



PARTNERS IN FLIGHT NEWSLETTER

<http://www.partnersinflight.org>

July 2005

IMBD Celebrates 13 Years and Recognizes Supporters

In May 2005, in conjunction with the Smithsonian National Zoo's Bird Fest in Washington, DC, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park, and the USFWS hosted a reception to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day's adolescence (13 years old!). The reception was held to thank program sponsors and partners, and to explore opportunities with potential new sponsors and partners. More than 100 people attended the event, at which awards expressing appreciation for consistent and generous support of IMBD were presented to representatives of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, ConocoPhillips, Swift Optics, Inc., Birder's World Magazine, Counter Culture Coffee, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program, Bureau of Land Management, American Zoo and Aquarium Association, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The original and lasting association between IMBD and Partners in Flight was highlighted in displays crafted for the reception (as well by the ubiquitous presence of the PIF logo on IMBD materials). The awards ceremony was held in conjunction with a public lecture by David Allen Sibley, who donated the artwork for this year's IMBD theme, "Collisions: Clear the Way for Birds."—Carol Beidleman (beidleman@aol.com)

Park Flight Receives Secretary's Four C's Award

The Park Flight Migratory Bird Program was honored by the Secretary of the Interior at the 62nd Departmental Honor Awards Convocation in Washington, D.C. The Park Flight Migratory Bird Program Team was selected to receive the U.S. Department of the Interior's "2004 Secretary's Four C's Award" for the National Park Service. This award honors individual or group efforts in Communication, Consultation, and Cooperation all in the service of Conservation. The award was established to recognize exceptional contributions, methods, and efforts to promote collaborative place-based community and citizen stewardship. Park Flight Program Coordinator Carol Beidleman accepted the award from the Secretary on behalf of the team, accompanied by Gary Johnston (WASO NPS).—Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov)

PIF Science Committee Meeting

The PIF Science Committee met on 14-15 June, prior to the Cooper Ornithological Society's annual conference in Arcata, CA. CJ and Carol Ralph provided exceptional meeting facilities at their home on Humboldt Bay. Topics included completion of the PIF Monitoring Needs Assessment, population estimation adjustment factors, establishing regional population objectives, improved presentation of various species assessment data on the web site, assessing subspecies, assigning non-breeding scores, the use of our species assessment process for herps in the Southwest, two proposals submitted to meet IAFWA's National Conservation Need for birds, establishing a mechanism for evaluating implementation of the PIF Continental Plan, and updating the Plan with Mexican landbirds. Anyone interested in seeing the notes of that meeting should contact me.—Ken Rosenberg (kvr2@cornell.edu)

Species Assessment Database Handbook Update

During preparation of the PIF Continental Plan, a number of Species Assessment Database issues were revisited and refined. While good explanations for pertinent items were included in the Plan, changes were extensive enough to require an overhaul and update of the database handbook. The PIF Science Committee is currently working on this project. We hope to have an updated handbook on the web in fall 2005.—Ken Rosenberg (kvr2@cornell.edu)

Monitoring Needs Assessment

The final draft PIF Monitoring Needs Assessment continues to be revised as more experts review our analysis and recommendations. Anyone who would like to the current version should contact Erica Dunn (Erica.Dunn@ec.gc.ca).

Population Estimation Process Review

The landbird population estimates provided in the PIF Continental Plan have proven to be one of its most stimulating components. USGS assisted PIF in convening a panel of experts to provide a peer review of our process. The panel then wrote a review paper which has been accepted for publication in *The Auk*, pending a reduction in its length. I'd like to acknowledge the great help of USGS and particularly of Wayne E. Thogmartin (wthogmartin@usgs.gov), USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, in seeing this through to completion. This publication will generate yet further discussion and research, all of which will be valuable in improving the process of bird population estimation.—Terry Rich

PIF Plan Website Running Again

As many of you know, the PIF Bird Conservation Plans and associated links have not been available for a while on the PIF website because that section of the website is maintained by BLM whose websites were shut down in relation to some of the DOI Indian Trust Fund issues. However, these issues have now been resolved and the websites are up and running.—Janet M. Ruth (janet_ruth@usgs.gov)

NABCI Monitoring Subcommittee

The NABCI Monitoring Subcommittee recently held its first meeting and substantial agreement on goals and objectives was made, to the surprise of some. The Subcommittee's charge is 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).

Breeding Bird Survey – Put the Off Season to Work

Although this year's BBS period has ended in most locations, don't forget to look for opportunities to explain the great value of the BBS, to hold training, and to recruit qualified birders for next year. Any bird-related workshop, conference, or meeting this fall and winter is a potential opportunity to educate and recruit your colleagues. Remember, 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.

New Web Site for BBS Participants

Please note that the URL for submitting your BBS data via the web has changed. The current site is: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/>. The web address containing "mp2-" is no longer active.—Keith Pardeick

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp

This is the official name of the "Duck Stamp," which has been a stunning success story over its 71-year history. Started during a major wetland-and-waterfowl crisis in the mid-1930s, the stamp has been used as a very effective funding mechanism for our refuge system. It has accrued over \$700 million and has been used to secure over 5.2 million acres of valuable wetland habitat. About \$25 million a year is currently collected through yearly stamp sales.

Proceeds from the \$15 stamp go into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, used to purchase valuable wetlands for the National Wildlife Refuge System. It is no accident that we may have Ivory-billed Woodpeckers today because major chunks of stamp revenue has gone to such places as Cache River and White River National Wildlife Refuges. While some serious bird conservationists have been recommending "broadening" the stamp, all concerned birders and bird conservationists should support the current stamp by buying the 2005-2006 stamp now. For more details on the current stamp program, look here: <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/> and <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/Info/Constituents/birder.htm>. -- Paul Bacich (paul.baicich@swarovskibirding.com)

Keep Your Cat Indoors Day Poster Competition

ABC is pleased to announce the winners of the 2005 National Keep Your Cat Indoors Day children's poster competition. Mathew Toenies of Randall, MN won the competition in the 10 - 12 year old category, and was the winner of the national contest. Claire Kolkmeier of Union, KY won in the 8-9 year old category, and Clay Bryngelson of Walton, KY won in the 6-7 year old category. Their wonderful posters can be viewed at www.abcbirds.org/cats/2005_winners.htm. Plan on sponsoring a children's poster competition or other activities in your state or community next year. National Keep Your Cat Indoors Day will be held on May 13, 2006. This is an excellent, positive way to generate press and educate children, parents and teachers on the importance of keeping cats indoors. Many thanks to all who participated in National Keep Your Cat Indoors Day!—Linda Winter (lwinter@abcbirds.org)

NABCI Declaration of Intent

On 17 May the Secretary of Interior signed a declaration of intent with Canada and Mexico regarding strengthen cooperation on bird conservation. For more information on the DOI visit the NABCI-US website, <http://www.nabci-us.org/main2.html>.

NABCI Trinational Action Plan

The US NABCI Committee plans to take more direct and decisive action to further bird conservation in the future. The first step is to produce an action plan built on the following 6 goals.

1. Building and sustaining regional alliances in Mexico
2. Securing sustainable and significant new funding in the three countries for projects of continental importance
3. Ensuring the development of needed decision-support tools – which could include Coordinated Bird Monitoring, Species Assessments, planning within Bird Conservation Regions
4. Development of a strategy or policy for engaging countries outside of North America
5. Ensure commitment and support from non-signatory partners for the Declaration of Intent
6. In recognition of priority on terrestrial ecosystems within NABCI to date, NABCI Trinational intends to promote action to address marine ecosystems and birds

The next step is to develop the action plan through the trinational committee and NABCI Councils in three countries.

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 21-25 November, Hotel Palma Real, La Ceiba, Honduras. See <http://www.socmesoamericana.org/ev.php> for details. 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

New Tools at the NBII Bird Conservation Node

The NBII Bird Conservation Node continues to support the development of Web sites, tools, and applications that increase access to data on North American birds and facilitate integration of the data across geographic scales. Earlier this

year, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center made available online the North American Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) Viewer (http://mbirdims.fws.gov/nbii_bba) and BBA Explorer (<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bba/>), providing access to results from multiple state and provincial Breeding Bird Atlas projects. These atlases are population surveys that assess the distribution of breeding birds based on a "block" system, with blocks about 2-3 miles on a side.

Also made available online earlier in 2005 by the Institute for Bird Populations is an update to the Avian Demographics Query Interface (<http://www.birdpop.org/nbii/NBIIHome.asp>), a data retrieval Web site providing bird population demographic results from the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Program. Updated survival rate estimates and productivity indices based on ten years (1992-2001) of bird banding data are now available online for more than 150 species of North American landbirds. These landbird demographic results can be retrieved via the Avian Demographics Query Interface by species and region -- and are a useful information resource that is not available elsewhere.— Elizabeth Martin (elizabeth_martin@usgs.gov)

Grasslands Priority Conservation Areas

On behalf of the organizing team of the Nov 2004 trinational Grasslands Priority Conservation Areas (GPCAs) workshop it is with great pleasure that we inform you that the technical report of the workshop is already available at the following websites:

At CEC's:

www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1745

At TNC's: www.conserveonline.org/2005/04/k/GPCATEchnicalReport.--Jürgen Hoth

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton announced that 37 projects in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean had been approved by Acting Director Matt Hogan for more than \$3.9 million in funding under the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (Act). Partners added more than \$17.6 million to the grant funds to advance the goals of their projects. In the United States, diverse partnerships in 18 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands will carry out 19 projects for the benefit of neotropical migratory birds. You can find U.S. state-specific project summaries and a summary table of all projects approved, arrayed by state and country: <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov/NMBCA/projectsNar.htm>.

The Act continues to be a successful, voluntary, nonregulatory, cost-effective mechanism to help partners meet migratory bird conservation needs in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Thank you for your continued support of the Act and the good work it helps to accomplish.—Doug Ryan

New National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Program

There is a new partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and Wal-Mart Corporation to conserve wildlife habitat and offset the footprint of Wal-Mart's domestic facilities through land acquisitions. The new program is entitled "Acres for America" and will permanently conserve at least one acre of priority wildlife habitat for every acre of Wal-Mart's current footprint, estimated at 88,000 acres, as well as the company's future development over the next 10 years, estimated at 5,000 acres per year, putting the minimum total acres to be protected at 138,000.

The NFWF is currently accepting applications for projects to acquire lands that meet identified criteria and will have a minimum 1:1 match of cash or contributed goods and services. Federal funds may be considered as match and higher ratios of matching funds will at times aid in making applications more competitive. See http://www.walmartfacts.com/docs/april2005_acres_for_america.pdf for further information.

New Information on the Boreal

A new study by Bird Studies Canada and the Boreal Songbird Initiative shows that nearly 50% of the bird species in Canada and the U.S. rely on the Boreal for survival and over 300 bird species regularly breed in the Boreal. The report covers all birds and provides a compelling case for the important role the Boreal plays in maintaining the abundance of North American bird life. A preliminary draft of the report can be found at www.borealbirds.org.

The Boreal Songbird Initiative website has been updated with a new comprehensive bird guide that includes 260 boreal breeding birds, the percent of the breeding range that is in the Boreal for each species, and a migration map that highlights the long distances that Boreal birds fly. The guide and new map can be found at www.borealbirds.org/birds.html.

We also are starting a quarterly e-newsletter - sign up on our web page.—Jeff Wells (jeffwells@borealbirds.org)

Eco-Index

There is a great website that serves as a clearinghouse for information on Neotropical biodiversity projects (<http://www.eco-index.org/new/index.cfm>) . Numerous projects funded by the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act are listed on this site.

USGS Science Locator

The USGS is developing a new tool for biologists across the West called a Science Locator. This interactive map-based website provides basic location, description, and contact information for research and management projects throughout the western United States. Our hope is to streamline cooperation among scientists and land managers, reduce redundancy of effort, and increase the ease of collaboration among individuals working on similar projects or in similar geographic areas. The website will not require special software or GIS skills, just an Internet browser and basic map navigation ability. The current version of the Science Locator can be seen by clicking the Locator link on the home page of either SAGEMAP (<http://sagemap.wr.usgs.gov>) or the Great Basin Information Project (<http://greatbasin.nbii.gov>). Please note that navigational tools are located in the frame at the bottom-center.

To maximize the utility of this website, we need to gather project descriptions from as many western biologists and land managers as possible. Contributing data takes only a minute or two, and most necessary information can be cut and pasted from previous proposals or progress reports. Items that we would like to have include name of principal investigator(s), job title, affiliations, contact information, abstract or project summary, and location of project. Contact Mike Butler (mbutler@usgs.gov) for further details.

NAWMP Plan Assessment

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee has initiated a continent wide assessment of the Plan's goals and accomplishments. We have produced a fact sheet that provides details of how this will be accomplished which can be viewed at <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/NAWMP/FS-NAWMP-ContAssessInit-0505.pdf>. --Dee Butler (dee_butler@fws.gov)

Guía de Campo Kaufman a las aves de Norteamérica

The subject field guide by Kenn Kaufman (translated by Patricia Manzano Fischer and with the assistance of Hector Gomez de Silva) breaks new ground

with the first-ever Spanish-language field guide to North American birds. This guide will be widely available at book sellers.

Birding North Carolina

Birding North Carolina is now available. For information see the Carolina Bird Club (CBC) web site <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/>. This project of the Carolina Bird Club and NC Partners in Flight (edited by Marshall Brooks of NC Wesleyan College and Mark Johns of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission) has been more than two years in the making and proceeds will go into a special account of the CBC to help benefit bird conservation projects in NC.—Mark Johns (johnsme@mindspring.com)

Managing Landbird Populations In Forests of The Pacific Northwest

A report titled *Managing Landbird Populations In Forests of the Pacific Northwest: Formulating Populations Management Guidelines from Landscape-Scale Analyses of MAPS Data from Avian Communities on Seven National Forests in the Pacific Northwest, A Report to the Pacific Northwest Region, USDA Forest Service* is now available. The following links will download the PDFs.

www.birdpop.org/downloaddocuments/usfsr6/nwffullreport.pdf
www.birdpop.org/downloaddocuments/usfsr6/Appendix1.pdf
www.birdpop.org/downloaddocuments/usfsr6/Appendix2.pdf
www.birdpop.org/downloaddocuments/usfsr6/Appendix3.pdf
www.birdpop.org/downloaddocuments/usfsr6/Appendix4.pdf
www.birdpop.org/downloaddocuments/usfsr6/Appendix5.pdf
www.birdpop.org/downloaddocuments/usfsr6/Appendix6.pdf

Other publications from Institute for Bird Population are available at www.birdpop.org/publications.htm.—M. Philip Nott (pnott@birdpop.org)

Birds of Two Worlds

Birds of Two Worlds : The Ecology and Evolution of Migration by Russell Greenberg and Peter P. Marra is now available. Greenberg and Marra bring together the world's experts on avian migration to discuss its ecology and evolution. The contributors move the discussion of migration to a global stage, looking at all avian migration systems and delving deeper into the evolutionary foundations of migratory behavior. Readers interested in the biology, behavior, ecology, and evolution of birds have waited a decade to see a worthy successor to the earlier classics. *Birds of Two Worlds* will complete the trilogy and become

indispensable for ornithologists, evolutionary biologists, serious birders, and public and academic libraries.

Shorebirds of North America: The Photographic Guide

The Shorebirds of North America by Dennis Paulson is the first complete guide to North American and Central American shorebirds. It contains more than 530 striking photos, identification tips, and descriptions of voice, behavior, habitat, and range.

Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation

The final version 1.0 of the Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation is now available online. You can download the plan as a .pdf file at this website: <http://birds.fws.gov/waterbirds/Intermountainwest/>. Region 1 of USFWS will produce a hard copy later this year.—Gary Ivey (ivey@oregonvos.net)

Mimicking Nature's Fire: Restoring Fire-Prone Forests in the West

In Mimicking Nature's Fire, forest ecologists Stephen Arno and Carl Fiedler present practical solutions to the pervasive problem of deteriorating forest conditions in western North America. Advocating a new direction in forest management, they explore the promise of restoration forestry – an ecologically based approach that seeks to establish forest structures in which fire can once again serve as a beneficial process rather than as a destructive aberration.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

The 2005 WAFWA Conference will be held in Kananaskis Country, Alberta, July 21-27. Kananaskis Country is one of the most scenic areas of Canada's Rockies, with many options available for outdoor adventure, recreation and sightseeing. The conference Theme is " Resource Stewardship: A Path Toward Sustainability." See <http://www.wafwa.org/general.html> for details.

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)

Golden-winged Warbler Workshop

July 9 is the deadline for early registration and for making room reservations for the Golden-winged Warbler Conservation Workshop planned for August 10-12 in Siren, Wisconsin. For details, please visit the workshop website www.grantsburg.k12.wi.us/gwwa/.

The Golden-winged Warbler Conservation Workshop is designed for biologists, researchers, conservation planners, managers, and for anybody interested in improving the status of Golden-wings, whether you work for a state or federal agency, conservation NGO, academic or research institution, local planning or management unit, or private industry. Concerned citizens and birders are also encouraged to attend.

This will be the first workshop focused solely on Golden-winged Warblers throughout the entire range of the species, including the wintering grounds in Central America and northwestern South America. We will have representatives from the Neotropics with us to help us plan a comprehensive conservation strategy for the species. The workshop will feature a field trip to important GWWA habitats in Minnesota and Wisconsin and opportunities for on-the-spot discussions of practical management actions that would benefit GWWAs in these habitats.—Tom Will (tom_will@fws.gov)

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 details see www.avesargentinas.org.ar/rao.—Adrián S. Di Giacomo (digiaco@avesargentinas.org.ar)

Next National Partners in Flight Meetings

The next national PIF Implementation Committee meetings will be held on September 11-12, 2005 prior to the IAFWA Annual Conference in Nashville, TN. Watch www.iafwa.org and the PIF listservs for details as they develop.—Terry

NC PIC and NC PARC

There will be a joint meeting of NC PIF and NC PARC on October 19, 2005 at Goose Creek State Park in NC. The meeting theme is "Wildlife Conservation on Industrial Forestland". Contact Mark Johns (johnsme@mindspring.com) for further information.

59th Annual Conference SE Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

The subject conference will be held October 16-19, 2005 in St. Louis with the theme, "When Practice Meets Policy." See <http://mdc.mo.gov/seafwa/> for details.

Wings Over Water

Now in its ninth year, the Wings Over Water festival is the only birding and nature festival on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. This event offers birding, paddling and natural history trips throughout eastern North Carolina. This year, WOW will be held November 1-6. See www.wingsoverwater.org for further information.

Western Working Group

The next Western Working Group meeting will be held in Lockeford, CA, November 2-4, 2005. The meeting will take place at the Inn at Locke House: <http://www.theinnatlockehouse.com/>. Rooms are available at a special conference rate of \$115/night through September 1. Reserve early if you are interested in staying at the Inn. Otherwise, alternate hotel accommodations are available in the nearby town of Lodi. This will be a monitoring coordination meeting. Further details and agenda will be distributed in the coming months.-- Kim Kreitinger (kkreitinger@prbo.org)

Mesocamerican Society for Biology and Conservation

The IX Congreso de la Sociedad Mesoamericana para la Biología y la Conservación will be held in La Ceiba, Honduras, on 21-25 November 2005. El objetivo general del congreso es "Aportar e integrar conocimientos y

herramientas para el desarrollo sostenible, la formación de capacidades y la gestión de los recursos naturales y en particular del ambiente costero – marinos en Mesoamérica." Para mayor información sobre los antecedentes de la Sociedad Mesoamericana y anteriores congresos visitar www.socmesoamericana.org.

As mentioned above, we plan to hold another Mesoamerican PIF workshop in conjunction with this conference in an effort to continually build our network in Mesoamerica.

66th Annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

The 66th Annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference will be held on December 11 - 14, 2005 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. See www.midwestfishandwildlife.com for details.

Symposium on Raptors of the Southern Cone

The Neotropical Raptor Network (NRN) invites you to the Second Neotropical Raptor Conference, with a Symposium on Raptors of the Southern Cone, to be held 11-14 June 2006 at the Sheraton Internacional Iguazú Resort in Iguazú – Argentina. Join scientists, conservationists, resource managers, falconers, representatives of zoos, government and non-government organizations and other persons and institutions with an interest in the research and/or conservation of birds of prey in Latin America and the Caribbean. Our goal is to share knowledge, interests, and concerns and help develop a network of practitioners in the fields of raptor conservation, research, captive breeding and falconry.

4th North American Ornithological Conference

The 4th NAOC will be held in Veracruz City, Mexico, 3-7 Oct 2006. This conference - likely to be the largest North American bird conference in history - is being organized jointly by the American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, Society of Canadian Ornithologists-Société des Ornithologistes du Canada, Association of Field Ornithologists, Wilson Ornithological Society, Waterbird Society, Raptor Research Foundation, and Sección Mexicana del Consejo Internacional para la Preservación de las Aves - CIPAMEX (local host). The conference is also endorsed by the Neotropical Ornithological Society, Pacific Seabird Group, and Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds. The Scientific Program Committee will issue a call for symposia in the early fall 2005, and the full conference program is

expected to be assembled in December 2005. The mailing of the Circular of Information and call for papers will be made in January 2006.

The conference is scheduled to coincide with the peak of the migration season in the world's largest raptor migration bottleneck. Check the NAOOC website for updates on organization (URL: <http://www.NAOC2006.org>). **You do not want to miss this!**

Other Professional Society Meetings

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

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Laurel Moore Goes to South Carolina

I have accepted the Bird Conservation Coordinator position with South Carolina DNR. Laurel will be overseeing the non-game bird program for the state and will be the Department's representative for PIF. Previously, she was a wildlife biologist at the USFS-Savannah River Site in South Carolina. Contact information: BarnhillL@dnr.sc.gov, 803-734-3966.

Edwin Juarez New Arizona Bird Conservation Initiative Coordinator

Edwin Juarez has recently joined the Arizona Game and Fish Department as the new ABCI (Arizona Bird Conservation Initiative) Coordinator. In this position Edwin will be involved in planning, organizing, and developing funding for projects related to inventory, monitoring, management and conservation of Arizona birds.—Edwin Juarez (602-789-3516, ejuaraz@azgfd.gov)

Jürgen Hoth off to Chihuahua

After five years as a team member of the Biodiversity Program of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, I have joined The Nature Conservancy in Mexico to help establish their Chihuahuan desert grasslands initiative. I am deeply indebted to you all for having believed in the dream laid on the table through the CEC, time after time, aimed at building a true North American-wide community. A dream that always strived to bring the best of us all to jointly respond in the most effective way to reverse the tide of nature obliteration.—Jürgen Hoth (jhoth@tnc.org)

New Staff at American Bird Conservancy

ABC continues to expand its capacity in bird conservation with the addition of three more staff members.

Michael Fry is joining ABC as Director of the Pesticides and Birds Program. Michael is an avian toxicologist with research interests in the effects of pollutants and pesticides on ecosystems, with a focus on wild birds. With additional interests wind energy and a solid background in seabird biology, he intersects well with other ABC program areas.

Perry Plumart is joining as Director of Conservation Advocacy. Perry has 14 years of experience on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant and press secretary for Congressional representatives and 8 years in the NGO community, including positions as Press Secretary/Senior Policy Advisor and then Director of Government Relations at National Audubon Society. Perry will lead ABC's Conservation Advocacy division, including our Pesticides and Birds and *Cats Indoors!* programs. Perry will start on 1 June 2005.

Paul Salaman will be Director of International Programs. Paul received his doctorate from the University of Oxford in 2001, three years after he helped found Fundación ProAves Colombia, now a thriving national NGO with 64 staff. With ProAves, Paul has contributed his leadership to many projects, perhaps most notably *Proyecto Ognorhynchus*, ProAves' Yellow-eared Parrot conservation project, but also including work on the critically endangered Fuertes's Parrot, the recent establishment of reserves for the Blue-billed Curassow and Colorful Puffleg, and development of a national bird banding system for Colombia.--George E. Wallace (gwallace@abcbirds.org)

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