



PARTNERS IN FLIGHT NEWSLETTER

www.PartnersInFlight.org
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January 2012

PIF Strategic Plan

The PIF Strategic Plan Working Group has completed a first draft of the new Strategic Plan. This will undergo two brief rounds of internal review – one by the Working Group and then one by the full PIF Steering Committee. Comments and suggestions will be incorporated by 20 January. At that time, we will distribute the plan widely to PIF partners for further comment, and a presentation will be prepared for NABCI for the following week's meeting. Once our goals and actions are well delineated, we'll be looking for team leads and team members to begin implementing actions. Remember that we are working on a 3-year timeline, so actions will be specific and achievable. You will not see grand but vague components that don't ultimately result in anything.—PIF Steering Committee; Brad Jacobs, Chair, (Brad.Jacobs@mdc.mo.gov) and John Alexander, Vice-Chair, (jda@KlamathBird.org)

Mesoamerican Wind Symposium

At the SMBC conference in Merida (24-28 October 2011), Andrew Rothman of the American Bird Conservancy took the lead on a day-long symposium, "Wind Energy; Sharing Experiences and Planning ahead for Potential Impacts on Biodiversity". The symposium was very successful and a report with recommendations is nearing completion. A recurring issue was the need for more complete and transparent communication among the various interests. Contact Andrew Rothman (arothman@abcbirds.org) if you want to be sure to see the final report. Hopefully, participants will continue to work on actions during the February Wind Energy Forum in Mexico.—Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov)

PIF Science Committee

The PIF SC is currently 1) working with the State of the Birds Science Team to design a step-down pilot for aridlands birds on public lands in the West. Some results will be presented and discussed at the WWG meeting in April [see meetings below], 2) collaborating with the Tri-Initiative Science Team on a number of topics for the TriST meeting in February, 3) finalizing plans for a symposium and a day-long meeting at the NAOC in August (see meeting below), 4) updating the *PIF Species Assessment Handbook*, and 5) finalizing BCR-scale

species assessment scores. The new scores will be available on the web, hopefully, within a few weeks.—Ken Rosenberg, chair (kvr2@cornell.edu).

La Tangara

La Tangara No 75 is ready to download. <http://www.latangara.org/archive.htm>.—Jose M. Zolotoff-Pallais (zolotoff@ibw.com.ni)

IMBD 2012

International Migratory Bird Day will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2012. Created in 1993, the event is now hosted at over 500 sites throughout the Western Hemisphere, reaching hundreds of thousands of youth and adults. As part of the 20th anniversary celebrations, the annual bird conservation theme will focus on 20 ways people may help preserve birds every day. The theme is highlighted in the 2012 art created by Rafael Lopez. The lively piece reflects the joy, curiosity, and beauty of birds, while sharing the importance of community in bird conservation. Check out the final artwork and a very cool video of the actual t-shirt screen printing.—Susan Bonfield (sbonfield@aol.com)

Next International PIF Conference

We have begun to plan for the next PIF conference. Right now, we are thinking of holding this in the summer of 2013 in the central Rocky Mountains, no more than 1 hour from a major airport. The focus will be on conservation actions, both on-the-ground and policy, with a particular appeal to decision makers. The American Bird Conservancy is taking the lead. If you know of any conflicts or dates to avoid, please let us know immediately.—David Pashley (dpashley@abcbirds.org)

Bird Education Alliance for Conservation

Ashley Dayer is compiling a report of BEAC (<http://www.birdedalliance.org/>) accomplishments for 2011 and 2010. Our goal is to have this completed by the North American in March.—Ashley Dayer (aad86@CORNELL.EDU)

NABCI Awards

On behalf of the NABCI Awards Subcommittee, I'm writing to ask for your nominations for the 2012 Gary T. Meyers Bird Conservation Award. **Nominations are due 13 January** from NABCI Committee Members or partners to Allison Vogt. The recipient will be recognized at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. Details are available from Allison Vogt (AVogt@fishwildlife.org).

BirdNote®

PIF has endorsed BirdNote's plan to create and distribute a radio series entitled *The Science of Bird Migration through Story, Sound and Field Experience*. We see this partnership benefiting all partners because we share common goals: to increase the public's understanding of the challenges birds face during migration and ways to ameliorate those challenges. We expect to provide ideas and scientific support for programs. This is very good stuff. Check it out at <http://www.birdnote.org/>.—Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov)

Webinars

Recent bird conservation webinars are now available for viewing at your convenience:

State Fish & Wildlife Agencies and Joint Ventures: Working Collaboratively for Better Bird Conservation and Building Geospatial Decision Support Systems for State-based Conservation. Both at <http://breeze.cce.cornell.edu/p45358468/>.

Developing a State-based Coordinated Bird Monitoring Program at <http://breeze.cce.cornell.edu/p88644263/>

—Ashley Anne Dayer (aad86@cornell.edu) and Allison Vogt (AVogt@FishWildlife.org)

Bird-friendly Building Design

I am very pleased to announce the debut of ABC's new publication, Bird-friendly Building Design. The project began when New York City Audubon asked ABC to take over responsibility for updating its Bird-safe Building Guidelines and distributing it on a national basis. The work became much more than an update, as the growth of ABC's Glass Collisions Program made clear the need for a definitive look at what we know and inclusion of new developments in this rapidly changing field. It is now a comprehensive view of the issue, intended to be accessible to interested individuals, as well as professionals such as architects and contractors. It can be downloaded here:

<http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/BirdFriendlyBuildingDesign.pdf>.—Christine Sheppard (csheppard@abcbirds.org)

World Land Trust Protects More Habitat

World Land Trust-US recently announced the protection of 264,382 acres of habitat, from tropical forests to paramo, across the Antisana Volcano in Ecuador. This is one of the most significant conservation accomplishments in recent decades, and comes after years of dedicated work by WLT-US and our partner in Ecuador, Fundación Jocotoco. The initiative also has garnered the support of the

Ecuadorian government and the municipal government of the City of Quito. This represents one of the greatest conservation successes ever in the Andes." noted Dr. Robert Ridgely, Executive Director of WLT-US and a primary driving force behind this success. See <http://www.worldlandtrust-us.org/> for more.

The Migratory Connectivity Project

The MCP is an initiative to conduct comprehensive life cycle analyses for wildlife, pushing forward the science of animal movements and connectivity by:

- 1) Advancing the use of current technologies and facilitating development of new technologies to increase the understanding of migratory connectivity.
- 2) Studying migratory connectivity and seasonal interactions at multiple temporal and spatial scales.
- 3) Integrating the use of migratory connectivity knowledge (data, models, analyses) to make it available to environmental managers and policy makers for informed decision making.
- 4) Working among government agencies and with a suite of public and private partners to accomplish these tasks.
- 5) Educating the public about migratory connectivity and international conservation. <http://migratoryconnectivityproject.org/index.html>

USFWS Focal Species Web Site

The USFWS has revised its Focal Species Strategy to more narrowly identify those species in which we will focus efforts from FY2012-2016. The Service has also created a new Focal Species page on its website. Focal Species Action Plans, a Fact Sheet and Q&As, and other information can now be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Management/FocalSpecies.html>.—Nanette Seto (nanette_seto@fws.gov)

Midwest Avian Data Center User's Guide

The Midwest Avian Data Center (MWADC) is a cooperative effort between PRBO Conservation Science, the USFWS's Midwest Region, and the Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership. MWADC serves as a regional data node for the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) and is modeled after the California Avian Network Center (CADC). With the contributions from these and other resources, the Avian Knowledge Network maintains datasets representing monitoring efforts across North America (and beyond). In this brief User's Guide, we describe data management and decision support tools offered by MWADC. These tools are designed to manage and analyze bird monitoring data in support of avian conservation and management decisions. Download at: http://midwestbirdmonitoring.ning.com/?xq_source=msg_mes_network.—Katie Koch (katie_koch@fws.gov)

Boreal Birds at Risk

Birds at Risk: The Importance of Canada's Boreal Wetlands and Waterways is now available at <http://www.borealbirds.org/report-birdswater.shtml>. This report looks at three natural areas in the boreal forest that are critical for birds, but that are coming under pressure from industry, hydropower, and climate change. We discuss some strong policy steps governments must take in order to protect the watery forest and the great biodiversity of birds it supports. There also is a blog on the Boreal Songbird Initiative site that covers highlights of the report. (<http://www.borealbirds.org/blog/?p=922>). Jeff Wells (jwells@intl boreal.org)

Gyrfalcons and Ptarmigan in a Changing World

More than 150 scientists, students, managers, and other conservationists attended the conference, *Gyrfalcons and Ptarmigan in a Changing World*, at Boise State University, 1-3 February 2011. Participants from Canada, Iceland, Scandinavia, Russia, the United States, and other nations gathered to share their findings and determine what knowledge gaps remain on this complex topic. The proceedings consist of 73 research papers and related charts and graphs.

Articles may be downloaded for non-commercial purposes at:

<http://www.peregrinefund.org/subsites/conference-gyr/proceedings/index.html>.

The proceedings will be available as a printed book, with ordering information and prices to be announced in February.—Marta Curti

(mcurti@peregrinefund.org)

State of the Birds – San Francisco Bay

The first-ever *State of the Birds Report for San Francisco Bay* was released today by PRBO Conservation Science and the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. Based on decades of monitoring, 29 partners detail the actions needed to keep birds and their habitats thriving as sea levels rise and extreme storm events increase due to global climate change. The good news is that a majority of bird species are doing well after decades of investments in habitat restoration and other conservation measures around the Bay. The bad news is that increasing sea levels, extreme weather events, non-native predators, contaminants, and invasive species pose serious threats to the gains made. The report is available at www.prbo.org/sfbaystateofthebirds.—Melissa Pitkin (mpitkin@prbo.org)

SFBJV Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

The *San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Monitoring & Evaluation Plan Phase I* document modules are now published and are available for download at: <http://sfbayjv.org/monitoring-evaluation.php>. The M&E Plan will direct the systematic evaluation of the response of conservation targets, such as habitats and species, to SFBJV conservation delivery actions in the context of landscape scale environmental change. The resulting monitoring and research data will

provide information upon which to base management, conservation planning, and policy decisions. The resulting data will increase understanding of the effectiveness of SFBJV partner conservation delivery in benefitting wetland habitats and associated target wildlife populations at various scales.—Christina Sloop (csloop@sfbayjv.org)

Flying WILD Receives Award

Flying WILD, a program of the Council for Environmental Education, has received The Wildlife Society's Conservation Education Award. Under the category of "Writings- Books," this award recognizes books which effectively convey sound conservation concepts to the public. *Flying WILD* is a nationally distributed bird education program delivered primarily by a City Partner network made up of nature centers, zoos, aquariums, museums, Audubon centers, etc., whereby City Partners are responsible for building training networks in their own cities and communities. Since the launch of *Flying WILD* in 2004, the City Partner network has grown to include more than 40 organizations who provide professional development opportunities to educators who have collectively reached more than 400,000 students. See <http://www.flyingwild.org/>.

La Red de Educadores Ambientales de México

The Network of Environmental Educators of Mexico is a new online community that provides a forum for conservation educators in Mexico to connect, share tools and experiences, and learn from each other. The bilingual site includes a virtual library where members can access environmental education literature, tools, and materials, a calendar of events to promote upcoming environmental education conferences, workshops, and classes, and a mechanism for communicating with others working in the field of conservation education. Help build this new community by creating a free profile at <http://www.reambi.org/>.—Jennie Duberstein (jennie_duberstein@fws.gov)

Focus on Diversity Video and Resources

The *Focus on Diversity: Changing the Face of American Birding* conference was held at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Philadelphia, PA to openly address diversity in the birding community. Over 100 participants gathered to make a difference in the future of birds and birding. We've put together a series of post-conference pages to highlight the issue and provide some strategies to help birders and bird educators become effective conduits for bringing bird education to more people. Most of the conference presentations have been archived online. The first segment and links to the others can be accessed at www.fledgingbirders.org/CFABLIVE.html.—Dave Magpiong (dayvm@aol.com)

New Web Site for ProAves

Fundación ProAves was formed in 1998 out of the initiative of a group of dedicated Colombian conservationist interested in saving the Yellow-eared Parrot. ProAves's mission is to protect birds and their habitats in Colombia through research, conservation actions and community outreach. A lot has happened since the beginning, so check out their new web site at www.proaves.org to see what's going on today.

New listserv for the Integrated Monitoring in BCRs

A listserv has been created for the IMBCR partnership: IMBCR-L@LISTS.UMT.EDU. This listserv was created to share general information for the partnership: Meeting announcements and notes, information on availability of reports, etc. If you want to subscribe to this listserv send an email to Paul Lukacs at paul.lukacs@cfc.umt.edu in the subject line write IMBCR subscribe.— Robert Skorkowsky (rskorkowsky@fs.fed.us)

Peruvian Postage Stamps Feature Endangered Birds

Thanks to the efforts of Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN), American Bird Conservancy's partner in Peru, and the Natural History Museum of San Marcos (UNMSM), the Peruvian Postal Service (SERPOST) has announced two new postage stamps featuring two of the world's most endangered birds. The stamps depict the endangered Marvelous Spatuletail and the critically endangered White-bellied Cinclodes, both known only to live in Peru. See <http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/111020.html> for more.

BLM Wind Energy Development Zones

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced plans to create a rule authorizing competitive leasing for wind and solar projects on the public land it administers. The announcement states that before competitive leasing for wind projects could occur, the agency would designate wind energy development zones. BLM's Federal Register Notice is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-12-29/html/2011-33429.htm> and the agency is accepting public comments and suggestions about the proposed rulemaking until 27 February 2012.

Bird Conservation Alliance Presentations Available

This fall, the Bird Conservation Alliance held its annual meeting at the offices of the U.S. Senate to highlight a number of pending threats and opportunities. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife provided a rousing keynote address. We also heard presentations on generating support for bird conservation programs facing severe budgets cuts,

the many benefits of birds, and opportunities to create jobs. Presentations from this and from previous BCA meetings can be downloaded from <http://www.birdconservationalliance.org/meetings/lastmeeting.html>.

New Pollinator Conservation & Education Products

The USFWS recently released 2 new Pollinator Conservation & Education products, an 8-page brochure entitled: *Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden* and stickers featuring 8 different pollinators. You can see both these products, and find out how to order them at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/EC-Pollinators>. The *Attracting Pollinators to your Garden* is also available for downloading from <http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/PollinatorPages/YourHelp.html>. The public can order these brochures through the Publications Center, but they are not available individually. They have to be purchased in packages of 50.—Dolores Savignano (dolores_savignano@fws.gov)

Encyclopedia of Life

The Encyclopedia of Life (EOL, www.eol.org) is a free online source of biodiversity information. Our Vision: Global access to knowledge about life on Earth. Our Mission: To increase awareness and understanding of living nature through an Encyclopedia of Life that gathers, generates, and shares knowledge in an open, freely accessible and trusted digital resource.—Tracy Barbaro (tbarbaro@eol.org)

Latin American Travel Awards for NAOC

To encourage the participation of Latin Americans in the V North American Ornithological Congress to be held from 14-18 August 2012 in Vancouver, Canada, the ornithological societies sponsoring NAOC-V are offering travel awards to Latin American students and young professionals. The **deadline for travel award applications is 15 January 2012**. Details can be obtained from the conference web page: <http://www.naoc-v2012.com/latin-american-awards>.

Intermountain West JV Capacity Grants

The Intermountain West Joint Venture is a diverse public-private partnership that works across parts of eleven states to deliver strategic habitat conservation for migratory birds and other priority bird species. The intent of the Capacity Grants Program is to build capacity and catalyze partnerships to increase bird habitat conservation in the Intermountain West. Please see www.iwfv.org for details. **Deadline is 31 January 2012**.—Ali Duvall (ali.duvall@iwfv.org)

Urban Waters Small Grants Request for Proposals

EPA expects to award between \$1.8 to \$3.8 million in grants for projects across the country that will contribute to improved water quality and community revitalization. The goal of these Urban Waters Small Grants is to fund research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities. **Deadline 23 January 2012**
<http://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding/index.html>.

Funding opportunity for British Commonwealths

Commonwealth Foundation -- Civil Society Responsive Grants 2011. The Civil Society Responsive Grants include a theme for Natural Environment. Eligibility is open to registered nonprofit organizations representing civil society, cultural and human rights organizations, trade unions, and social enterprises in the 47 countries which are members of the Commonwealth Foundation. Grants of up to £12,500 are intended to promote cross-country sharing of knowledge and skills within the Commonwealth. **Quarterly deadlines are 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, and 31 December.**
<http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/Howwedeliver/Grants.aspx>

Human Disturbance and Waterbirds

A Review of Human Disturbance Impacts on Waterbirds by Kathi L. Borgmann is a literature review of relevant 80 studies. The white paper is available from me.—Beth Huning (bhuning@sfbayjv.org)

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Nevada Joint Bird Partnership Meeting

The Nevada Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Nevada Partners in Flight and the Nevada Bird Habitat Conservation Partnership will meet jointly on 26-27 January 2012 in Reno. Details are available at <http://nbhpc.blogspot.com/>.—Robin Wilson (rwilson@nevadaaudubon.org)

Southeast Partners in Flight

The 2012 annual meeting of SEPIF will be in Raleigh, NC, on 7-9 February 2012. The theme will be *Birds in a Changing Environment* with session topics such as alternative/renewable energy, urbanization, fire suppression, education and invasive species. Watch <http://sepif.org/> and the listservs for more details as they develop.—Scott Anderson (scott.anderson@ncwildlife.org)

Wind Energy Forum in Mexico

The Mexican Wind Energy Association, A.C. and the Global Wind Energy Council will hold a Wind Energy Forum on 14–15 February 2012, at Centro Banamex (Ave. Conscripto 311, Col. Lomas de Sotelo, Deleg. Miguel Hidalgo), Mexico, D.F. For more information contact Eduardo Flores eduardo.flores@mexicowindpower.com.mx or visit: <http://www.mexicowindpower.com.mx/>.

Next National PIF Committee Meetings

The PIF Steering Committee will meet 10-11 March in Athens, GA, and other national committees will hold their spring meetings in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference (<http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/>) in Atlanta 12-17 March 2012. Logistics and agendas will be distributed via the PIF listservs, but see the web site for general North American information.

Michigan Bird Conservation Workshop

The 6th Annual Michigan Bird Conservation Workshop will be held 22-24 March 2012 at the Kettunen Center in Tustin, MI. Everyone interested in Bird Conservation will benefit from this workshop. Citizen scientist trainings, Flying WILD training, talks from USFWS and DNR biologists, research updates from NMU, CMU and MSU students and faculty and more. See <http://www.mibci.org/> for details.

New Mexico Ornithological Society

The New Mexico Ornithological Society (NMOS) will hold its 50th Annual Meeting on 31 March 2012 at the Best Western Rio Grande Inn, located just north of the Old Town historic district of Albuquerque. This meeting will include an NMOS business meeting, celebration of our 50th Anniversary, an NMOS general science session, and an evening banquet with a keynote banquet speaker to be announced later. Further details on the meeting will be posted on the NMOS website (<http://www.nmbirds.org>) as they become available.—Janet Ruth (janet_ruth@usgs.gov)

PIF Western Working Group

The PIF Western Working Group will meet in Reno, NV, the week of 2 April 2012. The first day will be devoted to stepping down 2011 State of the Birds data for aridlands birds, with a focus on sagebrush birds. This will include a half day on bird-habitat modeling and a half day on delineating a practical implementation process with public land managers. We believe this pilot will be useful step forward and will help guide actions for the rest of the species, habitats and

agencies in the U.S. Details will be shared via listservs as they are firmed up.—
Michael Green (michael_green@fws.gov) and Jamie Stephens
(jlh@klamathbird.org)

Biodiversity Without Boundaries 2012

The 2012 BWB conference will be held 22-26 April 2012 in Portland, OR. The agenda tracks are Science, Technology & Tools, and Planning & Leadership. The goal of each annual BWB conference is to tackle urgent and emerging international conservation needs through science, collaboration, and leadership. See <http://natureserve.org/index.jsp> for details.

Southeastern Prairie Symposium

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks and Mississippi State University are co-hosting the Southeastern Prairie Symposium on 14-17 May 2012 at MSU. This concept came about from a collaborative effort among us – MSU (Wildlife and Entomology departments), Wildlife Mississippi, and the USFWS – when discussing how successful we have been at restoring imperiled prairie habitats and how we can catalog lessons learned now that some of those funding opportunities are discontinued. See symposium details at <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/wildlife/prairie/>.—Scott Edwards (sedwards@cfg.msstate.edu)

SCB North American Congress for Conservation Biology

The Society for Conservation Biology North America Congress for Conservation Biology is a bi-annual conference for presenting and discussing new research and developments in conservation science and practice. The 2012 conference will be held in Oakland, CA, on 15-18 July 2012, and the theme is *Bridging the Gap: Connecting People, Nature, & Climate*. See <http://www.scbnacongress.org/> for details.—Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov)

WAFWA Annual Conference

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will meet 20-25 July 2012 at the Hilton Waikoloa Village on the Big Island of Hawaii. Details are available at <http://www.wafwa.org/>.

North American Ornithological Conference

The 5th North American Ornithological Conference (NAOC-V) will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in 2012 (<http://www.naoc-v2012.com/>). PIF will have a half-day symposium on the science and research needs of long-distance migrant conservation. We are also planning three days of meetings prior to the conference – a 1-day Science Committee meeting, a 1-day Western

Working Group meeting, and a day of outreach to NAOC attendees. The last is only a concept so far, but the idea is to inform and recruit new participants from the ornithological community. If you have ideas for this, let me know. As mentioned above, we are also seeking travel support for Latin American colleagues to ensure a robust multi-national conversation in Vancouver. This conference is the annual meeting for most North American ornithological societies. Plan now to attend!—Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov)

Phenology 2012 Conference

This second interdisciplinary international conference will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 10-13 September 2012. This conference brings together experts from around the world in all sub-fields of phenology and related disciplines. The overall theme of the conference is *Future Climate and the Living Earth*. Conference products will include a set of peer-reviewed scientific papers in a special issue of the International Journal of Biometeorology. Visit the conference website: www.phenology2012.uwm.edu to see more information and to register for future direct messages.—Mark D. Schwartz (mds@uwm.edu)

Other Ornithological Society Meetings

Details on the annual conferences of other major ornithological societies in North America can be found at <http://www.osnabirds.org/>.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Greg Butcher

Greg has taken on a new job as migratory species coordinator for the Forest Service International Program, working with Carol Lively and working especially with the *Wings Across the Americas* program. Greg looks forward to continuing to work with you all, especially on international issues and projects. Greg has previously worked for the National Audubon Society, the American Birding Association, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, among others. You can reach Greg at gsbutcher@fs.fed.us.

Amanda Conover

Amanda has been hired as the new Program Coordinator for the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (<http://www.obcinet.org/>). She received a BS in Environmental Resource Management from Penn State in 2007 and an MS in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Delaware in 2011. Her research at Penn State was in biogeochemistry, examining the impacts of urbanization on greenhouse gas emissions from soils. For her graduate work, she studied the impacts of non-native plants on bird populations in suburban forest fragments. Since coming to Ohio this year, she worked as a research assistant for Ohio

State and surveyed birds in a variety of habitats across the state as part of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II. In the coming months, Amanda will focus on increasing public awareness for OBCI and reconnecting with OBCI member organizations. She can be reached at PO Box 21370, Columbus, OH 43211, 614-432-8489, obcicoordinator@gmail.com.

Jorge Velasquez

Jorge Velasquez has been hired by Audubon as a Spatial Ecologist. Jorge received a BSc in Biology from the National University of Colombia and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology and Evolution at Stony Brook University. His research focuses on the development and use of spatial statistical methods to model population dynamics and species' distributions. He used those methods to research the likely impacts of climate and land cover change on the distribution of birds of conservation concern in Colombia under a NASA fellowship. As a spatial analyst for Audubon, Jorge will aid the identification of Globally Significant Important Bird Areas across the US by compiling and analyzing spatial data on birds from the Breeding Bird Survey, Christmas Bird Count, and other available data. You can reach Jorge at jvelasquez@audubon.org.—John Cecil (jcecil@audubon.org)

Joseph Caprio (1923-2011)

I don't usually post these sorts of things, but I thought this guy was pretty visionary. Joe Caprio initiated the first spatially extensive phenology monitoring in the US. As a professor at Montana State University, he collaborated with agricultural experiment stations in the 1950s to employ phenology to characterize seasonal weather patterns and improve predictions of crop yield. This project eventually included around 2,500 volunteer observers distributed throughout 12 Western states. Read more at <http://www.usanpn.org/mem-caprio>.

The next newsletter will be issued on 1 April 2011. Items are due 15 March 2012 to Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov).