

Partners in Flight

L A T A N G A R A

Newsletter of the International Working Group of Partners in Flight
a Hemisphere-wide bird conservation initiative.

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CONTENTS:

News and Announcements

- MoSI program receives funding
- Threatened birds of the southern Andes
- Study finds that many of Panama's key sites for wildlife are threatened
- World Bird Festival
- New biosphere reserve in Nicaragua

Web News

Funding

Training / Job Opportunities

Meetings

Publications Available

Recent Literature

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOSI PROGRAM RECEIVES FUNDING

The MoSI (Monitoreo de Sobrevivencia Invernal / Monitoring Overwintering Survival) program received funding from the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act for the winter of 2003-04. This is an initiative led by the Institute of Bird Populations, located in California, USA. The objectives of the MoSI Program are: a) to assess habitat-specific overwinter survival rates and late winter physical condition for a suite of target species in a variety of winter habitats by applying mark-recapture models to data collected from a network of mist-netting and bird-banding stations; b) to use these data to formulate management plans for these species on their wintering grounds; and c) to facilitate feather collection for DNA and stable isotope analyses that aim to link breeding and wintering populations of these species. Twenty-nine MoSI stations were operated during the winter of 2002-03: 16 in Mexico, 10 in Central America, and three in the Caribbean. The goal for the winter of 2003-04 is to double the size

of the program to 60 stations. For more information contact: David F. DeSante, Institute for Bird Populations, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956 USA, at <mailto:ddesante@birdpop.org>

INFORMATION NEEDED ON CERULEAN WARBLERS SOUTH OF THE UNITED STATES BORDER

Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) populations have declined substantially in the past 35 years. A group of ornithologists from South and North America has begun exploring the possibility that the population size of this species may be partially or largely limited by conditions in its wintering range or during migration. This consideration will hopefully lead to conservation measures beneficial to the Cerulean Warbler and the many other species with which it shares habitat in South and Central America. El Grupo Cerúleo, the nonbreeding season subcommittee of the Cerulean Warbler Technical Group, is a large and diverse group, including representatives from the five northern Andean nations, Canada, various international non-governmental organizations, the academic community, the forest products industry, and federal and state agencies in the United States. Convinced that unpublished observations can significantly increase our understanding of the non-breeding distribution of this bird, and thus opportunities to undertake conservation measures, we request interested people to send us details on Cerulean Warbler sightings outside of the United States and Canada. Please include the following information for each observation: observer, date, precise locality (country, province, and as much detailed information on locality as possible, including lat-long coordinates if known), elevation, time of day, conditions or quality of observation, number of Cerulean Warblers observed (with age and sex if possible), habitat description, and any other potentially useful comments (nature of flocks and associated species with which the Cerulean Warblers co-occur, etc.). Please submit your records to: PAUL HAMEL, Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research, P.O. Box 227, 432 Stoneville Road, Stoneville, MS 38776 USA (PH: 662-686-3167; FX: 662-686-3195; EM: phamel@fs.fed.us).

THREATENED BIRDS OF THE SOUTHERN ANDES

BirdLife is working hard at updating their information on the threatened bird species of the world, which will eventually become the 2004 IUCN Red list. Visit the species at risk in the Southern Andes section at: http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/species/globally_tbu/gtbu_main.html. Here you can write in your comments, in whatever format and language you want. Please direct questions and comments to: A. Bennett Hennessey, Coordinator, Areas de Importancia para la Conservación de las Aves (AICA), Important Bird Areas (IBA), Asociación Armonía, BirdLife International, Lomas de Arena 400, Casilla 3566, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. <mailto:tangara@unete.com>

NEW STUDY FINDS THAT MANY OF PANAMA'S KEY SITES FOR WILDLIFE ARE THREATENED

The most detailed study to date of the status of birds and other wildlife in Panama, for its size one of the world's most biologically diverse nations, has revealed that many of its most globally important sites hold no formal protection and are in danger from deforestation, development, and other threats. The Directory of Important Bird Areas in Panama is written in both English and Spanish and describes each of the 88 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the country. It also includes a list of threatened birds, data on other threatened/endemic fauna, and conservation issues for each site. The book shows that El Chorogo-Palo Blanco, the most intact site for endemic birds of Panama's western Pacific slope, and the Upper Bay of Panama, used by more than 1.3 million migratory shorebirds from North America each year, are in urgent need of conservation action. Panama's western Pacific lowlands, despite being home to many endemic birds such as Baird's Trogon and White-crested Coquette and other endemic wildlife such as Red-backed Squirrel Monkey (*Saimiri oerstedii*), have been almost entirely deforested. El Chorogo-Palo Blanco is the largest remaining refuge in Panama for many of these species, but is threatened by logging and conversion to cattle pasture. However, the Panama Audubon Society (PAS) is working to have the area declared a wildlife refuge, and with support from the Amos W. Butler Audubon Society of Indianapolis and the American Bird Conservancy, has recently purchased about 10% of the area's forest to form the core of a reserve. For further information, please contact Adrian Long at BirdLife International, Cambridge, UK, Tel. +44 (0)1223 279812; <mailto:adrian.long@birdlife.org.uk>

WORLD BIRD FESTIVAL: BIRDS OF PREY OF THE AMERICAS

The Regional Office for the Americas of BirdLife International announces the annual World Bird Festival, which seeks to educate people about the importance of conserving and protecting birds and their habitats through bird watching and a number of original activities such as drawing, painting and origami contests, exhibitions, speeches, etc. The World Bird Festival 2003 is dedicated to "Birds of Prey of the Americas." This subject was chosen because for many years birds of prey have faced numerous threats caused by humans, specially loss of natural habitat and the consequent decline in the availability of prey, contamination by heavy metals, pesticides and direct persecution. Furthermore, the general public often ignores the ecological role birds of prey perform and the use they have to human beings. This year the Festival will take place during the month of October. All persons are invited to participate in these events, doing activities like environmental education, contests, speeches about birds, biodiversity and/or conservation, etc. The Regional Office for the Americas will compile the lists of birds observed in each country/region, as well as the reports on the activities realized. Additionally, this information will be posted at: <http://www.birdlife.org>. Since this year's bulletin BirdLife in the Americas is dedicated to the festival, we urge you to send as soon as possible your registration form. For more information and registration materials, contact Itziar Olmedo, Communications Officer, Americas Regional Office, BirdLife International, Vicente Cárdenas E5-75 y Japón, 3er Piso, Tel: + 593 (2) 245-3645, 227-7399, 227-7497, C.P. 17-17-717, Quito, Ecuador, Fax: (593-2) 2 277-059, <mailto:birdlife@birdlife.org.ec> or visit <http://www.birdlife.net>

NEW BIOSPHERE RESERVE IN NICARAGUA

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Program Committee (MAB) held a meeting in Paris July 8th-11th and has approved and recognized in southeast Nicaragua the "Río San Juan Biosphere Reserve." This approval results in a total of 440 MAB sites in 97 countries. With an area of 18,340 km², Río San Juan host a great diversity of ecosystems including tropical humid forests and wetlands, marshes, coastal lagoons, and estuaries, which are genetic reservoirs for flora and fauna that are rare or disappearing in other parts of tropical Mesoamerica. Furthermore, it is an important area for its ethnic-cultural and historic diversity. The reserve has the following areas: three core zones with 3,578 km² encompassing the summit of Cerro Silva, the wetlands of Los Guatuzos and the Biological Reserve Indio Maíz; four buffer zones with 9,616 km² including terrestrial, fluvial, and marine coast areas; and one transition zone with 5,146 km². Managing the southeast of the country under this new regime, it is expected that a greater value be given to the resources, besides the protection, management and conservation of one of the most important sites for biodiversity in the world. International recognition was reached through the cooperative efforts of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA), ARAUCARIA, GTZ, and FUNDAR. For more information contact: Heidi Herrera-Rosales, M.Sc, FUNDAR, <mailto:herrera@ibw.com.ni> or visit: <http://www.fundar.org> or visit UNESCO's web page at: <http://www.unesco.org/mab/news/newbr2003.htm>

WEB NEWS

CHANDLER ROBBINS AND DAN BOONE OPEN LETTER OF CONCERN OVER EASTERN WIND ENERGY PROJECTS at: <http://midwest.fws.gov/endangered/birds/CERW/TOWERS.pdf>

"SHADES OF GREEN: A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF WIND ENERGY" can be downloaded at: <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/download/BWCsp03.pdf>

UPDATED WEB PAGE ON THE PROJECT "CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL WETLANDS IN COQUIMBO, CHILE" at: <http://www.humedalescoquimbo.cl>

NEW WEB SITE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF EL SALVADOR at: <http://www.marn.gob.sv>

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS PROGRAM, free or greatly discounted electronic access to a large number of professional journals from developing nations. Complete information available at: <http://www3.oup.co.uk/jnls/devel/>

GOSHAWK THESIS AVAILABLE ONLINE at: http://www.ruraltech.org/pubs/theses/bloxtton/bloxtton_ms_thesis.pdf

USFS REPORT: Effects of urbanization on birds of prey at: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/sustain/draft/terra3/terra3.htm>

WEST NILE VIRUS REPORT: Numbers indicate crows and some raptor are among the hardest hit at: <http://environmentalrisk.cornell.edu/WNV/WNVEducDocs/BirdScope-Winter2003.pdf>

BIOLOGICAL CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER JUNE 2003 at: <http://rathbun.si.edu/bcn/issue/latest.cfm>

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORLD'S DESERT FALCONS at: <http://www.dcaccess.com/~gnealon/Leonardi.htm>

AVIBASE: a website offering an extensive database information system about all birds of the world, containing nearly 1 million records, 10,000 species and 22,000 subspecies of birds, including distribution information, taxonomy, synonyms and more at: <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/avibase/avibase.jsp>

THE LATEST NEWS ON THE FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/wsnew/welcome.htm>

FUNDING SOURCES AND OTHER SERVICES DEDICATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT at: <http://www.ecofondos.net>

BIRD WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

- BEAST: Bayesian Evolutionary Analysis Sampling Trees at: <http://evolve.zoo.ox.ac.uk/beast/>
- New publication of HUITZIL at: <http://www.huitzil.net>
- Wetland symposium in Cuba at: <http://www.birdingcuba.com>
- AVE-MANIA: A free electronic bulletin with advice, comments, conservation articles and other general aspects of birdwatching at: <http://www.ecoturismoeduca.com/ave-mania.html>

FUNDING

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR MOSI STATIONS

The MoSI (Monitoreo de Sobrevivencia Invernal / Monitoring Overwintering Survival) program has received funding from the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act for the winter of 2003-04. Stipends of about \$860U.S, to cover part of the costs of operating a MoSI station are available for each station (up to a total of 60 stations) that operate during the winter of 2003-04, and at which at least 12 individuals of one of the MoSI target species can be captured. We are looking to recruit at least 30 new stations. For information on applying for the stipend and on registering one or more MoSI stations, please contact the following MoSI Coordinators: a) in Mexico, Claudia Romo de Vivar Alvarez at <mailto:clarovial@yahoo.com.mx>; b) in Central America, Salvadora

Morales at <mailto:salvadora@avesnicaragua.org>; and c) in the Caribbean, James F. Saracco at: <mailto:jfsaracc@gustavus.ak.us>.

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 that may be of conservation benefit. A conservation sub-committee assesses applications and successful applications then have to be approved by the Council of the Neotropical Bird Club. Awards are only given to projects carried out by nationals and/or residents of countries in the Neotropics. Applicants need to demonstrate that their project is feasible, that they have adequate competence to carry out the project, and that their methodology is suitable. There are no formal deadlines. For more information visit: <http://www.neotropicalbirdclub.org/club/advice.html>.

LINCOLN PARK ZOO FIELD CONSERVATION FUNDS

The fund supports between five and six projects annually, including project renewals for a second year. Most awards fall into the range of \$3,000-\$6,000. Projects should make direct contributions to conservation of individual species or habitats, conservation education, applied conservation biology or conservation policy. Key factors in the review process include consideration of research design, feasibility, breadth of significance to the discipline of conservation biology, and potential for application of results to wildlife conservation. Evaluation of each proposal is based on its merit and quality relative to that of all other proposals under consideration. The first stage of applying for funds involves submitting a Pre-Proposal by October 1st each year, which will be reviewed by the Lincoln Park Zoo Field Conservation committee. The investigators of the approved Pre-Proposals will be contacted by October 20th and invited to submit a full Proposal to the Lincoln Park Zoo Conservation Funds. Full Proposals must be submitted by December 15th. Final decisions regarding funding of Proposals will be announced in March. For more information on the fund visit: <http://www.lpzoo.com/conservation/funds.html>

THE SCOTT NEOTROPICAL FUND OF THE CLEVELAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Scott Neotropical Fund was initiated to provide funds to deserving students and scientists living and working in Latin America. Annual awards ranging from \$3000 - \$5000 are made to research and conservation initiatives involving animals and their habitat or programs involving local people that directly impact animal conservation. The primary beneficiary of the funds as well as the impact of the project must be within the Neotropics (Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean). The Scott Neotropical Fund supports the work of Neotropical residents in their countries through direct project support, training opportunities, and/or technical assistance that will continue to benefit the local people, wildlife and habitats of the Neotropics into the future. Projects submitted for funding should be sound research proposals with clear conservation implications. Examples include: Single species, natural history and ecology studies; national park inventories; surveys and biological assessments; scholarships for resident students; initiatives involving local people that directly impact animal conservation. Consideration will also be given to projects in captive situations in the Neotropics if the project contributes to the conservation of a species in the wild. Proposal deadline is September 1, 2003. For more information visit: http://www.clemet zoo.com/animals/conservation_grants_award.html

TRAINING / JOB OPPORTUNITIES

NFWF TRAINING WORKSHOPS AT VIITH NOC

There will be a series of three half-day workshops, sponsored by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in conjunction with the VIIth Neotropical Ornithology Congress in Puyehue, Chile, <http://www.nocchile.cl/>. The workshops, to be presented in Spanish, are designed for Latin American ornithologists and representatives of conservation NGOs in the region interested in improving the sustainability

of their programs and organizations. The workshops will immediately precede the main Congress, being held Saturday, October 3 and the morning of Sunday, October 4 at Aguas Calientes in Puyehue National Park, only 4 km from the Congress events. Partial travel and expense support is available from NFWF for a number of participants. The topics to be covered are: 1) Funding your bird conservation project, *Presenter*: Megan Hill, Rare Center for Tropical Conservation; 2) How to write and publish a scientific article, *Presenter*: Charles D. Duncan; 3) Topics in biostatistics and experimental design, *Presenter*: Juan Carlos Martínez-Sánchez. If you are interested in receiving partial support for travel and lodging expenses to the workshops and the Congress, contact Eloise Canfield, NFWF Program Director for Latin America & the Caribbean, <mailto:canfield@nfwf.org>. Include a letter of interest and a brief *c.v.* or resume. For more information on workshop content and attendance, contact Charles Duncan, <mailto:cduncan@maine.rr.com>.

MOSI WORKSHOPS IN MESOAMERICAN AND THE CARRIBEAN

The MoSI (Monitoreo de Sobrevivencia Invernal / Monitoring Overwintering Survival) program is looking to recruit at least 30 new stations. For that, there will be three 4-day MoSI workshops during the period October 18-31, 2003, in Mexico (Jalisco), Central America (probably Costa Rica), and the Caribbean (location to be determined). Workshops will provide discussion and training in MoSI field and analytical procedures and in-hand ageing of landbirds using molt limits and plumage criteria. For more information and to register for these workshops, please contact the appropriate regional coordinators: a) in Mexico, Claudia Romo de Vivar Alvarez at <mailto:clarovial@yahoo.com.mx>; b) in Central America, Salvadora Morales at <mailto:salvadora@avesnicaragua.org>; and c) in the Caribbean, James F. Saracco at <mailto:jfsaracc@gustavus.ak.us>.

WORKSHOP SEMINAR ON BIODIVERSITY

The Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation (SMBC in Spanish), Panama chapter, has promoted the realization of a Workshop Seminar on Biodiversity, entitled: "Fauna and Flora: Techniques, diversity and ecological relations in the Protected Area San Lorenzo, Colon Province, Panama". The workshop will take place from August 25 to 31, 2003 and will cost \$35.00 for student members of SMBC and \$55.00 for non-members. The workshop will entail 40 hours of instruction, 12 theory hours and 28 practice hours. For more information on the workshop seminar contact: Lic. Ricardo Pérez A, Coordinator, <mailto:rijperez@yahoo.com> or Lic. Alonso Santos M, Presidente de la SMBC, Capítulo de Panamá, <mailto:santosalonso@hotmail.com> o <mailto:smbcpma@hotmail.com>

BIOACOUSTICS WORKSHOP

The workshop, "Bioacoustics Workshop: Techniques for the Scientific Study of Bird Sounds with emphasis in the Elaboration and Interpretation of Sonograms" will be held during three days from October 30 to November 1, 2003, in the City of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico immediately prior to the VII Congress of The Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation (Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico, November 3-7, 2003). The objective of the workshop is to introduce and train biologists, students and/or professionals in fields similar to biology to the scientific study of bird sounds. This workshop will include theoretical aspects and basic terminology, as well as techniques used in the scientific study of bird sounds. The practical sessions will consist in the recording of bird sounds in the field, primarily with analog recorders. Experience in bird identification through sound is important but not indispensable. For those who do not have equipment, we will do as much as possible to provide some equipment, or at least provide shared access. Spaces are limited to 20 people, and have a cost of \$80.00 dollars or its equivalent in Mexican pesos. For more information contact the workshop coordinator: Fernando González-García, Departamento de Ecología y Comportamiento Animal, Biblioteca de Sonidos de las Aves de México, Instituto de Ecología, A. C. Apartado Postal 63, Xalapa, Veracruz, México, 91000. <mailto:gonzalef@ecologia.edu.mx> or visit <http://www.ecologia.edu.mx/sonidos>

RESEARCHER FOR 3 MONTHS NEEDED AT YUNGAS-PERU

Asociación Armonía (BirdLife International – Bolivia) needs a research biologist for a study on local information in the communities of Yungas in Central and Southern Peru. The objective is collecting local information about a cracid in danger of extinction: *Pauxi unicornis*. This is a three-month job, the first two visiting various communities in the range of *Pauxi unicornis* interviewing people about observations and their

knowledge of the population. Later, a month of office work in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia writing, with scientific support, the results in a report, an article for publication, and press releases. We are looking for someone with an interest in bird conservation in Peru, with knowledge in biology but not necessarily very experienced in the field. This is an opportunity for earning more field experience and learning more about Peru. If you are interested, send a resume of no more than two pages, two references, and a cover letter to the Supervisor of the Project: A. Bennett Hennessey, Coordinator, Areas de Importancia para la Conservación de las Aves (AICA), Important Bird Areas (IBA), Asociación Armonía, BirdLife International, Lomas de Arena 400, Casilla 3566, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, <mailto:tangara@unete.com>

BIOLOGY INSTRUCTOR FOR RAINFOREST ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION PROGRAM NEEDED IN COSTA RICA

The goals of the program are to offer students of biology and related majors a sophisticated view of tropical ecology with an exposure to a wide variety of ecosystems. Moreover, the program is designed to give students the skills, including an understanding of both language and culture, to evaluate conservation efforts in the social context of Costa Rica. In all cases, the learning is a mix of field, lecture, theory and practice. Students are undergraduates, primarily from the United States, who are biology or biology-related majors with one year of Intro Biology and an elective in whole-organism biology (Behavior, Ecology, Conservation Biology, etc.) with a GPA greater than 2.75. The Instructor's responsibilities are: work with resident staff to maximize student understanding of tropical ecology, conservation and Costa Rican language/culture; advise student projects; lead orientation walks and field problems; give occasional lectures in field of expertise; grade exams and written reports; translate for non-bilingual persons related to the program; encourage better understanding of Spanish; aid in all academic aspects of the program. Successful applicants will have: M.S. or M.A. in biology, ecology or related field; fluency in English and Spanish; knowledge of tropical ecology and conservation; field experience; familiarity with several taxa; a willingness to live and work in Monteverde full time. Send current CV and the names and e-mail addresses of three persons who can comment on the applicant's abilities. Send CV to: <mailto:amasters@racsaco.cr>

MEETINGS

THE RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, 2003 annual meeting, Sep 3-7, 2003, Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, AK. Hosted by the Alaska Bird Observatory. Abstracts for oral and poster presentations on any aspect of raptor biology, ecology, conservation, or management are welcome. Details and instructions will be posted online as they become available at: <http://www.alaskabird.org>. An all-day INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF NORTHERN GOSHAWKS (*Accipiter gentilis apache*) will be held in conjunction with the conference. The goal of the symposium is to assemble researchers and managers from around the world for an exchange of information with which to assess the current state of knowledge on northern goshawks. Topics of special interest are: 1) population ecology and demographics; 2) linkages between habitat and demographic performance; and 3) landscape level management, but submissions dealing with any aspect of Northern Goshawk ecology and management will be considered. For information regarding the goshawk symposium, contact Dr. Clint Boal, Texas Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-2120 <mailto:clint.boal@ttu.edu>. For information regarding the conference, contact Nancy DeWitt, Alaska Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 80505, Fairbanks, AK 99708 Tel: 907-451-7159; <mailto:birds@alaskabird.org>

MEETING OF THE WATERBIRD SOCIETY, September 24-27, 2003, Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brazil. The program will consist of symposia and contributed papers and posters. If you would like to sponsor a symposium please contact Betty Anne Schreiber <mailto:SchreiberE@aol.com>. Further details on submitting contributed papers and posters will be on the society web site, accessible through BIRDNET on the web <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/>. For further information about the meeting, please write to: Silvia del

Lama <mailto:dSDL@paoer.ufscar.br>. For further information about the symposia, please write to: Betty Anne Schreiber <mailto:SchreiberE@aol.com>

VII NEOTROPICAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS, October 5-11, 2003. The congress will take place in Chile's Puyehue National Park. The scientific program will include plenary lectures, concurrent symposia sessions, oral papers, poster sessions, and round-table discussions. In addition, special evening sessions with talks and films are planned. English and Spanish will be the working languages of the congress. The Proceedings of the VII Neotropical Ornithological Congress will be published after the congress as a special issue or supplement of *Ornitología Neotropical*. The VIIth Neotropical Congress Officers are as follows: President: François Vuilleumier, <mailto:vuill@amnh.org>; Secretary General: Luis Espinosa G., <mailto:legpvar@entelchile.net>; Congress Organizer for North America: M. Victoria McDonald, <mailto:vickiem@mail.uca.edu>; Co-chairs of the Scientific Program Committee: Jaime Jimenez, <mailto:jjimenez@ulagos.cl>, and Cristina Y. Miyaki, <mailto:cymiyaki@usp.br>; Proceedings Committee: Editor: Raymond McNeil, <mailto:Raymond.McNeil@umontreal.ca>; and Assistant to the Editor: Ivan Lazo, <mailto:bubo@entelchile.net>. The official web page for registration, accommodation, other local information, travel, and tour information is: <http://www.nocchile.cl>

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT PAN-AMERICAN ROUNDTABLE, will be held during the VIIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress, Parque Nacional Puyehue, Chile (5-11 October 2003). The Roundtable will be held on October 8. This is a forum for the discussion of bird conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Roundtable is organized by the American Bird Conservancy in coordination with the International Working Group of Partners in Flight. The meeting is open to everyone with an interest in bird conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean. This Roundtable will feature news and updates on the latest developments in bird conservation and a "mini-symposium" on the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE): A site-based approach to conserving the World's most imperiled vertebrate species. This symposium will present an overview of the initiative and four presentations on AZE sites throughout the Neotropics. If you would like to contribute to the meeting by giving a presentation on some aspect of bird conservation (news, policy issues, or project updates), please contact George E. Wallace, American Bird Conservancy, Tel: 540-253-5780 Fax: 540-253-5782, <mailto:gwallace@abcbirds.org>

NORTH AMERICAN DUCK SYMPOSIUM to be held in Sacramento, California in November 2003. Continuing in the tradition of the 1st North American Duck Symposium, held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1997, and the 2nd Symposium held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 2000, the conference program will include invited plenary papers by internationally recognized speakers, contributed oral and poster paper session and evening workshops. Our goal is to provide a forum for managers, researchers, students and other concerned individuals to share their concerns, ideas and solutions to the issues facing North American ducks in the new century. More information can be found at <http://www.ducksymp3.com>.

V NATIONAL ORNITHOLOGY RETREAT, Mejia, Arequipa, Peru, October 19-24, 2003. The event is organized by the National Sanctuary Lagunas de Mejia, National Institute of Natural Resources, Regional Institute of Environmental Sciences and National University of San Agustín de Arequipa. Its objective is to reunite researchers and amateurs of the study of birds in Peru with the goal of sharing information on the subject, and showing an overview of the advances done in field ornithology in Peru. Inscription costs are US\$ 15.00 for students and US\$ 30.00 for professionals. For more information visit: <http://www.vjno-peru.i-p.com>

VII CONGRESS OF THE MESOAMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico, November 3-7, 2003. It's the most important Mesoamerican forum on biodiversity conservation. The academic program will include oral presentation sessions, poster sessions, magisterial conferences, symposiums, workshops and courses. Abstracts for oral presentations must be received by August 31. For more information consult the Society's web site at: <http://www.socmesoamericana.org>

SECOND ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF BIRDS OF YUCATAN, November 15-22, 2003. The festival objective is to promote the State of Yucatan as a tourist destination for those interested in nature and Mayan culture. The festival includes conferences, workshops, photographic expositions, and bird watching among other activities. Contact information: Ecoturismo Yucatan: Tel.: (52-999) 920-2772, Fax: (52-999) 925-9047; <mailto:toh@ecoyuc.com> or visit <http://www.yucatanbirds.org.mx>

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

THE DIRECTORY OF IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS IN PANAMA

The book has been produced by BirdLife International's Partner in Panama, the Panama Audubon Society (PAS) with financing from Vogelbescherming Nederland (BirdLife's Partner in the Netherlands) and the United States Forest Service, and is based on studies sponsored by Panama's Fundación Natura. The book may be obtained from the Panama Audubon Society, Aptdo 2026, Balboa, Republic of Panama, Tel/fax:+507 224 4740, <mailto:audupan@cwpanama.net> or <mailto:info@panamaaudubon.org>. Cost is US\$25.00 plus postage (\$5.00 for western hemisphere).

GUIDE FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF BIRDS OF ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY

The extended and updated, 15th edition of the "Guide for the Identification of Birds of Argentina and Uruguay" by Tito Narosky and Dario Izurieta was launched. This book is a vital tool for the observation of birds in Argentina, Uruguay, south Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia and Chile. The Gold Edition has: new format, new design, 1,000 species (29 species were added, with maps and drawings), 2,000 illustrations, 1,000 maps, 384 color pages, illustration paper (new print in quality paper). For more information contact: Aves Argentina - Asoc. Ornitológica del Plata, 25 de mayo 749, 2° piso, Of. 6, (C 1002 ABO), Buenos Aires, Argentina. Tel & fax: 4312-1015/8958/2284, <mailto:info@avesargentinas.org.ar> or visit: <http://www.avesargentinas.org.ar>

RECENT LITERATURE

NOTE: For thorough searches of the ornithological literature consult ROL in the web at: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/ROL> (# 83 now posted)

Blendinger, P.G., and M.E. Alvarez. 2002. Ensamblados de aves de los bañados de Carilauquen (Laguna Llancanelo, Mendoza, Argentina): consideraciones para su conservación. **Hornero 17:7183.**

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