



PARTNERS IN FLIGHT NEWSLETTER

<http://www.partnersinflight.org>

October 2007

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 we 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)

McAllen Conference

Registration

Early registration for the 4th International Partners in Flight Conference in McAllen, Texas in February 2008 is now open and will run **until 16 November**. We encourage everyone to register early to save yourself money and to give us a better idea of attendance levels. Attendance affects our ability to provide travel support to participants from Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. We need some lead time to plan and award this support.

Art

The artwork for the McAllen Conference theme and that for IMBD 2008 – Tundra to Tropics – has been finished. Sue Bonfield will be circulating an announcement shortly, and this art will then also be placed on the PIF web site and on all conference related publicity. We are discussing options for the ultimate disposition of the original art and for prints. Stay tuned!

Keynote Speakers

We have arranged for four outstanding keynote speakers. **Fiona Schmiegelow** will speak on global climate change, **Bron Taylor** on “Science & Spirituality: Making the Connection in the Cause of Conservation,” **Yossi Leshem** on “Migrating Birds Know no Boundaries: The Middle East and the Great Rift Valley Test Case,” and **Stephen Baillie** on the experience of the British Trust for Ornithology in bird monitoring and making bird population trends an indicator for national quality of life.

Call for Papers Still Open

The Call for Papers also will be open until 16 November. A more detailed description of conference sessions is now on the web site. Check out the unusually wide variety of topics we will be covering.

Action Plan

Each of the 45 conference sessions will conclude with a discussion session of at least 30 minutes wherein the participants will identify specific, short-term actions that should be taken to address the conservation issue in question. These actions will be compiled, formatted, and distributed electronically shortly after the conference concludes. This is your opportunity to get your ideas up onto a big stage.

No Junk

We remind you that the Conference Steering Committee has opted to do a “no junk” or “green” conference to save you money and to avoid wasting resources. We will provide you with the items you have purchased via registration, event tickets, and a program. But please bring your own tote bag, water bottle, and coffee cup. There will be plenty of other materials to pick up if you want them.

Proceedings

We will produce a proceedings from both the oral and poster presentations for those authors who are interested. The proceedings will be produced electronically and in limited quantities in hard copy. Terry Rich and Dean Demarest will be coediting the volume. We are seeking one more editor to help us move the proceedings process along quickly. Contact Terry if you are interested in this role.

Check the PIF Web Site

Additional content on adjunct meetings, workshops, training, keynotes, field trips, socials, and other conference content is added almost every day, thanks to the

hard work of Mary Gustafson, Janet Ruth, and Lois Loges. Be sure to check the conference web site often! —Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov)

Population Estimates Database

The Partners in Flight Landbird Population Estimates Database is now up on the PIF and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory web sites (http://rmbo.org/pif_db/laped/). This web site:

1. Provides users access to the estimates of landbird populations published in the North American Landbird Conservation Plan (Rich et al. 2004),
2. Allow users to view and download estimates for landbird populations at a variety of geographic scales, and
3. Provide transparent access to the methodologies, assumptions, data sources, and species-specific adjustment factors used by Partners in Flight to create these estimates.

Complete details and guidelines for using this resource can be found in the “Guide to the PIF Population Estimation Database”, also located on the site.

The current version of this web site and the underlying database corresponds with continental population estimates provided in Rich et al. (2004), and with stepped-down estimates for each U.S. state provided by Rosenberg (2004). On this site we provide estimates at a continental scale (including global or rangewide population estimates for North American species), population estimates for Bird Conservation Regions, estimates for individual states and provinces, and estimates for geopolitical units where Bird Conservation Regions overlap with states and provinces. In each case, we offer a simplified Excel table with estimates for species or regions of interest, or a user can download a more complex table with all the pertinent information behind these estimates, including data sources, adjustment factors, and data-quality flags.

We are actively working to revise these population estimates and are seeking input and relevant data from throughout the bird-conservation community. We encourage everyone to use the database and to provide feedback on anything that can help us improve these estimates in the future. These include completely independent population estimates for any species for any of our geographic units (globe/range, BCR, state/province, BCRxState/Province polygon), comments on the adjustment factors for particular species, or anything else you think might help. We hope to develop a web-based feedback system, but in the mean time you can send ideas or data to arvind.panjabi@rmbo.org or terry_rich@fws.gov.

Special thanks to the PIF Science Committee, Peter Blancher, Arvind Panjabi, and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory for finalizing this important contribution to bird conservation.

PIF Website Additions

Rainforest Birds: A Land Manager's Guide

This reference in the June issue of Bird Calls (ABC) has been added to the Best Management Practices portion of the PIF website. Congratulations to Bob Altman on this publication. It was published jointly by USGS and ABC. The full citation is: *Altman, B. and J. Hagar. 2007. Rainforest birds: a land manager's guide to breeding bird habitat in young conifer forest in the Pacific Northwest. U. S. Geological Survey, Scientific Investigations Report 206-5304., 60 pages.* The web link is (<http://pubs.water.usgs.gov/sir20065304/>).

Global Climate Change and Birds

We now have some information about global climate change and birds on the PIF Website. From the front page (www.partnersinflight.org), click on "Other PIF Resources" and click on "Global Climate Change and Birds". From there you can access a Bibliography of recent publications on global climate change and birds. Where I was able to find them, I have linked to available on-line versions. You can also access a few websites with additional information. This is a new website section and is still under construction. If you are aware of other publications or other websites that might be included, please contact me with the information. I also welcome other suggestions, although at this point, we are not interested in recreating the wheel if we can link to available information.—Janet Ruth (janet_ruth@usgs.gov).

BBS Strategic Plan

The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) has remained consistently relevant in bird conservation planning for over 40 years. Many peer reviewed articles appear annually in journals in which scientists use the publicly available dataset to evaluate diverse and contemporary topics such as climate change, disease transmission, and migratory connectivity. Two recent articles in particular, received wide media coverage, helping to underscore the importance and value of the long-term dataset. To ensure that the program remains relevant well into the future, the BBS underwent an intensive planning workshop in 2005 that included substantial input from numerous partners and stakeholders. The result was a programmatic plan consisting of two major goals, 5 strategies, and 13 objectives as well as 36 individual action items that will guide the BBS in providing scientifically credible bird population data in years to come.

The USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and Mexico's National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity are pleased to make the *Strategic Plan For The North American Breeding Bird Survey: 2006-2010* available online and in print. The pdf is available at (www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbsnews/MeetingProducts/Index.html). Print copies

can be obtained by contacting: Keith Pardieck (kpardieck@usgs.gov) or your respective national coordinator (Canada: Connie_Downes@ec.gc.ca, Mexico: hberlang@xolo.conabio.gob.mx).—Keith Pardieck (kpardieck@usgs.gov)

BBS Receives Initial Funding To Expand Into Mexico

In May of 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Grant Program (NMBCA) awarded \$56K to Mexico's National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) (http://www.conabio.gob.mx/remib_ingles/doctos/remib_ing.html), to kick-start the expansion of the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) into Mexico. To date, the ability of the BBS to document the population status of >100 species whose ranges extend into Mexico has been limited to only the U.S and Canadian portions of their ranges. This new initiative, coordinated by CONABIO, the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the Canadian Wildlife Service, aims to improve coverage of those species shared with Mexico as well as to provide a framework for the conservation of many resident and endemic Mexican bird species that share habitats with breeding neotropical migrants. For more information, please visit (www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbsnews/MeetingProducts/Index.html) or contact Humberto Berlanga (hberlang@xolo.conabio.gob.mx). [Editor's Note: A workshop on this subject will be held in McAllen on 12 February 2008. See <http://www.partnersinflight.org/events/mcallen/program.htm#workshops> for details.]

U.S. Forest Service Releases Proposed Wind Energy Directives

The Forest Service proposed wind energy directives are now available for review and comment in the federal register (<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/permits/energy.htm>). Send written comments to Wind Energy Proposed Directives, Attention: Director, Lands Staff, 4th Floor-South, USDA Forest Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Mailstop 1124, Washington, DC 20250, or by fax to 202-205-1604. You may also submit comments by following the instructions at the Federal e-rulemaking portal at (<http://www.regulations.gov>). **Comments are due by 23 November 2007.**—Jina Mariani (jmariani@fs.fed.us).

National Forum on Children and Nature

In September of 2006, The Conservation Fund, author Richard Louv (Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder), and the Secretary of the Interior hosted a dialogue on how to reconnect children with nature. Leaders from public agencies, corporations, the media, and health and environmental organizations convened to explore opportunities for action. The major outcome of the meeting was a commitment to elevate this issue to the national agenda through a National Forum on Children and Nature. This initiative

was launched on 21 June 2007 and is chaired by Governors Schweitzer of Montana, Rendell of Pennsylvania, Rell of Connecticut, and Sanford of South Carolina.

The Forum will involve governors, mayors, corporate CEOs, heads of environmental organizations, and leaders from health and education institutions, and will invest several million dollars in projects with on-the-ground tangible results that address the issue of children's isolation from nature. The Forum will identify 20 nationally significant demonstration projects in four key areas of health, education, the built environment, and media/culture that will provide substantial steps toward improved children's health and environmental stewardship.

The Forum will use a two-phased project endorsement process. In Phase I, applicants will provide a general outline of their project, including how the project will connect children with nature and what partnerships and financial support the applicant has attracted or plans to attract. **Phase I applications are due 31 October 2007.** Project leaders will be notified in early 2008 if their project has been selected to provide a more detailed Phase II application. Groups chosen from this Phase II pool for Forum endorsement will receive national recognition by the National Forum on Children and Nature, along with marketing and fundraising support for their projects. For more complete information about this National Forum visit (http://www.conservationfund.org/children_nature).

Local Non-profit Klamath Bird Observatory Announces Endowment

Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) is pleased to announce the establishment of a Bird Monitoring and Education Endowment with a generous gift from the Baldwin Family Trust. The Baldwin Family Trust created a memorial fund in the name of Paul and Sarah Baldwin, who were passionate about bird conservation efforts. Members of the Baldwin family continue to be active bird watchers and contributors to bird conservation efforts in southern Oregon. This endowment will allow KBO to further its bird monitoring and education activities, contributing to bird and habitat conservation for years to come. For more about this endowment, visit www.klamathbird.org/donate.—Ashley Dayer, (aad@Klamath.org)

NAWCA Small Grants Website

The website for the NAWCA Small Grants has been updated with the **new deadline (30 November 2007)**. The only change we made to the instructions was the updating of the Bird Conservation Region list to agree with the U.S. Standard grants. Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or concerns.—Rodecia McKnight-Griffin (rodecia_mcknight@fws.gov)

Georgia Ornithological Society Makes 100K Available

The Georgia Ornithological Society is advertising the availability of grant money to support field work on behalf of bird conservation. We plan to award roughly \$100,000 this year. **Deadline for this grant is December 1.** Details can be found at the following website: (<http://www.gos.org/grants/conservation-grants.html>).

Future Conservationist Awards

The Future Conservationist Awards 2008 have been launched by the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP), formerly the British Petroleum Conservation Programme (BPCP). These awards are highly competitive and winners are selected from amongst the highest quality applications. Awards of up to \$12,500 are offered to teams that aim to develop their skills through practical conservation projects. To be eligible, projects must be conceived and developed by the team members themselves, and must take place in one of the following countries: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Russia, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey or Venezuela. As part of the award, one member from each team is selected to represent their project at an international training course, and winning teams are able to access expertise from within each of the five partner organizations which make up the CLP - BirdLife International, Fauna & Flora International, The Wildlife Conservation Society, Conservation International and BP. **The deadline for applications is 23 November 2007.** For details, see (<http://conservation.bp.com/applications/fcawards.asp>).

Crunching the Numbers for Birds in the Conservation Reserve Program

The High Plains region has the largest percentage of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage in the nation. But, what about CRP benefits for wildlife? A first of its kind study is currently underway to determine the effects of CRP on birds in the mixed grass prairie. The study is being conducted as part of a Conservation Effects Assessment Project, or CEAP. Megan McLachlan, Geographic Information System Team Leader for the Playa Lakes Joint Venture, is leading the geographic analysis component of the project.—Debbie Slobe (debbie.slobe@pljv.org)

Tune to Playa Country Radio

Playa Country Radio is a weekly 5-min radio program produced by the Playa Lakes Joint Venture and aired on more than 20 rural public and farm radio stations across the High Plains. Playa Country features the people, partnerships and programs that are making a difference in the conservation of wildlife habitat in the playa lakes region. To listen, visit: (www.pljv.org/cms/playa-country-radio).

For archives of past shows, visit (www.pljv.org/cms/radio-show-archive).—
Debbie F. Slobe (debbie.slobe@pljv.org).

Aves de Venezuela – Sitio Web Nuevo

Les informamos el relanzamiento de la pagina web <http://www.avesvenezuela.net>. El sitio tendrá como contenido las siguientes secciones:

Las aves de Venezuela. En esta sección podrán conocer las especies de aves según la taxonomía de las principales publicaciones de aves de Venezuela (Hilty, Restall et al.), la categoría según UICN, el estatus y el área de endemismo al que pertenece. Además, se pueden realizar búsquedas personalizadas por familia y nombre, y esperamos incluir los mapas de distribución para cada especie en el futuro. Igualmente, con la ayuda de los usuarios, queremos incorporar los cantos y fotos de las especies.

Bibliografía ornitológica de Venezuela. Esta sección se listan las publicaciones y los títulos de los artículos que hacen referencia a la ornitología en Venezuela. También se pueden hacer búsquedas personalizadas por autor, título, año o tema.

Reporte de aves. Esta nueva sección les permitirá reportar una extensión de distribución o someter a discusión una foto de un ave no identificada.

Programas. En esta sección se señalan los programas que apoyamos a través del portal.

Instituciones Venezolanas relacionadas con las aves. En esta sección se listan las instituciones venezolanas que realizan programas de educación, sensibilización, investigación y extensión, relacionados con las aves de Venezuela.

Vínculos de interés. En esta sección tendrán acceso a otros portales que realizan trabajos con respecto la ornitología neotropical y venezolana.

¿Qué ave es ésta? Esta sección les permitirá conocer sus capacidades en la identificación de las especies. Habrá un premio periódicamente, el cual será sorteado entre quienes respondan todas las preguntas correctamente.

Acerca de AvesVenezuela. Esta sección les permitirá conocer quienes somos, que hacemos y cuales son nuestros propósitos. Allí está dispuesta la dirección de correos para contactarnos.

El portal es una propuesta que hacemos de forma voluntaria, donde frecuentemente agregamos un poco de nuestro tiempo libre para construir los espacios que están todavía en construcción. Por ello, les rogamos que nos informen de cualquier error u omisión a la dirección de correo electrónico contacto@avesvenezuela.net.—David Ascanio, Jose Gustavo León, Karla Pérez

Bird-Safe Building Guidelines

NYC Audubon is proud to introduce the publication entitled, “Bird-Safe Building Guidelines”, written by Hillary Brown, AIA and Steven Caputo. This manual will be useful for architects, landscape designers, engineers, glass technicians,

developers, building managers, city, state, and federal officials, and the general public. It reveals the magnitude of bird-collisions with glass and describes the conditions that cause these deadly collisions. Bird-safety in buildings is integral to the “green” sustainable building movement, and the guidelines suggest strategies that complement the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating system. To download a pdf of the guidelines visit (<http://www.nycaudubon.org/home/BirdSafeBuildingGuidelines.pdf>). To request a printed copy of the guidelines, please email (info@nycaudubon.org).—Glenn Phillips (gphillips@nycaudubon.org).

Cat Bibs

Some folks in Australia developed a neoprene "cat bib" that significantly reduces cats' ability to kill birds and other wildlife (both by visual cue to prey and some interference with the cat's hunting). The bibs were independently tested by folks at Murdoch University in Perth. In the U.S., the bibs are sold online by Cat Goods in Oregon. If you have cats and can't keep them indoors, this is worth investigating. Visit (www.catgoods.com/index.html) for more information about cat bibs.—Chris Paige (lcpaige@earthlink.net)

Tennessee Ornithological Society Website

The Tennessee Important Bird Areas website is now online! The website is accessible through a link on the main page of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (www.tnbirds.org) or directly at (www.tnbirds.org/IBA/IBAindex.htm). The website is very comprehensive, user-friendly, and incredibly valuable for birding and conservation. The site contains information about all 52 IBAs including locations, directions, pictures, local contacts, links for Friends' groups/land owners/managing organizations, and of course ample bird data. Many thanks to those who contributed to the sites development.—Scott Somershoe (scott.somershoe@state.tn.us)

Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative Coordinating Council

The Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative Coordinating Council is starting to plan their spring Congress. They're looking at dates between March 28 and April 14, 2008. This group is gaining momentum, and I'd like to see more national PIF folks participate. For questions or to contribute ideas, contact Jean Fierke at <http://www.MiBCI.org>.

Wondrous West Indian Wetlands: Teachers' Resource Book

The French version of “Wondrous West Indian Wetlands: Teachers' Resource Book” is now available. This book will allow us to expand our educational project and message of wetlands and bird conservation to the French West Indies. We will distribute the book (and other outreach materials in French) to participants at

two wetlands workshops to be held in Guadeloupe and Martinique (including Haitian participation) in November 2007, and French Guyana in 2008. This book and upcoming workshops are a wonderful outcome of our last Society for Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) meeting in Guadeloupe in 2005. During the workshop and discussion on education, awareness and community training initiatives, our French colleagues pointed out that education and awareness projects were lacking in the French Antilles and they recommended that such a project be initiated.—Lisa G. Sorenson (lsoren@bu.edu)

Los Maravillosos Humedales del Caribe Insular

We are just about all out of the first printing of the Spanish version of the workbook entitled, “Los Maravillosos Humedales del Caribe Insular: Libro del Trabajo para el Maestro”, and are working now to revise and update the Spanish version. We need to print the Second Edition ASAP as our project partners in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico have more wetlands workshops planned and there are not enough copies left. We have secured partial funds, but not enough yet to print. If you can help sponsor printing or have suggestions for possible funding sources or sponsors, we would really appreciate knowing.—Lisa G. Sorenson (lsoren@bu.edu)

Bird Education – Useful Quotes

If you are looking for that "right" bird-and-nature-oriented quotation for a poster, speech or flyer, look no further. Try this new collection from the North American Bird Conservation Initiative website: <http://www.birdiq.com/learn/index.html>.—Paul Baicich

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

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 (www.wbs2007.org).

PIF Western Working Group Meeting

The fall 2007 meeting of the Western Working Group (WWG) of Partners in Flight will be held at the Grove Hotel in Boise, Idaho on 5-8 November 2007. The meeting will focus on coordinated monitoring of aquatic waterbirds across the western states, protocol standardization, database development, and building a national bird monitoring partnership under the Multistate Conservation Grant Program (National Conservation Needs). The western leaders of the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) program will be holding their annual meeting in conjunction with the PIF WWG to facilitate discussion of opportunities for implementing coordinated bird monitoring at western IBAs. There will also be an extended meeting of the Avian Knowledge Alliance and several outstanding social functions. For details, contact Rex Sallabanks (rsallabanks@idfg.idaho.gov).

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. The NAI program committee has accepted an extended presentation on our bird education strategic plan for their national workshop, to be held 6-10 November in Wichita, KS. Details are at <http://www.interpnet.com/workshop/index.shtml>. — Carol Beidleman (Carol_Beidleman@partner.nps.gov)

North Carolina Partners in Flight: Fall 2007 Meeting

The NC Partners in Flight Fall Meeting will be held 7 November 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. Our presentation to NAAEE has also been accepted and we have been given a long time slot (1.75 hours) for an oral presentation on our bird education strategic plan. See <http://www.naaee.org/conference> for details.—Ashley Dayer (aad@Klamath.org)

6th Yucatan Bird Festival

In the Maya culture, rich in mysticism and art, birds held a special position adorning homes, palaces and temples; their beauty was forever captured on stucco and stone, and lifted to godliness through songs and poetry. This passion has been handed to us, heirs of such a marvelous civilization, and with the purpose of sharing this wonderful legacy we are organizing the Sixth Yucatan Bird Festival to be held on 29 November – 2 December 2007 in Mérida and Izamal, Yucatán. The program of activities includes: Photography and Drawing Contest, a Specialized Workshop entitled “Coastline Birds of the North Coast of Yucatan”, a Beginners Workshop entitled “Introduction to Birds”, Conference of Harry Möller, who created México Desconocido, a handcrafted items exhibit from Izamal and surrounding area, the xoc ch’ich’ bird marathon and much more. Please visit (<http://yucatanbirds.org.mx/ingles/eventos/toh.php>). —Susana Ojeda Orranti (susanaojeda@nino.org.mx).

Riparian Habitat Joint Venture Conference: Integrating Riparian Habitat Conservation & Flood Management in California

This symposium, to be held 4-6 December 2007 in Sacramento, will feature a plenary session, concurrent sessions, and a poster session focused on the research, management, collaboration, and issues facing California to both prevent and manage floods and conserve, protect, and restore riparian habitat across the State. The symposium will provide a forum for natural resource scientists and managers, flood management experts and managers, landowners and conservancies, regulatory agencies, and policy makers to exchange ideas and perspectives and identify the critical issues that will need integration and cooperation to resolve into the future. Major themes of the 2007 symposium include flood control and protection; habitat, species, and natural community conservation; protecting and sustaining agriculture; and the health and safety of urban communities. For more complete information about this conference, please visit (<http://www.prbo.org/calpif/rhjcconference/>).

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. Visit (<http://www.interpnet.com/workshop/index.shtml>) for details.

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. Visit (<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. Partners in Flight will have a block of papers on international project and on monitoring. Conference details can be found at <http://midwest.ncd-afs.org/index.asp>.—Tom Will (tom_will@fws.gov) and Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov)

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).

Costa Rican Birding Route VIP Tour

PIF and the Rainforest Biodiversity Group (www.greatgreenmacaw.org/) are offering a unique opportunity for a limited number of people to be the first to visit, evaluate, and offer advice on the new Costa Rican Bird Route. This VIP tour has been scheduled for 17-22 February 2008. The trip will begin immediately after the McAllen conference so as to take advantage of the information and energy gathered during the conference sessions.

The Costa Rican Bird Route is being implemented by the Rainforest Biodiversity Group with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. The goal of the project is to promote the

conservation of bird habitat and biological diversity through bird tourism within the Sarapiquí region of northeastern Costa Rica. This special tour is being developed as a means to introduce ornithological and eco-tourism professionals to the Costa Rican Bird Route and the conservation activities occurring within the San Juan–La Selva Biological Corridor, a section of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (http://www.tbpa.net/case_10.htm.)

Participation on this trip will bring you to Costa Rica where you will meet with local conservation professionals, as well as local landowners and community members who are committed to conservation. The trip will take you birding at 6 of the 12 Costa Rican Bird Route sites. Your guides will be Costa Rican Partners in Flight representative Pablo Elizando, and the directors of the Costa Rican Bird Route project, Andrew Rothman and Guisselle Monge Arias. If you are interested in this unique opportunity, please contact Andrew Rothman at (andrewrothman@yahoo.com).

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. See <http://www.afrc.uamont.edu/floodplainsymposium/> for details.

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

Anibal Parera

Anibal Parera has moved from the Southern Cone Grasslands Alliance to take on a new position as the Executive Director for Fundacion Vida Silvestre in Argentina (FVSA). Together with the staff from Aves Argentinas, Anibal was instrumental in building the grasslands initiative into a regional conservation success. He brought to the BirdLife partnership (and others) both a dedication to the issue and a profound knowledge of the drivers that impact this precious ecosystem.

Anibal will continue to be actively involved in several pending grasslands activities including a Regional Grasslands Stakeholders workshop (with support from the U.S. Forest Service) planned for November in Bage (Rio Grande do Sul), Brazil. He will also join us as one of the key speakers in a session on grasslands conservation to be held in Texas as part of the Partners in Flight Conference in February 2008. And it is our hope that once settled in at FVSA, he will formally engage FVSA as a key partner in the Alliance for the conservation of the Southern Cone grasslands. For the next few months, Anibal can be reached at (aparera@payubre.net). —Ian Davidson (davidson@birdlife.org)

Jim Giocomo

Jim Giocomo just started working for Texas Parks and Wildlife as the new Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture Coordinator. He can be reached at:

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The next newsletter will be issued on 1 January 2008. Items are due 15 December 2007 to Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov). The PIF Newsletter is assembled by Jina Mariani and Terry Rich.