.com>) DUTIES: Naturalist walks for independent guests (not on inclusive birding packages); Assist manager with hosting duties, and fill in on manager's days off; Assist servers at some meals; keeping up to date with what birds are being seen so that when birders arrive they get an idea of what's going on, trying to make guests feel at home, and passing on as much knowledge as you can. REQUIREMENTS: At least 20 years of age; Interest & experience in Neotropical birds & cloud forest ecology, preferably some experience in nature interpretation; at least some understanding of Spanish; Flexible, friendly, willing to help out where needed; Minimum commitment 2 months. OTHER DETAILS: Room & board provided; Washer & dryer available; Lodge has radio phone but no internet access; Public transportation available 6 km away; Lodge is 1.5 hours from Quito; Famous hummingbird feeders, forest hide, and trails. Contact <mailto:tandayapa@tandayapa.com> with any questions or to submit resume and schedule phone interview.

VOLUNTEER FIELD ASSISTANTS NEEDED IN COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA

PhD Student in need of 1-2 field assistant(s) for research investigating the mechanisms and consequences of avian insectivore declines in Central America between April - October 2008. I am seeking highly motivated, reliable, and flexible assistant(s) to work with me at Refugio Bartola (Nicaragua), Tirimbina Rainforest Reserve (Costa Rica) and La Selva Biological Station (Costa Rica). Assistants will be responsible for helping with all aspects of the study, including bird location and observation, arthropod sampling (using pitfall traps, flight intercept traps, visual observations, and sweep-netting), canopy height estimation (using a rangefinder), taking hemispherical photographs, establishing and general data collection and recording. Field work is intensive, involving fairly long days, long hikes and/or bicycle rides on often hilly and slippery terrain with backpacks full of water and field gear. Applicants should have significant progress towards a BS/BA (or higher degree) in Biology, Ecology, or a related field. Previous experience with birds, arthropods, vegetation surveys, or other field work is preferable but not necessary, but a strong interest in fieldwork and the flexibility, durability, and tolerance to deal with occasionally difficult conditions (heat, humidity, biting and stinging insects, snakes, steep terrain) is essential. Knowledge of English is essential and Spanish is helpful but not necessary. The assistant must be detail-oriented and meticulous in data collection;

experience with collecting systematic data in a scientific context is preferred. In general, applicants should be in good physical and mental condition, and able to maintain a positive and humorous attitude towards challenging and tiring work. At this point, I can only commit to covering half of the station fees plus all transportation between field sites. Thus assistants are responsible for transportation to San Jose, Costa Rica, and half of station fees. Assistants must obtain necessary vaccinations to work at these sites: typhoid, tetanus, and hepatitis A are required, anti-malarials are optional. Visas are not required for US citizens; citizens of other countries are responsible for obtaining any necessary visas. Ideally, I would like one assistant for the Costa Rica portion of the study (April 1 - early July) and another for the Nicaragua portion (mid-July - early October). However, I will accept applicants who can commit to at least 2 months. Exceptional applicants may be considered for shorter periods. Please send a resume, letter of interest (describing background, experience, available dates, and future goals), and the names and email addresses of 3 references to: NICOLE MICHEL by email attachment to <mailto:nmichel@tulane.edu> (preferred) or via snail mail to Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, 400 Boggs, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118. Please feel free to contact me at the above email address for further information. Applications will be reviewed and applicants contacted as they are received.

FIELD ASSISTANT NEEDED IN COSTA RICA

Field assistant needed from mid May to late August for study of singing behavior and reproductive biology of a Costa Rican population of Stripe-headed Sparrows (*Aimophila ruficauda*). Dates are somewhat flexible but 3 month commitment required. Daily field work will be conducted in and around Santa Rosa National Park, Costa Rica. Field duties will include catching and banding birds, recording singing birds, conducting playback experiments, territory mapping, nest searching and monitoring, tracking birds using telemetry, and collecting other behavioral data. About half of afternoons will also require processing sound recordings on a computer, so computer literacy is required. Assistant also must be able to start work before dawn and work comfortably in very hot, sunny, buggy, dry, and wet conditions. Applicant should have some previous work experience identifying birds by sight, sound and color band combination, and have excellent hearing. Experience with mist-nets is a plus. Previous experience recording birds or analyzing bioacoustic data not necessary. Spanish not required but willingness to learn appreciated. Housing, food and transportation within Costa Rica will be provided, but applicant must pay for travel to Costa Rica. We will live either in dorms in the park or at a house just outside the park. To apply, please send CV, cover letter, and contact info for 3 references via email to ANYA ILLES, University of Washington Biology Department (<mailto:ailles@u.washington.edu>). Email MUST have "Field assistant" in subject field.

FIELD BIOLOGIST NEEDED IN COSTA RICA

Amigos de las Aves, <http://www.hatchedtoflyfree.org>, a non profit organization founded in 1992, formed a re-introduction program in Costa Rica with the Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*) and the Great Green Macaw (*Ara ambiguus*). Our program has grown over the years to be a highly successful project with possibly the largest collection of Great Green Macaws in the world. We have a comprehensive data collection study including nesting, behavioral aspects, feeding regimes and integration. We are seeking a 'field biologist' to join our team. To work at all our release sites, supervising all the sites and building any new sites. You may be required to work on your own at times and you will supervise students/volunteers/interns/biologists and provide them with guidance according to their tutorial requirements. You will be required to provide up to date data input and reports, as well as articles for publication and scientific papers for submission, attend visits and presentations to congress. You will need to build up good relations at the release sites with the owners and the local community. You will need to have some basic understanding of the Spanish language. You will also need to apply for the correct permits to study which can be done within the country. As we are a small but enthusiastic team, you will be expected to mix in well with all personnel, volunteers, government officials, site owners and the community. You will need to be motivated, sensible, down to earth, trustworthy, loyal and enthusiastic and have a high level of integrity. We are looking for someone who is passionate about birds, preferably had 'hands on' experience and knows how birds think! And are totally committed to conservation primarily, and have at least an undergraduate degree in a related subject. You will live on site and accommodation is provided. There is livable (for Costa Rica) wage of \$300 per month. The position is

available from April. Please apply sending a current CV with two references to MARTI EVERETT, Curator, Amigos de las Aves <mailto:hatchedtoflyfree@gmail.com>

VOLUNTEER FIELD RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED IN TROPICAL MEXICO

Two to three volunteer field research assistants needed from April 15 - June 15, 2008) 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, monitoring reproductive progress, behavioral observations of captive 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 third-world 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 Mexico City are paid by assistants). Study site is located in the charming pueblo of Huautla, Morelos, Mexico tucked in the heart of the Sierra de Huautla. This project offers great biological training and experience, and also rich cultural and language emersion. (URL: http://post.queensu.ca/~tm45/motmot/Troy_Murphy_Research.html). 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 MURPHY, Queen's University, <mailto:troy.murphy@queensu.ca>.

HARPY EAGLE HACK SITE VOLUNTEER

The Peregrine Fund is a nonprofit organization working to conserve birds of prey and their habitats worldwide. Successful applicants will be provided with the rare opportunity to monitor and look after young Harpy Eagles prior to and after they are released in the forests of Panama. Specific Responsibilities: Monitor, feed, radio track, and ensure the well being of young Harpy Eagles during the entire process of release; Communicate with Raptor Release Coordinator and local partners on a regular basis; Keep detailed field notes of the eagles' behavior, movement patterns, interactions with other species, etc. Qualifications and Experience: Biologist or biology student with basic Neotropical flora and fauna knowledge; Knowledge in raptor biology and ecology desirable; Knowledge of radio tracking techniques, use of GPS, compass, and maps, and experience with four-wheel-drive vehicles is desirable; Willingness to live and work in remote, rugged areas with snakes, biting insects, etc; Capable of walking long distances in extreme weather conditions (heat, humidity, and rain); Fluency in written and spoken English or Spanish; Willing to commit to the release project a minimum of four months; Understanding of and commitment to The Peregrine Fund's mission and approach to raptor conservation. Compensation: Accommodation (may be only a tent) and board will be provided; Training in behavioral data collection, radio tracking techniques, compass and GPS usage; Appropriate recognition in scientific papers and personal references; Volunteer is expected to cover his/her travel costs; Great field experience and the opportunity to work in pristine Neotropical rainforest and reintroduce an endangered species into the wild. Volunteer is expected to cover his/her travel costs, as well as to pay all his/her medical costs. Proof of medical insurance in effect during the time period volunteering will be required. Send cover letter, resume, availability and names and contact information of three references to: Raptor Release Coordinator, The Peregrine Fund/ Fondo Peregrino, PTY 3150, 10000 NW 25th St Unit #1, Miami, FL 33172 USA, Or by E-mail: <mailto:fpp@fondoperegrino.org>.

MEETINGS

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF RAPTORS AND CONSERVATION, Catholic University, Quito, Ecuador, from April 1 to 5, 2008. Organized by Corporación SIMBIOE, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, and Eco Fund - Fundación Ecuador. The Congress will bring together twelve of the world's best specialists in raptors to talk about the results of their studies and projects, strategies and potential conservation programs, the use of latest technology in raptor research and other topics. The Congress will offer formative workshops with themes such as Bioacoustic, Satellite Telemetry, Transmitters and Tagging

Methods, Manipulation in Captivity, Age Estimation and Field Identification of Raptors. Furthermore, we will have a photo exhibition, documentary films, discussion workshops, and a birdwatching trip. For further information please contact ecuador@congresorapaces.org or visit: <http://www.congresorapaces.org>.

THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETINGS. April 17 - 20, 2008. Hattiesburg, Mississippi, USA at the University of Southern Mississippi. Meetings consist of a plenary lecture, a symposium on a topic of current ornithological interest, as well as sessions in which scientific papers are presented and discussed. Papers deal with current research on all aspects of bird biology, conservation, and systematics, and often a workshop is given on undergraduate instruction of ornithology. In addition to this, a great deal of ornithological information is exchanged informally among the participants. For more information visit: <http://www.ummz.umich.edu/birds/wos/meetings/meetings.html>

III WHMSI CONFERENCE (Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative), Asuncion, Paraguay, July 22-25, 2008. We hope that representatives from the governments of all countries in the hemisphere, as well as non-governmental organizations and conventions interested in the conservation of migratory species, will attend.

CERULEAN WARBLER SUMMIT / GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER SUMMIT. October 21-25, 2008. Bogotá and San Vicente de Chucurí, Colombia. The members of the Cerulean Warbler Technical Group, El Grupo Cerúleo, and the members of the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group, Alianza Alas Doradas, are pleased to announce a meeting devoted to conservation planning for migratory and resident birds of the northern Andes. All persons interested in the conservation of migratory and resident birds in the Northern Andes and management of forest and agroecosystems for birds in the Northern Andes are invited to attend. For further information visit the homepage of El Grupo Cerúleo: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/egc/>. For information on logistics and costs of the meeting, please see: <http://www.ecoturs.org>

XII CONFERENCE OF THE MESOAMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION, El Salvador, November 10 - 14, 2008. For more information visit: <http://www.smbcelsalvador2008.com>

25th INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS. August 22-28, 2010. Campos do Jordão, São Paulo, Brazil. For more information visit the congress webpage at: <http://www.ib.usp.br/25ioc/>

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

LISTA COMENTADA DE LAS AVES DE GUATEMALA / ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF GUATEMALA

By Knut Eisermann and Claudia Avendaño, PROEVAL RAXMU Bird Monitoring Program. Bilingual (English/Spanish) checklist of 725 bird species recorded in Guatemala. Also includes information about distribution, status, habitats and endemic species, along with updated distribution maps, information on species to watch for and species of special concern. 175 pages. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. ISBN 84-96553-40-X. More information at: <mailto:knut.eisermann@avesdeguatemala.org>

2008 IMBD EDUCATION CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE

Environment for the Americas is mailing out the 2008 International Migratory Bird Day Education Catalog. The catalog offers great materials and resources for your IMBD event. Send contact information and addresses to Emily at: <mailto:migratorybirdday@aol.com> for your free copy or to request multiple copies for further distribution. And be sure to visit <http://birdday.org/>.

A GUIDE TO NESTLING DEVELOPMENT AND AGING IN ALTRICIAL PASSERINES

The pdf web posting of the FWS Biological Technical Publication series publications, including a new one: "A guide to nestling development and aging in altricial passerines", are available at <http://library.fws.gov/BTP/altricialpasserines07.pdf> and the updated BTP list at: <http://library.fws.gov/BTP/index.html>. Paper copies are available from, Nongame Migratory Bird Coordinator, USFWS, Region 6, P.O. Box 25486 DFC, Denver, CO.

BIRDS AND PEOPLE: BONDS IN A TIMELESS JOURNEY

Birds and People: Bonds in a Timeless Journey unfolds the history of our relationship with the most colourful and familiar of the groups of organisms we share our planet with. The first of its five chapters looks at the place of birds in our cultures, ancient and modern, and the role they play in the myths and other stories we use to explain the world and our place in it. Price: £29.99 *Birds and People* is part of the CEMEX Conservation Series. It is produced in association with Agrupación Sierra Madre and BirdLife International. The Book is distributed by NHBS Environment Bookstore. Book details: Collar, N.J., A.J. Long, P. Robles Gil, and J. Rojo. 2007. *Birds and People: Bonds in a Timeless Journey*. CEMEX-Agrupación Sierra Madre-BirdLife International. Mexico, 360 pp, 32 cm x 31 cm, 3.0 kg, cloth bound hardback with dustjacket. Full colour with tens of images. ISBN 968-9128-04-3

GUIDED BY NATURE: CUBAN BIRDS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH WETLANDS

The Bird Guide, 'Common birds of Cuban wetlands,' catalogued as the first pocket guide written in Cuba and a fundamental tool for bird identification and monitoring in natural areas of the country, is the result of a wide research work carried out by Dr Lourdes Mugica and a research team of the Faculty of Biology of the University of La Habana. Another achievement of the studies of Professor Mugica and her group was the publication of the book "Water birds in Cuban wetlands." A compilation of papers about the different Cuban wetlands, from coastal areas to freshwater habitats. The text includes natural wetlands and those which have been modified by men, such as rice fields, proving that this crop has played an essential role pain the preservation of Cuban water birds, as they spend part of their life cycle in the rice field and bordering wetlands; and both of them are necessary for their long-term survival. Both publications show a complete and structured analysis on different aspects of the ecology of Cuban bird communities in different types of wetlands. Among the diversity of Cuban wetlands fauna, birds stand out with 186 species. This was the main reason that motivated Dr Mugica to study Cuban wetlands, the role of rice fields as feeding places and their importance both during winter migration and in the birds' breeding stage. She has also analyzed the importance of natural wetlands as places for hibernation and reproduction as well as their relevance for the survival of threatened species such as Yaguasa and White Puffin. Cuban wetlands and their fauna are one of the most important natural resources of the country due to their ecological and conservationist importance, as they sustain a very high biodiversity in comparison with other ecosystems.

WILD BIRDS AND AVIAN INFLUENZA: AN INTRODUCTION TO APPLIED FIELD RESEARCH AND DISEASE SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

This publication is a joint effort with BirdLife International, CIRAD, Wetlands International, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (UK), Fitz Patrick Institute of South Africa and the United States Geological Survey. The hard copies are to be printed and will be available in early 2008. It is proposed that the manual will be translated into major languages to support local efforts. Available to download as PDF file at: <http://www.fao.org/ag/aqainfo/resources/en/manuals/manual5.pdf>

FORTH EDITION OF GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF COSTA RICA IN SPANISH

By: F. Gary Stiles and Alexander Skutch, and illustrated by Dana Gardner. The most complete, single-volume work available on tropical birds that is easy to manage in the field. A compact and attractive encyclopedia of the fascinating and always surprising birds of Costa Rica. The book includes 52 original color plates, plus 19 new records described by the Costa Rican ornithologists Julio Sanchez and illustrated by Fernando Zeledon. The book contains 572 black and white pages, plus 56 full color plates, in a 150 x 230 mm size. Selling price is ₡18.000 Colones (eighteen thousand colones) or USD 45.00 (forty five dollars). If you live in

Costa Rica you can buy the book in mayor bookstores in the country and if you live outside of Costa Rica you can order it from our website at: <http://www.inbio.ac.cr/editorial>

BIRD GUIDE TO THE MAPIMI BIOSPHERE RESERVE

By: Alfredo Garza Herrera, Elizabeth E. Aragón Piña, Mara Neri fajardo, Alfredo Sánchez Ríos, Gerardo Daniel De León Mata and Sergio Raúl Gutiérrez Reyes. This is a guide covering a great part of the birds of the Chihuahua Desert, completely illustrated with photos and user friendly Spanish text. It can be found in Instituto de Ecología, A.C., Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico, in the Publications Department (<mailto:libros@ecologia.edu.mx>, <http://www.inecol.edu.mx>, or <mailto:jorge.lopez.portillo@inecol.edu.mx>) or in the Centro de Ecología Regional, A.C. in Durango, Mexico (<mailto:ceracdgomx@yahoo.com.mx>).

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