

BirdLife in the Americas

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EDITORIAL

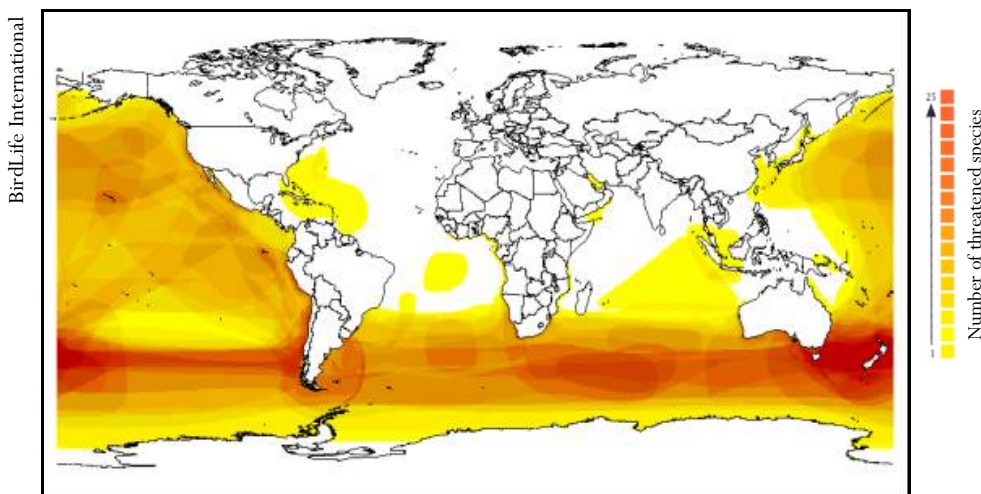
Securing land for conservation purposes through private purchases is quickly becoming the fashion in many parts of the Neotropical Region. In some regions like Chile and Argentina, large areas, sometimes in excess of 300,000 ha, are being purchased, revegetated and protected in view of their biological importance. The number of organisations, with connections to individuals and/or groups who want to see their conservation investment reach the ground, have increased significantly over the past 10 years. In Ecuador alone, more than ten new foundations have been created to channel international funds for land purchases. While the risk of creating these foundations exists, in some cases this conservation effort is the quickest and most effective mechanism for ensuring

species and habitat protection. The globally important and biologically rich Atlantic Forest, for which less than 7% remains in its natural state, is the focus of BirdLife's efforts in Brazil. Witnessing the recent demise of several key areas, prompted BirdLife to engage in land purchase negotiations with private landowners in the Serra das Lontras, an Important Bird Area. Key to this strategy is a longer-term vision of working with local communities to ensure site conservation. Herein lies the importance of an organization's long-term commitment to site conservation. For it is only through this type of engagement and commitment we are going to affect positive change for all species throughout the region.

AMERICAS DIVISION



NEWS



World map of the oceanic distribution of the threatened seabirds

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL'S SEABIRD CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Seabirds are found across all the Oceans of the world. However, even the waters of the Arctic and Antarctic are not free of contamination. The world has only one ocean: the seas not being separated as the continents are. For this reason seabird conservation must be treated globally, consequently BirdLife International established its seabird conservation program in 1997.

In Latin America the Seabird campaign is currently developing its actions. In September 2001 albatross and petrel conservation workshop was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, where the South American Strategy for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (Estrategia Sudamericana de Conservación de los Albatros y Petreles -ESCAPE) was de-

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Seabirds

© Graham Robertson
Australian Antarctic Division

veloped. This is currently being implemented and further developed by several countries. This year conservation initiatives are being developed in Argentina (Aves Argentinas), Brasil (Projeto Albatroz) and Chile (UNORCH), with funds from the British Birdwatching Fair organised by the RSPB in the UK in 2000 and distributed by SEO/BirdLife (Spanish Partner). Additionally, the campaign coordinator for Latin America, Carles Carboneras (SEO/BirdLife) undertook a fact finding trip to Peru, which has resulted in a collaboration with the staff of the Peruvian Institute of the Sea (Instituto del Mar de Perú - IMARPE).

Without doubt, the most notable initiative is the organisation from Spain of a competition between fishermen for innovative methods to avoid seabird mortality in long-line fishing. The competition has a prize of 18,000 Euros (nearly US\$18,000) is open to fishermen worldwide, with a special focus on those who speak Spanish or Portuguese. Interested applicants should complete a form and send to SEO/BirdLife in Spain or their national partner. They will be sent a manual that contains precise instructions on how to apply known methods to avoid seabird by catch, as well as suggestions for developing new methods. The course will be publicly launched in November 2002 and ideas can be presented in any format until 31 march 2003. An international judging panel formed of seabird's experts and fisheries professionals will choose the winner, and the prize will be presented in a public meeting in Spain in June 2003.

The course is a significant action towards resolving a real conservation problem and will also create a great opportunity for a conservation campaign targeted at the fishing communities of many countries.

We hope that everybody will collaborate to facilitate the dissemination of the publicity materials which will be coordinated from Spain, anyone from any country can get involved. We hope that this initiative will attract the interest of professional seafarers and the seabird conservation community from all countries to face a problem, which is threatening many species. We aim to raise awareness that solutions exist and that these can be improved upon. (Carles Carboneras: ccarboneras@seo.org)

REINTRODUCTION OF THE WHITE-WINGED GUAN IN PERU (*PENELOPE ALBIPENNIS*)

The White-winged Guan (*Penelope albipennis*), classified as Critically Threatened in Threatened Birds of the World (BirdLife, 2001), is endemic to Peru being found only in the northwest of the country in Lambayeque and Piura. The species was discovered in 1876 by Polish ornithologists on an island in the Tumbes River. No further records were obtained and the species was feared extinct until Dr John O'Neill and Peruvian conservationist Gustavo del Solar rediscovered the species in the San Isidro valley in Olmos, Lambayeque in 1977. One of the principal threats facing the species is reduction of its dry forest habitat which is being destroyed by overgrazing

and clearance. Aware of this problem, the Asociación Cracidae (cracidae@llampayec.rcp.net.pe) developed a project to save the White-winged Guan establishing the Bárbara D'Achille captive breeding facility in Olmos, to protect, breed and ultimately reintroduce White-winged Guans to their natural habitat. The Bakus Foundation supported Asociación Cracidae under an agreement with the Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales (INRENA) and the community of Santa Catalina de Chongoyape, which made the project possible. The first chick hatched in 1986. Now the breeding facility has six large circular aviaries each with 10 partitions and four large rectangular aviaries with 31 partitions. The facility now houses some 90 White-



White-winged Guan
Aviaries
PERU

© Backus Foundation

NEWS



White-winged Guan (*Penelope albipennis*)/
© Backus Foundation

winged Guans and also works as an Environmental Education Centre, nearly 45 thousand children have now received presentations about the bird and its natural habitat. At the end of 2001 the first 16 guans were released, being fitted with radio-transmitters to allow them to be monitored; 12 have survived. Approximately 350 individuals of the White-winged Guan still survive in the wild. If you would like more information contact Gustavo del Solar (cracidae@llampayec.rcp.net.pe). Information from: www.peruecologico.com.pe

NEW OBSERVATIONS OF
FUERTES'S PARROT

One of the world's rarest species, Fuertes's Parrot (*Hapalopsittaca fuertesi*) was recently seen in Colombia on 28 July 2002. The species was described in 1911 by Leo Miller and Arthur Allen, and had been seen only sporadically since 1989, 14 individuals were found in a small remnant of cloud forest at more than 3100 m altitude in the Cordillera Central of the Andes, Colombia by Jorge Velásquez and Alonso Quevedo of Fundación ProAves. The world population is currently estimated to be 100–250 individuals (Threatened Birds of the World, 2001; Renjifo, L. M., in the "Libro rojo de aves de Colombia", 2002). The BP Conservation Programme supported the project to survey and protect Fuerte's Parrot (*Hapalopsittaca fuertesi*) and it's sister species the Rusty-faced Parrot (*Hapalopsittaca amazonina*), a species also classified as Critically Threatened by BirdLife International, to save them from extinction. (Jorge Velásquez, hapalopsittaca@proaves.org; ©Fundación ProAves-Colombia)



Hapalopsittaca fuertesi

Juanita Mora © Fundación ProAves



Threatened Birds of the
World, © BirdLife, 2000

NEWS FROM THE PARTNERSHIP

Argentina
Güira Oga, which means "Abode of the Birds" in the aboriginal Guaraní language is an educational reserve of 20 ha in primary Atlantic Forest located near the world famous Iguazu falls and close to the border between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. The area was created by the Ministerio de Ecología y Recursos Naturales Renovables of Misiones Province through an agreement with the Asociación Ornitológica del Plata to be used

as a centre for the care of threatened wild birds of the Atlantic Forests.

The project is overseen by Jorge Anfuso y Silvia Elsegood de Anfuso, who have much experience in the care of wild birds, especially raptors. A first list of birds of the reserve includes some 220 species many of which are rare or sought after by bird-watchers. In the last few months nesting has been detected for some interesting species like the Bat

Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*), Common Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*) and the Red-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus haemorrhous*).

The reserve has enclosures for raptors, guans, tinamous and parrots. Amongst the species at the centre, which are being studied are two spectacular Black Hawk-Eagles (*Spizaetus tyrannus*), and a Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle (*Spizastur melanoleucus*), a Bare-faced Currawong (*Crax fasciolata*) and Vinaceous Parrot (*Amazona*



Misiones, Atlantic
Forest from air
ARGENTINA
C. Luthin/ICBP

NEWS FROM THE PARTNERSHIP



**Laguna Salada
Wetlands
PARAGUAY**

© Frank Fragano



Phoenicopterus chilensis
PARAGUAY

vinacea), amongst others. The project hopes to create an awareness amongst the public of the need to protect birds and their habitat, the Atlantic Forest, and aims to develop environmental education programs related to the diversity of the forest and threatened species. These activities are funded personally, through donations and sales of ecological merchandise and through agreements with other institutions. (Aves Argentinas conservation@avesargentinas.org.ar).

Colombia

From April 2002 the "CD of threatened birds of Colombia" has been in preparation, which features globally and nationally threatened and near-threatened species, those with

a restricted range, endemics and near-endemics. The project has the support of the ATA Philanthropic Fund, and has various compilers (Bernabé López-Lanús, Luis Germán Olarte, Ralf Strewe). The publication includes: a recording of the song (acknowledging the author), behavioural information, habitat and other data of interest. Recordings will all be returned to the recordist. It is important to stress that poor quality recordings may be of interest for this project. Anyone interested in collaborating with recordings can obtain information from Bernabé L ó p e z – L a n ú s (blopezlanus@hotmail.com) and he will send a copy of the proposal and list of species included.

Paraguay

The complex of wetlands of Laguna Salada and Campo María (located in the upper Yacaré Sur watershed) have been designated as an Important Bird Area as they support more than 1% of the global population of three waterbird species: Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis*, White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* and Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*. The area fulfils the criteria of Ramsar, being also classified as an important regional site in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN). Elizabeth Cabrera (ecabrera@guyra.org.py)

“IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS” PROGRAM

NORTH AMERICA

United States

The Audubon Society has produced a report where the advances of the IBA program are summarised in each state where the program is being undertaken. It also emphasises conservation actions being undertaken in Latin America with direct support of the Audubon society. Information is also included on five species that have been identified as critical by Audubon and federal agencies. To obtain a copy of the "Bird Conservation Annual Report", please contact Jeff Wells, Director of Conservation (jwells@audubon.org).

Canada

Bird Studies Canada has been helping BirdLife Jamaica by training volunteers and students in bird monitoring techniques and data analysis. With this support it is expected that BirdLife Jamaica will be able to undertake a greater number of projects on the island focussed on conservation of the 15 threatened species that occur in Jamaica. For further details of this please contact Steve Wilcox, IBA coordinator, (swilcox@bsc-eoc.org).

CARIBBEAN

Dominican Republic

The Grupo Jaragua, is coordinating the IBA program in the country. The program aims to "ensure the conservation and

“IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS” PROGRAM

long-term sustainable use of a network of key global biodiversity conservation sites across the Caribbean”. The program is being undertaken simultaneously in Jamaica, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas and Dominican Republic. The McArthur Foundation and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) are funding the IBA program. Any suggestion, comment or interest in collaborating in the IBA program should be directed to Grupo Jaragua (jaragua@tricom.net).

Puerto Rico

From 2002 the Puerto Rico Ornithological Society (PROS) has started to implement the IBA program, a global initiative of BirdLife International. On the 10 of August 2002 with support from the McArthur Foundation, a workshop was held to inform government (local and federal) agencies about the program. The Natural Resources Department of Puerto Rico, The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the US Forest Service were amongst the groups participating, as well as interested non-governmental organisations. Participants commented on a preliminary list of 54 IBAs on the island and helped identify sources of information, designed a work program and elected members to form part of a technical committee. A second workshop on 7 September dealt with the diversity and distributions of birds on the island, the IBA program and how groups can contribute to it, PROS and the general public. Anyone interested in the program can contact PROS through their web site www.avesdepuertorico.org or through the coordinator Adrienne G. Tossas (agtossas@hotmail.com).

Bahamas

The first National IBA Workshop in the Bahamas was undertaken in April and was organised by the Bahamas National Trust (BNT). Amongst those attending were government representatives, local ornithologists and scientists. The participants identified 90 key areas throughout the archipelago on 45 islands that are vital to maintain viable populations of birds and the diversity of habitats. The work will continue for the next three years until all priority sites are safeguarded and sustainable use

measures introduced. Sites lacking information were also identified and field surveys will be targeted to fill this need. "This is a passionate program for BNT" said BNT Education officer Lynn Gape, "as well as being an important effort uniting national and local support to protect birds and their habitats in the Bahamas". Larry Smith (bnt@bahamas.net.bs).

MESOAMERICA

Panama

The Panama Audubon Society has been working in Panama Bay (where four key IBAs are situated) site of one of the most important wetlands in Central America. The site is visited annually by one to two million shorebirds and procedures to declare the area a Ramsar site are underway. Loyda Sánchez (lesanch@sinfo.net)

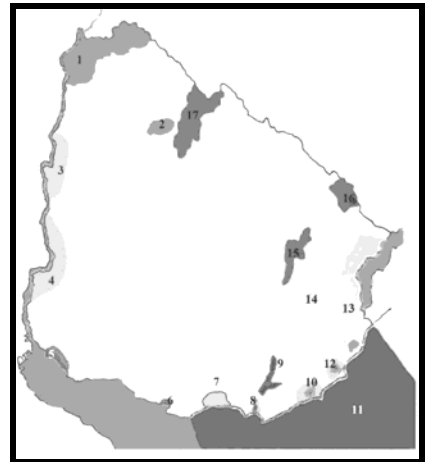
SOUTHERN CONE

Uruguay

On the 26 and 27 September 2002 the first IBA in Uruguay was held with support from the Ministry of Tourism. At the meeting the involvement of State organisations and private land-owners was sought for the 15-17 potential IBAs identified by Aves Uruguay.

It is hoped to establish an information database

and strategies to raise funds to develop the studies and actions necessary to ensure the effective protection of the IBAs. If you would like more information please contact Gabriel Rocha, National IBA Program Coordinator (elaenia@adinet.com.uy).



EVENTS IN THE AMERICAS

The IBA program in the United States is now working in 45 states and has identified some 1 500 IBAs covering 36 million acres. National Audubon Society (jwells@audubon.org)

Defensores de la Naturaleza are working for the conservation of the Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*) in the area of Sierra de las Minas, **Guatemala**. Help us save this species. Selvin Pérez (chijunil@yahoo.com)

The Harpy Eagle has been declared national bird of **Panama**. The Panama Audubon Society monitors two active nests in Chagres National Park. Karla Aparicio (info@adubonpanama.org)

CECIA has completed the first year of the Andean Condor project in **Ecuador**, it is estimated that between 60 and 70 individuals exist in the country. Sandra Loo: (cecia_de@uio.satnet.net)

A new book "Aves de Bolivia" has been published. Bennett Hennessey (armonia@scbbs-bo.com)

Approximately 70 Peruvian Tern (*Sterna lorata*) were observed feeding along the coast of Antofagasta, **Chile**. This record supports efforts to protect not only possible nesting sites but also feeding and resting areas to avoid its extinction. Something is being done! Unorch (unorch@entelchile.net)

Scientists from Bird Studies Canada have undertaken a study that reveals a severe decline in the breeding population of the Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) on the shores of the great lakes (Lake Huron, St. Clair and Erie), **Canada**. The study compared data from 1991–2001 (www.bsc-eoc.org/organization/bscnews.html)

The effective management of bird populations in **Cuba** by the Company for the Conservation of Flora and Fauna, part of the Ministry of Agriculture, has resulted in benefits for species like the near-threatened Cuban Parrot *Amazona leucoccephala*, which has shown a population increase from 100 to 400 individuals in the Los Indios protected area. Lourdes Mugica (lmugica@fbio.uh.cu)

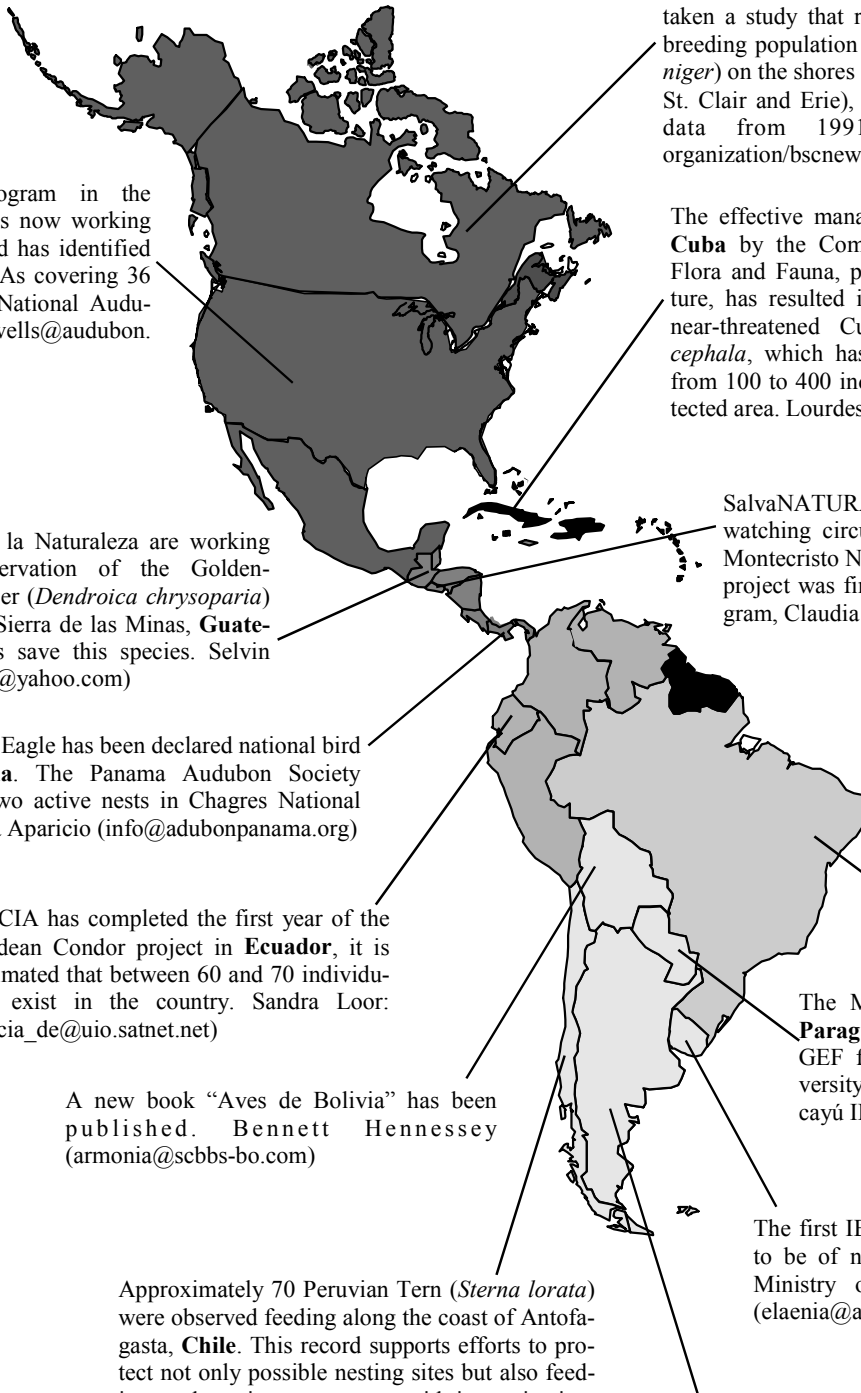
SalvaNATURA has established a bird-watching circuit between El Imposible and Montecristo National Parks, **El Salvador**, the project was financed by the Park Flight Program, Claudia Duarte (cdrivera@saltel.net)

IUCN Holland has donated funds to purchase 300–400 ha of land at Fazenda Boa Sorte in the Serra das Lontras, **Brazil** (birdlifebrasil@uolo.com.br).

The Moisés Bertoni Foundation of **Paraguay** received \$100 000 from GEF for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of Mbaracayú IBA (guyra@guyra.org.py)

The first IBA workshop was declared to be of national importance by the Ministry of Tourism in **Uruguay** (elaenia@adinet.com.uy)

Aves Argentinas has taken charge of the Güira Ogá reserve, **Argentina**, where a care and rehabilitation facility for wild birds from the Atlantic Forest has been established. Amongst the most interesting species found there are the threatened Vinaceous Parrot (*Amazona vinacea*) and the vulnerable Red-spectacled Parrot (*Amazona pretrei*) (conservacion@avesargentinas.org.ar).



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Neotropical Raptor Conference and Harpy Eagle Symposium (24–27 October, 2002) in Panama

For more information please contact: Neotropical Raptor Conference, The Peregrine Fund, 5668 West, Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, Idaho 83709, EEUU, Tel: 208-362-3717, Fax: 208-362-2376, E-mail: tpf@peregrinefund.org or visit: www.peregrinefund.org/nrconference.html

XII Conference of the parties of the Convention on International Trade in Threatened Species (CITES) (3–15 November, 2002) in Chile

More information in the web site <http://www.citescop12.cl>

Annual Meeting of the Waterbird Society "Scientific studies and conservation of waterbirds around the world" (6–10 November, 2002) in USA

Further information regarding registration for this meeting can be found at the Waterbird Society website: www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/CWS or contact to Chris Custer (christine_custer@usgs.gov) or Betty Anne Schreiber (schreibere@aol.com).

Seventeenth forum on Global Biodiversity and Eighth Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar convention (15–29 November, 2002) in Spain

For further information please contact: Caroline Martinet (gbf@iucn.org) GBF Coordinator, UICN, 28 Rue Mauverney, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland, Tel: +41.22.999-0216 or visit

<http://www.gbf.ch/>

Symposium of Wetland Terrestrial vertebrates: Evolution, Ecology and Conservation Biology (November 2002) in the USA

Please contact: Russ Greenberg, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, Email: antbird@erols.com, Tel: (202) 673-4908. For further up-to-date information, please send an empty mail to: join-mire@rana.er.usgs.gov.

Sixth World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls (18–23 May 2003) in Hungary

To obtain registration forms or program up-dates, please visit <http://www.raptors-international.de/> or contact: World WorkingGroup on Birds of Prey–WWGBP, PO Box 52, Towcester NN12 7ZW England, Tel./Fax:+44-(0)1604-86 23 31, e-mail: WWGBP@aol.com, robin.chancellor@virgin.net. The deadline for these proposal is 1 March, 2003.

First World Congress on Environmental Education (20–24 May 2003) in Portugal

Proposals and abstracts will be received until 29 November, 2002. Further information at <http://www.1weec.net>.

VII Neotropical Ornithology Congress (5–11 October, 2003) in Puerto Varas, Chile

For more information please visit <http://www.neotropicalornithology.org>

TRAINING

Workshop: "Introduction to applied field techniques for raptors" (6–10 October 2002)

At Stevens Point, Wisconsin, United States the course will be given by Eugene Jacobs of the Linwood Springs Research Station. A five-day course designed to cover many techniques used in studying raptors, including handling and capture, mist nets, nest finding, habitat sampling, point counts, banding and telemetry. The workshop costs \$350. For more information visit <http://www.raptorresearch.com> or contact Eugene Jacobs lsrs@raptorresearch.com

Intensive Field Course Ecology of Amazonian Ecosystems" (May-June 2003)

The course will be held in the Peruvian Amazon. Applications will be accepted until 1 October 2002. The course is aimed at post-graduates, professors and young professionals who already have a degree in biology, ecology or a related discipline. More information at <http://www.ots.ac.cr/es/education/ots-13.shtml>. If you would like to know about future courses of Tropical Ecology and Conservation and Tropical Plant Systematics visit <http://www.ots.ac.cr>



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The Bulletin *Birdlife in the Americas* is produced three times per year. Your comments and suggestions, as always, are very welcomed, contact Itziar Olmedo (birdlife@birdlife.org.ec)

WEB PAGES OF INTERES

- If you would like to know about the advances in the Colombian IBA program visit the new web site of the Humboldt Foundation dedicated to the subject: <http://www.humboldt.org.co/conservacion/aicas>.
- Articles from The Condor (numbers 1 to 102, years 1899–2000) are now available free on the Cooper Ornithological Society (COS) web site (www.cooper.org). Other publications including The Wilson Bulletin and The Auk will be available soon. Articles published since 2000 are available in BioONE, but access is only to subscribers.
- The book "Bird Surveys: Expedition Field Techniques" by Colin Bibby, Martin Jones and Stuart Marsden, 1998, is available at the following site: <http://conservation.bp.com/advice/field.asp>
- Visit the web page of the Neotropical Wetland Training Centre (<http://www.biouls.cl/cneh/>), this is an organisation that seeks to support conservation of wetlands in Latin America and the Caribbean. For more information about the organisation write to: Elier Tabilo-Valdivieso, MSc, Director Centro Neotropical de Entrenamiento en Humedales (etabilo@ctcreuna.cl; etabilo@una.ac.cr).
- Millions of migratory birds fly over North America in their annual voyage from their wintering sites in Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean to their nesting areas in the United States and Canada. Studies show that the numbers of migrants have declined in the last thirty years. Ornithologists are using Doppler technology such as Weather Surveillance Radar (WSR) as a tool to help save them (<http://nature.org/magazine/summer2002/doppler/>)
- Charles H. Smith, Ph.D., Professor of Western Kentucky University, (charles.smith@wku.edu) has created a web page "Classic Studies of Biogeography, distribution and diversity until 1950". It contains a bibliography and links to other pages that contain information of the featured authors. The information will be of use to advanced students. The site is at: <http://www.wku.edu/~smithch/biogeog/>
- In the web site of the "Bird conservation initiative of the south-east region, National Parks Service." (<http://southeast.fws.gov/birds/npsbirds.htm>) you can find contact information for national parks, PIF (Partners in Flight) regions, BCRs (Bird Conservation Regions) and monitoring and survey networks in the United States.
- Information of all Christmas Bird Counts (CBC), including the most recent 102nd CBC are available at: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc>

FUNDING

Whitley Fund for the Conservation of Birds (with the support of the Studs Trust)

The Whitley Fund will donate £25,000 to support work dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats worldwide. The project funded should not be focussed on a single species of bird but also take into account the species' habitat and local human populations. To apply fill in the application form available on the Whitley Foundation web site. Additionally on the web site

(www.whitley-award.org/) you can find information on other funding programs: The Whitley Fund for People and the Environment (supported by WWF-UK), the Rufford small grants program (rsg@whitleyaward.org) and the Ashden Fund for renewable energy projects. For further information contact The Whitley Laing Foundation, 139 Elging Crescent, London W11 2jh, UK, Tel: +44 (0) 20 7229 7554, Fax: +44 (0) 20 7925 2583. Mail: info@whitleyaward.org

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) small grants program

This program provides funding for projects directed at the conservation of birds in Latin America and the Caribbean. The priorities include actions towards the conservation and study of threatened species and their habitats. The program also finances expeditions to search for "lost species". To apply send a letter describing the project to rchipley@abcbirds.org before 1 October 2002. For fur-

ther information visit: www.abcbirds.org/international/small_grants_2002.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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