



PARTNERS IN FLIGHT NEWSLETTER

<http://www.partnersinflight.org>

July 2007

McAllen Conference

The PIF McAllen Conference Steering Committee and Program Committee continue to make progress on many fronts. The keen interest in our conference is demonstrated that fact that:

- 1) We've had to expand the number of concurrent sessions we are offering from 8 to 9, and even that did not meet the total demand for sessions.
- 2) We've almost completely filled the day before the conference (Weds, 13 Feb 2008) with workshops, meetings, training, and special sessions at the convention center. Great off-site venues remain for additional events,
- 3) We are now scheduling adjunct events on Tuesday and perhaps Monday.

A few other brief updates:

- 1) We'll be adding conference information to the PIF web site as more of the conference components become firmed up.
- 2) The Call for Papers will go out shortly. This will include a complete listing of the conference sessions. Some sessions will be filled by invitation while others will be seeking additional oral presentations. We are planning for a large poster session because the convention center has ample space. Posters will be up throughout the conference, and the poster session social will be Thursday evening, February 14.
- 3) We have decided to run a conference that minimizes the production of trash and of materials that people don't want. For example, be prepared to bring your favorite tote bag and coffee cup from a previous conference.
- 4) Single- and multi-day birding trips are being finalized.
- 5) Keynote speakers have been selected.
- 6) Information on travel awards will be distributed shortly.

In the mean time, I'd like to again pitch our need for additional sponsorships. We continue to seek funds to support foreign travel and students in particular. Suggested levels of sponsorship are given on the PIF web site. Those who have already contributed and who have allowed us to proceed aggressively with planning are also shown there. Thanks so much to all of them for stepping up early on. If your organization has not yet contributed, please consider what you

can do. Our budget is updated almost daily, and I will be happy to send you a copy any time.

Finally, just a reminder that although this is a PIF conference, we will have content on all birds. It should almost go without saying these days, but we want to be perfectly clear.—Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov)

Call for Nominations for 2007 PIF Awards

Partners in Flight is now accepting nominations for the 2007 National Awards. This year we are moving the submission deadline up so that can present the awards at the 4th International Partners in Flight Conference in McAllen next February. The PIF awards program recognizes exceptional contributions to the field of landbird conservation. Nominees who have furthered the goal of protecting migratory and resident landbirds and their habitats will be evaluated for their effective public awareness activities, innovative leadership, insightful ecological investigations, or sound land stewardship. Eligible nominations will be accepted for individuals or groups from the U.S., Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Please see <http://www.partnersinflight.org/awards/> for guidelines and forms. **The deadline for submission is 30 October 2007.** There are many good candidates for awards that have never been nominated. Please consider submitting a nomination this year for a worthy candidate.—Richard A. Fischer (Richard.A.Fischer@erdc.usace.army.mil)

Bird Education Working Group

As outlined in the last newsletter, a Bird Education Working Group was formed at the end of the conference, “Bird Conservation Through Education: A National Gathering,” held last February near Austin. The working group held its first meeting on 9-10 July in Denver. About 20 people attended. The main points of discussion were 1) the content of a strategic plan for bird education in the U.S., and 2) the best way to proceed organizationally. Options include forming a new 501(c)3, working with an existing organization, or working through a partnership without formal status. However, the group agreed unanimously that a paid coordinator will be needed to do this job properly and that will almost certainly require affiliation with some organization so as to facilitate fund-raising and accountability. To obtain a report of the meeting, which will include a number of action items, contact Terry. The Bird Education Working Group is open to anyone interested in the topic, whether you attended Austin or Denver or not. The working group continues to be supported by the Council for Environmental Education (www.councilforee.org/) which hosts a listserv on bird education that you are also welcome to join.—Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov)

PIF Science Committee

The PIF Science Committee met at Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (<http://www.rmbo.org/>) office in Fort Collins, CO, on 9-11 July. Agenda items included: PIF Population Estimates Database, Guide to Population Estimates Database, Pair Correction Factor Adjustments, Time of Day Factor Adjustments, Detection Distance Adjustments, Christmas Bird Count Data Discussion (see next), Development of a Single Watch List (Audubon, ABC, PIF, BSC), Distribution Scores, Climate Change, and the McAllen Conference. Minutes will be available from Wendy Easton (Wendy.Easton@EC.GC.CA) after committee members have had a chance to review the draft. Key items will also be covered in more depth at the Implementation Committee meeting in Louisville in September. And watch for announcements of new products to soon be posted on the PIF web site.

New Report from Audubon: Common Birds in Decline

Audubon has released a new analysis in the recent issue of Audubon magazine, called "Common Birds in Decline". The analysis combines data from 40 years of Audubon Christmas Bird Counts and USGS Breeding Bird Surveys. It presents a new and disturbing picture of what is happening to populations of many common species. This analysis will be the first in a new and ongoing series of Audubon State of the Birds reports. The analysis and associated outreach activities are intended to build public awareness and concern over the fate of species such as the Northern Bobwhite, Evening Grosbeak, Greater Scaup and Eastern Meadowlark, all of which have experienced nationwide population declines of more than 70 percent over four decades. The new analysis will be used by PIF in the update of the Species Assessment Database currently underway.

"Common Birds in Decline" and information on methodology is available at (stateofthebirds.audubon.org/cbid). The magazine pullout section is a downloadable PDF-format from the web site. Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, contact Greg Butcher (gbutcher@audubon.org).

Cerulean Warbler Summit

The draft Proceedings of the Cerulean Summit held in Morgantown, West Virginia, on 13-15 February 2007 are now available at: http://www.fws.gov/midwest/eco_serv/soc/birds/cerw/index.html. By clicking on the live links on the agenda, you can view PDFs of the presentations given at the workshop. There is an unbelievable amount of information here!

Rusty Blackbird Workshop Presentations

The Mississippi Rusty Blackbird meeting power point presentations can now be viewed at (<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/>

MigratoryBirds/Research/Rusty_Blackbird/Workshop_07/workshop.cfm).—Craig Watson (Craig_Watson@fws.gov).

New and Revised Websites at AFWA

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is pleased to announce the launch of two new websites. The (www.wildlifeactionplans.org) website provides detailed information on the state Wildlife Action Plans and partnerships forming to ensure their implementation. It is a clearing house where state, federal, and local partners can obtain information on projects addressing the priorities within the plans and provide models for working together to move priority actions forward.

The newly revamped (www.teaming.com) will be the online home for the Teaming with Wildlife coalition. It will provide information on federal wildlife funding programs and pending legislation, state-level funding initiatives, upcoming coalition events, a newsroom with press releases, and outreach tools for state and national coalition leaders. This website will interface with (www.wildlifeactionplans.org). We hope you will find these websites a useful resource.—Deb Hahn (dhahn@fishwildlife.org).

Linking Conservation and Land Use Planning

It is my pleasure to share with you our recently completed analysis of the State Wildlife Action Plans in the context of land use planning and sprawling development. Rapid urbanization poses a significant threat to wildlife nationwide. Defenders of Wildlife's new report, "Linking Conservation and Land Use Planning," recognizes development patterns as the top priority conservation issue in many states. The report includes recommendations on how the state Wildlife Action Plans can help land use planners protect wildlife, and how state wildlife agencies can work effectively in the land use planning setting. We hope you find our synthesis of this important issue useful as the plans move toward implementation. Copies can be downloaded at: (www.defenders.org/statewildlifeplans) —Julia Michalak (www.defenders.org).

National Pollinator Week

The Pollinator Partnership (<http://www.pollinator.org/>) celebrated National Pollinator Week – June 24-30, 2007, designated by the U.S. Senate (S.Res. 580) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A number of events occurred across the nation and in the Washington D.C. metro area to mark the occasion. Metro area events included a lecture by E.O. Wilson, launch of the Monarch Butterfly in North American Website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/monarchbutterfly/index.shtml>), and release of the USPS Pollination Stamp Series - a four-design, 20-stamp collection with artwork by Art Buchanan. The monarch website is the gateway to news, information, activities, and resources about the biology and conservation

of the monarch. The stamps feature wildflowers, the Calliope Hummingbird, Morrison's bumble bees, and a lesser-long nosed bat (http://www.fs.fed.us/monarchbutterfly/news/images/animalctr_stamp_lg.jpg). – Jina Mariani (jmariani@fs.fed.us)

Draft Passerine Monitoring Protocol Review

This is an opportunity to review and comment on a draft passerine bird monitoring protocol (<ftp://ftpext.usgs.gov/pub/er/wi/la.crosse/FWS>) to be employed by US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System in the Midwest and Northeastern Regions of the Service. We also collaborated with the National Park Service Great Lakes Network with the intent that Parks in the network will employ a similar protocol. The purpose of the protocol is to provide a standardized tool for inventories and monitoring of passerine birds at field stations. The major improvements of this revised protocol include sampling designs tailored for different objectives, and data collection methods that will provide estimates of the number of birds present but not detected during the surveys. **Comments are due by 27 July 2007.** The protocol may be viewed at (<ftp://ftpext.usgs.gov/pub/er/wi/la.crosse/FWS>). To register your comments, please use our simple Internet evaluation (<http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB226KRR7QCXY>), or send comments to Melinda Knutson (melinda_knutson@fws.gov).

Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring Update

What Are Your Regional GIS Data Needs?

The Northeast Habitat Classification Project is creating a common classification system for terrestrial and aquatic systems in USFWS Region 5. Map and data products will be cross-walked to existing state classification schemes and accompanied by a regional dataset of conserved lands. The habitat classification team plans to release a draft terrestrial system by the winter, with a final scheme completed in the spring of 2008. To ensure that your data needs are met by this project, direct input and inquiries to project coordinator Sue Gawler (sue_gawler@natureserve.org)

Recent Advances in Northeastern Monitoring

This spring, several working groups have made substantial progress in efforts to strengthen and align monitoring of priority birds. The Night Bird Working Group developed unified protocols, data forms, and volunteer manuals and is carrying out surveys for nightjars and owls in 11 states from North Carolina to Maine. In addition, observers in Connecticut, New Hampshire, and New York are piloting an approach to monitoring nightjars in high-density areas or "hot spots". The Marsh Bird Working Group agreed on a focal species list and has resolved a number of other issues with respect to standardizing field protocols.

Once a regional protocol has been finalized, collaborators will work to develop a coordinated design and sampling methodology. The Mountain Bird Working Group has developed a 5-year plan to improve and expand monitoring of high-elevation songbirds in order to assess and reduce threats to mountain bird habitat. The group has also strengthened ties to the Appalachian Trail Environmental MEGA-Transect and the Canadian High-Elevation Landbird Program. Members of all three groups will meet in November, in concert with the International Bicknell's Thrush Technical Working Group, in order to refine and implement planned improvements. Monitoring of grassland birds has also advanced this spring with the launch of a pilot program by Audubon New York to measure trends and evaluate the effectiveness of the New York Landowner Incentive Program. The 2007 Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring Workshop will feature updates on these and other Partnership initiatives.

Workshop on Improving Surveys and Volunteer Engagement

The second Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring Workshop will be held 3-5 October 2007 at the National Wildlife Visitor Center, Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, MD. The goals of the workshop are to:

- Introduce the final "Framework for Coordinated Bird Monitoring in the Northeast"

- Exchange information on efforts to improve monitoring, with a focus on solutions to characteristic problems

- Engage biologists and biometricians in the development of coordinated survey designs needed to strengthen monitoring of priority bird groups

- Develop an action plan for implementing cross-cutting recommendations of the framework

- Develop a unified approach to optimizing the contributions of volunteer observers

Draft Framework for Coordinated Bird Monitoring

The draft "Framework for Coordinated Bird Monitoring in the Northeast" will be released in early July for a period of public comment extending through the month of August. The framework will contain overarching goals and actions, focal group monitoring plans, and cross-cutting implementation strategies.

See www.nebirdmonitor.org for further details and updates.—Dan Lambert (dlambert@abcbirds.org)

Migratory Bird Conservation Act Projects 2007

The 36 projects approved for funding under the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act for 2007 were announced 12 May 2007, as part of International Migratory Bird Day celebrations. You may view brief descriptions of all 36

projects at (<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA/2007.shtm>), including 25 projects that will be implemented in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada. –Doug Ryan (Douglas_Ryan@fws.gov)

WCS Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund 2007 RFP

The Wildlife Conservation Society's (<http://www.wcs.org/>) North America Program is pleased to announce the second round of grant making through its Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund - a program for implementing State Wildlife Action Plans. **Pre-proposal applications are due 2 August 2007.** See <http://www.wcs.org/wildlifeopportunity> for details. All questions regarding the Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund program should be directed to Darren Long (dlong@wcs.org) or Craig Groves (cgroves@wcs.org).

National Forest Foundation Matching Grants Program

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) engages America in community-based and national programs that promote the health and public enjoyment of the 192-million-acre National Forest System. The NFF believes that communities should play a significant role in determining the future of National Forests and Grasslands. The NFF is interested in action-oriented projects that enhance the viability of natural resources while considering benefits to, and the involvement of, surrounding communities. The NFF will accept applications from non-governmental, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations working on or adjacent to National Forests and Grasslands throughout the United States. All grants awarded by the NFF require at least a 1:1 match of non-federal funds. Areas of programmatic emphasis include: Wildlife Habitat Improvement, Recreation, Community-Based Forestry, and Watershed Health and Restoration. Weighted emphasis will be given to projects affecting Wildlife Habitat Improvement and Recreation. For details see http://www.natlforests.org/consp_04_map.html. **The deadline for applications is 27 July 2007.**

Wilburforce Foundation

The Wilburforce Foundation (<http://www.wilburforce.org>) is dedicated to protecting nature's richness and diversity through funding programs that help preserve our remaining wild places. We focus our funding on organizations that work to protect habitats that are critically important to sustaining abundant ecological communities in Western Canada and the Western United States. The next **deadline for applications is 17 August 2007.**

The Christensen Fund

The Christensen Fund makes grants to organizations that work towards maintaining the rich diversity of the world—biological and cultural—over the long run, including the persistence and adaptation of indigenous systems for

managing landscapes that sustain cultural and biological value and diversity. For details see (http://www.christensenfund.org/frame_grants.html). **Their next deadline is 31 August 2007.**

Birdfair/RSPB Research Fund for Endangered Birds

The British Birdwatching Fair and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) are pleased to announce the opening of the 2007 round of applications to the Birdfair/RSPB Research Fund for Endangered Birds. This fund provides grants of up to US \$2,000 for researchers working on birds classified by IUCN as Endangered or Critically Endangered. The fund is open to all applicants although priority is given to those working with or for BirdLife Partners, where they exist. Priority is also given to researchers working in their own country, and travel funding is not provided from developed to developing countries. Further details and an application form are available from (<http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/science/international/smallgrants/endangeredbirdgrants.asp>). A generous private donation means funding more projects this year than ever before. **The closing date for grant applications is 30 September 2007.**

Francois Vuilleumier Fund: Grants for Research on Neotropical Birds

The goal of the Neotropical Ornithological Society's Francois Vuilleumier Fund is to award one or more cash grants per year for thesis studies of Neotropical birds to one or several graduate students from any country in Latin America and the Caribbean. The funds are provided to assist thesis research by students enrolled in an institution in the Neotropics who have little or no access to funds within their country or at their institution. Awards will be competitive and are expected to be in the range of \$500. Students from Latin America and the Caribbean enrolled in a graduate degree program (Masters or Ph.D.) at an institution in the Neotropical Region are eligible to apply. **The application deadline is 15 September** and award announcements 15 December each year. Fund information and guidelines are available on the Neotropical Ornithological Society website (www.neotropicalornithology.org). For additional information contact Dr. John Blake (blakej@msx.umsl.edu).

Las Joyas Research Station Secured

The Congress of the State of Jalisco, Mexico, unanimously approved that the Las Joyas Research Station be managed by the University of Guadalajara on a long-term basis (99 years in "comodato"). Those of you that understand the "fantastic-bizarre reality" of the tropics will understand that this is an important conservation achievement, considering that the UdG had been requesting this formalized agreement for over two decades and had been managing the station on an "informal" basis since 1984! Over 200 research thesis and papers have been published from this station, including the PhD thesis of some of today's leading

Mexican ornithologists. It was an intensive three-month process due to elections and mis-information promoted by people that are working against nature conservation objectives of the Sierra de Manantlán Biosphere Reserve. I want to thank those of you that took the time to send us letters or messages of support; they were well-received and very helpful. ¡Gracias! —Eduardo Santana (esantana@cucsur.udg.mx) [Editor's note: Many PIFers fondly recall their first visit to Las Joyas following the seminal PIF meeting in Autlan, Jalisco in February 1996. The people and programs at Las Joyas have been recognized with many awards over the years, and, of course, Eduardo Santana deserves a lot of credit.]

U.S. Nightjar Survey Network

The Center for Conservation Biology, College of William and Mary is initiating and coordinating the Southeastern U.S. Nightjar Survey Network. The objective of the network is to obtain population distribution and trend data on Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's Widows throughout ten southeastern states including: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The program relies entirely on volunteer participation. The 2007 season has past but you can arrange now to participate in 2008 and beyond. See the Southeastern U.S. Nightjar Survey Network web pages for more information (<http://ccb.wm.edu/nightjar/nightjar.htm>) – Mike Wilson (mdwils@wm.edu).

A Swift Night Out

The Driftwood Wildlife Association will again be hosting A Swift Night Out. As summer draws to a close and the swifts have finished raising their young, birds begin to congregate in communal roosts prior to their migration in the fall. Some roosts may consist of an extended family group of a half a dozen birds or so, but the larger sites can host hundreds or even thousands of swifts! On one night over the weekend of August 11, 12, 13, and/or September 8, 9, 10 observe the a roost starting about 30 minutes before dusk and estimate the number of swifts that enter. When you have your number, contact us with your results. For more information and results, see (<http://www.chimneyswifts.org>) and click on the "Swift Night Out" link.—(www.chimneyswifts.org)

La Tangara No 65 Now Available

La Tangara No 65 is now available at: (<http://www.latangara.org/archive.htm>). Some of the topics featured in this edition include: 2007 Park Flight International Interns Selected; Long-Whiskered Owlet seen in the Wild in Peru; Spectacular Courtship Display of Rare Hummingbird Filmed For First Time; New North American Shorebird Numbers; Festival Celebrates Caribbean's Unique Birds; Conservationists Join Ecuador President's Call to Save Galapagos; World Migratory Bird Day 2007; Key migratory shorebird wetlands protected in Bahía

Santa María, México, and much more.—Jose M. Zolotoff-Pallais
(zolotoff@ibw.com.ni)

All Bird Bulletin June 2007, Dedicated to Private Land Conservation

The June 2007 issue of The All-Bird Bulletin is dedicated to promoting bird conservation on private land. You can access the pdf using the following link: (<http://www.nabci-us.org/aboutnabci/bulletin0607.pdf>).

Water for Wildlife - A Handbook for Ranchers and Range Managers

As natural water sources decline in the Arid West, many species of wildlife have come to depend on livestock water developments. Unfortunately, these water developments are often difficult for wildlife to access, especially bats, which are particularly vulnerable to water shortages. Livestock water developments can also be inadvertent death traps when water levels are low and proper wildlife escape structures are not installed. This handbook describes how bats and other wildlife are affected by water development size, configuration, and maintenance. It contains designs and instructions for building inexpensive and effective wildlife escape structures, and fencing and bracing methods that enhance wildlife access while meeting livestock management objectives. Although aimed at western livestock producers, and range and wildlife managers, the wildlife escape structures and advice in this handbook apply east of the Mississippi River as well. The handbook can be downloaded from (<http://www.batcon.org/news2/pdf/bciwaterforwildlife.pdf>).—Wendell Gilgert (Wendell.Gilgert@por.usda.gov).

Worldbirdnames

The web site (<http://www.worldbirdnames.org>) supplements the book "Birds of the World: Recommended English Names" by Frank Gill and Minturn Wright, Princeton University Press, 2006. Our goal on behalf of the International Ornithological Congress is to promote the use of a standard set of the English names of the birds of the world. The Website provides an overview of the project and its participants, the value of standardization of English bird names, spelling rules for English bird names, lists of the names of the birds of the world, downloadable Excel files of these lists (1.3 Mb), corrections and updates to the world list (Version 1.0), and reviews, adoptions, and suggestions for improvement. —John Cecil (jcecil@audubon.org).

Red List Index as United Nations Development Indicator

The changing conservation status of birds and other species is to be used to track progress towards the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The eight Goals range from halving extreme poverty to ensuring environmental sustainability. The eight Goals, agreed upon by all the world's

governments and development institutions, are targets for the year 2015. The Red List Index, which was initially designed and tested by BirdLife International using data on all bird species from 1988-2004, is to be the basis of a new MDG "indicator". The Red List Index is based on the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List, which uses quantitative criteria to categorize species relative to risk of extinction. The likely adoption of *The Proportion of Species Threatened with Extinction* as one of around 50 global indicators to assess progress in achieving the MDGs highlights the issue of extinction, the enormous value of species data, and the importance of biodiversity to sustaining livelihoods. Although the new indicator is likely to be incorporated into an annex to the Millennium Development Goals report for 2007, it will not be formally adopted into the MDG framework until 2008 (http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/05/birds_become_development_indicator.html).

Birdcinema

Birdcinema.com is a place for people to view and post bird videos. Our goal with this site is to provide a community of people who love birds the opportunity to view and post video of birds, domestic and wild. We hope both amateurs and professionals will come to the site and share their bird videos, provide a little about the bird, the video, or whatever else they feel is relevant. See <http://www.birdcinema.com/>.—Albert Mithell

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Association Of Field Ornithologists

The Association of Field Ornithologists' 2007 Meeting will be held at the University of Maine in Orono 26-29 July 2007. Information about the meeting, pre- and post-meeting trips, and the Gulf of Maine region is available on the AFO website (<http://www.afonet.org/>).

American Ornithologists' Union

The 125th stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held at the University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY, 8-11 Aug 2007. Information can be found at <http://www.aou.org/meetings/2007/index>.

Raptor Research Foundation and Hawk Migration Association Of North America

The Raptor Research Foundation and Hawk Migration Association

of North America will hold a joint conference in Allentown, Pennsylvania on 12-16 September 2007 at the Fogelsville Holiday Inn Conference Center. For further details see <http://www.hawkmountain.org>.

Partners in Flight Implementation Committee

The PIF IC will hold its fall meeting on 16-17 September near Louisville, KY. As usual, this meeting is being held immediately prior to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference (see next). Details will be distributed via PIF listservs as they are developed.

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference

AFWA's 2007 annual conference will be held at The Galt House Hotel and Suites Louisville, Kentucky 16-21 September 2007. Details are available at <http://www.fishwildlife.org/annualmeet.html>.

The Wildlife Society

The 14th Annual Conference of TWS will be held in Tucson, AZ on 22-26 September 2007. PIF will hold a symposium entitled, "Conservation of Biodiversity through Actions Benefiting High Priority Landbirds." Conference details can be found at <http://www.wildlife.org/conference/index.cfm>.

Northeast Bird Monitoring Workshop

The 2007 Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring Workshop, originally slated for spring of 2007, has been rescheduled for October 3-5. It will be held at the Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor's Center in Laurel, MD. The goals of the workshop are to 1) finalize review of a strategic plan for coordinated bird monitoring in the Northeast; 2) complete detailed survey designs needed to align monitoring of priority bird groups; 3) begin implementation of the coordinated plan; and 4) develop an approach to optimizing the involvement of volunteer observers. Biologists and statisticians from the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center will be on hand to help us achieve these goals, just as they were at the Ithaca workshop. Please save the dates and watch for more information in the coming months.—Dan Lambert (dlambert@abcbirds.org).

Waterbird Society

The 31st Annual Meeting of the Waterbird Society will be held 30 October – 3 November 2007 at the Historic Building of the University of Barcelona, Spain. Three full days of scientific sessions are planned, including 6 symposia. Field trips are planned to various areas along the Mediterranean coast, including one full-day excursion to the rice fields of the Ebro delta, an important breeding and feeding site for herons, egrets, ducks, waders, shorebirds, gulls, flamingos,

coots, and moorhens. Registration information can be accessed at <http://www.wbs2007.org>.

National Association for Interpretation

A part of our strategy to improve bird education is to become more involved in environmental education conferences to build a bird education network. We have submitted a proposal for an oral presentation on our bird education strategic plan. The NAI National Workshop will be held 6-10 November in Wichita, KS. Details are at <http://www.interpnet.com/workshop/index.shtml>.

North Carolina Partners in Flight: Fall 2007 Meeting

The NC Partners in Flight Fall Meeting will be held Nov. 7, 2007 at Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge at the main office in Columbia, NC. The tentative agenda and presentations include: Bird Conservation Projects at Pocosin Lakes NWR; Breeding Colonial Waterbirds Survey – 2007; Using Models to Step-down National Population and Habitat Objectives for Data-poor Species; a pilot project with the King Rail ; Population Dynamics of American Oystercatchers in NC; Breeding Biology of Swainson's Warbler Along the Roanoke River, NC - Neil Chartier, NC State University; Early results from ongoing research on the productivity of the Swainson's Warbler, and NC Partners in Flight Updates.— Mark Johns (johnsme@mindspring.com).

North American Association for Environmental Education

A part of our strategy to improve bird education is to become more involved in environmental education conferences to build a bird education network. The NAAEE annual conference will be held 14-17 November in Virginia Beach, VA. We have submitted a proposal for a relatively long (1 hour) oral presentation on our bird education strategic plan. See <http://www.naaee.org/conference> for details.

Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

The 68th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference will be held in Madison, WI, 9-12 December 2007. We are working with the Midwest PIF Working Group and Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (<http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/>) to set up a workshop or meeting on topics of interest. Conference details can be found at <http://midwest.ncd-afs.org/index.asp>.

4th International Partners in Flight Conference

The 4th International Partners in Flight Conference, Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats, and People, will be held February 13-16, 2008 in McAllen, Texas. We have planned an exciting conference focusing on issues,

needs, and opportunities in bird conservation that are shared across the Western Hemisphere. For further information please visit (http://www.partnersinflight.org/events/2008_mcallen.htm).

Floodplain Ecosystem Symposium for Southeastern U.S.

This conference will be held 4-6 March 2008, in Little Rock, Arkansas. It is intended for wildlife and forestry practitioners, researchers, hydrologists, ecologists, state and federal resource agencies, policy makers, conservation organizations, academia students, and those interested in floodplain ecosystems. Conference themes include: geomorphic processes and alterations in floodplains, hydrologic processes in riverine ecosystems; water quality; fish and wildlife ecology and management; ecology of floodplain forests; restoration and management, policy and synthesis; lessons learned from farm bill programs and future challenges. Visit <http://www.afrc.uamont.edu/floodplainsymposium/> to learn more about the agenda, registration and submission of papers and presentations. The deadline for abstracts is 15 August 2007.

Alaska Bird Conference

The 12th Biennial Alaska Bird Conference will be held in Fairbanks, Alaska, 4-7 March 2008. Suggestions for pre-conference workshops, special sessions, and associated meetings are now being accepted. Conference details will be posted on the Alaska Bird Observatory website as they become available (<http://www.alaskabird.org>).

Wilson Ornithological Society

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society, will be held 18-20 April in Mobile Alabama, an important trans-Gulf migration site. This will be a joint meeting with the Association of Field Ornithologists. The local host, Frank Moore, may be reached at Frank.Moore@usm.edu.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Gary Ivey

Gary has become a part-time employee of the International Crane Foundation (<http://www.savingcranes.org/>) which will allow him to focus some time on furthering crane conservation in western North America through habitat conservation and restoration, conservation planning, monitoring and research, and public outreach projects. Gary's realm is the Pacific and Central Flyway areas. He will also be working on a PhD on winter ecology of cranes in California over the next 3 years. Contact Gary at ivey@savingcranes.org.

Xico Vega

After a very successful period at Pronatura Noroeste (<http://www.pronatura-noroeste.org/>), Xico has accepted a new position as Deputy Director of WHSRN (<http://www.whsrn.org/>). He and Meredith Gutowski (see next) are both working on the Shorebird Recovery Project, a new initiative at Manomet (<http://www.manomet.org/>) that will address conservation, research, and monitoring of shorebirds. Xico will remain in Mexico and can be reached at xicovega@manomet.org.

Meredith Gutowski

Meredith has also joined the Manomet Shorebird Recovery Project (see above) as Conservation Specialist. Meredith worked for several years in the Division of Bird Habitat Conservation at USFWS. She'll be working with Xico, Charles Duncan and partners to expand the network of shorebird conservation in the Western Hemisphere. Meredith can be reached at mgutowski@manomet.org.

The next newsletter will be issued on 1 October 2007. Items are due 15 September 2007 to Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov). The PIF Newsletter is assembled by Jina Mariani and Terry Rich.