



PARTNERS IN FLIGHT NEWSLETTER

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July 2010

Saving Our Shared Birds: PIF Tri-National Vision for Landbird Conservation

As most of you hopefully know by now, PIF's latest conservation assessment - *Saving Our Shared Birds* - was released in May. Release events occurred in Canada at the Trilateral Committee meeting in Halifax and in the US at a combination event with International Migratory Bird Day at the National Zoo. The document is available on a new web site – www.SavingOurSharedBirds.org – in English, French and Spanish. Hard copies of the English version are available from me and those in French from Judith Kennedy (Judith.Kennedy@ec.gc.ca). As of this date, hard copies of the Spanish version are still in press. The Spring 2010 issue of NABCI's All-Bird Bulletin (<http://www.nabci-us.org/aboutnabci/bulletinspring10.pdf>) was largely devoted to SOSBirds, but includes both new material and slightly different takes on the content of SOSBirds itself.

Saving Our Shared Birds is the culmination of over two years of direct work on those species and issues shared by the US, Canada and Mexico. But it is also the latest in a natural evolution of species assessment that PIF began almost at the outset of the initiative in 1990. It does not replace the North American Landbird Conservation Plan (Rich et al. 2004), but rather extends those ideas, species and geographies to a larger scale. It is our intent that SOSBirds help conservation partners in the tri-national region determine where to invest limited resources so as to have the most beneficial effect.

We are greatly indebted to those agencies and organizations who supported all the contributors to SOSBirds (see inside cover of document). This is another great example of how a partnership with a common goal can succeed in a big way.—Terry Rich

McAllen Conference Proceedings

Hard copies of the PIF McAllen conference proceedings (712 pp.) are now available from me. Copies are available free of charge thanks to a generous donation from the Canadian Wildlife Service to cover printing expenses. These proceedings have been up on the PIF web site since December 2009 in fully searchable pdf format. The proceedings also include the needs assessments that were conducted during the conference. Only a few hundred hard copies were

produced, and these mainly to ensure that the information would be available in the future. No one knows how long digital files will persist.

I want to again thank Cecilia Riley and the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (<http://www.gcbo.org/>) for handling the finances of the McAllen conference from 2006 to just a couple of weeks ago. That was an essential and very significant contribution!—Terry Rich

PIF 20th Anniversary – Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Future events are being planned for the fall meeting of the PIF Western Working Group, the fall meeting of the Mesoamerican Society for Conservation and Biology in San Jose, Costa Rica, and the annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Minneapolis in December. If you have ideas for other events, please contact Ashley Dayer (aad86@cornell.edu), Alicia King (Alicia_F_King@fws.gov), or me (terry_rich@fws.gov).

PIF – The Next 20 Years

Upon celebration of 20 years of PIF, we are also looking forward to the next 20 and asking questions about the course we should be on. Although there are no concrete plans just yet, it's likely that we will be soliciting ideas in a variety of upcoming meetings, including the next committee meetings in Grand Rapids in September (see below). The PIF Science Committee met on 8-10 July and have already begun addressing the science components. It's almost certain that we will get a concerted effort from the USFWS, particularly asking for regional input. Joint Ventures, our many NGO partners, state and federal agencies will also have an opportunity to provide focused ideas. Stay tuned, and if you have any ideas for how to go about this, please let me know.—Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov)

La Tangara

It has been over a year since our last issue, but I am pleased to have issue No. 70 – May-June 2010 – on the streets (<http://www.latangara.org/archive.htm>). It remains difficult to find funding for this type of project, but we remain convinced of the vital importance of this communication mechanism. We are back for at least a year thanks to major support from the US Forest Service International Programs (Carol Lively), and to contributions from individual members of the Partners in Flight Implementation Committee, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. We invite you to continue sharing your information with the over 2500 readers from all over the Americas and Europe.— José M. Zolotoff-Pallais (zolotoff@ibw.com.ni)

Funding Needed for PIF Mesoamerica Training

PIF is again supporting training at the annual conference of the Mesoamerican Society for Conservation and Biology in San Jose, Costa Rica in November. Our goal is to raise \$14,000 to conduct another round of Banding Certification training - the #1 need identified by the Meso PIF Working Group. We have \$9500 already committed from the USFWS (Region 8 and Region 9), the Missouri Department of Conservation and Optics for the Tropics (<http://www.opticsforthetropics.org/>), so are still seeking \$3000. Anyone able to help meet this year's need should contact Terry (terry_rich@fws.gov) or the chairs of the Meso PIF Working Group, Carol Beidleman (Carol_Beidleman@nps.gov) or Jose Manuel Zolotoff Pallais (zolotoff@ibw.com.ni). Training will be coordinated with the help of the Klamath Bird Observatory (<http://www.klamathbird.org/>). A one-page summary of the 2010 training project is available upon request from any of us.

New Web Site for PIF Costa Rica

A new website for PIF Costa Rica is now operational – www.pifcostarica.org. This is our main channel of communication and was developed with free software that allows us to manage and integrate content a simpler way. We have simplified the design and made it more attractive to the user, the inclusion of tools such as surveys and forms allow us to interact more easily with users, who in turn can easily share content on Facebook and Twitter without leaving the site. Those subscribers will receive regular news in the near future access to exclusive content for members.—Pablo Elizondo (jpelizondo@pifcostarica.org)

Brazilian Important Bird Areas Get Protection

Brazilian President, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, has signed the creation of the Boa Nova National Park and the Boa Nova Wildlife Refuge, safeguarding this biodiverse Important Bird Area (IBA) and creating 27,000 ha of new protected areas. The Boa Nova IBA, located in south-west Bahia state, has a unique flora and fauna due to the overlap of two biomes. The dry deciduous forest of the transitional area, known as mata-de-cipó, is the habitat of two restricted range species, the Endangered Slender Antbird *Rhopornis ardesiacus* and Near Threatened Narrow-billed Antwren *Formicivora iheringi*. Three hundred and ninety six bird species have been recorded to date at Boa Nova, 14 of which are globally threatened and 17 Near Threatened.

During the event, President Lula also signed the creation of the Serra das Lontras National Park, another IBA where 16 globally threatened bird species occur, and the creation of the Alto Cariri National Park, in addition to the expansion of the Pau Brasil National Park. Together, these areas will protect about 60,000 ha of Atlantic Forest, one of the most threatened biomes in the world.

"This is one of the greatest victories for bird conservation in Brazil. These new protected areas are all IBAs, including two sites considered priorities for action by SAVE Brasil. When we initiated our work at these sites they were known by only a few ornithologists, now they are recognized at the national level, and the chances for the survival of an impressive number of threatened bird species have increased considerably", said Jaqueline Goerck, Director-President of SAVE Brasil.

The Alliance for the Grasslands is Expanding

In a meeting held in Montevideo, Uruguay, the Alliance for the Grasslands' Committee composed by the Birdlife International Partnership of the Southern Cone and represented by Amiro Perez-Leroux (Secretariat for The Americas), Andres Bosso (Aves Argentinas), Agustin Carriquiry (Aves Uruguay), Pedro Develey (SAVE) and Alberto Yanosky (Guyra Paraguay) decided to broaden the Alliance's representation to include six new members on the new Board of Directors.

"We chose people well-seasoned in farm production and conservation of the pampas. People who, in turn, are capable of representing the interests and vision of the farmers and the technical experts and scholars closest to them." The new Board of the Alliance now has 10 members with at least two per country - the conservationists are no longer a majority (there are five farmers or representatives of farmers). See <http://www.pastizalesdelconosur.org/> for much more on this successful and growing conservation alliance.—Anibal Parera (afparera@gmail.com)

AZE and CBD

The Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE), a global alliance to prevent extinction of species, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its 193 Parties are entering into a partnership through a new cooperative agreement to prevent species extinctions and maintain ecosystems and habitats at key sites for endangered species. The CBD is the international legal instrument adopted in 1992 to sustain the diversity of life on Earth.

In 2001, biodiversity-conservation scientists came together over a common concern: that landscape-based conservation approaches alone could not conserve all species, and that many extinctions would occur imminently if key sites were not identified and protected. These concerns led to the formation of AZE, a global initiative of biodiversity conservation organizations that aims to prevent extinctions by identifying and safeguarding key sites where endangered or critically endangered species are in imminent danger of disappearing. To date, AZE has identified 595 sites that are the last refuges for 794 of the world's most highly threatened species. The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) serves as Chair of AZE and has been a leading member since its creation.

Nevada Comprehensive Bird Conservation Plan Listserv

We held our final Nevada Comprehensive Bird Conservation Plan review recently in Las Vegas. Membership has now been consolidated into a new listserv. Our group is non-partisan, non-advocacy (politically speaking), and very much down to business when it comes to what works for bird conservation in Nevada. I will post important developments on the plan, and we would also like to see this as a forum to bridge the gap between NV-PIF meetings (spring and fall of every year). If you have any questions, please contact me.—Elisabeth M. Ammon (ammon@gbbo.org)

Action Plan for the Western Hummingbird Partnership

The Action Plan for the Western Hummingbird Partnership (WHP) has now been released. WHP is a developing network of partners collaborating to build an effective and sustainable hummingbird conservation program through science-based monitoring, research, habitat restoration/enhancement, and education/outreach. The Plan can be reviewed at:

http://www.hummonnet.org/pdf/201006whp_actionplan.pdf

As you read the plan, we invite you to envision how you might contribute to the WHP. We will develop our initial 5 committees: 1) Monitoring, 2) Research, 3) Habitat restoration/enhancement, 4) Education/outreach, and 5) a committee to address the effects of climate change on hummingbird communities and the distribution and availability of their nectar resources. Anyone with expertise or interest is welcome to join.

The next meeting of the WHP will be in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on 13-18 August 2010. During this meeting, the Habitat Restoration/Enhancement and Education/Outreach committees will meet. An announcement for the meeting will soon be distributed. Please contact the WHP coordinator, Susan Wethington (swething@dakotacom.net), with any question, idea, or a suggestion on how you might become involved. Please also forward to your own partner networks.

Estado De Conservación De Aves Acuáticas Y Sus Hábitats En Nicaragua

This report includes, 1) A summary of knowledge about the conservation of waterbirds in the region, e.g., species distribution, conservation status, threats, conservation projects, 2) A database and maps of priority sites for aquatic birds in the Neotropics, 3) Completion and implementation of conservation plans for waterbirds at the regional level in Central America and the Caribbean, and 4) a Spanish Translation Plan, among other activities. The report is available in pdf from Jose M. Zolotoff-Pallais (zolotoff@ibw.com.ni).

SEPIF Web Site – New Content

The Southeast PIF website (<http://sepif.org/>) has a lot of great new information that will be of interest to all of PIF. Here are a few of the things on the front page: Webinar on landbird monitoring tools now available (<http://sepif.org/content/view/56/1/>), Help support training of Tropical Ornithologists (<http://sepif.org/content/view/57/1/>), Best Management Practices for bird data (<http://sepif.org/content/view/55/1/>).—Rua Mordecai (rua.mordecai@gmail.com)

A Big Vision for a Broad Landscape

This article from Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine (<http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/2010/06/vision.htm>) exemplifies the power of the Important Bird Areas program to serve as a unifying conservation tool while also detailing the steps required to evaluate, plan for, and undertake conservation/management actions at an IBA. An expansive 15,000 acres of grasslands, wetlands, river bottoms and forest between Wisconsin Dells and Portage are managed to maintain the natural riches of birds, wildlife and people who live there.

Pocket Guide to Sagebrush Birds

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory has completed the *Pocket Guide to Sagebrush Birds*. Like other pocket guides, its purpose is to provide a concise field guide, to raise awareness about birds in a particular habitat type, and to offer effective and appropriate conservation actions. If you would like to obtain guides for use in your area, please contact Laura Quattrini (laura.quattrini@rmbo.org) at Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. [Editor's note: These pocket guides have proven to be very effective with landowners. But they are all coming from the West. Let's see some from the other regions!]

Sprague's Pipit Conservation Plan

USFWS Region 6 (Denver) has completed a draft of a conservation plan for Sprague's Pipit and conducted a public review which closed on 25 June. We also have established a Listserv to facilitate information exchange on Sprague's Pipits, and other mixed-grass prairie species. Watch for an announcement of the final plan and contact me if you would like to be added to the listserv.—Stephanie Jones (stephanie_jones@fws.gov)

Great Basin Collaboration Resources

Please take a few minutes to enroll yourself in the Great Basin Participants List and Experts Database found at: <http://greatbasin.wr.usgs.gov/gbrmp/newexpert.aspx>. The user-friendly interface will enable you to describe yourself, your experiences, and realms of expertise in

a few short minutes. You can select fields of expertise from a hierarchical pick list and paste a 500-word biography describing your professional interests. The Experts Database is being coordinated and delivered by the Great Basin Research and Management Partnership (GBRMP; <http://greatbasin.wr.usgs.gov/gbrmp/index.html>) and includes specialists from every federal and state agency in the region along with Tribal, university, and NGO personnel. While you're on the website check out the Consortia Database (<http://greatbasin.wr.usgs.gov/GBRMP/consortia.aspx>), Bibliography (<http://greatbasin.wr.usgs.gov/GBRMP/publications.html>), and Science Locator (http://jester.wr.usgs.gov/scilocator_ims/viewer.htm). Let us know when you're ready to add your consortia, citations and projects (<http://greatbasin.wr.usgs.gov/GBRMP/Contact.html>).—Sean Finn (sfinn@usgs.gov)

Alliance for the Conservation of the Wood Thrush and its Habitat

A total of 25 people from 8 countries and 16 organizations participated in the subject workshop at Los Tuxtlas Biosphere Reserve, Veracruz, Mexico, on 22-26 February 2010. The purpose of the workshop was to create a cadre of biologists who are trained, equipped, and capable of studying Wood Thrush survival as an indicator of a forest patch's value to wildlife. Participants in the workshop explored the potential to use the Wood Thrush as an umbrella for forest bird conservation in southeastern Canada, eastern United States, southern Mexico, and Central America. The workshop report is available from Matt Jeffery (mjeffery@audubon.org)

Dendroica – New Bird Identification Training Tool

The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) has developed a new web-based bird identification tool which displays songs, calls, and photographs of North American birds. Dendroica (<http://www.natureinstruct.org/dendroica/index.php>) was developed to help students, volunteers and professionals improve their skills at identifying birds by sight or by sound, particularly so that they can participate in survey and monitoring programs. The site includes birds from throughout Canada, USA, and Mexico. Participants also can contribute new photographs and sound recordings so it will continue to improve over time.

Dendroica allows you to browse through lists of species found in a particular region to see their pictures and listen to their songs and calls. You can then quiz yourself, based on songs or photos or both, to see how well you have learned the species. You can develop your own custom list of species for study. To use all of the features of the program, including the quiz, or to submit your own photos or sound recordings, you must register and sign in. Registration is free, and only requires that you provide your name and a valid e-mail address.

We hope after exploring Dendroica that you will find it as exciting and useful a reference tool as we feel it can be, and we look forward to any feedback and

material contributions that you will be able to make. If you have any questions, concerns, or problems, you can reach us through the “Contact Us” link within the site.—Keith Pardieck (kpardieck@usgs.gov)

New Jersey Audubon's Important Bird and Birding Areas

New Jersey Audubon's Important Bird and Birding Areas Program would like to introduce the Important Bird Areas of New Jersey, a comprehensive guide to the most essential sites in New Jersey for breeding, wintering and migrating birds. With over 300 full-color pages, packed with photos and information, this guide provides extensive information on New Jersey's 122 IBAs. To order the book, please visit: <http://www.njaudubon.org/SectionIBBA/Welcome.aspx>.

Important Bird Areas in the Americas

A new directory of Important Bird Areas in the Americas is now available. This directory, coordinated by the Americas Secretariat of BirdLife International, is the result of a joint effort among all countries in the Western Hemisphere. Over 100 authors contributed. The book also includes spectacular images from more than 250 photographers. The directory provides a concise summary of 2,345 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the hemisphere, priority sites for biodiversity conservation, covering an area of 3,284,602 km², or 7.9% of the region. An extensive analysis section includes case studies of how IBAs complement other conservation initiatives, protect wider biodiversity and are important for local communities, among many other topics. The directory is available at (http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/american_ibas/americas-ibas-downloads.html).

UN Uses BirdLife's IBAs as Key Indicator

The newly published 2010 UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) report profiles one of BirdLife International's key indicators for the first time – the degree of protection of Important Bird Areas (IBAs). The report presents the yearly assessment of global progress towards the MDGs, using indicators like the proportion of children that are under-nourished, the incidence of malaria and access to clean drinking water. The report warns that while some overall progress has been made, it is uneven. And it pinpoints the areas where the accelerated efforts are needed to meet MDGs by 2015.

Goal 7 is to ensure environmental sustainability, and the report uses IBAs to assess the degree to which key habitats for threatened species are adequately protected. It recognizes that IBAs are critical sites for the conservation of the world's birds and other biodiversity, and that protecting all of these areas would significantly contribute to the Convention on Biological Diversity's target to safeguard areas of biological importance. However, at present, more than two thirds of these sites are unprotected or only partially protected.

Fenwick's Antpitta

A new species of bird for science has been discovered and named after a leading conservation family. The new species of antpitta, native to Colombia, South America, was announced in a ceremony at the residence of the Colombian Ambassador, Carolina Barco. The bird is named Fenwick's Antpitta (*Grallaria fenwickorum*), after American Bird Conservancy (ABC) President George Fenwick and his family. The bird that provided the holotype for the description was captured in the Colibri del Sol Bird Reserve located on the Paramo del Sol massif in the western Andes of Colombia. The reserve is managed by Fundación ProAves – Colombia's leading conservation organization and an ABC partner. The 11,322 acre reserve, founded in 2005, is known for a stunning array of threatened birds, including the Critically Endangered Dusky Starfrontlet that was rediscovered in 2004 after being "lost" for over 50 years.

The Monarch Joint Venture Mission and Vision

Recognizing that North American Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) conservation is a responsibility of Mexico, Canada and the U.S., this Joint Venture will work throughout the U.S. to conserve and protect monarch populations and their migratory phenomena by implementing science-based habitat conservation and restoration measures in collaboration with multiple stakeholders. This goal will be achieved through a combination of habitat conservation, enhancement and restoration; education, research and monitoring. The vision of this Joint Venture is abundant monarch populations that can be sustained into perpetuity, and more broadly the promotion of monarchs as a flagship species whose conservation will sustain habitats for pollinators and other plants and animals. See <http://www.monarchjointventure.org/> for more details.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is proud to host the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' summer meeting in Anchorage on 16-21 July 2010. The theme is *Conservation Challenges and Opportunities Amidst Diverse Interests*. PIF will be presenting on the Tri-National Vision and Southern Wings. See <http://www.wafwa.org/> for more information.

Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Workshop

The subject workshop will be held 10-12 August 2010 at the Potawatomi Inn, Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana. This great meeting space offers on-site lodging and dining, miles of hiking and biking trails, canoe opportunities, and great birding. It is also conveniently situated near the borders of Michigan, Indiana and Ohio (and only three hours from Chicago). The agenda includes the Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative Monitoring Committee Meeting, Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Workshop (Validate Priorities and Direction of Partnership, Working Group Updates, Define What We Want From the Midwest Avian Data Center, Expand Coordinated Networks to Other States and Partners), and Coordinating our Bird Monitoring to Inform Wind Power Development, Land Acquisition, and Management Activities along the Great Lakes. Contact Katie Koch (katie_koch@fws.gov) for more details.

Western Hummingbird Project

The next meeting of the WHP will be in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on 13-18 August 2010. Contact the WHP coordinator, Susan Wethington (swething@dakotacom.net) for details.

25th International Ornithological Congress 2010

The 25th International Ornithological Congress will also be held in Campos do Jordão, Brazil, 22-28 August 2010. PIF will have papers in the NMBCA, the Tri-National Vision and the Golden-winged Warbler. See <http://www.acquaviva.com.br/sisconeov/index.asp?Codigo=26> for details.

National Phenology Network Stakeholders Workshop

The subject workshop will be held in Milwaukee on 21-22 September 2010. Although this workshop is by invitation, PIF will be represented by at least two participants. Our goal is to move the opportunities for collaboration between NPN and PIF – especially monitoring – from the conceptual to the actual. The scope of NPN is very large, including not only all taxa but also a huge array of modeling projects such as those for the global climate. Visit the NPN web to explore this large arena (<http://www.usanpn.org/>).

AFWA Annual Meeting and Next PIF National Committee Meetings

The 100th (!) Annual Meeting of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will be held 26-29 September 2010 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, MI. Watch <http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.html> for details. The PIF Implementation Committee will meet for two days prior to this conference. Watch the PIF listservs for details as they develop.—Brad Jacobs (Brad.Jacobs@mdc.mo.gov)

The Wildlife Society

The TWS annual conference (<http://joomla.wildlife.org/>) will be held in Snowbird, UT, on 3-7 October 2010. PIF is contributing to a symposium and round-table discussion entitled, *Wildlife Conservation Planning, Implementation, and Monitoring at Multiple Scales* and will have a paper on the Tri-National Vision.

CIPAMEX

The national Congress on the Study and Conservation of Birds in Mexico (CECAM - CIPAMEX, the largest ornithological organization in Mexico) will take place in Xalapa, Veracruz on 12-15 October 2010. Watch the PIF listservs for details as they develop.

2010 Watchable Wildlife Conference

The 2010 Watchable Wildlife Conference will be held in Kearney, Nebraska 5-7 October 2010 at the Holiday Inn & Conference Center. This year's conference will present in-depth sessions concentrating on how local communities, businesses and private land owners can profit from the continuing growth in Wildlife/Nature Tourism. Meet and talk with leading wildlife managers, business owners, authors and tourism marketing professionals in the field of wildlife/nature tourism. Sessions on Using Social Media, Marketing & Promotion, Risk Management & Assessment and Prairie Restoration are just a few of the other topics being planned. The new Digital Bridge to Nature Teacher Workshops and workbook publication will also be previewed. Get more information at <http://www.watchablewildlife.org/>.

Western Field Ornithologists

The 35th Annual Meeting of Western Field Ornithologists will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel- Palm Desert, California, on 13-17 October 2010. The deadline for the call for papers has been extended to 5 August. See <http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/conference.php> for details.

Bird Conservation Conference in the Northeast

The Power of Partnerships – Bird Conservation Conference in the Northeast – will be held 19-21 October 2010 in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The conference will be hosted by the Northeast Working Group of Partners in Flight, Bird Education Alliance for Conservation, Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring, USFWS, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Manomet Center for Conservation Science. See www.birdconservationconference.org for details.—Ashley Dayer (aad86@cornell.edu)

North American Pollinator Protection Campaign

The 10th Anniversary of the NAPPCC International Conference will be hosted at the U.S. Department of Agriculture 14th and Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250 on 20-22 October 2010. See <http://www.nappcc.org/> for details.

XIV Congreso de la SMBC – Costa Rica

The 2010 congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Conservation and Biology will be held 8-12 November in San Jose, Costa Rica. See items above about our involvement with this society and funding needs for training during this conference. Details can be found at: <http://www.sociedadmesoamericana.org/congresos/proximo-congreso.php>.

Fourth Meeting of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative

The Fourth Meeting of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative also will be held 8-12 November 2010, hosted by The Bahamas' Ministry of the Environment and the Bahamas National Trust. In addition to presenting a significant opportunity for innovative collaboration for migratory species conservation, this will be the first WHMSI meeting to take place in the Caribbean. We are thus grateful to The Bahamas and looking forward to a very productive gathering. Further details will be sent out and posted on www.whmsi.net over the course of the next few weeks and months.—Herb Raffaele (nfo.whmsi@gmail.com)

PIF Western Working Group

The PIF WWG will return to Guaymas, MX for its fall meeting on 9-12 November 2010. We last met in Mexico in the spring of 2001, also in Guaymas. Before that, it was in the Spring of 1996 in Autlan, Jalisco. The Sonoran JV will be meeting the latter half of the 8th and all of the 9th in the same place. Contact me or watch the WWG listserv for details.—Mike Green (michael_green@fws.gov)

71st Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

The subject conference will be held 12-15 December 2010 at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Midwest is the premier fish and wildlife conference in the central U.S. with more than 1000 attendees at past conferences. We are expecting tremendous interest in the 2010 conference due to the location, the excellent plenary speakers, and the content of the workshops and breakout sessions. We encourage you to browse our website and to contact us with any questions. PIF will hold a day-long symposium that will cover all components in the SHC flowchart. Watch <http://www.midwest2010.org/> for details.

AFO/COS/WOS

The Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society will meet jointly on 9-13 March 2011 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, NE. This meeting has been planned to take advantage of the spring migration of Sandhill Cranes, geese and ducks in the Platte River and Rainwater Basin. Check <http://snr.unl.edu/kearney2011/callforsymposia.asp> for details and watch for additional meetings to be planned in conjunction with this large gathering of ornithologists.

129th Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union

The AOU will meet on 24-29 July 2011 at the Jacksonville Hyatt Regency in Jacksonville, FL. Details available at <http://www.aou.org/meetings/> as they develop.

IXth Neotropical Ornithological Congress

The Neotropical Ornithological Society (NOS) and the Peruvian Ornithological Union (UNOP) are pleased to announce the IXth Neotropical Ornithological Congress and VIIIth National Ornithological Congress to be held in Cusco, Peru, on 8-14 November 2011. The scientific program will include plenary lectures, symposia sessions, oral and poster presentations, and round table discussions. The congress officers are: the Secretary General, Grace P. Servat (grace.servat@gmail.com) and the Chair of Local Committee, Constantino Aucca (caucca@ecoanperu.org), in cooperation with the NOS and UNOP. Further information will be announced at www.neotropicalornithology.org.

Other Ornithological Society Meetings

Details on the annual conferences of other major ornithological societies in North America can be found at <http://www.osnabirds.org/>.

The next newsletter will be issued on 1 October 2010. Items are due 15 September 2010 to Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov).