



## **PARTNERS IN FLIGHT NEWSLETTER**

<http://www.partnersinflight.org>

July 2006

### **Mesoamerican PIF Working Group – Support Sought**

The Mesoamerican PIF Working Group will meet in October during the North American Ornithological Conference (<http://www.naoc2006.org/en/default.htm>) in Veracruz, Mexico for a day-long workshop and to present a symposium on Mesoamerican issues. We are currently seeking funds to ensure that all Meso PIF country representatives can attend this important conference. Partners (USFWS, USFS, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and PIF Western Working Group) have contributed \$11,500 to date but we still need \$5,000 more. Contact Terry Rich if you have funds or ideas for funds. I will send you a budget and a list of country reps.–Terry Rich ([terry\\_rich@fws.gov](mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov))

### **PIF Implementation Committee**

The Implementation Committee met on 19-20 March 2006 at Deer Creek Lake State Park in Mt. Sterling (Columbus), Ohio. We had a most interesting joint meeting with the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative on the second day. Minutes from the meeting are available on the web site under “Other PIF-Related Publications” and “National Committee Meeting Minutes.”

### **Avian Influenza Monitoring proposal**

A proposal to use the existing network of over 1000 banding stations in North America to monitor Avian Influenza was approved by the PIF Council during its March 2006 meeting. This proposal would go beyond the focus on early detection in waterfowl and northwestern North America. The proposal was also endorsed by the AFWA Bird Conservation Committee. The proposal was delivered to various committees within the Flyways and a few other critical contacts. Anyone interested in seeing this proposal should contact C. J. Ralph ([cjr2@humboldt.edu](mailto:cjr2@humboldt.edu) or [cralph@fs.fed.us](mailto:cralph@fs.fed.us))

### **Industry Resolution on Cerulean Warbler Management**

Industry Cooperation in Cerulean Warbler Conservation reaffirms the PIF Industry Committee’s commitment to participate in PIF and contribute to the

conservation of the Cerulean Warbler and other forest associated species, welcomes industry representation from outside forest products industry, and urges cooperative conservation between industry and landowners. The resolution was endorsed by the PIF Council and distributed. Contact Tony Melchiors ([tony.melchiors@weyerhaeuser.com](mailto:tony.melchiors@weyerhaeuser.com)), chair of the PIF Industry Committee, for a copy.

### **Progress on Canadian Bird Plans**

Three updated draft plans are now available for download on the Bird Studies Canada website (<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/PIF/PIFOntario.html>). These are for BCRs 8 (Boreal Softwood Shield), 12 (Boreal Hardwood Transition), and 13 (Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plains.—Julie Simard ([julie.simard@mnr.gov.on.ca](mailto:julie.simard@mnr.gov.on.ca)))

### **Update on Availability of Asilomar Proceedings**

These 2 volumes contain papers presented at the Third International Partners in Flight Conference: A workshop on Bird Conservation Implementation and Integration, which was held 20-24 March 2002 at the Asilomar Conference Center in Monterey, CA. The papers in these volumes represent a broad array of subjects, including management planning, conservation, educational outreach programs, ornithological research, research methodologies, along with some of the newest technologies for research and dissemination of information. This set is online at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw\\_gtr191/Asilomar/](http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr191/Asilomar/), and there is no charge to order single or multiple hard copies or CDs from: [rschneider@fs.fed.us](mailto:rschneider@fs.fed.us) (include full mailing address in block format as if you are addressing an envelope to speed handling).

### **Science Committee**

The PIF Science Committee will meet the week of 17 July to continue work on a number of important scientific foundation topics. These include resolving issues in scoring breeding and non-breeding distribution scores for all North American bird species, finalizing population size estimate scores for the Mexican avifauna, developing the population estimation database and reviewing additional methods for estimation, determining the next steps in implementing new monitoring protocols and sample designs, and discussing possible follow up actions in conservation design, among other items.

### **Monitoring Article in *Birding***

In the latest issue of *Birding* magazine (July/August 2006), we have an article entitled, "Monitoring Needs of North American Landbirds," that excerpts the PIF report, "High Priority Needs for Range-wide Monitoring of North American Landbirds." This has generated another round of requests for the North

American Landbird Conservation Plan and for the original monitoring report. A pdf version of the Birding article is available from Terry ([terry\\_rich@fws.gov](mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov)).

### **Conservation Design Workshop**

Partners in Flight held a workshop, "Conservation Design: Exploring Methods for Linking Bird Population Goals with Spatially-Explicit Habitat Objectives," in St. Louis on 11-13 April 2006. The goal of the workshop was to help participants better understand spatial models and other approaches that can be used to develop landscape-level habitat models, bird-habitat association models, and predictive models. Abstracts, PowerPoint presentations and other workshop results are available on the PIF web site.—Jane Fitzgerald ([jfitzgerald@abcbirds.org](mailto:jfitzgerald@abcbirds.org))

### **4<sup>th</sup> International PIF Conference – Tundra to Tropics**

The 4<sup>th</sup> International PIF Conference will be held 13-16 February 2008, at the McAllen Convention Center in McAllen, Texas. The conference theme will be Tundra to Tropics and will be shared with IMBD for 2008. The focus of the conference will be international connections of all sorts that further bird and habitat conservation. We are seeking contributions to support student and professional participation. A preliminary budget will be developed by the end of August. Watch the PIF listservs for details, and contact Terry if you have any funding that might be available this year. The Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (<http://www.gcbo.org/>) will be handling contributed funds.— Terry rich ([terry\\_rich@fws.gov](mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov))

### **NABCI Monitoring Subcommittee**

The NABCI Monitoring Subcommittee met in early March. See <http://www.nabci-us.org/monitoring.html> for meeting notes and recommendations.

### **AOU Conservation Committee**

The American Ornithologists' Union (<http://www.aou.org/>) Conservation Committee has asked the bird initiatives what the AOU could do to get more involved in bird conservation. Historically, the AOU has produced white papers on key bird conservation issues and has provided expert review of certain documents, in addition to publishing primary articles in ornithology in *The Auk* and *Ornithological Monographs*. One issue that has already emerged is the need to get more research accomplished on issues of conservation importance. Anyone with other ideas or suggestions should contact Terry Rich ([terry\\_rich@fws.gov](mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov)).

## **Priority Migrant eBird**

The goal of Priority Migrant eBird ([www.ebird.org/primig/](http://www.ebird.org/primig/)) is to collect the non-breeding season distribution information needed to generate effective rangewide conservation strategies for long-distance migratory species that have experienced precipitous population declines over the last few decades. The project was initially conceived by the international committees of the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group (Alianza Alas Doradas) and the Cerulean Warbler Technical Group (El Grupo Cerúleo) as a tool for addressing the lack of information on non-breeding season distributions for these two species in Central and northern South America. In order to maximize the number of contributors among the banding, conservation, research, education, and birding communities, and to minimize the effort needed to contribute records, these groups decided to use the power of eBird to facilitate data entry and to produce exciting output products that will be able to track the dynamic distributions of high priority species.

## **Golden-winged Warbler Working Group**

The Golden-winged Warbler Working Group is comprised of over 80 United States, Canadian, and Latin American ornithologists, conservationists, and managers from academia, federal and state agencies, international non-governmental organizations, and industry. The Working Group met for three days in August 2005 in Siren, Wisconsin, to develop priorities for research and strategies for outreach, education, and conservation action for the species.

Working Group Objectives:

1. Increase awareness of Golden-winged Warbler conservation status throughout its range.
2. Identify gaps in knowledge and develop priorities for coordinated Golden-winged Warbler research and management.
3. Develop and implement a conservation plan for Golden-winged Warblers that includes research, education, management, regional coordination, and monitoring.
4. Develop a mechanism for information sharing and conservation action follow-through.—Maria Isabel Moreno ([mmoreno@proaves.org](mailto:mmoreno@proaves.org)) and Tom Will ([tom\\_will@fws.gov](mailto:tom_will@fws.gov)).

## **Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative**

The Second Western Hemisphere Migratory Species (WHMSI) Conference was held in Costa Rica in January 2006. There were more than 100 participants, including country delegates, other governmental agencies, and non-governmental organizations. This was a follow-up to the first WHMSI conference held in Chile in 2003. WHMSI was developed to support the Action Plan from the 2001 Summit of the Americas in Quebec, which included as a goal migratory

species conservation priorities and activities in the Americas. The original WHMSI focus was on migratory birds, but has expanded to include all migratory species.

The focus of the Costa Rica meeting was to discuss an opportunity to prepare and submit a capacity building GEF project proposal, "Cooperation in Conservation", through OAS and UNEP. The goal of this 5-year, US \$15 million project (\$5 million GEF, \$10 million co-financing) is to build upon existing WHMSI and other migratory species efforts to significantly enhance the conservation of shared migratory species throughout the Americas by strengthening institutional and human capacity, political commitment, international cooperation, and public-private partnerships at the regional, national, and local levels. See <http://www.fws.gov/international/whc/AboutWHMSC.htm> for information on WHMSI.

### **Migratory Bird Conservation Act Grants Approved**

Acting Secretary of the Interior, Lynn Scarlett, recently announced that 43 conservation projects throughout the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean had been approved for funding under the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. For a summary table and brief description of the approved projects arrayed by country and state, including 29 located in Latin America and the Caribbean, visit <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA/2006.shtm>.—Meredith Gutowski

### **Conserving Birds – Rocky Mountains and Great Plains**

The Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's (RMBO) statewide bird monitoring program, "Monitoring Colorado's Birds" completed its 8<sup>th</sup> field season in 2005. Recently they issued a short report about efforts to track Colorado's Flammulated Owls. The report summarizes their monitoring results and provides a summary of this species distribution and habitat use in Colorado. This is the ninth of a series of short reports from Colorado's Statewide Monitoring Program. Specific locations of Flammulated Owl territories are available to land and wildlife managers upon request to Rich Levad ([rich.levad@rmbo.org](mailto:rich.levad@rmbo.org)).

### **Desert Bird Conservation**

The 15 Desert Bird Conservation Plan focal species have been added to the CalPIF live maps website (<http://cain.nbii.gov/prbo/calpifmap/livemaps/>), and to the online study areas database. It is now possible to enter breeding status information for these desert-associated species. If you have an existing account, please consider contributing data for these species to the CalPIF database. If you do not have an account, please consider signing up to contribute your data to this important effort by visiting (<http://www.prbo.org/calpif/data.html>).—Kim Kreitinger ([kkreitinger@prbo.org](mailto:kkreitinger@prbo.org)).

## **Alianzas del Pastizal - Boletín Electrónico**

The first newsletter of the southern cone grasslands "joint venture" is now available (in Spanish). Several people from Birdlife International, Aves Argentinas, and Guyra Paraguay joined the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture meeting (joint with Canadian Prairie Habitat Joint Venture) last fall in Montana to see how a joint venture worked. The Coordinador General is Lic. Aníbal Parera, El Tordo 24 (3470), Mercedes, Corrientes, Argentina +549(3773) 15404240 and [pastizales.conosur@avesargentinas.org.ar](mailto:pastizales.conosur@avesargentinas.org.ar). For a copy of the newsletter or for further information, contact Carol Lively ([clively@fs.fed.us](mailto:clively@fs.fed.us))

## **NC Partners in Flight Quarterly Report**

The NC PIF 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report gives an overview on some of the ongoing bird related projects in North Carolina (<http://www.faculty.ncwc.edu/mbrooks/pif/>).  
—Mark Johns ([johnsme@mindspring.com](mailto:johnsme@mindspring.com))

## **The North Carolina Birding Trail**

Also from North Carolina, the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *Trail Mail*, our quarterly e-newsletter on the NCBT is now available. Visit our website ([www.ncbirdingtrail.org/](http://www.ncbirdingtrail.org/)) to review previous editions of *Trail Mail*, under Current News.

## **Idaho Bird Inventory and Survey Annual Report**

Idaho initiated a statewide coordinated bird monitoring program called the Idaho Bird Inventory and Survey (IBIS) in 2004. As we approach the end of our third field season, I am pleased to announce that a report on the first two years is now available for download from our website. Please navigate to the following page, and click on the link to the right-hand side immediately below the photo of the western tanager. <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/nongame/birds/monitoring.cfm>.—Rex Sallabanks ([rsallabanks@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:rsallabanks@idfg.idaho.gov))

## **New Wine will Raise Funds for Threatened Hummingbirds**

The Hummingbird Society ([www.hummingbirdsociety.org](http://www.hummingbirdsociety.org)), a nonprofit organization devoted solely to hummingbirds, has joined with Clos LaChance Winery in a new plan to support the Society's preservation and conservation efforts of hummingbirds throughout the Americas. In addition to its annual sponsorship, Clos LaChance Winery is producing special blends (each vintage), to help support the hummingbird preservation efforts of the Society. Wines under the Hummingbird Series distinction include Buff-Bellied Zinfandel, Ruby-Throated Cabernet Sauvignon, Violet-Crowned Merlot, Black-Chinned Syrah, Pink-Throated Brilliant Rosé, and Glittering-Throated Emerald Chardonnay.

The Juan Fernández Firecrown “Threatened Hummingbird” red Bordeaux Blend Wine is expected to be released in fall of 2006. Fifteen percent (15%) of sales of each bottle will be donated to the Hummingbird Society for preservation of the Juan Fernández Firecrown.—Sean Carroll ([carroll@bensonmarketing.com](mailto:carroll@bensonmarketing.com)).

### **Atlas Points Counts Canada: Impact on BBS participation**

As a result of the email I sent to everyone who had done point counts for the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project, I've heard from something like 50 people interested in participating in the BBS in Ontario. I have been able to get all but one route in southern Ontario assigned as well as several routes in northern Ontario. If you are, or have been, involved in an atlas and need more BBS observers in your area, please consider following up with a similar request.—Audrey Heagy ([aheagy@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:aheagy@bsc-eoc.org)).

### **Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**

Effective May 1, 2006 the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies officially changed its name to, “Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Along with this change is a new website, logo, and print materials. However, there has been no change in the Association’s mission or membership, and we continue to be the organization that represents North America’s collective fish and wildlife agencies. Visit our new website at ([www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org)).—John Baughman

### **Funding: Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program**

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program provides financial assistance on a competitive basis to landowners interested in restoring fish and wildlife habitat on their own lands. It is a goal of the program to secure at least 50 percent of project costs from non-Service sources, but this goal applies to the program as a whole, and does not have to be achieved on a project-by-project basis. Funding above \$25,000 for an individual project must be approved at the Washington Office level. For more information about this program see (<http://www.fws.gov/partners/pdfs/grantsgov06partners.pdf>).

Current Closing Date for Applications: Sep 30, 2006

Expected Number of Awards: 2700

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$25,500,000

Award Ceiling: \$25,000; Award Floor:

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: Yes

### **Funding: Wildlife Without Borders – Mexico**

The purpose of this competitive grants program is to develop Mexico’s capacity to protect its wildlife and plant resources through: academic and technical training in conservation and management of biological resources; training in

management of nature reserves and other protected areas; community-level conservation education for the protection and sustained use of natural resources; technology transfer and information exchange to promote international collaboration; and promotion of networks, partnerships and coalitions that assist in the implementation of conventions, treaties, protocols and other international activities for the conservation of biological resources. For more information, please visit <http://www.fws.gov/international/rfps/Mexicohow.htm>.

Current Closing Date for Applications: Oct 01, 2006  
Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative Agreement Grant  
Expected Number of Awards: 20; Estimated Total Program Funding: \$628,000  
Award Ceiling: \$50,000; Award Floor: \$3,000

### **Funding: Wildlife Without Borders - Latin American and the Caribbean**

The purpose of this competitive grants program is to protect fish, wildlife and plant resources in the Western Hemisphere through: academic and technical training in conservation and management of biological resources; training in management of nature reserves and other protected areas; community-level conservation education for the protection and sustained use of natural resources; technology transfer and information exchange to promote international collaboration; and promotion of networks, partnerships and coalitions that assist in the implementation of conventions, treaties, protocols and other international activities for the conservation of biological resources. For more information about this grant, please visit (<http://www.fws.gov/international/rfps/lachow.htm>).

Proposals for projects may be submitted throughout the year for this grant. However, applicants are encouraged to submit proposals between September and December as the majority of grants are awarded between December and June each year. Based on funding availability, proposals received late in the fiscal year (between June and August) may not be considered for funding until the start of the next fiscal year (which begins October 1).

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative Agreement Grant  
Expected Number of Awards: 26  
Estimated Total Program Funding: \$506,000  
Award Ceiling: \$50,000; Award Floor: \$3,000

### **Funding: North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)**

The purpose of the 1989 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), as amended is to promote long-term conservation of North American wetland ecosystems, and the waterfowl and other migratory birds, fish and wildlife that depend upon such habitat. Principal conservation actions supported by NAWCA are acquisition, establishment, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and wetland-associated uplands. The U.S. Standard Grants Program is a

competitive, matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. More information can be obtained from (<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/Standard/US/Overview.shtm>).

Current Closing Date for Applications: Jul 28, 2006.

Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000

Award Floor: \$75,000

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: Yes

### **Award to Birders' Exchange**

The Fundación Inalafquen is honoring Betty Petersen and the ABA's Birders' Exchange program (<http://www.americanbirding.org/bex/>) with the award, "Ideas that Change the World." The recognition reads, in part: "In many cases this [Birders' Exchange] has not only motivated Latin Americans to watch and help protect birds in more effective ways, but it has also had a transformative affect in directing young people into careers as ornithologists, educators and ecotourism guides in their local communities.—Paul Baicich ([paul.baicich@swarovskibirding.com](mailto:paul.baicich@swarovskibirding.com))

### **Cats Indoors! Updates**

The National Wildlife Federation passed a new resolution at its March 17-18, 2006 annual meeting, entitled "Diminishing the Impact of Feral and Free-ranging Domestic Cats on Wildlife Populations." The resolution urges the passage and enforcement of local and state ordinances providing for the humane control of feral and free-ranging domestic cat populations. The resolution supports ABC's, "Cats Indoors! Program and similar state agency-based efforts to educate and encourage domestic cat owners to neuter, vaccinate, and take measures to physically control outdoor activities."

ABC has published a new report, *Impacts of Feral and Free-ranging Cats on Bird Species of Conservation Concern: A Five-State Review of New York, New Jersey, Florida, California, and Hawaii*, which, for the first time, analyzes the effects that cats are having on some of America's most at-risk bird species at cat predation hotspots. The five-state review at [www.abcbirds.org/cats/NFWF.pdf](http://www.abcbirds.org/cats/NFWF.pdf) illuminates troubling threats to endangered species such as Piping Plover, California Clapper Rail, and Hawaiian Petrel, highlights the growing trend of managed cat colonies, and reviews applicable wildlife protection laws. The report was made possible through a generous grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The *Cats Indoors!* Campaign web page has a new look with revised and updated fact sheets and a host of new information including the position statements on free-roaming cats of 16 organizations, and links to state wildlife agency and

Audubon Society *Cats Indoors!* web pages. This information can be used by Campaign supporters to educate neighbors, friends, clients, local officials and others that cats and wildlife are safer when cats are kept indoors, and that humane, permanent removal of cats is needed to protect our native wildlife.— Linda Winter ([lwinter@abcbirds.org](mailto:lwinter@abcbirds.org))

### **Version 1.2 of U.S. Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan**

The U.S. Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan, released in April 2005, has been reformatted and slightly revised and is now being circulated as Version 1.2. This plan can be downloaded from the Waterbird Conservation for the Americas website at: [www.waterbirdconservation.org](http://www.waterbirdconservation.org). If you are unable to download a copy, a limited number of CDs and hard copies, are available through the Division of Migratory Birds and Habitat Programs, 911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232 (503-231-6164)

## **MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**

### **PIF Science Committee**

18-20 July 2006 in Sierra Vista, AZ (see above for content).

### **California Statewide Partners in Flight Meeting, August 24-25 2006**

The California Statewide Partners in Flight meeting will be held August 24-25, 2006, is being sponsored by the Intermountain West Joint Venture, and will take place at the University of California White Mountain Research Station - Owens Valley Lab facility, just outside of Bishop, CA. A draft agenda will is now posted at ([www.prbo.org/calpif](http://www.prbo.org/calpif)). The two-day meeting will feature presentations on current avian research in desert, sagebrush, and grassland habitats, updates on important local, state, and national bird conservation issues, and discussions of integrating landbird priorities into planning documents. Our objective is to bring together biologists, managers, and researchers to provide an overview of important issues and landbird conservation priorities. This meeting coincides with the recent release of the "Sagebrush and Desert Bird Conservation Plans". There is no registration fee for this event. However, please email Kim Kreitinger ([kkreitinger@prbo.org](mailto:kkreitinger@prbo.org)) to confirm your attendance.

### **Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring Workshop**

The Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring partnership announces the launch of its website ([www.nebirdmonitor.org](http://www.nebirdmonitor.org)) and the opening of registration for the first Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring Workshop, scheduled for September 12-14 at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, NY. The purpose of the workshop is to develop an organizing framework that will help states, federal agencies, and

non-governmental organizations achieve their bird monitoring objectives in US Fish and Wildlife Service Region 5 (CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV). Biologists who design, implement, and/or oversee bird monitoring projects in the Northeast are invited to attend. Other conservation professionals with an interest in coordinated bird monitoring, including representatives from outside the Northeast, are also welcome. Workshop details are available at [www.nebirdmonitor.org/workshops](http://www.nebirdmonitor.org/workshops).—Dan Lambert ([dlambert@abcbirds.org](mailto:dlambert@abcbirds.org))

### **Partners in Flight National Committees**

The PIF Implementation Committee will meet on 17-18 September in Glenwood Springs, CO. As usual, this meeting is being held in association with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Annual Meeting in Snowmass, CO. The PIF Federal Agency Committee and PIF Council, among other committees, will meet later in the week. Logistical information for the IC meeting has been distributed via listservs and is also available from Dave Mehlman ([dmehlman@tnc.org](mailto:dmehlman@tnc.org)). For AFWA, the full conference schedule, travel information, and on-line registration are now available [www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org). All interested individuals are encouraged to participate in any committee meetings.

### **IV North American Ornithological Conference**

The IV NAOC is being held 3-7 October 2006 in Veracruz, Mexico. This conference is being organized jointly by the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, CIPAMEX (Sección Mexicana de Consejo Internacional para la Preservación de las Aves, A. C.), Cooper Ornithological Society, Raptor Research Foundation, Society of Canadian Ornithologists / Société des Ornithologistes du Canada, Waterbird Society, and Wilson Ornithological Society, with CIPAMEX acting as local host.

The conference theme is "Wings Without Borders," and will feature a rich scientific program, symposia, plenary lectures, business meetings of societies, and social activities. Pre-and post-conference activities will include training workshops, and birding, culture, and nature tours. The conference is scheduled to coincide with the peak of the migration season in the world's largest raptor migration bottleneck.

PIF will be holding a symposium in coordination with the American Bird Conservancy; Meso PIF will have its own symposium; and the Western Working Group is holding a workshop in conjunction with Meso PIF. For more information, including a downloadable conference circular in pdf format, please visit <http://www.naoc2006.org/>. Conference hotel rooms are still available but the room blocks may be gone. In other words, you may have better luck if you contact a hotel through its regular reservation process. Also, airline flights are filling and prices are increasing. If you have not yet made plans, we encourage you to do so now.

## **National Wind Coordinating Committee Meeting**

The National Wind Coordinating Committee (NWCC), Wildlife Research Meeting VI, will be held on November 14-15, 2006 in San Antonio, TX. The purpose of the workshop is to bring interested stakeholders up to date on research being conducted to understand the interaction of birds, bats, other wildlife, and their habitats with wind energy facilities; to examine what we've learned about ways to minimize and mitigate wind energy's adverse/undesirable impacts on wildlife and their habitats; and to identify gaps in knowledge and research needs. Questions or comments may be directed to Abby Arnold ([aarnold@resolv.org](mailto:aarnold@resolv.org)).—David Inouye ([inouye@umd.edu](mailto:inouye@umd.edu))

## **Wings Over Water Festival**

Now in its tenth year, the Wings Over Water festival has become the premier birding and nature festival of the Outer Banks of North Carolina. This event offers birding, paddling and natural history trips throughout eastern North Carolina. Registration materials and information about the 17-20 November 2006 festival have been posted at [www.wingsoverwater.org](http://www.wingsoverwater.org).

## **2007 National Bird Education Conference**

The location and dates for the 2007 National Bird Education Conference have been finalized. The conference will run from the afternoon of Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> to the afternoon of Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> (note that an earlier version of the conference announcement had incorrect dates). Hosted by Flying WILD (<http://www.flyingwild.org/>), the conference will be held at The Crossings ([www.thecrossingsaustin.com](http://www.thecrossingsaustin.com)), a retreat center in Austin, Texas adjacent to the Balcones Canyon Land Preserve. Once the conference registration fee is determined, the Council for Environmental Education will distribute additional conference registration information.—Marc LeFebre ([marclcee@aol.com](mailto:marclcee@aol.com))

## **VIII Neotropical Ornithological Congress, Venezuela, May 2007**

We are pleased to invite you to attend the VIII Neotropical Ornithological Congress in Maturin, Venezuela, 13-19 May 2007. The congress is being hosted by the Neotropical Ornithological Society (NOS) and the Venezuelan Ornithological Union (UVO). The "First Call for Contributions" circular, has been posted at <http://www.neotropicalornithology.org/>. The circular has instructions for submitting proposals for plenary speakers, symposia, workshops, and round tables; proposals may be submitted in Spanish or English.

The **Deadline** for proposals for symposia, workshops and round-tables is **15 July 2006**. PIF has submitted proposals for 4 workshops: 1) Better Delineating Winter Ranges of Nearctic-Neotropical Migrants, 2) Strengthening Coordination Between US-CA-MX and South American Nations, 3) Species Assessment, and

4) the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. The General call for oral communications and posters will be sent out later in 2006, and registration will open 15 August 2006. We look forward to your participation in this meeting.– Patricia Escalante ([tilmatura@ibiologia.unam.mx](mailto:tilmatura@ibiologia.unam.mx)) and Carlos Bosque ([carlosb@usb.ve](mailto:carlosb@usb.ve))

#### **4<sup>th</sup> International Partners in Flight Conference**

The 4<sup>th</sup> International PIF Conference will be held 13-16 February 2008, at the McAllen Convention Center in McAllen, Texas with the theme – Tundra to Tropics. See more above and watch the PIF listservs for more details as they develop.–Terry rich ([terry\\_rich@fws.gov](mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov))

#### **NEWS OF PEOPLE**

##### **Andy Paulios**

Andy has recently left the job as Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (<http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/>) coordinator for a full-time permanent job with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as the Citizen Monitoring Network Liaison. The Citizen Monitoring Network works to improve citizen monitoring efforts around the state of Wisconsin by improving communication, and by providing resources and recognition for good work being done in this field. I'm planning to stay very involved in the bird conservation world and I'm looking forward to getting more involved in certain bird monitoring programs in the state.

Andy Paulios, Citizen Monitoring Network Liaison  
Bureau of Endangered Resources,  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Phone: 608-267-0813  
Fax: 608-266-2925  
[Andy.Paulios@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Andy.Paulios@dnr.state.wi.us)

##### **Debbie Pressman**

As most of you know, Debbie has been a key supporter of PIF for many years within the Washington DC office of the U.S. Forest Service. She has just accepted a position in the Office of the Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry of the USFS, starting August 7<sup>th</sup>. We'll forward Debbie's new contact information when we receive it. This may work out well for all of us as we have a lot of opportunities on state and private forest lands to explore.

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The next newsletter will be issued on 1 October 2006. Items are due 15 September 2006 to Terry Rich ([terry\\_rich@fws.gov](mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov)). The PIF Newsletter is assembled by Jina Mariani and Terry Rich.