



# 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

### GUATEMALA'S BIRD WATCHING ROUND TABLE

Guatemala's Bird Watching Round Table is an institutional alliance composed by the public sector (The Guatemala Tourism Board- INGUAT - & the National Protected Areas Council - CONAP), the private sector (Asociación de Operadores de Turismo de Guatemala - ASOPTUR-, la Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas - ARNPG-, la Asociación Nacional del Café - ANACAFE-, The Nature Conservancy, Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza, Counterpart International, and more) and the educational sector (University del Valle de Guatemala, Universidad San Carlos de Guatemala, and the Technical Institute for Training and Productivity - INTECAP). Our vision is to develop the bird watching activity in our country and to promote Guatemala as a first class bird watching destination in the world. The Round Table was formed in 2004 and it focuses on 5 main work areas: 1. Institutional strengthening and financial support, 2. Development of bird watching tourism products, 3. Training, 4. Marketing, and 5. Research. Several documents on birds and bird watching in Guatemala have been published and are available to the public. You may request them at <mailto:info@birds-guatemala.org> o

<mailto:cdallies@gmail.com>. Annually we organize an international event, and we cordially invite you to participate in the V INTERNATIONAL BIRD WATCHING ENCOUNTER IN GUATEMALA, which will be held in Antigua Guatemala, from February 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009. For more information, please visit: <http://www.birds-guatemala.org>

#### BIRD BANDER NETWORK OF COSTA RICA

In March 2008, a group of bird banders from Costa Rica met at Cerro de la Muerte to begin the Bird Bander Network of Costa Rica. With the support and coordination of Partners in Flight Costa Rica and Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) 20 representatives from different banding projects met to discuss the main objectives of the network. Among the discussed topics were band administration and permitting, establishment of a mechanism for divulging training and internship opportunities, and information sharing. Also, Dr. CJ Ralph presented to the participants the data administration model for LAMNA (Land Monitoring Network of the Americas) to protect, backup, and make available the data, as well as to facilitate the administration and analysis for researchers. A national meeting was agreed to, where every person and institution working with banding and monitoring in Costa Rica may participate. If you wish to participate in this initiative and/or learn more about the scope of the Bird Bander Network of Costa Rica contact: Pablo Elizondo, Director Partners in Flight Costa Rica, +(506)8834-4858, <mailto:jpelizondo@zeledonia.org>.

#### BIOLOGIST FROM EL SALVADOR RECEIVES NABC BANDER CERTIFICATION

Rosely Juarez, a biologist from El Salvador, received the North American Banding Council (NABC) Bander Certification. Last year Rosely participated as an international intern for the National Park Service's Park Flight Migratory Bird Program at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Point Reyes National Seashore, and PRBO Conservation Science in California. She received hands-on training from Renee Cormier, Diana Humple, and Scott Jennings, and along with other interns completed the rigorous training and evaluation process from NABC. Rosely is continuing her work with migratory birds as Assistant Coordinator with the Bird Monitoring Program for SalvaNatura. She is the first NABC Certified Bird Bander in El Salvador. For more information about the Park Flight Migratory Bird Program contact Carol Beidleman, [mailto:Carol\\_Beidleman@partner.nps.gov](mailto:Carol_Beidleman@partner.nps.gov); the Science Program in SalvaNATURA contact Oliver Komar, <mailto:okomar@salvanatura.org>; or the North American Banding Council Certification Program, <http://nabanding.net/>

#### FIRST RECORD OF ROOSTING SITE FOR A COLONY OF THE RUFIOUS-FRONTED PARAKEET

The Rufous-fronted Parakeet, *Bolborhynchus ferrugineifrons*, is an endemic species of Colombia and the only parakeet species that lives up to 4000 meters in elevation in the paramo. It is cataloged as Vulnerable (VU) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Very little is known about the biology of the Rufous-fronted Parakeet and the relationship with its habitat. Its population may disappear in a few years if the loss of habitat continues at the current rate. A team of researchers led by the biologist David Alfonso Bejarano, doctoral student from the University of Plymouth (UK), found the first roosting site for a colony of over 200 individuals in the Natural Park Los Nevados. The field research began by hiking the 58,300 ha of the park and buffer zones. Four sampling points were determined between the departments of Tolima and Risaralda, where they found considerable populations of this species. This finding is important because up to that moment roosting and nesting sites were unknown. The roosting and nesting sites of the Rufous-fronted Parakeet are found along a rocky cliff over 100 meters, at 3,650 meters above sea level in the ecotone between the cloud forest and paramo. For the next outings, the research team hopes to find other roosting sites in the remaining three sampling sites, which present similar conditions and where they will follow the behavioral and ecological conditions of the Rufous-fronted Parakeet. For more information about this finding, contact: David Alfonso Bejarano-Bonilla, University of Plymouth, <mailto:trumandavid01@yahoo.com>

### INFORMATION NEEDED ON ESTRILDID FINCHES IN THE NEOTROPICS

The history of estrildid finches in the New World is poorly documented. The literature - mainly field guides - deals with them casually and with a fair amount of indifference. Some appear to be disappearing, while others appear to be spreading successfully. There is no single source of information for the family in the New World Tropics. An identification article on this family will be prepared, focusing on every distinct plumage and current location and habitat information. Please send any information of any kind about estrildid finches in your records or notes, from anywhere in the Neotropics. Anything used in the article will be properly acknowledged, and any photos would not be used without express permission, and would also be fully acknowledged. To contribute, please contact Robin Restall, <mailto:restall@cantv.net>

### PARAGUAY'S FIRST WESTERN HEMISPHERE SHOREBIRD RESERVE NETWORK SITE

Monitoring of shorebirds by Guyra Paraguay (BirdLife Partner in Paraguay) has resulted in the designation of the country's first Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site. Bahía de Asunción - an IBA wetland just north of Paraguay's capital city Asunción - has been identified as a key site for the Near Threatened Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*. The inclusion of Bahía de Asunción within the WHSRN will strengthen the network of sites, which aims to conserve shorebirds and their habitats across the Americas. Bahía de Asunción is a relatively small wetland covering 522 ha with a recorded 260 bird species. Furthermore, the Vulnerable Chestnut Seedeater *Sporophila cinnamomea*, and the Near Threatened Bay-capped Wren-spinetail *Spartonoica maluroides*, Bearded Tachuri *Polystictus pectoralis* and Rufous-rumped Seedeater *Sporophila hypochroma* have all been observed using the wetland. For full article see: [http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2008/02/guyra\\_paraguay\\_western\\_hemisphere.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2008/02/guyra_paraguay_western_hemisphere.html)

### ADOPT A BIRD FOR CONSERVATION IN COLOMBIA

Of the 1,864 known bird species in Colombia, 112 are under some threat level. With the purpose of contributing to the preservation of birds and their habitats, Asociación Calidris has created an Adopt-a-Bird campaign. Four important species for Colombia were picked for adoption based on their unique presence, threat level, and the importance of the territory for their reproduction. By adopting a species, the person will receive a t-shirt with the image of the bird, an adoption certificate, and information about the species. Adoptions can be made online. For more information write to <mailto:comunicaciones@calidris.org.co> or visit <http://www.calidris.org.co>

### SAVE BRAZIL THANKS LANDOWNERS WHO ARE HELPING SAVE BOA NOVA

SAVE Brazil (BirdLife in Brazil) has held a ceremony to recognise and acknowledge the huge contribution made by landowners to the conservation of the Boa Nova Important Bird Area. Boa Nova, which occupies a transitional area between the Atlantic Forest and the Caatinga, is one of SAVE Brazil's 16 priority IBAs (out of a total of 167), because of its exceptionally high biodiversity and the severity of the threats it faces. Boa Nova is home to at least 382 bird species, including the Endangered Slender Antbird *Rhopornis ardesiacus*, and the near-threatened Narrow-billed Antwren *Formicivora iheringi*, both confined to a small area of Eastern Brazil which includes Boa Nova. Although the forest at Boa Nova has been drastically reduced, there are many substantial fragments left, all on private land. These remnants are maintained by landowners and managers, whose dedication was recognized and acknowledged by SAVE Brazil during the ceremony. For more information of this initiative, visit: [http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2008/06/boa\\_nova.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2008/06/boa_nova.html)

### 2008 PABLO CANEVARI AWARD

Every 2 years, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences presents an individual or organization from Latin America with the Pablo Canevari Award for their outstanding commitment to shorebird conservation. The Award honors the memory of Pablo Canevari, an extraordinary conservationist and the first Director of WHSRN, who died suddenly in March 2000. The 2008 award goes to **Asociación Calidris**. Formed in 1989 by students at the Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia, Asociación Calidris has become a highly respected Latin

American leader in avian conservation and research. For more information about the recipient and this award, please see the full announcement by Manomet at <http://www.manomet.org/naturereport>.

## WEB NEWS

The New WHMSI Pathway Is Now Online. The Rainforest Alliance has launched the newly redesigned WHMSI Pathway at: <http://www.eco-index.org/migratory>

NEOTROPICAL BIRDS ON FLICKR, is a site for sharing photographs of birds found in the New World tropics - that is, Central and South America, from Mexico south to Tierra del Fuego, and in the Caribbean. Check it out or post photos by visiting <http://www.flickr.com/groups/neobirds/>:

2008 BIRDATHON IN EL SALVADOR at <http://birdathones.blogspot.com>.

PRELIMINARY GUYANA BIRD LIST at <http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCCountryLists.html>

THE NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ATLAS COMMITTEE AT: <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/norac/>

THE INTERNET BIRD COLLECTION: Presented by the Handbook of the Birds of the World, it is a complete listing of birds, including many videos, at: <http://ibc.hbw.com/ibc/>

## IMPORTANT BIRD SITES

- ZELEDONIA news letter from the Ornithological Association of Costa Rica at: <http://avesdecostarica.org/revista.htm>
- SAO bulletin from the Antioqueña Ornithological Associatin in Colombia at: <http://www.sao.org.co/publicaciones/boletinsao/Boletin%20sao.htm>
- Information on waterfowl at Flyways.us. Visit: <http://www.Flyways.us>
- WHSRN available online at: <http://www.whsrn.org/news/whsrnews.html>

## FUNDING

### ABC'S WILLIAM BELTON GRANTS PROGRAM

The William Belton Conservation Grants Program is the oldest continuously running bird conservation grant program in the Western Hemisphere. It is named after the noted ornithologist and Brazilian bird expert, who is also a past ABC Board member and continued ABC friend. Among its many recent conservation successes are the rediscovery of the Yellow-eared Parrot, Stresemann's Bristlefront, Colorful Puffleg, and Fuertes's Parrot. The program helps local conservation groups and scientists by providing funds that make emerging conservation efforts, such as fieldwork and travel, possible, and by assisting with the development of conservation plans. Grants often involve local communities in implementing conservation and developing solutions. The grants focus on helping the rarest and most threatened birds, particularly at Alliance for Zero Extinction sites. Perhaps most significantly, the William Belton Conservation Grants Program has acted as a springboard for longer-term partnerships between ABC and Latin American organizations. For more information visit: <http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/international/grants/>

#### FRANÇOIS VUILLEUMIER FUND FOR RESEARCH ON NEOTROPICAL BIRDS

The goal of the François 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. Eligibility: Students from Latin America and the Caribbean enrolled in a graduate degree program (Masters or Ph.D.) at an institution in the Neotropical Region are eligible to apply. Students must be members of the Neotropical Ornithological Society (students can become members at the time of their application). Students enrolled in institutions from outside the region are ineligible for funding. Neither Licenciatura or post-doctoral students will be funded. François Vuilleumier funds are expected to be used for thesis research-related expenses including equipment, supplies, travel and living expenses related to field work, etc. Grant monies will not cover salaries, stipends, travel to meetings, routine living expenses, overhead or indirect costs to the educational institution. Application Deadline: 15 September each year. Announcement of Awards: 15 December each year. For more information or to send documents contact: <mailto:blakej@msx.umsl.edu>

#### AMBASSADORS OF THE CLOUDS FUND FOR THE CONSERVATION OF HORNED GUAN

Researchers and conservationists are invited to request support from the Ambassadors of the Clouds Fund (Fondo Embajadores de las Nubes). This fund was created through the combined effort of various zoological institutions with the objective of financially helping field projects for the conservation of the Horned Guan (*Oreophasis derbianus*) and its habitat. Projects must meet the conservation priorities identified by the International Committee for the Conservation of Horned Guan and its habitat. Funds will be distributed one a year and requests must be received before July 31. Support for individual projects will be between US\$ 2,000 and US\$ 9,000 a year. Fund recipients must send a progress report every 6 months, and a final report no later than 3 months after the end of the project. The Fund must be recognized in popular and scientific publications resulting from financed projects. Fondo Embajadores de las Nubes, Africam Safari, 11 Oriente 2407, CP 72007, Puebla, PUE, México. Fax: +(52)222-281.7000 ext 257, <mailto:embajadores@africamsafari.com.mx>

#### THE PITTSBURGH ZOO & PPG AQUARIUM CONSERVATION FUND

The Pittsburgh Zoo, as part of its continuing commitment to conservation, announces the continuation of the Pittsburgh Zoo Conservation Fund, dedicated to the preservation of wildlife and wild habitat. Annual awards from \$1,000 to \$3,000 will be made. A wide variety of projects will be considered, but field studies and cross-disciplinary approaches to conservation are especially encouraged. Visitor surveys, travel and training (except to bring foreign researchers to meetings) and seed money for technique development are NOT appropriate for this fund. The application deadline for this year is November 15. Email submissions are welcome. Award notification will be on or before January 1. Recipients must submit a progress report one year after the awarding of funds. For application forms or further information contact: Shelby Wyzykowski, Administrative Assistant, Science & Conservation, Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, One Wild Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15206, Tel: 412-365-2568, email: <mailto:conservation@pittsburghzoo.org> or <mailto:shelbywyzykowski@pittsburghzoo.org>

#### NEOTROPICAL BIRD CLUB CONSERVATION AWARDS

Research grants of \$500 to \$1500 are available subject to certain conditions. Grants are available for conservation work or research which may be of conservation benefit. There are no formal deadlines. Applications are assessed on a rolling basis by a conservation sub-committee and successful applications then have to be approved by the Council of the Neotropical Bird Club. You will be informed of the outcome of your application as soon as possible thereafter. For more information, visit our website: <http://www.neotropicalbirdclub.org> ('Conservation Fund'), 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

### PRBO EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM INTERN

PRBO (Point Reyes Bird Observatory) Conservation Science's Education and Outreach Program is seeking an enthusiastic and dedicated intern to join our team and deliver our bird science programs. Our education program brings meaningful, hands-on science experiences to hundreds of teachers and thousands of students in the classroom and at PRBO research sites each year, inspiring passion for conservation science. When: August - October 31, 2008 (some flexibility in start date). Stipend: \$700/mo (gross) to offset living expenses while on the project plus housing at the Palomarin Field Station will be provided. Internship Description: The Education and Outreach Intern will assist PRBO's Education Staff with aspects of the program including, but not limited to, interpreting bird monitoring techniques, habitat and bird conservation and general bird ecology to organized groups and visitors of all ages at field sites, classrooms, school restorations, and after-school programs, assisting with monthly bird walks, attending local festivals and events, overseeing the Visitor Center at Palomarin, and developing written materials and curriculum as needed. An interest in education and interpretation, familiarity with birds, effective communication and interpersonal skills, ability to work flexible hours, including some weekends and evenings, ability to perform work in the outdoors under variable weather conditions on uneven terrain, and the use of a personal vehicle are essential. To Apply: Please send a resume and cover letter explaining interests (1 page max.), specific dates of availability, and contact information of 3 references by July 31, 2008 to MISSY WIPF at <mailto:mwipf@prbo.org>, or PRBO Conservation Science, 3820 Cypress Dr. #11, Petaluma, CA 94954.

### EDUCATOR FOR THE "BRIDGING THE AMERICAS" PROGRAM

The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center located in Washington, DC, will soon be looking to hire an educator to assist with managing an exciting cross-cultural education program that partners elementary and middle school classes in the United States (primarily in the Washington, DC metropolitan area) with classes in Latin America and the Caribbean. This program, called Bridging the Americas/Unidos por las Aves, focuses on teaching kids about Neotropical migratory birds, but is also geared toward stimulating an interest in learning about other countries and their cultures. The main responsibilities of this educator will include developing interdisciplinary lesson plans and assessment tools; coordinating and facilitating teacher involvement in the program; delivering educational presentations; and recruiting new participants internationally. The ideal candidate for this position would have experience working with elementary and/or middle school teachers and/or students, experience developing curriculum materials, knowledge of birds, a command of both English and Spanish, and some familiarity with Latin American and Caribbean cultures. The position will be a one-year appointment, renewable for up to three years. Starting salary range is \$38,000 to \$48,000 plus benefits, commensurate with experience. More about the Bridging the Americas/Unidos por las Aves program can be found under the Education section at: <http://www.si.edu/smbc>. If interested, please send a cover letter and resume to Mary Deinlein: <mailto:deinleinm@si.edu>, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, National Zoological Park, PO Box 37012 MRC 5503, Washington, DC 20013-7012.

### 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/ccs-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.

#### FIELD RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR STUDYING ENDANGERED HUMMINGBIRDS ON CHILEAN ISLAND

Volunteer positions are available from late August through November 2008 to assist in field research of hummingbird breeding and foraging ecology on Robinson Crusoe Island, Chile. This project offers the opportunity to assist in nest searching and monitoring, food resource monitoring, and habitat evaluation. In addition, volunteers will also have time to participate in conservation education activities in the local community and have biological explorations of this spectacular island ecosystem. Prior field experience, willingness to work in rough conditions, and Spanish language skills are desirable. Applicants should have a serious interest in birds and in island ecosystems. They must be in good physical condition, be able to work independently and in small international teams, and maintain a positive attitude while working long hours in the field under variable weather conditions (expect plenty of rain and cold). Accommodations will include a small house in town, as well as nights in cabins and tents across the island. Please notice that this is a 100% volunteer position and volunteers would need to cover all expenses. A minimum of 8 weeks of commitment preferred. If interested, please send a cover letter, dates of availability and resume with the names, phone numbers and email addresses of 2 references via email to ERIN HAGEN: <mailto:ehagen@u.washington.edu>. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with last acceptance of volunteers arranged by 1 Aug 2008.

#### 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 August - December 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, canopy height estimation, and general data collection and recording. Previous 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. Room and board and all travel within Central America will be covered, but no stipend will be provided. Airfare is negotiable, depending on experience level, length of stay, and funding availability. Assistants must obtain necessary vaccinations to work at these sites. Visas are not required for US citizens; citizens of other countries are responsible for obtaining any necessary visas. 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.

#### VOLUNTEER FIELD ASSISTANTS IN BOLIVIA

Eight volunteers needed from 10 August 2008 through 20 January 2009 for a long term monitoring conservation project of critically endangered Blue-throated Macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*) in the Llanos de Moxos, Bolivia. The Llanos de Moxos is a mosaic of native grasslands, forest islands and Cerrado habitats. We collect information

on reproductive success, foraging behavior, chick growth rates, population trends and behavior ecology. Duties include conducting nest searches, guarding active nests from nest predators, daily nest-checking assistance (tree-climbing), performing periodic health checks of nestlings, territory spot mapping, banding, parrot & macaws point counts, conducting behavioral observations and data entry. Applicants must be responsible, self-disciplined, tolerant to extreme weather and insects, willing to work in group and able to stay at a remote place without long distance communication facilities (such as neither phones nor internet). Volunteers will live at a rustic field camp 170 km from the nearest town. Bird handling experience and Spanish speaking applicants may be preferred but not required. A minimum stay of two months within the period will be preferred. We provide lodging, food and required equipment during the fieldworks activities. Volunteers must arrange their own airfare to Bolivia; and transportation to Trinidad - Beni Department (buses from Santa Cruz de la Sierra every day). TO APPLY: Send cover letter, resume with references to IGOR BERKUNSKY <mailto:igorberkunsky@yahoo.com.ar>.

#### ORANGE-BREASTED FALCON HACK SITE VOLUNTEER IN BELIZE

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 Orange-breasted Falcons prior to and after they are released in the forests of Belize. The release period will begin approximately in late June and will continue for 12 to 16 weeks. The Peregrine Fund will provide hack site attendants with one spotting scope and one tripod that must be returned once the releases conclude. Qualifications and Experience: 1. Biologist or biology student with basic Neotropical flora and fauna knowledge; 2. Knowledge in raptor biology and ecology desirable; 3. Willingness to live and work in remote, rugged areas with snakes, biting insects, etc.; 4. Be in good health and capable of walking long distances in extreme weather conditions (heat, humidity, and rain); 5. Fluency in written and spoken English; 6. Understanding of and commitment to The Peregrine Fund's mission and approach to raptor conservation. 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 of the releases will be required. Send cover letter, resume, and names and contact information of three references, as well as availability to: Raptor Release Coordinator, The Peregrine Fund/ Fondo Peregrino, PTY 3150, 4440 NW 73rd Ave., Miami, FL 33166 USA or <mailto:fpp@fondoperegrino.org>.

#### HARPY EAGLE HACK SITE VOLUNTEER IN PANAMA

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. Qualifications and Experience: 1. Biologist or biology student with basic Neotropical flora and fauna knowledge; 2. Knowledge in raptor biology and ecology desirable; 3. Knowledge of radio tracking techniques, use of GPS, compass, and maps, and experience with four-wheel-drive vehicles is desirable; 4. Willingness to live and work in remote, rugged areas with snakes, biting insects, etc; 5. Capable of walking long distances in extreme weather conditions (heat, humidity, and rain); 6. Fluency in written and spoken English or Spanish; 7. Willing to commit to the release project a minimum of six months; 8. Understanding of and commitment to The Peregrine Fund's mission and approach to raptor conservation. Volunteer is expected to cover his/her travel costs. Send cover letter, resume, and names and contact information of three references as well as availability to: Raptor Release Coordinator, The Peregrine Fund/ Fondo Peregrino, PTY 3150, 10000 NW 25th St Unit #1, Miami, FL 33172 USA or <mailto:fpp@fondoperegrino.org>.

#### VOLUNTEER NATURE GUIDES IN NICARAGUA

Volunteer nature guides (2) needed mid-September to mid-November to live and work at Nicaragua's Selva Negra Lodge. Selva Negra is a working coffee farm and full-service lodge in the mountains of northern Nicaragua, and also protects several hundred hectares of cloud forest with a network of hiking trails. Guides will develop and lead birdwalks, coffee/farm tours, and other activities for guests at the lodge. Applicants must be outgoing, personable individuals eager to interact with visitors from all over the world. Good birding skills and

some knowledge of tropical ecology required. Working knowledge of Spanish highly desirable but not required. Good physical condition and tolerance of mosquitoes, snakes, scorpions, rain, etc. essential. Room/board provided at lodge, but this position is unpaid. Please submit cover letter, resume, and e-mails of three references to: DANIEL S. COOPER, Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc, <mailto:dan@cooperecological.com>

## MEETINGS

THE WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. August 3 - 8, 2008. Lister Conference Center of University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. For more information: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/parasites/WDA08/>

THE RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING. September 24 - 28, 2008, Missoula, Montana. The meeting will be hosted by Raptors of the Rockies and co-hosted by the University of Montana. For more information: <http://www.umt.edu/ce/cps/raptor/>

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 visit: <http://www.ecoturs.org>

THE 32ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WATERBIRD SOCIETY, November 5-8, 2008, South Padre Island, Texas. This is the first time that the meeting has been held in the continental U.S. or Canada in the last three years and we are expecting a large turnout of longtime members and students. Three full days of scientific sessions are planned. Two symposia have been confirmed: "Shorebirds" led by Erica Nol and "The Texas-Mexican Ornithological Connection" led by Clay Green. We are requesting suggestions (and leaders) for other Symposia at this time. Please send suggestions to the Chair of the Scientific Program at: <mailto:Chip.Weseloh@ec.gc.ca>. For more information visit: [http://www.waterbirds.org/annual\\_meeting.htm](http://www.waterbirds.org/annual_meeting.htm)

XII CONGRESS OF THE MESOAMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION, November 10 - 14, 2008, San Salvador, El Salvador. Co-organized by the SMBC, SalvaNATURA, University of El Salvador, and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. For more information: <http://smbcelsalvador2008.com/>

BIRD MONITORING IN MESOAMERICA: RESULTS AND CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS. This Symposium will take place during the XII Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation in San Salvador, El Salvador. The objective of this symposium is to present the advances and results of bird monitoring efforts in the region. This will be a space to present your results and information about new sexing and aging criteria for Neotropical birds, biometric analysis, short term population behavior, site fidelity, conservation projects originating from the results of bird monitoring, and distribution, range and migration studies. Technical and financial support for this symposium is being provided by the US Forest Service, International Institute of Tropical Forestry. For more information or to propose a presentation within this symposium contact Mariamar Gutierrez at: <mailto:mariamar@salvanatura.org>

BIRD DECLINES IN MESOAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: FACT OR MYTH?: This Symposium will take place during the XII Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation in San Salvador, El Salvador.

The main objective of this symposium is to explore and discuss avian population changes by analyzing data from long term monitoring projects. We will present cases of positive and negative population changes in migratory birds as well as in resident species, and will discuss the factors that cause population declines or growths. Technical and financial support for this symposium is being provided by the US Forest Service, International Institute of Tropical Forestry. For more information or to propose a presentation within this symposium contact Wayne Arendt at: <mailto:waynearendt@mac.com>

IV MESOAMERICAN SYMPOSIUM FOR PSITTACID CONSERVATION: This Symposium will take place during the XII Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation in San Salvador, El Salvador. The symposium is organized by the Mesoamerican Network for Psittacidae Conservation. The Network has more than 176 members in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean and looks to gather the scientific community to share and systemize the advancements in knowledge on management, research and conservation of these species to promote priority action planning for the conservation of parrots in Mesoamerica. For more information contact: Olivier Chassot, Coordinator, Mesoamerican Network for Psittacidae Conservation, Tel.: +506-2253-3267 / Fax: +506-2253-4963, <mailto:investigacion@cct.or.cr>, <mailto:lapa@cct.or.cr>

25<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS. August 22-28, 2010. Campos de Jordao, San Paolo, Brazil. For more information visit the congress webpage at: <http://www.ib.usp.br/25ioc/>

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

### BIRDSOUNDS OF NICARAGUA MP3

By Doug Knapp and Tom Will. Nicaragua is a little explored country in Central America, especially in the Caribbean lowlands. This MP3-CD has sound recordings of 248 bird species, from 12 different provinces of Nicaragua. Every recording is accompanied by a colorful drawing. The "Birdsounds of Nicaragua" MP3-CD can be played on any computer and MP3-player, but is best played on an iPod. Each species' picture shows up when the sound is played on your iPod, iPhone or iTouch, along with extra information about the recording. As Nicaragua is neighbor with Costa Rica, this sound collection is also very useful if you are birding there. The CD also includes recordings of what are probably the first published on disc of the Nicaraguan Grackle (A regional endemic), the Central American Pygmy-Owl and the Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant from Nicaragua. 29.95 Euro. <https://www.birdsounds.nl/?pg=productsitem&gr=0&id=892&lang=en>

### RAPTORS IN CAPTIVITY

By Lori R. Arent & the University of Minnesota Raptor Center. This manual is recommended for the novice to the experienced. The volume provides all the most current techniques. Visit our website for further details: <http://www.hancockhouse.com/products/rapcap.htm>. ISBN: 978-0-88839-613-6, 8½ x 11, hc, 304 pp., 196 photos, 88 illustrations, 37 color photos of species \$49.95.

### "A NEOTROPICAL COMPANION" NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

Birders' Exchange, a program of the American Birding Association, is pleased to announce that additional copies of the Spanish language version of the highly acclaimed book, *A Neotropical Companion, An Introduction to the Animals, Plants and Ecosystems of the New World Tropics* by John Kricher are once again available. Birders' Exchange plans to distribute copies of the book at no cost to individuals and organizations throughout the Neotropics. Copies of the book will be delivered by volunteer couriers in the U.S. traveling to Latin America. Please let us know if you have the name and contact information for anyone in the U. S. who may be traveling to your area, and who would be willing to deliver the book, or books to you. Birder's Exchange is unable to send books outside of the U.S. For more information on how to obtain a copy (or copies) of *A Neotropical Companion*, or how to volunteer to help distribute the book, please contact: Betty Petersen, Birders' Exchange Program

Director, American Birding Association, <mailto:bpetersen@aba.org> or Elissa LaVoie, Birders' Exchange Coordinator, American Birding Association, <mailto:elavoie@aba.org>

#### ATLAS DE LAS AVES DEL PARAGUAY / ATLAS TO THE BIRDS OF PARAGUAY

By Hugo del Castillo and Robert P Clay. Distribution maps for 707 bird species found in Paraguay. In addition to the distribution map, each species account includes the scientific name, common name, English name, habitat type, and global distribution. In Spanish, 212 pp, softcover. ISBN: 9992586834. [http://www.nhbs.com/title.php?bkfno=170431&ad\\_id=239](http://www.nhbs.com/title.php?bkfno=170431&ad_id=239)

#### A GUIDE TO THE BIRD SOUNDS OF THE COLOMBIAN ANDES / GUÍA SONORA DE LAS AVES DE LOS ANDES COLOMBIANOS

By M Alvarez, V Caro, O Laverde and AM Cuervo. Twenty percent of the world's bird species live in the diverse ecosystems of Colombia, some of them endangered by loss of habitat. This seven-CD audio guide from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Instituto Humboldt contains more than 1,200 recordings of 624 species. Years in the making, these recordings represent the work of more than 50 ornithologists. It is the most complete collection of Colombian bird vocalizations to date and will serve as a valuable resource for professionals and amateurs alike, or anyone fascinated by the varied voices of Colombian birdlife. The accompanying booklets are in Spanish and English. Price US \$49.95. [http://www.abasales.com/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&products\\_id=2864](http://www.abasales.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=2864)

#### BIRD SONGS OF MEXICO: YUCATAN PENINSULA VOLUME 1.

Produced by Antonio Celis-Murillo, Fernando González-García and Danny Meltzer. This first CD of the BIRD SONGS OF MEXICO series of audio field guides contains stereo recordings of over 90 species of migratory bird species and year-round residents, including endemics, as well as soundscapes from various habitats in the Yucatan Peninsula. All the sounds included on the CD were recorded within the limits of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, representing the unique sounds of the birds in this region. Visit <http://www.birdsongsofmexico.com> for more information. Available at: <http://www.Amazon.com>, <http://tinyurl.com/5dvf4k> and direct from <http://www.birdsongsofmexico.com>.

## RECENT LITERATURE

The following articles have appeared in El Hornero v.22 n.1 Buenos Aires, Jan/Aug.2007

- Variaciones temporales de los ensambles de aves de la Reserva Natural de Fauna Laguna La Felipa (Córdoba, Argentina) (Brandolin, Pablo; Martori, Ricardo; Ávalos, Miguel)
- Abundancia y riqueza específica en un ensamble de aves marinas y costeras del sudeste de la provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina (García, Germán O.; Gómez Laich, Agustina)
- Presencia y nidificación del Cauquén Colorado *Chloephaga rubidiceps* en la provincia de Santa Cruz, Argentina (Imberti, Santiago; Amorós, Carlos D.; Cadierno, Sonia A.)
- Distribución latitudinal y altitudinal de tres especies del género *Basileuterus* en el noroeste argentino (Capllonch, Patricia)
- Ensamblajes de aves en un sitio quemado y en un sitio no alterado en un área forestal del noroeste de la Patagonia argentina (Grigera, Dora; Pavic, Carolina)

*Comunications*

- Morfometría, peso corporal y dieta invernal de la Agachona Chica *Thinocorus rumicivorus* en la provincia de Buenos Aires, Aramburu (Rosana; Formoso, Anahí; Arambarri, Ana M.; Montalti, Diego)
- La Viudita Enmascarada (*Fluvicola nengeta*): nueva especie para Paraguay y segundo registro en Argentina (Klavins, Juan; Bodrati, Alejandro)
- Primer registro de reproducción de la Gaviota Cocinera (*Larus dominicanus*) en la Bahía Samborombón, provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina (Mauco, Laura; Paterlini, Carla; Isaldo, Diego I.; Quintero Blanco, Sergio A.; Navarro, Maximiliano)
- Hábitos granívoros en la Gaviota Cangrejera (*Larus atlanticus*): implicancias sobre su estatus de especialista (Petracci, Pablo F.; Delhey, Kaspar; Sotelo, Martín)
- El Chorlo de Espolón (*Vanellus cayanus*) en Argentina (Jensen, Roberto; Areta, Juan I)
- Historia natural y distribución de la Cachirla Trinadora (*Anthus chacoensis*) (Casañas, Hernán E.; Roesler, Ignacio; Klavins, Juan)
- Alimentación del Cabecitanegra Austral (*Carduelis barbata*) durante el otoño (Archuby, Diego I.; Marti, Lucas J.; Montalti, Diego; Soave, Guillermo E.; Camperi, Aníbal R.; Arambarri, Ana M.; Darrieu, Carlos A)

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