



Newsletter Dec. 2007 - Vol. 2, No. 2



President's Message - A good year for SCSCB

It was a pleasure to welcome 125 delegates in July, 2007 to the Society's conference in Old San Juan, in the delightful surroundings of the Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe. "Shared Spaces: the rights of humans and birds to share the earth" provided the opportunity for ornithologists throughout the region to discuss many important bird conservation issues. Pre-conference workshops on bird banding were well received and a workshop on 'Participatory natural reserve management as a tool for bird conservation' was in such demand that the session was offered twice. Three outstanding plenary lectures were delivered: Dr. Joseph Wunderle considered the future for Caribbean birds; Dr. Lisa Sorenson tackled the issue of birds and climate change; and Nicole Leotaud considered economic evaluation as a tool for conservation decision-making. Paper presentations were as fascinating as ever and I continue to be amazed by the dedication and expertise of the region's researchers. At least 17 working group meetings, symposia, workshops and round-table discussions took place and reports from most of these sessions are now posted on the website. These reports will also be published in a special post-conference edition of the journal.

Overall, the meeting was a huge success, highlighting the many problems and challenges facing the region's birds. The conference was hosted by the Puerto Rican Ornithological Society (SOPI). A big thank you to SOPI and all the sponsors who made the conference possible.

During 2007, the SCSB has been involved in organising a number of workshops in the region, notably West Indian Whistling-Duck and Wetlands Education Training sessions in Guadeloupe, Martinique, Bahamas, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. We have also been supporting a wetlands restoration effort in Union Island, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and development of a Watchable Wildlife Pond in New Providence, Bahamas. The Society has supported the publication of a number of new materials, including books on the birds of Haiti, Dominican Republic, Dominica, Cuba and the U.K. Overseas Territories summary of their IBAs in the region. Our education outreach programme has included the distribution of seabird posters, bird identification cards, and a global warming factsheet and poster for the Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival (CEBF), which attracted over 35,000 participants in 15 countries – a record success!

I have made a concerted effort to voice the concerns of the Society regarding a number of bird conservation issues in the region. The threat to the future of the Grenada Dove is a major concern to all of us. In Puerto Rico the endemic Nightjar could be impacted by a proposed wind farm. The Mullet Pond habitat in St. Maarten is under threat from a planned yacht marina, while the expansion of bauxite mining in Jamaica is a serious worry for the Cockpit Country ecosystem. With these and other developments, the Society has sought advice from experts and made representations to appropriate authorities. The Society's website www.scsb.org continues to grow, providing a wealth of information on the region's birdlife. I would like to thank all those who have contributed towards the content and to Lisa Sorenson in particular for the many hours she has spent in managing the site.

Society business doesn't stop and I hope that very shortly the new strategic plan will be finalised. This year's Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival was a great success and planning is already well underway for next year's event. Further workshops are planned for WIWD and Wetlands Training Workshops and the work of the Bird Art working group never seems to stop.

I hope that over the Christmas season you all have the chance to relax, pick up a pair of binoculars, and watch some birds!

With best wishes for 2008,

Andrew Dobson



Joe's Plenary Address



Sharing ideas in the Participatory Natural Resource Management Workshop



Delegates enjoying a presentation



**Lovely courtyard
at CEAPRC**



Mid-week Conference Field Trip



**Post-conference relaxation
for the President!**

Winners of SCSCB Raffle 2007

1st Prize: Cuban Pygmy Owl oil/canvas by Dennys Tamayo Hernández. **Winner:** Carol Lively

2nd Prize: American Kestrel Acrilic/canvas by Jorge Hernández Carballosa. **Winner:** Bernie Tershay

3rd Prize: American Kestrel Charcoal/Paper By Humberto H. **Winner:** Floyd Hayes

4th Prize: American Kestrel Charcoal/Paper by J. Arjona. **Winner:** Ed Massiah

5th Prize: Pair of Audubon Classic Equinox 8 x 42 Binoculars. **Winner:** Karen McNeil

6th Prize: Pair of Audubon Classic Equinox 8 x 42 Binoculars. **Winner:** Jill Raine

7th Prize: National Geographic Complete Birds of North America. **Winner:** Robin Dyer



Congratulations to all the winners and a very big thank you to Nils Navarro and the SCSCB's Caribbean Wildlife Art Working Group who generously donated their artwork. Sincere thanks also to all those who sold tickets and to those who purchased tickets. The raffle raised a total of \$4,040 in funds for SCSCB's programs, including the Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival and financial assistance for members to attend our conference who would not be able to attend otherwise.

Post-conference Fieldtrip – Puerto Rico



Twenty-two SCSCB members and their Puerto Rican guides enjoyed 2½ days of birding following the conference. We managed to see all 18 endemic species which was a real treat. With our first stop in Cambalache State Forest we saw seven endemics including Lizard Cuckoo, Tody, Woodpecker, Flycatcher, Vireo, Adelaide's Warbler and Oriole. A quick stop at the wetland area of Cano Tiburones NR (Valdez) proved very profitable with a good variety of waterbirds including Purple Gallinule. The spectacular cliff scenery at La Cueva del Indio offered very close views of the Bridled Tern colony. A highlight of Day 1 was a visit to the Parrot captive breeding program in Rio Abajo State Forest. Following a fascinating talk, we also saw birds in the wild, some fitted with transmitters. We also added the Emerald and Pewee to the endemic sightings. We had a long drive to our accommodation in the mountains at Maricao State Forest, and still enough energy for a successful night search for the endemic Screech-Owl.

A dawn start on Day 2 saw us driving down the mountain road to the coastal dry forest and Guanica State Forest – Antillean Mango, Bullfinch and Spindalis were added to the endemics before travelling a little further along the coast to see several Yellow-shouldered Blackbirds at La Parguera. Lunch at Cabo Rojo Salt Flats provided the opportunity to add a number of shorebirds to our growing trip list. The wetland at Cartagena Lagoon was largely dry, but the remaining wet area did concentrate the birds, including five West Indian Whistling-Ducks. We then returned to Guanica State Forest in the hope of at least hearing and perhaps glimpsing the Nightjar at dusk. Not only were we lucky enough to hear at least 3 individuals, but will saw one bird perched in a tree in front of us. Spirits were obviously high despite the return journey up the winding mountain road for a second cool night in Maricao State Forest. With only a couple of hours available the following morning before the drive back to San Juan – we were up early in search of the remaining two endemic species. We weren't disappointed, with good views of two Elfin Woods Warblers and the Tanager. The trip was a huge success – mainly due to the expert guides who accompanied us.

The photos show four endemic species: Adelaide's warbler, Elfin Woods Warbler, Puerto Rican Parrot and Puerto Rican Tody. (*Photos by Andrew Dobson*)



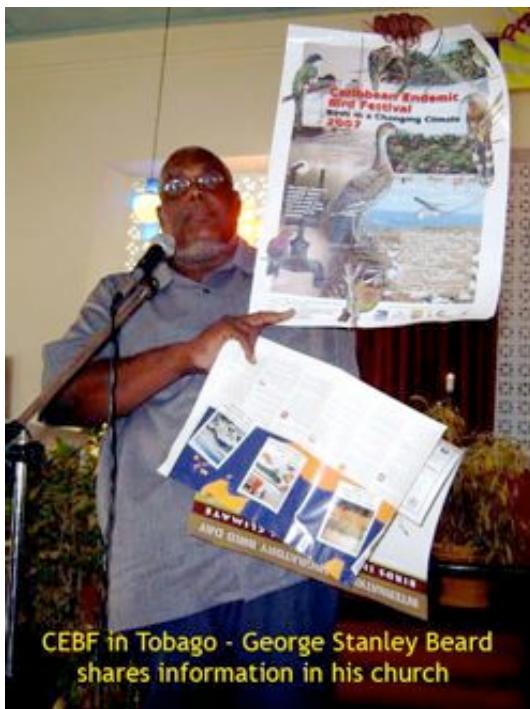
Conference Reports - Available on the Web

Reports from all the workshops, Working Group meetings, symposia, and round-table discussions will be published in the society's journal, *The Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*, and on our website. Although we are still finishing the review process, most reports are now available online. In addition, many Working Group web pages have been revised and updated. Please visit www.scscb.org to check out the new pages and read and download the meeting reports.

SCSCB New Strategic Plan 2008-2012

The draft plan presented by President Andrew Dobson at the General Business Meeting in Puerto Rico was posted on www.scscb.org (click on 'News' on the Home) on August 1st. SCSCB members were asked to read the plan and submit any comments by September 15th. Thank you to those that provided input on ways to improve the plan. A final version of the plan is in final stages of preparation and will be posted to SCSCB's website soon. Stay tuned.

Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival (CEBF) 2007 - A Record Success!



For the first time in 2007, we adopted a conservation theme: **Climate Change**. The theme proved to be the perfect opportunity to raise awareness about this critical issue—how it will likely affect our region's birds and habitats and the actions we can all take to help stop it. There were multiple showings of Al Gore's movie "*An Inconvenient Truth*" which we distributed to all coordinators. Coordinators distributed and displayed the **Global Warming and the Caribbean** Fact Sheet and the poster designed exclusively for the CEBF, as well as excellent materials from International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) that included a climate change education booklet, posters, stickers and even bird tattoos. We are still waiting for a couple of reports, but so far, over **38,000** people celebrated with **380** activities in **15** countries with 3 new countries joining the festival for the first time (final report and photos will be posted on the website soon). Congratulations to all coordinators on such a terrific result!!!

GET READY, GET SET . . . for CEBF 2008!

Plans are underway for celebrating **CEBF in spring 2008** (April-May) and we hope this will be our biggest and best festival yet! We will again share the same theme as IMBD: **Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats and People**. Materials that are available to all festival coordinators include posters, bird buddy bracelets, stickers, tattoos, and t-shirts. This year the stickers are of Bananaquits (with text "Protect Our Birds") and American Redstarts (with text "Conserve migratory birds"), text available in English, Spanish and French. Many thanks to Sue Bonfield for helping with materials. And thanks to a grant from the USFWS Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Fund, we are once again offering **Small Grants**. Details about the festival and how to apply for a grant are available at www.scscb.org – click on "Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival" from the home page. If you've never celebrated the festival before, now is the time to join!! For more information contact Sheylda Diaz-Mendez, CEBF Regional Coordinator (otoarina77@yahoo.com).



International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) - Taking Flight in the Caribbean



Several countries in the region celebrated IMBD this last October, including the Bahamas, Bermuda, Dominican Republic and Guadeloupe.

The Bahamas National Trust

Ornithology Group sponsored a “welcome back migrants” celebration on Oct. 6th, which featured presentations and a large enthusiastic group participating in a bird walk to spot migrants at “The Retreat.”

Anthony Levesque, President of **AMAZONA** in Guadeloupe, reports

wonderful results from his festival. He distributed posters and brochures, gave presentations and took groups on a field trip where participants were able to see, at Pointe des Châteaux, an estimated passage of 800 to 1,000 Blackpoll Warblers per hour! As a result of celebrating the festival membership in AMAZONA has grown from < 20 members from 1999-2005 to 502 in 2008 – congratulations Anthony! The Caribbean celebrations are featured on IMBD’s website – to read about Bermuda’s first IMBD visit: http://www.birdday.org/festival_bermuda.php We decided on the second Saturday in October as the “official” day to celebrate IMBD in the Caribbean since this is when bird migrations peak in many countries. (IMBD is celebrated the second Saturday in May in North America). We stress, however, that countries are free to celebrate IMBD (and CEBF) whenever it best suits their schedule.

Threatened Birds of the World 2008 - Your Input Needed!

SCSCB's Threatened Birds Working Group (TBWG) aims to coordinate and engage the SCSCB membership in monitoring, evaluating and conserving the most threatened of our Caribbean bird species, working in close collaboration with all the other SCSCB Working Groups and BirdLife International (the official Listing Authority for birds on the IUCN Red List). The focus of the TBWG is on helping SCSCB meet its strategic objective to “Improve the conservation status of threatened and endemic Caribbean birds.” During the Threatened Birds of the Caribbean workshop (San Juan, Puerto Rico, 20 July 2007), SCSCB members identified a need to: Focus on contributing to the 2008 IUCN Red List assessment by commenting on, updating and correcting the Caribbean threatened species profiles posted on <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/index.html>. **Draft** threatened bird fact sheets have now been posted on the SCSCB website (<http://www.scsb.org/>) then click on “Working Groups” and “Threatened Birds”) for you to download and review. Your comments will provide a valuable contribution to the status re-evaluation of all the world’s birds for 2008 (as part of the IUCN Red List process) when it will be released as *Threatened Birds of the World 2008* CD-ROM, in addition to continued availability of species fact sheets through the BirdLife website (see <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/index.html>). The TBWG would be grateful for any review comments (in track changes) that you can make on the species fact sheets so that these profiles are as up-to-date and accurate (and therefore useful to conservation) as possible. **Review comments are needed ASAP!** Please send species fact sheets with your comments edited in (in track changes) to: david.wege@birdlife.org

Update on the Grenada Dove

Bonnie Rusk recently completed a census of the Grenada Dove. She re-censused all locations where birds were found in 2003/2004 (Rusk and Clouse) and in 2004 post Ivan (Rusk). She also checked all suitable habitat that previously reported no doves in 2003/2004. Bonnie has estimated 29 territorial males within the ~540 acre Mt Hartman estate, similar numbers and distribution to pre-Ivan. She reports a decline in numbers on the west coast from pre-Ivan estimates. She has also located an estimated 9 calling males outside Mt Hartman where not located in previous censuses. Her recommendations to Government and the resort developers to have the Mt. Hartman National Park boundaries redesignated to accommodate more Grenada Dove territories (approximately 25 of the 29 territories) in one contiguous patch has been approved, and the protected area will also include ridgeline habitat of the Hook-billed Kite. The area to be protected is the same size (possibly slightly larger than the current 154 acres) as what is currently protected, and includes the most critical areas of dove habitat, and potential dove habitat, on the estate. Cinammon88, the resort developers, have been doing a great job incorporating Bonnie's recommendations into the resort design, and with the Four Seasons Hotel, have committed to help support the ongoing study, conservation and recovery of the species. Loss of the remaining lands at Mt. Hartman, slated for development since before the establishment of the National Park in 1996, is a loss for the species and emphasizes the need for protection of other dove habitat on the island (of particular importance is the government-owned Beausejour Estate on the West Coast, and privately owned lands north of Mt Hartman at Petit Bouc/Woodlands) to help meet recovery goals (Rusk *et al.* 1998). One nestling was observed in early December on a nest monitored since October 28 at Mt. Hartman.



Migratory Shorebird Hunting in Barbados - an Island Update

As part of BirdLife's program of documenting the Caribbean's Important Bird Areas (IBAs), two unique IBAs were identified in Barbados. The Shooting Swamps of St Philip and of St Lucy represent a network of often artificially maintained and highly managed wetlands at either end of the island. They are managed by hunters and, based on data published in 1991, between 20,000 and 30,000 North American migratory shorebirds are shot at them every fall (with significantly larger numbers passing through). The majority of shorebirds shot comprise American Golden Plovers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers. Worryingly, the American Golden Plover bag could represent up to 5% of the global population annually.

Since the importance of these swamps for passage shorebirds (and resident waterbirds, including Little Egrets) was highlighted through the IBA program, BirdLife has been working with Wayne Burke in Barbados to explore conservation and management options that could benefit resident waterbirds and importantly the American Golden Plovers. Important advances this fall include a ban on shooting American Golden Plovers and on the use of tape lures at the Congo Road swamp (part of the Shooting Swamps of St Philip IBA). A number of other swamp owners agreed to stop using taped calls this season (although the adherence to these self-imposed bans is unknown). Other

swamps agreed to stop shooting Hudsonian Godwit and Whimbrel, but again, adherence to this ban is unknown. So, some good progress has been made during the 2007 shooting season and this provides an excellent foundation on which to develop a better monitored and regulated hunting season in 2008 and thereafter. **David Wege, BirdLife Caribbean Program**

eBird in the Caribbean - Submit your Sightings!

aVerAves
Hispaniola

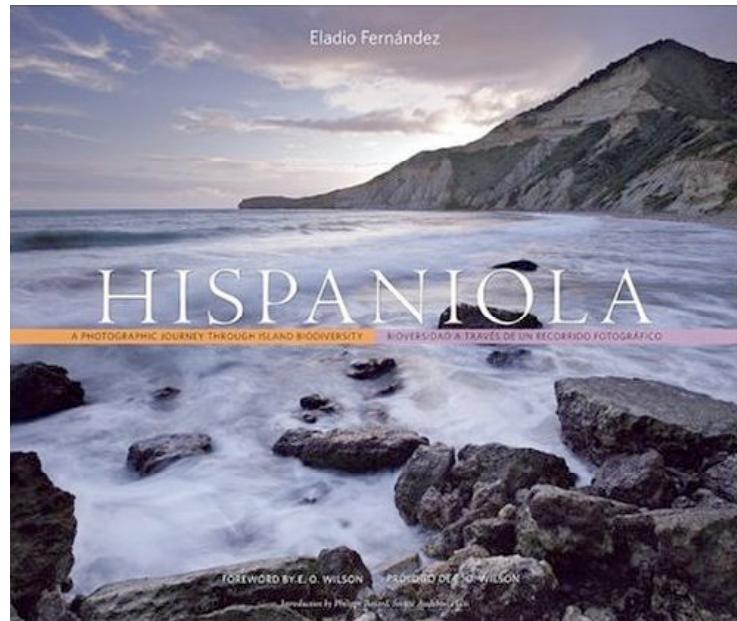


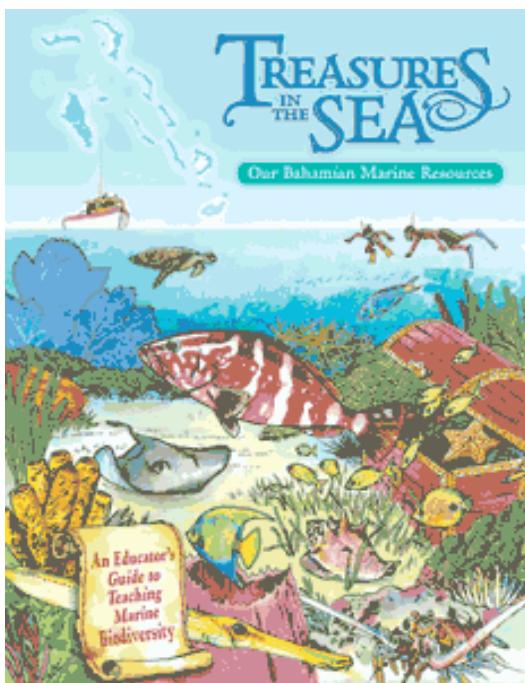
What is eBird? eBird is an online application for submitting, archiving and visualizing bird observations. In addition to seeing maps of bird distributions you can also generate frequency bar charts for most of the Caribbean. eBird provides a way for an observer to track their personal observations and keep life lists, country lists, year lists, etc. More than that, however, eBird is a way of sharing these observations with anyone with an interest in birds. The result is that we can learn much more about bird distribution, migration, and important wintering, breeding and stopover sites and use the data for conservation efforts.

A real-time, online checklist program, eBird has revolutionized the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird has recently expanded to the Caribbean. eBird and it's regional applications provide rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution throughout the Caribbean and the entire Western Hemisphere. If you are looking for local Caribbean bird news, recent bird sightings or would like to enter bird observations, select from one of the regional projects on our website (<http://www.scsb.org/eBirdpage.htm>). If there isn't a regional project for your area, you can enter Caribbean-wide data in any of the regional projects or you can use the main eBird application. On any of the sites below you can learn about eBird, submit your observations (it's fast and easy!), and view and explore data. Check it out!

New Books and Publications

SCSCB member, Eladio Fernandez, recently published ***Hispaniola: A Photographic Journey Through Island Biodiversity***. The amazing biodiversity of Hispaniola is captured in Eladio's stunning photographs and essays by leading ecologists in Hispaniola, including our very own Steve Latta and Chris Rimmer. The foreword is by E. O. Wilson. This magnificent coffee table book is available on Amazon.com. Congratulations to Eladio and his team for producing this beautiful book which will do so much to raise awareness and appreciation of Hispaniola's biodiversity.





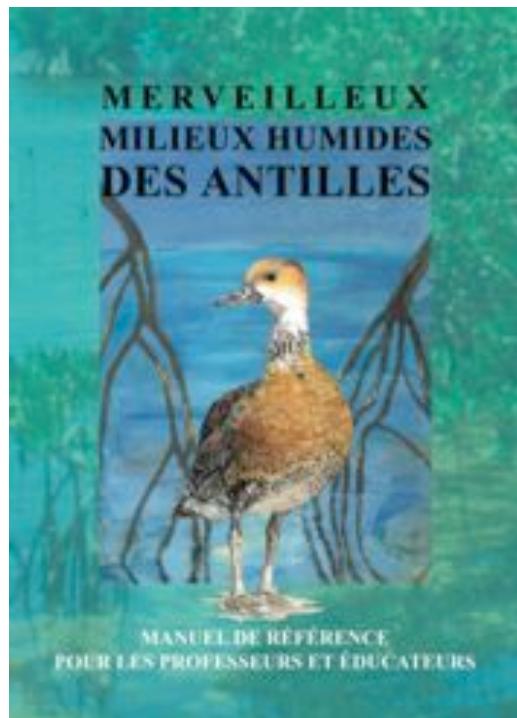
From the Bahamas comes *Treasures in the Sea*, a new resource book that provides teachers with scientific information and engaging, hands-on activities that encourage students to discover, cherish, and protect the sea and all of its treasures. It is aimed at students in grades three to six, but many of the activities may be adapted for younger or older students in formal and non-formal settings. *Treasures in the Sea* introduces marine conservation concepts by focusing on some of The Bahamas' most important marine species. The material covered includes basic marine ecology such as life cycles and critical habitats for certain species, but it also includes activities that help students understand the cultural and economic connections and the need for sustainable use of marine resources. If you go here <http://treasures.amnh.org/index.html> you can download the whole publication (7MB) or download by chapter. You can also link to resources related to the activities and find out about the teacher training workshops that have

been organised in the Bahamas to help teachers feel more comfortable with the material. SCSCB member, Lynn Gape, from the Bahamas National Trust, is one of the lead authors. Contact Lynn (lynn.gape@bahamasnationaltrust.org) if you are interested in receiving a hard copy of the book.

The West Indian Whistling-Duck Working Group, in partnership with RCU/SPA/W/RAC, the French Government (Office National des Forêts) and Oak Hammock Marsh, is delighted to announce the publication of our workbook, *Wondrous West Indian Wetlands: Teachers' Resource Book*, in French. This new book will allow us to expand our educational project and message of wetlands and bird conservation to the French West Indies. Copies of the book (and other outreach materials in French) have already been distributed to participants at 2 wetlands workshops held in Guadeloupe and Martinique (62 trainees that included 9 Haitian participants) in November 2007. Workshops are scheduled for French Guyana in early March 2008.

Conservation Biology Textbooks Available - FREE!

Professor Richard Primack at Boston University has come out with new editions of two of his conservation biology textbooks. He has once again offered extra copies of the previous editions to the SCSCB to distribute to individuals, organizations and school/university libraries in the Caribbean (they are brand new). Here are the details:



- 1) *Essentials of Conservation Biology*, Third Edition. 2002. by Richard B. Primack. Sinauer Associates, Inc. Publishers. Sunderland, MA. 698 pages – 35 copies available
- 2) *A Primer of Conservation Biology*, Second Edition, 2000. by Richard B. Primack. Sinauer Associates, Inc. Publishers. Sunderland, MA. 319 pages. – 10 copies available

Both books contain a wealth of information on the values of biological diversity (direct and indirect economic values), threats to biological diversity (habitat destruction, global climate change, overexploitation, invasive species, etc.), conservation at the population and species levels, practical applications (establishing and managing protected areas, restoration ecology), case studies, and conservation and sustainable development at local, national and international levels. The "Primer" covers most of the same topics as the "Essentials" book but has less detailed information - it is more of an introduction to the topics. The books are in English; sorry, no Spanish versions available at this time. If you are interested in receiving copies of one or both of these books, please contact Lisa Sorenson (LSoren@bu.edu) and let her know which book or books, the name of your institution and your postal mailing address (they will be coming via mail service). There will be no shipping charge for the books. We thank Dr. Primack for this generous donation.

A Neotropical Companion: An Introduction to the Animals, Plants and Ecosystems of the New World Tropics – Available for FREE in Spanish!

Birders' Exchange, a program of the American Birding Association, recently published a Spanish language version of John Kricher's highly acclaimed book, *A Neotropical Companion: An Introduction to the Animals, Plants, and Ecosystems of the New World Tropics*. They have generously donated copies of the book to SCSCB to distribute in the region. A number of copies were given to delegates at our SCSCB meeting in Old San Juan, July, 2007, but more copies are available. Please contact Lisa Sorenson (LSoren@bu.edu) if you would like to receive one or more copies of the book. Many thanks to Birders' Exchange for this wonderful resource which will benefit many people and institutions throughout the Neotropics.

Workshop – Participatory Planning for the Restoration of Ashton Lagoon, Union Island, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Working together with local NGOs (AvianEyes Birding Group, Sustainable Grenadines Project and others) and government and with assistance from marine, mangrove and coral reef ecologists and a nature tourism consultant, we held a 3-day Participatory Planning Workshop (May 22 -24, 2007) to plan the restoration of Ashton Lagoon. The lagoon, the largest remaining mangrove-seagrass-coral reef ecosystem on St. Vincent and the Grenadines, was damaged in 1995 by an ill-conceived marina development. **Project outcomes to date:** a) Stakeholders determined that the goal is to restore the Ashton Lagoon environment in order to improve local livelihoods and quality of life. This will be achieved via habitat restoration, local tourism, environmental awareness, and increased local decision-making capacity. b) In prep: Educational brochure on



Ashton Lagoon; Birds of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines identification card. **Next steps:** Draft follow-up proposal and budget to carry out the restoration and sustainable-use activities; find co-financing.

Add your link to SCSCB "LINKS" Web Page!

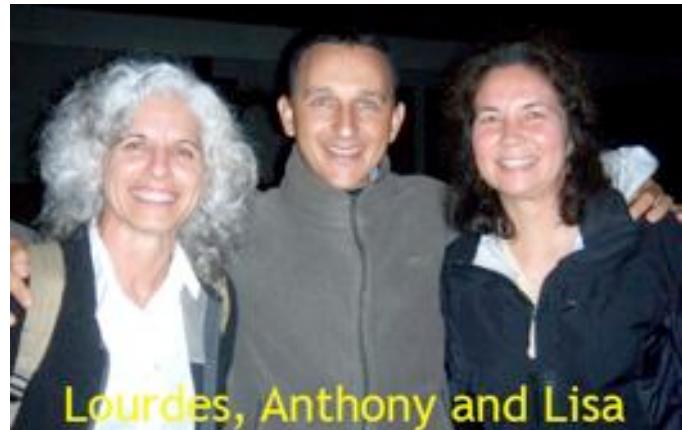
To help you do your bird conservation work better, we are planning to improve and expand the links page of our website (www.scscb.org/links/links.htm). We would like to provide links in 6 categories: Caribbean NGOs and Resources; Organizations and Resources Outside the Caribbean; Caribbean Bird and Nature Tourism (list guides and ecotourism activities and lodges); Upcoming Events, Meetings and Workshops; Funding Sources; and Jobs and Training Opportunities. If you would like to post an announcement or have your organization or business included on these pages, please send an email to the webmaster, Lisa Sorenson (L.Soren@bu.edu) with your organization's name, web address and a short description of your mission, business or announcement.

SCSCB members attend Waterbird Council Meeting

Council members Lourdes Mugica, Anthony Levesque and Lisa Sorenson recently attended the Waterbird Conservation Council Meeting in San Blas, Nayarit, Mexico, Jan. 15-19, 2008 (member Lynn Gape was unable to attend). The Council, which meets annually, is the steering body of the **Waterbird Conservation for the Americas** initiative and has responsibility for coordinating, supporting, and communicating implementation of the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan and other waterbird conservation activities in the Western Hemisphere.

At its annual meeting, the Waterbird Conservation Council develops and endorses the visions and tasks forwarded by its working committees, task groups, and members; strengthens relationships between its members, and gains energy and momentum for the following year. In addition, annual meetings are structured to provide support and visibility for waterbird conservation activities of local hosts. The Council will continue to support SCSCB's efforts with seabird conservation work this year. To learn more about the Council, visit:

<http://www.waterbirdconservation.org/> There are many good resources and links on this website.



Lourdes, Anthony and Lisa

News of Members

We are delighted to report that *Aves Acuáticas en los humedales de Cuba* by **Lourdes Mugica, Dennis Denis, Martín Acosta, Ariam Jiménez and Antonio Rodríguez**, recently received a big national award in Cuba. It was selected among the 10 best books in Science and technology in 2007 by the Book Cuban Institution, a very prestigious institution. The award was announced on television news, newspaper and radio, raising the profile of waterbirds and wetlands in the country. Congratulations to all the authors on this terrific achievement!

Nadra Nathai-Gyan has taken a new job at the Zoological Society of Trinidad and Tobago. Her new email address is: nathure@flowtrinidad.net

Dr. Peter Vogel 1947-2007

Dr. Peter Vogel was tragically murdered at his Jamaican home in July 2007. A citizen of Switzerland Dr. Peter Vogel made research visits to Jamaica in 1979, 1982 and again between 1985 and 1987. In 1987 he applied for a position at the then Department of Zoology (now Life Sciences) at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies and was appointed Lecturer. Dr. Vogel served for many years on the Executive Committees of the Natural History Society of Jamaica and Bird Life Jamaica as well as serving as a member of the Scientific Authority, The NRCA Game Bird Committee, Alien Invasive Species Committee of NEPA, the Advisory Board of the Natural History Division at the Institute of Jamaica and the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park. Through his many scientific exploits Dr. Vogel has contributed to major analyses about the state of the Jamaican environment writing significant portions of the National Parks Systems Plan, The South Coast Sustainable Development Study, the Cockpit Country Biodiversity Assessment and the National Biodiversity Strategy.

Dr. Vogel's best known project is probably the programme to study and conserve the Jamaican Iguana. In 1990 he founded the Jamaican Iguana Research and Conservation Group together with UWI colleagues and representatives from NRCA, the Hope Zoological Gardens and the Institute of Jamaica. This project has been highlighted in scientific journals such as 'Nature' and 'Conservation Biology' as well as 'Newsweek' and 'The New York Times'. In 2001, Dr. Vogel received a Silver Musgrave Medal Award from the Institute of Jamaica and the Gleaner Honour Award in 2006 in the category of Science and Technology.

Dr. Vogel's was the first coordinator of the Master of Science programme in Tropical Ecosystem Assessment and Management and he lectured statistics courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level. The Department of Life Sciences and the University of the West Indies mourns the loss of the giant in the field of biodiversity and conservation. He was 60 years of age. A Memorial service for the life of Dr. Peter Vogel was held on Friday August 10, 2007 in the UWI Chapel.

Jobs and Training Opportunities

Deadline for 2008 Park Flight Internship Applications Extended to 31 January

The Park Flight Migratory Bird Program works to protect migratory birds that share their habitat between national parks and protected areas in the U.S., Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean through bird monitoring, education and outreach programs, and opportunities for technical assistance and cooperation. The Park Flight Program is a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS), National Park Foundation, American Airlines, and the University of Arizona. Working through the NPS International Volunteers in Parks Program, biologists and educators from other Western Hemisphere countries assist with Park Flight efforts in U.S. national parks. These international internships give the opportunity for an exchange of knowledge and experience including science, culture and language. In past years, the Park Flight Program has offered internships at national parks around the U.S. for Latin American professionals from Central America and Mexico. For 2008, the Park Flight international internships will be open to qualified candidates from ALL COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA [Mexico, Central America and South America] AND THE CARIBBEAN. Park Flight will offer 11 internships in 2008 at the following U.S. national park units: New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route, New Jersey, with New Jersey Audubon Society; North Cascades National Park, Washington; Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina/Tennessee; Fire Island National Seashore, New York; Oregon Caves National Monument, Oregon, with Klamath Bird Observatory; Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks,

California; Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico; and Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore, California, with PRBO Conservation Science. The internships will begin from April to August 2008, and will last from two to six months. For more information on required skills, the stipend, and how to apply, contact the program coordinator, Carol Beidleman, at Carol_Beidleman@partner.nps.gov.

Upcoming Events, Meetings and Workshops



World Wetlands Day - 2 February 2008. The theme this year is *Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People* - an excellent theme to raise awareness about in the Caribbean. Visit Ramsar's WWD 2008 webpages to see the materials that can be downloaded directly from the website: http://www.ramsar.org/wwd/8/wwd2008_index.htm. An introduction to nine key topics that exemplifies both the direct, positive effects on human health of maintaining healthy wetlands - and the direct negative effects on human health through mismanaging wetlands can be found at: http://www.ramsar.org/wwd/8/wwd2008_intro.htm. To obtain hard copies of materials, contact the Secretariat (wwd@ramsar.org)

Partners in Flight Conference will take place in McAllen, Texas, February 13-16, 2008 The theme is "Tundra to the Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats, and People." www.partnersinflight.org

Third Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) Conference. Date: 22-25 July 2008. Location: Asuncion, Paraguay. Information and updates are available for at http://www.fws.gov/international/whmsi/whmsi_Eng.htm. Note the call for proposals for thematic sessions to take place at this conference at the end of the update.

BirdLife 2008 Global Partnership Meeting and World Conference 22 – 27 September 2008 Buenos Aires, Argentina. www.birdlife.org

Please Renew your Membership for 2008 – we need your support!

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This edition of the newsletter edited by Lisa Sorenson (L.Soren@bu.edu) and Andrew Dobson (ADobson@warwickacad.bm). Contributions for the next newsletter can be sent anytime, but should reach the editors by 31 May 2008 for the next edition.