

Partners in Flight

L A T A N G A R A

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a Hemisphere - wide Bird Conservation Initiative.

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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NFWF ANNOUNCES NEW MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION GRANTS

New grants were awarded to the following organizations to continue their work in Neotropical migratory bird conservation: Migratory Bird Conservation in Guatemala (FUNDAECO); El Salvador Migratory Bird Conservation (SalvaNatura); Strengthening Paraguayan Bird Conservation (Guyra Paraguay); Strengthening Bird Conservation in Chiapas (ProNatura/Chiapas); Bird Education and Outreach at Ajusco Medio (Pronatura/INE); Bird Conservation Education in Mexico (University of Michoacan); and Project ALAS (The National Audubon Society). For more information contact: Eloise Canfield, NFWF, <mailto:lcandfield@nfwf.org>

NICARAGUA SUSPENDS ALL EXPORTS OF YELLOW-NAPED PARROT

During the last Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in November 2002, held in Santiago, Chile, the Yellow-naped Parrot (*Amazona auropalliata*) was incorporated

into Appendix I, thus prohibiting the export or import of this species. This decision was endorsed by recent reports from Nicaragua showing that population estimates of this species made by Wiedenfeld and collaborators in censuses in 1995 (178,000 individuals) and in 1999 (85,000 individuals) were not adjusted to account for adequate habitat availability for the species. These studies extrapolated their estimates to all the Pacific Region territory and to 75% of the Caribbean served as support until last year to maintain an annual exportation quota of 800 individuals. As a result of the publication of the map of Nicaragua's ecosystems, it has been shown that this species is restricted to the last fragments of deciduous and semi deciduous forests in the Pacific Region and the Pine Savannas of La Mosquitia in the Caribbean. With the adjustments in the estimations of these censuses based in the availability of habitat, the new population estimates for the species have been reduced, at least, in 90% for the Caribbean Region and possibly more (95%) for the Pacific Region. Further-more, the new CITES authorities in Nicaragua are investigating if all psittacines exported from Nicaragua annually come from ranching facilities or are simply taken from the wild. Ornithologists from across the country have asserted that many of these birds come from protected areas, in open violation of Nicaraguan law. Recently the exporters asked the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to obtain an exception from CITES to the restrictions imposed by CITES on trade of this species. At present, the Nicaraguan CITES authorities want to conduct a new census of all psittacines in the country, because of suspicions that populations of other species, such as Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) are in worse conditions. For more information contact: Juan C. Martinez-Sanchez. Grupo de Observadores de Aves Guardabarranco; <mailto:jcmartinez@avesnicaragua.org>

PHILLIP HOOSE LAUNCHES BIRDERS' EXCHANGE CUBA INITIATIVE

The American Birding Association's Birders' Exchange program is pleased to announce the establishment of "The Birders' Exchange Cuba Initiative." The project has been initiated through a major gift to American Birding Association by author and conservationist Phillip Hoose. All financial contributions to this initiative will be used to supply much-needed equipment, books, and other education and field tools for bird education, conservation and research efforts throughout Cuba. There will be a special emphasis on efforts that involve children. Birders' Exchange is also pleased to announce that financial contributions to The Birders' Exchange Cuba Initiative will be matched dollar for dollar (up to \$15,000 for this project) by the Riedman Foundation, and therefore, will significantly increase the amount of needed equipment going to the study and appreciation of Cuban birds. Please make your check payable to: ABA/ Birders' Exchange, with a memo indicating that the check is for the BE Cuba Initiative, and send it to: American Birding Association Birders' Exchange, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. For more information contact Betty Petersen, Birders' Exchange Program Director, American Birding Association, <mailto:bex@aba.org>, or visit: <http://www.americanbirding.org/bex>

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE SNO

The Society for Neotropical Ornithology (SON in Spanish) and local host Union of Ornithologists of Chile (UNORCH) are pleased to announce the joint VII Neotropical Ornithological Congress and the VII Chilean Congress of Ornithology. Both meetings will be held in Chile's Puyehue National Park, 5 -11 October 2003. Details concerning registration costs, transportation and hotel information will be available on the congress web site and will be mailed to the members of SON and UNORCH in early March. The congress web site is <http://www.nocchile.cl/>. The scientific committee of the Congress invites researchers and students working in Neotropical ornithology to send proposals (English or Spanish) for symposia, workshops, round tables, speeches, and panels. The deadline for submission of papers is June 30, 2003. To send proposals or abstracts, go to the congress web site. In the section "Scientific Program" select the type of proposal or abstract you wish to send and follow the instructions. All proposals and abstracts must be sent through the web site. For more information, please contact Cristina Miyaki <mailto:cymiyaki@usp.br> or Jaime Jimenez <mailto:jjimenez@ulagos.cl>

ARDEOLA CALL FOR PAPERS

Ardeola is the scientific journal of the Spanish Society of Ornithology (SEO/BirdLife), published since the Society's foundation in 1954. The main body of the journal is composed by original articles and short notes. The Forum section publishes papers that aim to serve as a lighter channel for discussion and constructive

criticism on papers or research lines published either in Ardeola or elsewhere, as well as to stimulate the publication of new ideas and short revisions on current ornithological topics. Ardeola is issued twice a year (June and December). Accepted languages are Spanish and English. Abstracts are published in both languages. Manuscripts should be especially addressed to the Editor in Chief: Dr. Juan Jose Sanz, Dep. Ecologia Evolutiva, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (CSIC) Jose Gutierrez Abascal 2, E-28006 Madrid, Spain. <mailto:ardeola@mncn.csic.es>. Membership and subscription link to: <http://www.seo.org/ArdeEsSuscripcion.asp>

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ACQUIRES ISLA ESPIRITU SANTO

In January 2003, The Nature Conservancy announced the acquisition by the Mexican government of Isla Espiritu Santo, a 23,383-acre island in the Sea of Cortez-one of the most biologically diverse marine areas in the world. This island is one of ten the Conservancy is working to protect in the Sea of Cortez. The Sea of Cortez is a global conservation priority, containing 31 species of marine mammals (one-third of the world's whale and dolphin species), 500 species of fish, 4,848 known species of marine macro-invertebrates and 626 forms of macroalgae. The area provides nesting sites and migratory habitat for about 210 bird species (both terrestrial and marine). It also provides breeding grounds for colonies of sea lions and several types of marine turtles. Many of these species are found only in the Sea of Cortez. In addition, the largely arid land rising from the coastal water is home to a number of endemic species, including the world's largest cactus and a variety of reptiles. For more information go to: <http://nature.org/success/mexicoisland.html>

DESTRUCTION IN NATIONAL PARK VOLCAN BARU, PANAMA

On February 5, 2003, a group of Panamanian professionals published a letter in which they denounce the habitat destruction in the National Park Volcan Baru, Panama (PNVB as initialed in Spanish). The government of Panama has approved a contract between the Ministry of Public Works and Constructora Urbana, S.A., for the design, function, environmental impact study, and construction of road through the Boquete-Cerro Punta area. Also, they assert that the Process of Evaluation of Environmental Impact is being violated, because it is the Promoter (the National Government) that must do the environmental impact study, NOT the company that will construct the project. The Boquete-Cerro Punta road project will pass through the El Respingo Biological Corridor (Los Quetzales trail), one of the most sensitive areas of PNVB, which connects it to La Amistad International Park. The project will cut the connection between Volcan Baru and International Park La Amistad, with a possible disruption of the natural movements of wild animals. The globally threatened Red-fronted Parrotlet, Three-wattled Bellbird, and Bare-necked Umbrellabird, are found here, as well as the Crested Eagle. The summit of the volcano is the only place known in Panama for Timberline Wren, Sooty Thrush and Volcano Junco. The only records in Panama of the Unspotted Saw-whet Owl and the Sedge Wren were made in PNVB. The project will also andangered a population of quetzals that nest in the area. PNVB also has reports of Ocelot, Margay, Jaguarundi, Puma and Jaguar. For more information contact: Ariel Rodriguez-Vargas, M. Sc., Biologo, Centro de Estudios de Recursos Bioticos, Universidad de Panama, Telefax: 223-0212; <mailto:CEREB@ancon.up.ac.pa>

WEB NEWS

TRAVEL GRANTS FOR COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

The grants are awarded on a monthly basis with up to 10 being awarded each month. The fellowship scheme of the Commonwealth Science Council (CSC) was established in 1980 to provide opportunities for scientists and engineers from member Commonwealth developing countries to enhance their professional skills and experience through short-term attachments in other commonwealth countries. There are many commonwealth countries in the Caribbean such as Trinidad & Tobago, St Vincent, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts, Bahamas, Jamaica, Barbados, St Lucia, and Antigua. The application form and guidelines are at: http://www.comsci.org/grants/g_doc003.htm

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL'S GLOBALLY THREATENED BIRD UPDATE - AN INVITATION TO JOIN IN: The site aims to feed the latest information on threatened birds into the 2004 IUCN Red List of threatened species - and, most importantly, into setting priorities for bird conservation. There are discussion forums on BirdLife's website, where contributors can share information on Globally Threatened Birds. <http://www.birdlife.net/gtbirds/index.cfm>

THE COQUIMBO WETLANDS, at: <http://www.humedalescoquimbo.cl>

SHOREBIRD IDENTIFICATION WEB SITES at:

<http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/id/framlst/framlst.html#Charadriidae>

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S NEW WEBSITE: Allows you to search for scientific reports from 10 federal agencies online. It contains reliable information resources selected by the respective agencies as their best science information. <http://www.science.gov>

LA TANGARA UP TO DATE ON THE WEB SITE: Issues 39-42 of La Tangara are now posted on the PIF web site, in both Spanish and English. They are in Adobe Acrobat format (PDF file) at: www.partnersinflight.org/pubs/latangara.htm.

The USFWS has a web site where you can search all the literature available on North American waterfowl at: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/library/duckdata/>

THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE SHOREBIRD RESERVE NETWORKS, February edition at: <http://www.manomet.org/WHSRN/>

BIRD WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

- Wilson Bulletin on line at: <http://elibrary.unm.edu/wilson/>
- Yahoo group for the birds of Hispaniola at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sociedadornitologicahispaniola/?yguid=60449452>
- The Internet Bird Collection, at: <http://www.hbw.com/ibc/>
- BioDiversity Pro, free statistical software at: <http://www.sams.ac.uk/dml/projects/benthic/bdpro/>

FUNDING

ALBAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission adopted in 2002 the Alban Program; a high-level scholarship program aimed specifically at Latin America. It is expected, depending on applications, that around 3900 Latin-American students and professionals will benefit from these scholarships, in the European Union, during the next 9 years. The Alban Scholarships are a means of support for Latin American citizens to conduct their postgraduate studies and specialized training in European universities. Alban is open to Latin American citizens living in the following 18 Latin American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The first grantees of the Alban Program will begin their postgraduate studies (master or doctorate) or specialized superior training starting in the academic year 2003/2004. The study and training periods can go from 6 months to 3 years, depending on the level and the proposed project. For more information about the scholarship visit: <http://www.programalban.org>

GRANTS FOR DOCTORATES

The Canon National Parks Science Scholars Program is pleased to announce its 2003 competitions. The program is a collaboration between Canon U.S.A., Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the US National Park Service. Thanks to a generous commitment by Canon U.S.A., Inc., the program will award eight US\$78,000 scholarships to Ph.D. students throughout the Americas to conduct research critical to conserving the national parks of the region. Research projects in the biological, physical, social and cultural sciences are eligible, as well as projects in a new category-technology innovation in support of conservation science. Applications must be received by May 15, 2003. For more information visit:

<http://www.nature.nps.gov/canonscholarships>

GRANTS FOR MASTER'S COURSE IN MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

Fundacion Carolina is offering 20 grants for the Master's Course "Management and Conservation of Biodiversity in the Tropics" that will take place in Spain from May 15-30, 2003. Application deadline is March 15, 2003. During the selection process the following criteria will be considered: academic records and official degrees related to the subject of study; scientific papers published; participation and organization of congresses, etc. For more information visit Fundacion Carolina's web site:

http://www.fundacioncarolina.com/esp/becas/MAB/3/BIODIVERSIDAD/prg_ficha.htm

STUDENT GRANT PROGRAM FROM NEOTROPICAL GRASSLAND CONSERVANCY (NGC)

The Student Grant Program (SGP) from the Neotropical Grassland Conservancy provides grants of US \$500 to M.S. and Ph.D. students to cover research expenses associated with travel to field sites, food and housing at field sites, and consumable equipment costing less than US \$25. Funds are distributed in two allotments of US \$250. The initial allotment is provided once an application has been approved. The second allotment is contingent on the applicant's completion of a mid-project report. Applicants must be affiliated with a university in Central or South America or the Caribbean. Applications are reviewed by an NGC panel, and ranked based on project merit, expected conservation impact, and how closely projects meet the NGC mission. Please apply by April 1, 2003. For more information or an application contact: Neotropical Grassland Conservancy, 6274 Heathcliff Drive, Carmichael, CA 95608-0909, <mailto:info@conservegrassland.org>, or visit: <http://www.conservegrassland.org>.

TRAINING / JOB OPPORTUNITIES

ADVANCED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LATIN AMERICAN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY, CANADA:

Located on the north shore of Lake Erie, Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO), Bird Studies Canada, is North America's oldest bird observatory and has banded over 700,000 landbirds. Annually over 20,000 landbirds, of approximately 150 species, are banded. LPBO is offering a 1-month course in advanced ornithological field techniques (landbird mist-netting, handling, extraction, banding, ageing and sexing, censusing techniques, migration monitoring, database management, and project design and administration) for three Latin American ornithologists. This course is ideal for talented Latin American field biologists who already possess an excellent background in field ornithology and have a serious interest in advancing their knowledge, skills, and abilities. This course is not suitable for beginners. Conversational and written English is required. This month-long training course is offered to a maximum of three qualified applicants during September 2003. Air travel, field accommodations, food, and instruction are provided by Bird Studies Canada. To apply, applicants must submit a letter of interest, curriculum vitae or resume, three letters of recommendation from professional ornithological organizations or university faculty (must include address, phone number, and e-mail for all references), and a completed application. All application materials must be submitted in English. Applications must be received by May 1, 2003. For information and applications, contact Landbird Programs Coordinator,

Bird Studies Canada, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, Canada, N0E 1M0, <mailto:lpbo@bsc-eoc.org>; or visit: <http://www.bsc-eoc.org>

ADVANCED LANDBIRD IDENTIFICATION, AGEING AND SEXING TRAINING COURSE

Participants will be trained in a synthesis of methods of identification, ageing and sexing of landbirds in the hand and in the field at Palomarin Field Station, Bolinas, California. The course will focus on ageing passerines and other landbirds to SY/ASY using molt limits, which allows for the calculation of juvenile recruitment and survival as used by MAPS programs and other population studies. In addition to intensive "hands-on" field techniques and exercises, the course will include lectures and the examination of study specimens used to instruct participants in identification techniques. Peter Pyle, PRBO Farallon Biologist, and the author of *The Identification Guide to North American Birds* will instruct the course. Course size will be limited to 8-10 participants in order to ensure hands-on training. Spaces will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. A \$650.00 registration fee for the workshop, covers course materials, a daily light morning meal and lunch, and one evening BBQ. The workshop dates are April 13-17, 2003. For further information and registration contact: Sandy Scoggin, California Partners in Flight, Coordinator, PRBO Conservation Science; Phone: 415-868-0655 ext. 313; Fax: 415-868-9363; <mailto:sscoggin@prbo.org>

PRBO CONSERVATION SCIENCE LANDBIRD MONITORING TRAINING COURSE

In this course, participants will be trained in nationally standardized monitoring techniques for Neotropical migrants, as well as field identification of songbirds by sight and sound. Monitoring techniques include constant effort mist netting, nest monitoring, area searching, spot mapping, point count censusing, and habitat assessment. Participants will be trained to design, establish, and implement an integrated monitoring program that is standardized and compatible with other North American programs related to the international "Partners in Flight" initiative. Lectures on objectives, study design, data management, and statistical analysis will be conducted. The course will emphasize intensive "hands-on" field techniques and exercises. Instructors will be staff and research associates of PRBO Conservation Science. Course size will be limited to 15 participants in order to ensure hands-on training. Spaces will be filled on a first come-first serve basis. Registration fees include course materials, lodging (campsite) in Samuel P. Taylor State Park, daily light morning meal. The course registration fee is \$700.00. The workshop dates are April 7-11, 2003. For further information and registration contact: Sandy Scoggin, California Partners in Flight Coordinator, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970; Phone: 415-868-0655, ext. 313; Fax: 415-868-9363; <mailto:sscoggin@prbo.org>

EXPERIENCED HAWK COUNTERS NEEDED

Three experienced hawk counters are needed at Veracruz, Mexico to monitor the world's largest hawk migration flyway during fall 2003 (20 Aug to 20 Nov). Pronatura Veracruz, a Mexican non-profit organization is conducting the long term monitoring Veracruz River of Raptors project that documents the migration of most of North American raptor species, as well as large aquatic bird migration. Positions require enthusiastic individuals well skilled in long-distance hawk identification, counting huge multi-species flocks, and very constant sky scanning. Spanish is not necessary, but interest in learning it is. Weather: Hot and humid with a few windy/rainy days. Work schedule from 8am to 6pm daily, two days on and one off, rotating randomly between two count sites. Pronatura Veracruz will cover housing (rustic conditions, without luxuries, but not uncomfortable, sharing rooms and preparing our own meals), as well as airfare and a stipend in Mexican pesos, equivalent to around US\$580 per month, to cover your food and transportation in and around Veracruz during work related activities. Application deadline is March 30, 2003. Please send cover letter, resume, phone number and email addresses of 3 references to Rafael Rodriguez, Pronatura Veracruz, Antonio Ma. de Rivera 12-2 Centro, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico. 91000; <mailto:rdguezmr@hotmail.com> .

ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSITION OPENING

The Human Ecology Department of the Merida Campus (Yucatan), of Mexico's National Research Center, Centro de Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados del I.P.N. (CINVESTAV) announces a position opening for a landscape ecologist or terrestrial ecologist, with experience on the interactions of ecosystems, socio-cultural systems, and human well-being. The responsibilities of the position include teaching courses and directing

theses in the Masters of Science program in Human Ecology. Those who are interested must have completed their doctorate and have published at least two articles in peer-reviewed journals or two chapters in books by recognized academic presses. Preferably they will also have experience in teaching and thesis advising. Fluency in Spanish is required. Applicants should belong to the Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (SNI, a national registry of scientific researchers officially recognized for the quality of their work) or have the necessary qualifications to request appointment to this body. For details on SNI visit: <http://www.conacyt.mx>. For more information contact: Dr. Federico H. Dickinson B., Departamento de Ecología Humana. CINVESTAV, Apartado Postal 73 Cordemex, Merida, Yucatan 97310, MEXICO, Tel. (999) 981-2942 ext. 540, 541 Fax (999) 981-4670, <mailto:dickinso@mda.cinvestav.mx>. For more information on the Human Ecology Department visit: <http://www.mda.cinvestav.mx/Ecologia/Home.html>

MEETINGS

75TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Cooper Ornithological Society will hold its 75th Annual Meeting from 30 April through 03 May 2003 in Flagstaff, AZ at the duBois Conference Center. In addition to regular paper sessions and social activities, there will be symposia/workshops on Ecology and Management of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), Shrubland Bird Ecology and Conservation, and Estimating Avian Abundance. See the Annual Meeting link at the web site for all details at: <http://www.cooper.org>

26th WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BIRD STRIKE COMMITTEE, Warsaw, Poland, May 5-9 2003. The meeting will address collisions between aircraft and birds, hosted by the Bird Strike Committee Poland. The first conference details and forms can now be downloaded from the International Bird Strike Committee website at: <http://www.int-birdstrike.com>. For more information contact: International Bird Strike Committee, Chairman's Office, Royal Netherlands Airforce c/o Luit Buurma STL/AOO/SNEB, PO Box 20703 2500 ES, The Hague Netherlands, Tel: ++ 31 70 3396346, Fax: ++31 70 3396347, <mailto:luitbuurma@worldmail.nl>

6TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON BIRDS OF PREY AND OWLS, May 18-25, 2003. The conference is hosted by The World Working Group on Birds of Prey & Owls (WWGBP) and will take place at the Hotel Agro Conference Center in Budapest, Hungary. For further information contact: WWGBP, P.O. Box 52, Towcester NN12 7ZW, England, Tel/Fax: ++44-1604-86 23 31, <mailto:WWGBP@aol.com> or <mailto:robin.chancellor@virgin.net>; or visit: <http://www.Raptors-International.de> or <http://www.egroups.com/group/raptor-conservation>

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point and the USDA Forest Service International Programs will co-sponsor this seminar. A mixture of instruction and facilitated discussions will engage participants on critical global and regional watershed management issues, emphasizing innovative approaches to watersheds to work across a wide range of biophysical and socioeconomic settings. Particular attention will be given to the management of watersheds in developing and newly emerging market economies. Seminar dates are June 15-28, 2003. The tuition cost is \$4000. Application deadline is April 1, 2003. For further information or to apply go to: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/is/welcome.html>

14TH MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY, July 21-26, 2003, Tobago Hilton Hotel, Island of Tobago. The meeting will host its usual assortment of scientific sessions, but there are also several interesting workshops planned. These include the following: 1) Media Workshop: to involve both media representatives as well as persons who want to learn how to effectively use the media for public

education and support; 2) Avitourism as a business; 3) Invasive species in the Caribbean; 4) Conflicts between Birds and Agriculture. Soon there will be the call for papers and the invitation to register. We are currently negotiating the most favorable rates possible, and working in conjunction with the local committee to provide with you with a comprehensive information package to help finalize your plans to attend. For more information visit: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/SCSCB/index.html>

2003 MEETING OF THE WATERBIRD SOCIETY, September 24-27, 2003, Cuiaba, 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 Ornitologia 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>

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. Abstract deadline is May 1, 2003. More information can be found at <http://www.ducksymp3.com>

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

COMMON BIRDS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Sociedad Ornitologica de la Hispaniola has published, "Aves Comunes de la Republica Dominicana / Common Birds of the Dominican Republic." This is a bilingual guide to 60 of the most common and interesting birds of the country. The book, written by Steven Latta and illustrated with photographs by Eladio Fernandez and others, is an introduction to birds for tourists, schoolchildren, and birdwatchers. The guide is available in the United States from the author for \$12, which includes shipping. All proceeds are used to provide free copies to schoolchildren in the Dominican Republic. Contact: Steven Latta, PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA. 94970-9701. Telephone: 415-868-0655 ext. 304; Fax: 415-868-9363; <mailto:slatta@prbo.org>

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)

Casey, D; J. Trimble, W. Hallwachs, D. Brooks, and D. Janzen. 2003. Letters: Migratory Birds and the Spread of West Nile. **Science 299: 821.**

Dial, K. P. 2003. Wing-assisted incline running and the evolution of flight. **Science 299:402.**

Eva, H. D., F. Achard, Stibig, H. Jurgen, and P. Mayaux. 2003. Response to comment on "Determination of deforestation rates of the world's humid tropical forests." **Science 299: 1015.**

Fearnside, P, M. and W. F. Laurence. 2003. Comment on "Determination of deforestation rates of the world's humid tropical forests." **Science 299: 1015.**

Herzog, S.K., R. Soria A., A. Troncoso J. & E. Matthysen. 2002. Composition and spatial structure of avian mixed-species flocks in a high-Andean Polylepis forest in Bolivia. **Ecotropica 8: 133-143.**

Palleroni, A. and M. Hauser. 2003. Experience-dependent plasticity for auditory processing in a raptor. **Science 299: 1195.**

Tuomisto, Hanna; K. Ruokolainen, and M. Yli-Halla. 2003. Dispersal, environment, and floristic variation of western Amazonian forests. **Science 299:241.**

LA TANGARA is the bimonthly newsletter of the International Working Group of Partners in Flight. Contributions to the next issue are welcome (preferably by Email or diskette). Send materials and comments to: Jose Manuel Zolotoff, Editor, Fundacion Cocibolca, Apartado C-212, Managua, Nicaragua.

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