



PARTNERS IN FLIGHT NEWSLETTER

<http://www.partnersinflight.org>

April 2005

2004 PIF Awards

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Director Steve Williams presented the 2004 PIF awards during the USFWS reception at the recent North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Arlington, VA. For the full award citations, please visit the Partners in Flight web page.

Leadership

Joe Hautzenroder - for his long-term work as liaison between the Department of Defense and Partners in Flight.

Otte Hendrick Ottema - for Leadership in bird research and conservation in Suriname.

Stewardship

Kevin O’Kane - for Stewardship in industrial and wetland habitats of coastal North Carolina.

Pennsylvania Game Commission - for their role in the Pennsylvania Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program: Restoring grassland, farmland, and riparian habitats for birds.

Investigations

Bird Studies Canada - for Coordinated national-scale monitoring of boreal migrants.

Dr. Chris Elphick - for his long-term work on saltmarsh-breeding sparrows along the Connecticut coast.

Public Awareness

Linda Winter - for Education and Outreach work for Citizens About Bird Conservation, particularly with the Cats Indoors program.

José Manuel Zolotoff-Pallais - for his work in writing and translating *La Tangara*, the newsletter of the International Working Group of Partners in Flight.

The American Birding Association (<http://www.americanbirding.org/>) is once again providing full sponsorship of the 2004 PIF Awards. ABA continues to be an outstanding supporter of PIF.—Rich Fischer

Breeding Bird Survey – Birders Needed!

PIF is continuing to work with the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and the BBS staff at Patuxent to get all Breeding Bird Survey routes run every year. Most of us understand the incredible importance of the BBS. But, in fact, every year only about 3,000 of the 4,000 routes are run. Patuxent has produced a new brochure that targets expert birders and invites them to become involved. ABC has developed several fact sheets, news releases, and similar materials that can be used to recruit involvement from a variety of people and organizations. We need your help in distributing these materials to potential new BBSers. According to our analysis, the single biggest improvement we can make toward understanding the long-term population trends of North American landbirds is to ensure that every BBS route is run every year. Contact Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov) or Alicia Craig (acraig@abcbirds.org) for materials.

International Migratory Bird Day

The date for IMBD 2005 is May 14 (as always, the second Saturday in May). That's the "official" date, but you can celebrate birds anytime! The IMBD 2005 Catalog of Products has been printed and distributed. There are a variety of new items, including of course, theme-related materials. If you haven't received a catalog, write to IMBD@fws.gov or examine products on-line at www.birdday.org. The 2005 posters and t-shirts feature artwork by David Sibley portraying the "Collisions: Clear the Way for Birds" theme. Best wishes as you plan your activities. Contact us anytime.—Sue Bonfield (sbonfield@aol.com) and Jennifer Wheeler (Jennifer_A_Wheeler@fws.gov)

North American Landbird Conservation Plan PDF

The *Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan* (Rich et al. 2004) - otherwise referred to as the PIF Continental Plan - is now available on-line in downloadable form on the Partners in Flight website. The Plan is accessible in four sections using two PDF versions (one for web viewing and one higher quality version for printing). Thanks to Ken Rosenberg, Janet Ruth, and Lois Loges (USGS) for dogging this surprisingly thorny issue to its happy ending. And we still have hard copies.

Mexican Species Assessment

Part of the Mexican team met last January with Arvind Panjabi at Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory to review and complete species regional scores and new global scores for the global database. There is still some work to do in the next 2 months, and the Mexican delegation likely will meet in Mexico City in April to finish this part.

After the competition of the assessment it is very likely that Mexico will publish a national all-bird Species Conservation Assessment report and provide the databases to the public. The landbird component likely will be published in the next version of the PIF Continental Plan. The Mexican NABC Committee has recommended that we should name this new version The PIF North American Land Bird Species *Assessment* rather than *Plan*. The reasons are primarily two: what we are really presenting to the public is a conservation assessment of the species and populations in each region; and in Mexico, a plan means objectives and actions to be taken – it's more like a mandate. Thus, a *plan* will be more difficult to adopt than an *assessment*.—Eduardo E. Iñigo-Elias (eei2@cornell.edu)

National Conservation Need

We have received very good news from IAFWA. They have approved a Multi-state Conservation Grant for FY06 that was submitted by IAFWA's Bird Conservation Committee. Here is an abridged version.

Subject: Large-scale Habitat Design, Implementation, and Monitoring for Bird Conservation

Statement of Need: The conservation of hundreds of species of birds whose ranges overlap political and biological boundaries requires science-based, large-scale, multi-species conservation design, implementation, and monitoring involving all state fish and wildlife agencies at national and regional levels.

Guidelines: This NCN applies to all 50 states and the 4 regional associations and addresses several strategies identified in IAFWA's Strategic Plan: 1) Assist, facilitate and coordinate the management of migratory bird species within and across state boundaries to ensure that the states and the bird species receive the greatest benefit from the states' management efforts. 2) Assist states, provinces/territories, federal agencies and other organizations with coordination and implementation of the various bird conservation programs. 3) Develop and expand partnerships between state/provincial/territorial agencies, federal agencies and private organizations in order to address key issues.

Desired Outcomes: 1) Enhanced GIS capacity across the entire U.S., including improved spatial analysis and modeling tools; 2) improved development, integration and implementation of bird conservation plans and habitat objectives into Joint Ventures, state and federal agency planning, and other delivery mechanisms such as the Farm Bill programs and NAWCA; 3) development and implementation of comprehensive bird monitoring systems and harvest management regimes for migratory and resident bird species.

For the full NCN, contact Debbie Hahn (dhahn@iafwa.org) or Terry. A Request for Proposals is expected in April. Watch the IAFWA web site and the listservs for more details. This NCN is just what we need at this point.—Terry

NABCI Monitoring Subcommittee

The US NABCI Committee has now formed a Monitoring Subcommittee to continue pursuit of coordinated bird monitoring. The Subcommittee's charge is to provide technical support to the US NABCI Committee and to produce a framework document that will strengthen Federal, State, NGO and international collaboration for effective monitoring of bird populations and pertinent environmental conditions. Subcommittee members include Paul Schmidt (USFWS, Chair), Bea Van Horne (USFS, Vice-chair), Bob Szaro (USGS), Dale Humburg (IAFWA), Mike Rabe (Upland Shore and Migratory Game Bird Working Group), Wes Burger (Resident Game Bird Working Group), Jon Bart (Partners in Flight), Bruce Peterjohn (Waterbird Initiative), Stephen Brown (Shorebird Initiative), Mark Koneff (Waterfowl Plan), and Ken Rosenberg (NGO – Cornell). Two positions on the subcommittee will be held open so that if additional technical expertise is needed in a particular subject area in the future, those positions can be filled with people having the requisite skills.

Others directly involved include Richard Bishop, liaison from the U.S. NABCI Committee to the Subcommittee, Charles Francis, Canadian liaison, and Humberto Berlanga, Mexican liaison. Technical staff support will be provided by John Sauer (USGS), Christina Vojta (USFS), Brad Andres (USFWS), and Debbie Hahn (IAFWA). The IAFWA Joint PIF/Waterbird/Shorebird Working Group recommended that the Subcommittee communicate on a regular basis with the bird conservation community.

PIF Council Adds Meso PIF Seat

At the recent meeting of the PIF Council in Arlington, members voted unanimously to add a seat on the Council for the Mesoamerica PIF Working Group. Jose Manuel Zolotoff, who attended the North American to make a presentation to the IAFWA Joint PIF/Shorebird/Waterbird Working Group, was given a letter of invitation from chair Bruce McCloskey to hand carry back to

Nicaragua. The Mesoamerican PIF working group will meet later this year to select a Council member.

Next Mesoamerican PIF Workshop

As a result of the great success of last fall's Meso PIF symposium in Managua, we are planning to repeat the meeting, again in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation. The 2005 conference will be in Honduras (exact dates TBA). PRBO Conservation Science has already agreed to work with PIF to add training to the agenda. Presentations and working sessions are also expected to be part of the 2005 meeting.—Terry

PIF Strategic Plan

The PIF Council chair, Bruce McCloskey (Colorado Division of Wildlife) asked the Implementation Committee to review the PIF Strategic Plan, drafted two years ago, to see if we are on track. The review was conducted at the recent meeting in Laurel and a revised plan, with comments on how we're doing, will be circulated to the IC listserv in a couple of weeks.—Terry

Management Guidelines for Birds

PIF continues to proceed to get landbird objectives into the plans and activities of partners. We're very pleased with the interaction we've had with states during their Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan process. As many state wildlife agency personnel are active in PIF and as IAFWA continues to offer numerous opportunities for the exchange of information, we're optimistic about the bird content of these plans. We also continue to work with NRCS to produce a series of guidelines useful for their field people, particularly for programs that affect private lands. And we've just recently begun conversations with the USFS State and Private Forestry program to explore the production of guidelines for private forest lands.—Terry

\$15.4 Million in NAWCA Grants Approved

On March 16, 2005, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, as authorized under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, approved funding for 16 U.S. projects recommended by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council). Partnerships in 11 states received more than \$13.1 million to affect some 138,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands habitats. Partners more than matched the grant requests with a total of \$35.7 million and added \$19.2 million more in nonmatching funds.

In addition, the Commission approved a total of \$2.3 million in funding for 14 projects in 11 Mexican states and for 1 project, an educational program, that will be implemented throughout Mexico. Project partners contributed \$3.5 million in matching funds. Their work will focus on activities such as capacity building, training, monitoring, and habitat restoration and enhancement.

You will find links to U.S. Project Flashes, which contain descriptions of projects found in each state, and to a Standard Grants Summary Table, which provides summary information for the approved projects arrayed by state, at the following web site:

<http://birdhabitat.fws.gov/NAWCA/projects/USprojects/standardgrants031605/USstandardgrantsprojects.html>. --David A. Smith (DBHCcommunications@fws.gov)

North American Bird Conservation Initiative

The US NABCI Committee (<http://www.nabci-us.org/nabci.html>) membership has decided to take a stronger leadership role in the bird conservation community. In response to this, the US NABCI Committee met in late January for a two day meeting to flesh out 3- to 5-year priorities and a 2005-2006 workplan. A fact sheet outlines NABCI's six objectives for 2005-2006. They include a monitoring, communicating bird interests to partners, and working on conservation design at a landscape scale. For a copy of the fact sheet, contact Bob Ford (robert_p_ford@fws.gov)

LMVJV Population Monitoring Web Page

At the recent SE-PIF meeting in McAllen, TX, several people requested the LMVJV Point Count Protocol. As such, The Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Office has recently completed the construction of a population monitoring web page (http://www.lmvjv.org/population_monitoring.htm) to facilitate the distribution of information pertaining to population monitoring. Several documents are available for download, including: the LMVJV point count protocol (a modification of Hamel et al. 1996) and corresponding data sheet; reference material for designing a monitoring program; as well as, Hamel's 1992 book "Land Managers Guide to Birds of the South."

On a related note, the SE-PIF Monitoring Committee has been asked to design a comprehensive, coordinated monitoring program (for forest interior birds) to facilitate the implementation of bird monitoring activities recommended in the NABCI Coordinated Bird Monitoring Report. That is, what is our game plan and how do we go about accomplishing the objective(s) in a coordinated fashion and at multiple spatial scales? As such, we welcome comments and participation from the SE-PIF community.—Randy Wilson ([Randy Wilson@fws.gov](mailto:Wilson@fws.gov))

USFS Land Use Plans and Landbird Objectives

At the recent meetings of the PIF Implementation Committee (IC), the USFS gave a very clear presentation on the new USFS planning rule and what that means for our opportunities to get landbird objectives into USFS land use plans. The key point is that these plans are now going to contain general direction and that most of the specifics will be handed off to the local project (!) level. That means that we can have relatively little influence at the national or regional level through more systemic approaches.

The USFS uses NatureServe as its source of lists of species of concern and only those scoring G1-G3 will automatically be given priority status. Curiously, the Birds of Conservation Concern – the official and legally-mandated list of the USFWS – has no status under the new rule. PIF will explore the relationship between our Watch List and the NatureServe scores for those species. But it will be equally or more important to track individual forest plans and ensure that PIF has input where the opportunities arise. The IC will be working closely with the USFS in the very near future to set up a process for doing this. The *Schedule of Forest Service Land Management Plan Revisions & New Plans* (August 15, 2004) is available from Jina Mariani (jmariani@fs.fed.us).

As a result of this most useful presentation and discussion, we plan to do the same thing for BLM land use planning at our September Implementation Committee meeting.

Asilomar Proceedings

Also at the recent meetings of the PIF Implementation Committee, several of us actually got to see and lift (barely) the Asilomar proceedings. This two-volume beauty is now receiving page numbers and should be coming off the press soon. We'll share information on how to get a copy as soon as it's out. So, now that the proceedings are completed, you know what that means (see next).

Next PIF Conference

In the PIF Strategic Plan (2003) we said that we would begin planning the next international PIF conference. Our previous international conferences have been Estes Park 1992, Cape May 1995, and Asilomar 2002. I proposed that 2008 might be a good year as that gives us some distance from the North American Ornithological Conference scheduled for October 2006 in Mexico which will draw a huge crowd from the bird world. Of course, we'd like our next conference to include all taxa and are beginning discussions with the other bird initiatives to find out what everyone would like to do. All ideas on this proposal are welcome.—
Terry

More Complete PIF Budget

At the recent PIF Council meeting, we again discussed the potential value of showing more in the PIF Operating Budget than we have to date. Specifically, the proposal is to show the time, travel, and other expenses that some of you are contributing. The idea is that we are currently underselling PIF by not showing the large amount of time that we put into PIF annually as a group. For example, the investment in just attending two IC meetings every year is substantial and is not currently shown. The time that many of you spend on species assessment, planning, step-down activities, coordination, awards, the web site, monitoring needs assessment, etc. really adds up. By portraying these figures as we seek further funding, e.g., for the database, we demonstrate that PIF is not a pauper with a tin cup but truly has a very significant ongoing contribution of time and dollars.

The complication is that because PIF is a partnership, everyone at every level who contributes some time or travel to our work could be listed. Clearly, this is impossible. So, I propose that we look at the time, travel, and other expenses that are contributed by the "official" members of the IC. According to our Organizational Structure document:

"The Implementation Committee consists of the chairs of the regional and technical working groups (see below), the National Coordinator, chair of the Science Committee, Staff Coordinators from those partners that have designated them, and representatives from both Canada and Mexico. Staff Coordinators are those individuals who have been officially designated by their agency or organization to serve as a liaison to PIF. In addition, any other interested party is welcome to participate in this committee."

I will report on the results of this discussion as we make decisions.—Terry

Monitoring Needs Assessment

The PIF Science Committee has completed *High Priority Needs for Rangewide Monitoring of North American Landbirds*. The report has been compiled by as a contribution to current work by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative Monitoring Subcommittee to assess the status of bird population monitoring in North America and to make recommendations for improvements. The analysis builds on the monitoring needs assessment in the Continental Plan and adds a fourth needs category (Mo4 - 2/3 or more of Western Hemisphere breeding range is not covered by a breeding-season survey, in that most of the range is south of the U.S. border). The report is currently available via e-mail from me but will soon be up as a pdf on the PIF web site, thanks again to Cornell and USGS.—Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov)

BCR 11-Canada Plan Available

The BCR 11 (Prairie Potholes) Plan for Canada was printed late last fall and there is a small number of copies of the plan available in either hardcopy or CD. Contact Dave Duncan (dave.duncan@ec.gc.ca)

Five Elements White Paper

The PIF Science Team Habitat Subgroup was charged, in part, with finalizing a version of the PIF Five Elements Process that was developed at the Port Aransas Stepdown Workshop in February, 2004. The text of the document went through a number of iterations to reach its current form. Most of the editing on the current version was done by Randy Dettmers and Tom Will. At the Implementation Committee meeting at Patuxent, we decided that the document should be posted on the PIF website as a white paper, and that folks should use it when they work with states, BCRs, JVs, etc. as a means to structure thinking about the implementation process. This is another document in what we plan as a series from PIF - the Continental Plan and Monitoring Needs Assessment are the first two pieces. Until the paper is posted on our web site, you may obtain a copy from Tom (tom_will@fws.gov) or Randy (randy_dettmers@fws.gov).

Ivory-billed Woodpecker Day

On March 16, in both 1986 and 1987, Cuban ornithologist Giraldo Alayón and others in his party saw the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in eastern Cuba. These were the last confirmed sightings anywhere in the world. Alayón who has seen the bird four times, each on March 16 says "I think that day has some magic." So in memory of the ivory-bill, and all of the species that have gone extinct at the hand of humans, Phil Hoose (author of "The Race to save the Lord God Bird") and I are creating a low-intensity campaign to declare March 16 as "Ivory-billed Woodpecker Day." Share your thoughts and ideas with us!—Charles D. Duncan (cduncan@manomet.org)

Wildlife and Forestry in New York – A Guide

A new manual for private forest owners and managers is available online, at: http://ny.audubon.org/forestry_manual.htm. This manual is based on a 3-year peer-reviewed research project by Audubon New York, but with lots of support and participation by state government, academia, and other NGOs. It covers more than just birds (salamanders and carrion beetles are also prominently featured) but it is largely devoted to landbirds, and includes coverage of PIF priority species. Although this manual is focused on northern hardwood forests in upstate NY, it is likely to have applicability to a much wider geographic area

(i.e., wherever this forest type is fairly common). It would certainly be useful to those in northern New England and it would probably be of interest to many in Wisconsin, Northern Michigan, etc.—Mitch Hartley (mitch_hartley@fws.gov)

Cats Indoors! Poster Competition

Cats Indoors! (www.abcbirds.org/cats) continues to produce useful materials and programs to educate the public on the tremendous impact cats have on bird populations. For a sample announcement and press release for this year's Children's Poster Competition, go to: <http://www.abcbirds.org/cats/NKYCID.htm>. Send the top 3 winning posters to me **by May 27** and we'll pick 3 national winners to post on ABC's web site. The opportunities for publicity with a children's poster competition at the local and state level are excellent. For example, Minnesota DNR sponsored a state-wide competition the past two years. They awarded prizes to 45 regional and 3 state winners. Articles announcing the competition appeared in many newspapers across the state, and stories also ran about the winners.—Linda Winter (lwinter@abcbirds.org)

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

We received 118 proposals for NMBCA (<http://birdhabitat.fws.gov>) funding for this round. The expert panel has completed their independent reviews and a meeting to resolve any differences has been scheduled for mid April. Announcements on approved projects will follow as soon as possible after that.—Terry

Migratory Game Bird Research

This is to inform you that \$220,000 will be available from the USFWS for new Webless Migratory Game Bird Research (WMGBR) projects this year. Study proposals may be on any webless migratory game bird topic identified as a research need in a management plan (national, regional, or state), the 1994 book entitled *Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Management in North America* (copies available from David Dolton), or a regional technical committee priority list. The primary purpose of the WMGBR Program is to promote scientifically meaningful and useful webless migratory game bird research. Proposals are **due May 31, 2005**. Please contact me for application materials or further information.—David Dolton (David_Dolton@fws.gov)

Migratory Bird & Wetland NewsLink

The subject information source is now on-line. To read the January - February 2005 issue please go to: <http://www.birdsandwetlands.com/>.--Heidi Luquer (Luquer@vermontel.net)

Lights Out Chicago

Chicago is the first U.S. city to dim tall building lights to save birds' lives. Through the "Lights Out" program, Chicago's tall buildings have all turned off their decorative lights during spring and fall bird migration, putting them in the forefront of American cities taking action to help birds. In a great display of civic concern and responsibility, all buildings cooperate with the program by dimming their decorative lights for almost 5 months of the year, making 'Lights Out' a real success. For more information, see www.lightsout.audubon.org.—Judy Pollock (jpollcock@audubon.org)

Refuge Association & Swarovski Partner

In a new partnership between Swarovski Optik of North America (SONA) and the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA), SONA will help the NWRA to further advance the conservation mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, America's premier network of public lands set aside for wildlife conservation, by providing key staffing and resources for vital refuge conservation programs. The agreement commits Paul J. Baicich, Community Leader for the Swarovski Birding project to working directly with the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) beginning in January of 2005. In addition NWRA and SONA, which has a long history of supporting conservation efforts in the United States, are exploring other ways to deepen their commitment to the Refuge System.—Evan Hirsche (ehirsche@refugenet.org)

NC PIF Conservation Strategy

North Carolina PIF has completed a new conservation strategy for the state. Sections include History, Accomplishments, Goals and Objectives, Steering and Working Committees, and Birds and Habitats of Conservation Concern. If you are interested in NC bird conservation or would like to see this plan as a prototype for something you are working on, please contact me.—Mark Johns (johnsme@mindspring.com)

Protection of North America's Boreal Forest

The World Conservation Union, one of the world's most important conservation bodies, recently passed a recommendation calling for conservation of the Boreal

Forest in Canada and Russia. Canada's Boreal Forest is one of the largest intact forests on the planet. Its forests provide the nesting grounds for as many as one-third (an estimated three billion) of North America's landbirds and almost half of the continent's waterfowl.

Through the recommendation, the international community has signaled the critical importance of the Boreal Forest. Unlike so many other once great forests and wetlands, in Canada's boreal region a tremendous opportunity exists for conservation planning in advance of any future development. However, the Boreal region is under increasing development pressure, largely from the U.S., as commercial interest in industrial logging, hydropower, mining, and oil and gas development continues to grow.

The World Conservation Union, which helps set the global environmental agenda, officially recognized several vital aspects of the Boreal Forest including: the Boreal region's storage of more freshwater in lakes and wetlands and more carbon in soil and vegetation than any other terrestrial ecosystem; its role as a cultural landscape for thousands of indigenous people; and its multitude of wildlife including the significant percentage of migratory birds that breed there.

For complete text of the recommendation and more information on efforts to protect the Boreal Forest, please visit the Boreal Songbird Initiative website at www.borealbirds.org.—George R. Freitag (george_freitag@yahoo.com)

2005 U.S. Standard Grants - NAWCA

The 2005 U.S. Standard grant instructions are now available on the NAWCA web site at <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov>. Click on Wetlands Grants Program and then click on U.S. Standard Grants. The next 2005 proposal **due date is July 29**. Technical Assessment Question #3 is still being revised and will be posted soon. Please feel free to contact me or David Buie (david_buie@fws.gov) with questions.—Rodecia McKnight (rodecia_mcknight@fws.gov)

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Next National Partners in Flight Meetings

The next national PIF Implementation Committee meetings will be held on September 12-13, 2005 prior to the IAFWA Annual Conference in Nashville, TN. Watch www.iafwa.org and the PIF listservs for details as they develop.—Terry

Colorado All-bird/Partners in Flight Meeting

Colorado is holding a statewide all bird meeting entitled, Coordinating Bird Conservation Planning and Implementation in Colorado. It will be held on April 6, 2005 at the Colorado Division of Wildlife Headquarters, Bighorn Room, 6060 Broadway, Denver CO 80216. For more details, contact David Klute (David.Klute@state.co.us)

California-Oregon-Washington Partners in Flight

This tri-state meeting will focus on the theme, Tools for Bird Conservation in Conifer Forests. We'll specifically be discussing BMPs, among other related and important topics. The meeting will take place at the *Best Western Windsor Inn, Ashland, OR* on April 7-8, 2005. For details, see <http://www.prbo.org/calpif/pdfs/PIFInvite05.pdf>.—Kim Kreitinger (kkreitinger@prbo.org)

PIF Western Working Group

The PIF WWG will meet on April 13-15, 2005 in Utah at the Sherwood Hills Resort Conference Room. If you have not received logistical details and a meeting agenda, contact Carol J. Beardmore (Carol_Beardmore@fws.gov)

Alaska's Garnet Festival

Residents of Alaska's Inside Passage community of Wrangell will celebrate the arrival of spring with their annual Garnet Festival April 14-23, 2005. The festival is one of Alaska's most innovative and entertaining, springtime festivals. Visitors are invited to join the eight-day celebration which is marked by the largest springtime concentration of American Bald Eagles in North America. Festival events include live concerts, birding and kayaking workshops, live bird demonstrations, public market, artist's fair, and island and river birding tours. For additional information about the festival and wildlife please visit <http://www.wrangell.com/visitors/attractions/outdoors/garnet/index.html>.—Wilma Leslie (wilma@alaskawaters.com)

Ecology and Management of Pinyon-Juniper and Sagebrush Communities

The subject conference is being sponsored by the Uncompahgre Plateau Project and will be held May 16-19, 2005 in Montrose, CO. Topics will include general ecology, fire ecology, big game management, and sage-grouse management. For further information, visit the conference web site at

<http://www.upproject.org/Main%20Assets/EcologyManagement.htm>.--Steve Monsen ([sbmonsens@comcast.net](mailto:sbmonsen@comcast.net))

8th International Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference

The 8th International Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference will be held August 3-5, 2005 in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. This is an international conference designed to promote the discussion of issues relating to wildlife affected by oil pollution. The topics covered will include prevention, planning for response to both chronic and catastrophic pollution, and progress in research on rehabilitation of oiled wildlife. For details, visit the conference web site at <http://www.tristatebird.org/EOW/EOW.htm>.—Kristine Evans (kevans@tristatebird.org)

XI Reunión Argentina de Ornitología

The subject conference will be from September 7-10, 2005. We are planning a very interesting schedule of scientific activities and then carefully selected birding trips. A visit to El Bagual for example, just in the time when Strange-tailed Tyrants (view at <http://www.mangoverde.com/birdsound/spec/spec116-334.html>) will be displaying in their breeding territories. Nearctic/Neotropical and Austral migration, banding programs, and the Southern America bird conservation planning will be featured. For conference details see www.avesargentinas.org.ar/rao.—Adrián S. Di Giacomo (digiacom@avesargentinas.org.ar)

Other Professional Society Meetings

Be sure to check web sites for other professional societies and arrange to present a PIF or landbird paper at every opportunity.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Drs. Jorge Soberon Ezequiel Ezcurra

Dr. Jorge Soberon is stepping down as president of NABCI Mexico. After 13 very productive years of service in the Mexican Federal government as a Executive Secretary of National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), Jorge is returning to academia. Jorge has been a very active and supportive president of the Mexican NABCI committee and the trinational. He also welcomed PIF within NABCI Mexico.

Dr. Ezequiel Ezcurra, Director of the federal agency Instituto Nacional de Ecologia (INE) and active member of the Mexican NABCI Committee and other initiatives such as the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference, also is going back to academia. The Mexican NABCI committee will meet soon to explore the designation of new President and members for CONABIO and INE.—Eduardo E. Iñigo-Elias, Ph.D. (eei2@cornell.edu)

Sergio Harding New to Virginia

I am writing this e-mail to introduce myself. I have been recently hired as the Nongame Bird Conservation Biologist at the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, where I'll be acting, among other things, as VA PIF Coordinator. I have a MS from Virginia Tech studying Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in NC, and have spent the last 4 years working as data manager and doing breeding landbird work for the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage Program.

At present I am still acclimating myself to my new position and responsibilities. Although there are currently no plans for a follow-up to last year's Workshop, a future workshop/meeting is a distinct possibility. In the meantime, I would like to work toward formalizing the working groups, with an eye toward holding a meeting for each working group this spring or summer. If any of you have any news, comments, ideas or suggestions, please contact me. I look forward to working with you all.—Sergio Harding, Nongame Bird Conservation Biologist, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 4010 West Broad Street Richmond, VA 23231 (804) 367-0143, fax (804) 367-2427

Editor's Note: Sergio got off to a fast start, attending both the SE PIF annual meeting and the Implementation Committee meetings in Laurel.—Terry

The next newsletter will be issued on 1 July 2005. Items are due 15 June 2005 to Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov).