

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT NEWSLETTER

<http://www.partnersinflight.org>

January 2003

NATIONAL

Partners In Flight is at the outset of the biggest transition we've had since the hiring of the Partners In Flight Regional Coordinators seven years ago and the initiation of Bird Conservation Planning for the entire U.S. The next several items pertain to this transition. There is no doubt that we have had great successes and have influenced conservation action well beyond landbirds. As we rethink and retool, all Partners In Flight partners need to be creative and to contribute so that we continue to build our effectiveness in advancing bird conservation.—

Terry Rich (mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov)

Partners In Flight Regional Coordinators

Although these four positions were identified as Partners In Flight's highest priority in January 2001 for the NABCI Business Plan, and despite the fact that our position has been repeatedly stated since then, we have failed to convince funding sources of the continued value of these positions. As most of you know, both Greg Butcher and Dean Demarest have already accepted other job offers (see below). Carol and Ken remain in place but also expect to leave their positions as Regional Coordinators in the near future. The Regional Coordinators, I and IAFWA have an ongoing dialogue as to the best way to proceed with the remaining contract funds to advance Partners In Flight.

PIF North American Landbird Conservation Plan

The PIF Technical Committee has been working on this plan (Continental Plan or CPlan for short) since May 2002 and we have spent a lot of time updating, refining and improving the biological assessment of species. This continues up to the present day. A rough draft of the plan was distributed to the PIF Technical Committee plus a few additional individuals in Canada for internal review on 1 November. However, due to popular demand, we distributed the rough draft even more broadly up until about Christmas. Comments will be incorporated for a second draft to be distributed to any interested reader by the end of January. Our long-term goals are to have a third draft for the North American and a published final of version 1.0 available for IAFWA in September.

The first version of the CPlan will cover just the US and Canada but with many openings to allow Mexico to smoothly join the plan with the next update in 1 or 2 years. The Mexicans have proceeded very rapidly to complete a full biological assessment, using the PIF process, for their entire avifauna. They have a preliminary national Watchlist and have clustered BCRs into "Super Regions" as we have done for the US and CA. They now need time for all Mexican partners to become familiar with the very rapid progress that has been made and regional workshops will be scheduled to this end.

The Continental Plan is fundamentally a biological foundation document. We also have drafted the outline of a Partners In Flight Strategic Plan (see next item).

Partners In Flight Strategic Plan

The Partners In Flight Strategic Plan, a companion document to the Continental Plan, outlines the functions that need to be carried out to advance PIF into the future. This document focuses on functions, not positions. I will send this draft out for review to the Management Steering Committee in the very near future. PIF regional and technical working groups will need to put much more thought into this plan than they have in the past. We'll need detailed short- and long-term objectives for all PIF goals. But the detail cannot be provided until we complete the Strategic Planning Session (see next).

Partners In Flight Strategic Planning Session

Bruce McCloskey, Colorado Division of Wildlife and Chair of the Partners In Flight State Agency Committee, has offered to sponsor a Strategic Planning Session wherein we would all take a fresh look at where we think PIF should be going. The session is now tentatively scheduled to occupy most of our regularly scheduled 2-day Management Steering Committee (MSC) meeting time in Winston-Salem on 24-25 March 2003. We expect to invite some outside leaders in wildlife from agencies and NGOs to participate with the MSC in a facilitated planning session. The Strategic Plan will provide a framework for these discussions but could be completely reorganized and rewritten.

Dialogue with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Related to all of the above has been a dialogue with the USFWS and the other bird initiatives as to what landbird conservation objectives the USFWS might be able to take on in addition to the agency's current workload. The Service would like to do even more for bird conservation and also is in the midst of its own strategic planning exercises. So, the timing is good.

However, I feel strongly that Partners In Flight must not simply relax and let the Service do it, even if it could. We must continue to build an ever wider partnership, not a narrower one.

Bird Conservation Workshop 2003 - Meeting Urgent Needs In Bird Conservation

Yet another piece in all of this will take place on 26-27 January 2003 in Washington, DC at the subject workshop. Among the several goals of this workshop are:

- To build widespread support in the bird conservation community for a short list of the most urgent needs,

- To develop strategies for pursuing resource needs in Washington and at state and local levels, and

- To gain realistic expectations of prospects and time frames for increasing resources for bird conservation.

The workshop is being organized by the Wildlife Management Institute. Participation is by invitation and is limited. As with the PIF Strategic Planning Session, attendees will include a mix of people who have been working in one or more of the bird initiatives for years and others who may be able to provide useful perspective.

North American Bird Conservation Initiative Meeting

Finally, the next regularly scheduled NABCI meeting will take place immediately following the WMI workshop (see above) on 28-29 January 2003 in Arlington, VA. We expect to have agenda items from the workshop in addition to a number of other topics pertaining to the integration of bird initiative objectives.

La Tangara Current on Web Site

Issues 39-42 of *La Tangara* are now posted on the PIF web site, in both Spanish and English. They are in Adobe Acrobat format (PDF file). *La Tangara* is now once again current on the web

(<http://www.partnersinflight.org/pubs/latangara.htm>).

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

The application deadline for Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (Neotrop Act) grants is 31 January 2003. The grant application is available on the website (<http://birdhabitat.fws.gov>). Changes from last year are minor, the most important being a cap of \$250,000 and more detailed review criteria. Note that paper applications are not accepted. Remember that projects may address upland habitats in the U.S. and Mexico, and all habitats in the Caribbean and Central or South America. Projects that include several aspects, such as capacity-building, restoration/acquisition, and community outreach are most successful.—Doug Ryan (mailto:Doug_Ryan@fws.gov).

North American Wetland Conservation Act - U.S. Standard Grant Instructions Now Available

The 2003 U.S. Standard Grant instructions are now available on the NAWCA web site at <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov>. Click on Wetlands Grants Program and then click on U.S. Standard Grants. 2003 proposal due dates are 7 March and 25 July.— Bettina Sparrowe (mailto:bettina_sparrowe@fws.gov)

New Satellite Transmitter Grant Program at American Bird Conservancy

North Star Science and Technology has teamed with American Bird Conservancy (ABC) to initiate a new grant program that will award 6 satellite transmitters (Argos Platform Transmitter Terminals) to one or two recipients. PTTs are powerful, cutting-edge tools for the study of bird migration that greatly extend the range over which individual birds can be tracked. North Star is providing the PTTs in the spirit of giving something back to the research community they serve, with the condition that the resulting data are available for use in an educational program entitled, "Eye of the Falcon," which uses satellite tracking data to teach young people about bird migration and conservation. ABC (<http://www.abcbirds.org>) will handle the proposal review process. See <http://www.northstarst.com> for more information and proposal guidelines. The deadline for proposals is 15 February 2003.—George E. Wallace (mailto:gwallace@abcbirds.org)

Keep the Wild Alive Species Recovery Fund Grants

The National Wildlife Federation's *Keep the Wild Alive* (KWA) project is kicking off the fourth year of its very successful Species Recovery Fund (SRF). KWA (<http://www.nwf.org/wildalive>) is now accepting applications from local conservation and other groups with innovative ideas for helping imperiled species. In 2003, KWA will award ten grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$7,000.

Applications must be received by 15 February 2003, and grants will be awarded in April 2003. Over the past three years, SRF has awarded roughly 30 small grants to local, grassroots groups that are making a tangible contribution to species conservation. SRF will support efforts to improve on-the-ground conditions for any species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. This is a significant change for SRF, which for the past three years has funded only projects benefiting one of the 25 KWA species or taxonomically related species.—Emy Rodriguez (mailto:erodriguez@nwf.org)

Asilomar Proceedings

About 200 manuscripts have been submitted for publication in the proceedings of the Partners In Flight Asilomar conference. Editors C. J. Ralph and T. D. Rich are currently reviewing all papers and obtaining additional peer review as necessary. As in the conference itself, there is an excellent mix of topics, geography, species and approaches in the submitted papers. We hope to have reviews back to all lead authors no later than early February. A number of papers are already final, ready for technical editing and layout. We are still seeking additional funds to produce the proceedings in hardcopy and on CD.—Terry Rich (mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov) & C. J. Ralph (mailto:cjr2@humboldt.edu)

Citations of Bird Conservation Plans in Proceedings

In reading dozens of Asilomar proceedings manuscripts so far, it is clear to me that more than a few people working in the field of bird conservation are not referring to Partners In Flight Bird Conservation Plans (BCPs) adequately. While many authors are conversant with BCPs and often cite species priorities and objectives verbatim, there are a significant number who are not. I think this shows that we need to continue to work to get the plans into people's hands, to complete unfinished plans and to periodically update our BCPs to make them ever more useful.—Terry Rich (mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov)

American Birding Association Sponsors Partners In Flight 2002 Awards

Paul Green, Executive Director of the American Birding Association (ABA; <http://www.americanbirding.org>) has announced that ABA will again sponsor the Partners In Flight 2002 Awards program (<http://www.partnersinflight.org/awards/>). Awards will be presented at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Winston-Salem, NC during the USFWS reception 26 March 2003 at 18:00.

Gift from Phillip Hoose Launches Birders' Exchange Cuba Initiative

The American Birding Association's Birders' Exchange program announces the establishment of, "The Birders' Exchange Cuba Initiative." The project has been initiated through a major gift to the ABA by author and conservationist Phillip Hoose. All financial contributions to this initiative will be used to supply much-needed equipment, books, and other education and field tools for bird education, conservation and research efforts throughout Cuba. There will be a special emphasis on efforts that involve children. Financial contributions to the Cuba Initiative will be matched dollar for dollar (up to \$15,000) by the Riedman Foundation. For more details on Birders' Exchange see the ABA web site (<http://www.americanbirding.org/programs/consbex.htm>).

IMBD 2003 Art

Gerald Sneed's fine art for IMBD 2003 is now up on the Partners In Flight web site. The selected species represent ways in which birds have prompted important advances in conservation. This includes creation of the National Wildlife Refuge System (begun with a small island bird sanctuary one hundred years ago), as well as other achievements, laws, organizations and movements which have been stimulated by a concern for birds and which continue to underpin our work for wildlife and environmental health.

The IMBD art and theme will be featured in annual products like the poster, t-shirts, press kit, and education booklet, which are currently in production. We hope they provide you with effective tools, ideas and messages as you plan for your IMBD celebration this spring or whenever you celebrate! Remember: IMBD products are available year-round!—Jennifer Wheeler (mailto:IMBD@fws.gov) and Susan Bonfield (mailto:sbonfield@aol.com)

Oak Woodland Bird Conservation Plan

The [California Oak Foundation \(COF\)](#) has generously paid for the printing and delivery of 8,000 copies of the [California Partners in Flight Oak Woodland Bird Conservation Plan](#) (BCP). The CalPIF Oak Woodland BCP combines our understanding of the threats to California's oak woodlands with information on how these issues influence the birds that are intimately connected to oak-dominated habitats. It includes more than 60 specific oak woodland conservation action recommendations for protecting, restoring, managing, monitoring and researching, and creating policy.

California Partners in Flight will be working closely with COF to make sure that these plans get distributed throughout California to resource agencies, organizations, and land managers, as well as legislators and planners. To receive a copy of this BCP, contact Sandy Scoggin at sscoggin@prbo.org.

New Shorebird Management Listserve

A shorebird management listserv is now available where questions, comments or discussion are posted, and where professional wildlife managers can share information from each other. But beyond this, the listserv will be monitored, and where prudent advice is not forthcoming, the monitor will route questions to qualified shorebird management experts. Brian Harrington, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences (<http://www.manomet.org/>), has secured the services of numerous shorebird management experts. Of course, we urge subscribers to provide comments on any query. There is a lot of collective wisdom about wetland biology, wetland management, and shorebird biology which, if brought together, will provide a powerful resource to managers. We think a professional listserv will help bring this “collective wisdom” to bear on management applications. To subscribe, send an e-mail indicating a wish to subscribe to Brad_Andres@fws.gov.

The Business of Nature

Ted Eubanks, a long-time conservationist and businessman from Austin, TX, has been making a series of presentations to bird conservation and civic groups across the U.S., Mexico and Central America about the very real economic value of bird watching and bird conservation (see <http://www.fermatainc.com/home.html>). His concrete and compelling data on demographic and recreational trends have led to a number of birding trails, created and defended by communities and local people. The ripple effects of this grass-roots support improve habitat conservation and political support for conservation funding. Ted sponsored the Asilomar Partners In Flight conference and organized a symposium there. You should not miss the opportunity to hear Ted’s message and to get involved in implementing his ideas.—Terry Rich (mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov)

Database of Ornithologists Working in Mexico

Version 4.0 of the subject database is now available at <http://www.huitzil.net/Basedeornitologos.html>. The latest version includes a listing of 448 ornithologists, almost twice as many as in Version 1.0. The database has information to contact every ornithologist listed, his/her specialty and study site in Mexico, along with other information. The database has frequently been accessed by Mexicans and those outside the country to establish contact with ornithologists working with particular bird species or places.—Dr. Raul Ortiz-Pul (<mailto:ortizrau@uaeh.reduaeh.mx>)

Cats Indoors

In an effort to help your local *Cats Indoors!* Campaign efforts, we have set up a special Web site at http://www.abcbirds.org/cats/county_activist/template.htm that will automatically generate e-mails to your county commissioners to encourage them to pass a "Cat and Wildlife Protection Ordinance." All you need to do is send the names and e-mail addresses for your county commissioners, and ABC will plug them into the site. Then, you can tell your friends and family members in your county to access the site to send an e-mail to your commissioners as well. This strategy has been very effective in generating messages to public officials for other campaigns. For more information, see the fact sheets, "The Importance of Local Cat Ordinances" and "Get the Facts About Cat Law," available on the Web at <http://www.abcbirds.org/cats/catsindoors.htm>. [Editor's note: Remember that Partners In Flight is a non-advocacy partnership. If you want to take political action, you need to work through advocacy organizations.]

Don't Let Your Cat Go AWOL!

Military bases often struggle with how to manage domestic cat populations. Frequent transfers of personnel often means cats are left behind, abandoned to fend for themselves. Lucky cats find a new human, but most are not so fortunate. Abandoned cats face many dangers: being hit by cars, starving, freezing temperatures, disease, and more. If not spayed or neutered, cat populations can explode. This on-line brochure educates cat owners about the benefits to cats, to personnel, and to wildlife by keeping domestic cats indoors.

<https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/ES-Programs/Conservation/Legacy/SafeCats/safecats.html>.—Alison A. Dalsimer (mailto:alison.dalsimer@osd.mil)

Russian-olive and Saltcedar Brochure Available

This brochure addresses the issue of two non-native plant species that have become common throughout riparian areas of the arid west: Russian-olive and Saltcedar. The brochure describes how these species change native habitats, why they're a threat, and what we can do about it. The brochure also provides some cautionary words about how to responsibly restore riparian habitats that have been invaded by Russian-olive and Saltcedar.

The brochure was produced by the Western Working Group of Partners in Flight, with funding from the Wildlife Habitat Management Institute of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). Of the 22,000 copies originally printed, 20,000 have already been distributed to NRCS state offices throughout the 11 western states, as well as to IDFG regional offices throughout Idaho. With only 2,000 copies left from the original printing, please contact me as soon as possible to order your copies. — Rex Sallabanks (mailto:rsallaba@idfg.state.id.us)

Newsletter of Partners In Flight BC & Yukon

This has been a year of transition for Partners in Flight in BC & Yukon. We have not only added new faces and styles to our organization but also expanded the valuable participation of many of our partners. The current edition of the *In Flight Journal* was designed to highlight our unique integral approach to landbird conservation by showcasing the work of our partners. In this issue, we have focused a great deal on the Northern Pacific Rainforest region. We also have highlighted the Southern Interior region, where interesting research, monitoring, outreach and education work is underway that will expand the understanding of landbird species and their populations. To receive a copy, contact Ilia HartaSanchez (604-940-4683) or Terry Rich (mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov).

Klamath Bird Observatory Newsletter

The December 2002 edition of *The Klamath Bird* is available in Adobe Format on our Web Page at <http://www.KlamathBird.org>. Inside this edition you will find updates about ongoing and new projects that KBO has been involved with during the past year. You will see that we had a very productive year, and have kept very busy managing our expanding program. As we look towards the coming year we anticipate much progress in our mission of promoting the conservation of bird populations and their habitats through excellent science. Two recently posted reports include: Upper Klamath Basin Bird Monitoring Project 1997-2001 and Foggy Eden Bird Monitoring 2002 Report.—John D. Alexander (mailto:kbo@klamathbird.org)

MEETINGS

Next National Partners In Flight Meetings

The 68th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference is scheduled for 26-30 March 2003, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The conference theme is *Meeting the Challenges of Modern Conservation*. Check <http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/> for details. The Partners In Flight Management Steering Committee will meet on 24-25 March (see above) while all of the other Partners In Flight and related committee meetings will occur during the conference as usual.

Joint Meeting of The Northeast & Southeast Working Groups

Because many bird conservation issues must be approached within the regional context, the Northeast and Southeast Partners In Flight regional working groups will meet jointly 12-15 March 2003 in Blacksburg, VA. This workshop is intended

to improve coordination, delivery and evaluation of landbird and all-bird conservation actions already being implemented and to stimulate similar progress in new areas. The workshop will highlight ongoing planning, delivery and evaluation efforts contributing to the bird conservation goals of Partners in Flight and the North American Bird Conservation Initiative.

The program will feature research and/or monitoring in the Southeast and Northeast with potential for evaluating or strengthening the biological foundation of work conducted through these initiatives. A portion of the program will focus on bird conservation issues in the Appalachian Mountains Bird Conservation Region. Abstracts for oral or poster presentations (< 250 words) should be submitted by email to Dr. Jeffrey Walters (mailto:jrwalt@vt.edu) by 15 January 2003 or 31 January 2003. See http://fwie.fw.vt.edu/www/military/PIF_Blacksburg.htm for full details.

75th Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society

The Cooper Ornithological Society will hold its 75th Annual Meeting from 30 April through 03 May, 2003 in Flagstaff, AZ at the duBois Conference Center. In addition to regular paper sessions and social activities, there will be symposia/workshops on Ecology and Management of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Shrubland Bird Ecology and Conservation, and Estimating Avian Abundance. Deadline for abstracts is 1 March 2003. See the Annual Meeting link at the web site (<http://www.cooper.org/>) for all details.

27th Annual Meeting of the Waterbird Society

The 2003 Waterbird Society Meeting will be held in Cuiabá, the capital of the state of Mato Grosso, Brazil, on 24-27 September 2003. Cuiabá is a modern city of over a million people situated between two unique natural preserves: the Pantanal and Chapada dos Guimarães. The Pantanal, the largest freshwater wetland in the world, boasts the highest abundance of animal life on the continent, and is home to over 700 species of birds, 64 species of mammals, and 405 species of fishes. Wading bird colonies are a common attraction throughout the wetland while patches of upland vegetation provide habitat for high densities of landbirds. The dates for this meeting have been organized to coordinate with the VII Neotropical Ornithological Congress (see next). We have left approximately 10 days between the two conferences to allow for travel. For details, see http://www.mp2-pwrc.usgs.gov/cws/annual_meeting.htm.

The VIIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress

The 7th NOC will take place in Puerto Varas (Xth Region), Chile, 5-11 October 2003. Puerto Varas, a friendly town of about 35,000, is 10 km N of Puerto Montt (web searches for this town will succeed), an easy to reach, economical, and well-known travel destination in the beautiful Lake District of Chile. The Puerto Varas Congress Center, with its meeting rooms and related facilities perched on a hill overlooking Lake Llanquihue and the Volcano Osorno, is only an 800-meters walk from downtown Puerto Varas. A variety of pre- and post- tours throughout Chile, including Easter Island and Patagonia, will be offered. The scientific program will include plenary lectures, concurrent symposia sessions, oral papers, poster sessions, and round-table discussions. English and Spanish will be the working languages of the Congress.

Members and non-members of the Neotropical Ornithological Society are encouraged to plan on attending this 2003 quadrennial meeting in Chile. Membership in the NOS is inexpensive and open to all with interests in the study of birds of the Neotropics, both resident as well as wintering migratory birds. Deadline for proposals for Symposia, Workshops, and Round-tables, oral contributions, and posters abstracts **has been extended to 5 March 2003**. For more information, see <http://www.nocchile.cl>.

Other Meetings

See meetings listed in the Ornithological Newsletter (<http://birds.cornell.edu/OSNA/ornnewsl.htm>).

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Gary Myers Receives C. W. Watson 2002 Award

The Clarence W. Watson Award is presented annually by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society, and the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society in recognition of an individual who has distinguished him or herself through contributions to the conservation of natural resources.

The 2002 award winner is Gary Myers. Gary distinguished himself with a career that has spanned nearly 40 years as a wildlife biologist and administrator. Perhaps his greatest influence has been in the arena of bird conservation. One of his crowning achievements was his leadership in the development of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, which was signed in 1986.

Owing greatly to his vision and leadership, that more lasting arrangement was manifest in congress passing the North American Wetlands Conservation Act in 1989. He was appointed as one of the charter members of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and provided leadership in the development of the Council's grant program.

In the 1990's he broadened his leadership role to the benefit of the newly established non-game bird initiative, Partners In Flight. He served on the National Partners In Flight Steering Committee and chaired the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Partners In Flight Committee. He subsequently provided substantial impetus for the development of the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan. With the emergence of national and international plans for shorebirds, landbirds, waterbirds, and waterfowl, he has provided continual leadership and guidance to the emergence of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative.—David Waller

Martha Ruiz Corzo (“Pati”) Receives Rolex Award

Our good friend from the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve in the state of Queretaro has received a 2002 Rolex Award for Enterprise. Pati and the Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda have been working for many years conducting workshops throughout the mountain communities and helping villagers develop a sense of responsibility for their environment. Garbage was cleaned up, plastic and paper recycled. Women built cooking stoves that consumed less firewood. Villagers reforested steep hillsides denuded by improper farming techniques.

With education at the heart of Pati's vision of social change, she took her accordion to the region's schools, teaching children about nature through songs. A weekly radio program carried her voice to isolated communities. Her stories encouraged conservation, while her acerbic wit lambasted those who damaged the environment.

The Ecological Group's advocacy gave birth to a social movement that in 1997 persuaded the government to create the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve. President Ernesto Zedillo asked Pati to be the director of the 3,837 km² reserve. Claiming it was “an honour to represent the forests,” she resigned from the Ecological Group to accept the post, but continues to work closely with the organization. See (<http://www.rolexawards.com/laureates/corzo.html>) for further details.—Terry Rich (mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov)

Manantlán Institute of Ecology Wins Mexico's National Nature Conservation Award

On 27 November 2002, the President of Mexico, Vicente Fox Quesada, presented the "Recognition for Nature Conservation" to the Manantlán Institute of Ecology and Conservation of Biodiversity (IMECBIO) of the University of Guadalajara. This newly instituted national award was created by the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas of the Mexican Federal Government. The IMECBIO, represented by the three directors/chairs that have led the institution during the past 14 years - Enrique Jardel (1988-1995), Eduardo Santana (1995-1999) and Luis E. Rivera (1999-2002) - won in the category "academia/research." The award is named "Efraín Hernández Xolocoztli" in honor of the distinguished Mexican botanical researcher, who pioneered the study and conservation of wild and cultivated plants and defended the conservation of traditional knowledge and agricultural systems.

Most of us know Eduardo Santana for his tireless work for conservation in Mexico, his deep interest in improving conservation and communication in his native Cuba, and for hosting the seminal Partners In Flight meeting in Autlan, Jalisco in February 1996.

Greg Butcher Joins National Audubon Society

I have accepted an offer to serve as Director of Citizen Science at National Audubon where I will be working with the Christmas Bird Count and IBA monitoring, among other duties. I plan to stay involved with the development of Bird Conservation Plans in the Midwest Region and will be happy to answer questions and help out in any other ways possible. I have enjoyed my two years as the PIF Midwestern Regional Coordinator and look forward to PIF's future contributions to bird conservation. My new contact information is:

Greg Butcher
Audubon Science Office
545 Almshouse Road
Ivyland PA 18974
215-355-9588 x20
215-355-2353 (fax)
mailto:gregbutcherwi@hotmail.com

Dean Demarest Moves to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

I have officially accepted an offer from the USFWS, Region 4, Migratory Birds and State Programs office in Atlanta. I will be working as Assistant Nongame Migratory Bird Coordinator under the supervision of Chuck Hunter, and in close

association with Chuck's other Assistant Coordinator, Keith Watson (Asheville). Despite Chuck's joking that I'll regret deciding to work for him, this position promises to be personally and professionally very satisfying, while affording perhaps the best opportunity for continued support of PIF efforts (nationally and regionally) in the absence of a full-time, dedicated PIF staff person. My new address will be:

Dean Demarest
USFWS
1875 Century Blvd., Suite 420
Atlanta, GA 30345
Phone tba
mailto:Dean_demarest@fws.gov

Pashley Stepping Down as US NABCI Coordinator

For a number of personal and professional reasons, I will cease serving as US NABCI Coordinator after the January 2003 meeting. But my involvement with NABCI will continue as I will replace George Fenwick as the committee member representing ABC. I'll also continue my commitment to Joint Ventures and Bird Conservation Regions, my supervision of three BCR Coordinators, and management of the U.S. Forest Service agreement for additional BCR Coordinators. I will continue involvement in trinational aspects of NABCI and will continue to pursue new partnerships for bird conservation. My involvement in the active phases of NABCI work, in which I have been participating in the recent past, will not change. All of this will allow additional time to get involved in new bird conservation activities which are in the works.—David Pashley
(mailto:dpashley@abcbirds.org)

Melanie Steinkamp Joins Wetlands International

I will be leaving USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center at the end of December and have accepted a position with Wetlands International as their North American Program Manager. I am both excited and saddened by my change in positions and it was a difficult decision to make. I've been very happy as the waterbird monitoring coordinator at Patuxent but the Wetlands International position offers new challenges and opportunities to move wetland and waterbird conservation forward throughout the Americas and the world.

The USFWS International Affairs, Division of International Conservation in Arlington, Virginia is generously providing office space and this will be my new base. My contact information is:

Melanie Steinkamp
Wetlands International
c/o USFWS
4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 730
Arlington, Virginia 22203
703-358-1953

Catherine Rideout Starts in Arkansas

Catherine Rideout, who finished her degree at Boise State University on the effects of fragmentation on birds of the sagebrush, has accepted a position with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) as Passerine Program Coordinator. Catherine will be responsible for coordinating all passerine bird activities for the AGFC and will be the Arkansas PIF representative. She will be working with the Non-Passerine Coordinator to refine the comprehensive statewide migratory bird conservation plan. Some of you may recognize that this is where Laurel Moore was in her previous position. Catherine can be contacted at 501-978-7329 and mailto:cwrideout@agfc.state.ar.us.

The next newsletter will be issued on 1 April 2003. Items are due 15 March 2003 to Terry Rich (mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov) by e-mail only. Please put "Newsletter Item" in the subject line.