



FLIGHT LOG

NEWSLETTER OF CALIFORNIA PARTNERS IN FLIGHT
WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SONGBIRD POPULATIONS



CalPIF Education and Outreach Takes Flight

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Melissa Pitkin, PRBO Conservation Science
CalPIF Education Committee Chair
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International Migratory Bird Day, Cat's Indoors!, Park Flight, the Birder Conservationist, E-Bird, the Great Backyard Bird Count, Birds Beyond Borders, Bird Conservation Plans, the list could go on. What do all these programs have in common? They all bring the science that drives bird conservation and the issues affecting birds to the public of all ages. There is something for everyone, and if you aren't familiar with these programs, you should look them up and find ways to get involved.



In the spirit of these national and international programs, I am happy to report that the CalPIF education and outreach committee is taking flight. Our database of bird education projects in California is growing thanks to participation from all of you! As you read through the following pages of the Flight Log you will hear about many of the outstanding projects focusing on bird education throughout the state, some of which are part of the larger educa-

tion efforts mentioned above.

Last November the CalPIF Education and Outreach Committee met as a group to define the purpose and vision of the committee and then discussed ideas and strategies under this vision. Notes on our breakout session are available online at www.prbo.org/calpif/meetings.html.

The committee will meet again at the next statewide PIF meeting July 17-19, 2003 at the beautiful Sagehen Creek Field Station near Truckee, California.

We are still looking for committee members and would love to have your participation.

Visit www.prbo.org/calpif/education.html to register projects with CalPIF Education and Outreach.

For more information about the programs mentioned in this article, visit the following web sites:
www.birdday.org
www.abcbirds.org/cats/
www.prbo.org/calpif/plans.html
www.rmbo.org/education/bbb.html
www.birdsource.org/gbbc/toc_page.html
www.americanbirding.org/programs/constbc.htm
www.nationalparks.org/prouddpartners/partner_aapark.shtml

Partners in Protection: A Cooperative Approach to Conserving Migratory Birds

Rachel Mazur, Sequoia and Kings Canyon NP
Rachel_Mazur@nps.gov

As part of the Park Flight Program, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks initiated a new program titled, "Partners in Protection: A Cooperative Approach to Conserving Migratory Birds" in 2000. The program has three main components - education, biological monitoring, and international exchange. The biological monitoring component monitors Peregrine Falcon and Willow Flycatcher populations, maintains two MAPS stations and two BBS routes, and creates species lists for several

popular backcountry destinations. The education, or "outreach", component invites the public and other park employees to observe monitoring activities, offers bilingual bird walks and presentations to the public, and celebrates the International Migratory Bird Day. These events have not only consistently drawn a large crowd, but have created a large number of dedicated birders who now reliably fill out wildlife observation cards and participate in Sequoia's annual Christmas Bird Count.

The most exciting aspect of the program is its international component. In order to truly conserve mi-



Mist-netting with the Park Flight Program

(Continued on page 2)

Partners in Protection (Continued from page 1)

gratory birds, a strong connection between their breeding grounds and wintering grounds is needed. One way to accomplish this is through the connection of people. Each year, one bilingual employee and one non-English speaking intern from Latin America participate in the Partners in Protection program to exchange knowledge on cultures, conservation issues, techniques, and languages. By the end of each summer, the interns leave with strong skills and a better understanding of English, while park employees depart with a greater knowledge of the intern's culture, food, language, and even dance.

Many dedicated partners have helped to make this program happen. Interns also have the opportunity to visit other projects in the state, such as in Point Reyes National Seashore, which enriches their visit and enhances their knowledge. Funding for this program was made possible through a generous grant from the Park Flight program. Park Flight is a partnership between the NPS, the National Park Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, USAID, American Airlines and the University of Arizona.

A similar project is also occurring through the Park Flight Program at the Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area with PRBO. For more information contact Melissa Pitkin at mpitkin@prbo.org.

Grassland Education

Jack Sparks, Grassland Water Dist. & CDFG
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The Grassland Environmental Education Center (GEECe) hosts fieldtrips for school children and other interested groups to teach visitors about the ecology of the freshwater marsh wetlands of the Central Valley.

GEECe is located in Merced County in the Grasslands Ecological Area (GEA). The 180,000-acre GEA is the largest contiguous block of wetlands remaining in California. The wetlands that comprise the GEA include several state and federally owned wildlife refuges, but the majority of the land is privately owned as hunting clubs and agricultural land. This private land is important habitat that would not exist without the support of sportsmen and farmers. A large part of GEECe's mission is to depict the many significant contributions that wildlife managers, the agricultural community, and sportsmen all make toward conserving our wetland and grassland resources.

A visit to GEECe promises hands-on outdoor activities at our on-site wetlands including a station where students learn to use a key to identify bird and mammal tracks, a pond water investigation station where students use dip-nets and viewing boxes to look at the invertebrates that serve as food for larger organisms, a lan-



guage arts station where students write about their experience, and a scavenger hunt where students search for certain types of bird and animal sign.

Indoors, students rotate through computer stations, dissect owl pellets, work with wetland arts and crafts, and read through the many books in our library. For more information, or to schedule a fieldtrip, call (209) 704-4772.

Wind Beneath the Wings of Recovery—
Species recovery takes flight on range-wide outreach efforts
 Miriam H. Morrill, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
miriam_morrill@fws.gov

A pale and drab colored shorebird, indistinct against its environment, has up to now had a record of recovery as pale as the feathers across its back. The Pacific coast population of the Western Snowy Plover has been protected under the Endangered Species Act for over a decade. A draft recovery plan and critical habitat designation do offer conservation and management guidance, yet this bird's real flight to recovery has yet to take off.

While some amazing efforts are demonstrating successful outreach and habitat management for the species, these efforts alone cannot carry the range-wide needs of the species.

To be successful, recovery outreach must incorporate social marketing and education. "We can't simply put-up signs and fence-out people and animals, expecting that they'll respect and understand the reasons for changing their beach behavior. We need to reach people at a personal level," said Patricia Foulk, External Affairs Program manager of the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office.



"Make a Plover Scrape" educational activity

Other incentives for range-wide partners to pull together are to share funding and materials, develop cooperative work teams, and provide consistent information and messages to the public. Hopefully, this approach will spread the wealth and workload of recovery partners more evenly and improve the chances of a complete range-wide recovery.

Land management and regulations alone won't recover this species. But now that range-wide efforts are moving forward, it looks like this threatened shorebird's survival is based on more than just "a wing and a prayer."

Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed

The Bay Institute, Center For Ecoliteracy and PRBO
Laurette Rogers, The Bay Institute
rogers@bay.org.

For the past seven years, students, teachers and community members have restored riparian habitat in Marin and Sonoma counties as part of the STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed) Project, a project of The Bay Institute and the Center For Ecoliteracy. The STRAW project coordinates and sustains a network of teachers, students, and community members as they plan and implement watershed restoration projects, which include water monitoring, habitat mapping, riparian restoration, and bird and aquatic insect monitoring.

In 1999, the STRAW project approached PRBO to help bring a bird component into the program.

Infusing bird education, conservation, and habitat restoration into the STRAW network ensures that students, teachers and community members will understand the importance of local bird species and learn ways to help them survive and prosper. The work of numerous organizations creates exciting opportunities to collaborate as birds become a key focus of watershed education projects.



In the last 5 years, the STRAW Bird project has grown to include bird education programs focusing on riparian and wetland birds. Each year PRBO staff deliver programs including teacher-training workshops, distributing classroom bird curriculum, in-class programs, bird study in the field, and riparian

restoration. In addition, PRBO involvement with this program has influenced planting design to maximize bird habitat. PRBO also is monitoring the response of bird populations to the restoration by conducting area search censuses during the breeding season on mature restoration sites.

If you would like more information or would like to become involved with the STRAW project contact Laurette Rogers of The Bay Institute at (415) 506-0150 or by email at rogers@bay.org.

Wright Wildlife Refuge, Humboldt, CA

T. Luke George, Ph.D, Humboldt State University
tlg2@humboldt.edu

This education program is extended to all elementary classes in the area from grades 3-6. The program offers a unique opportunity in Humboldt County for children to observe the process of bird banding. In addition to this, classes are led on nature walks as well as take part in environmental games and activities. Prior to the trip, a school site visitor provides the classes with a slide show about the refuge in preparation for the upcoming field trip. Trips take place every spring and fall and are free. Reservations are required. For more information contact Luke George at tlg2@humboldt.edu

Klamath Bird Observatory Celebrates International Migratory Bird Day

John Alexander, Klamath Bird Observatory
jda@klamathbird.org

For International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) 2002, Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) partnered with the Klamath National Forest and the Shasta Valley Audubon Society to take part in events at the celebration. Events included a bird walk led by KBO staff, and an evening celebration in Fort Jones with a potluck dinner and dance.

In Ashland, Oregon, KBO's environmental education program is well underway at our Willow Wind headquarters. Our goal is to share with students the fun and excitement of birding while teaching about the scientific and conservation principles on which our organization is based. Mist-netting and banding sessions are open to students in the Ashland Public School System as well as the general public. For more information contact Ben Wieland 541/201-0866 bw@klamathbird.org.

Environmental Education Ramps Up at San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

Brian Dias
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The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO) just completed its first successful year of environmental education at our Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS), located in the South San Francisco Bay Area. The project was funded by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) through their "Grant-in-Aid" program. SFBBO monitors avian use of a large wetland and riparian restoration project on lower Coyote Creek. We carry out monitoring and research by maintaining year-round bird banding and mist-netting activities at the station. It is the only site in the Bay Area as well as the only non-coastal site in California that has been continually monitored for over 10 years. SFBBO leads trips to the field station for bird banding demonstrations, tours of the riparian habitat and revegetated areas, as well as views of our waterbird pond.

During bird banding demonstrations, participants have the opportunity to see birds up close and witness their release back into the wild. SFBBO staff biologists as well as highly trained volunteer banders and docents give the demonstrations and tours of the area. Visitors are able to learn about population biology, South Bay ecology, and witness conservation science in action! Groups of various ages and interests have a great experience interacting with SFBBO experts and the local ecosystem at this important tract of Bay habitat.

One of the most remarkable aspects of a CCFS visit is the diversity one experiences – banding demos and tours of the mist-netting area highlight the riparian habitat found along Lower Coyote Creek while a short walk to the waterbird pond (an artificial brackish marsh created by the SCVWD and managed by SFBBO) lets visitors see a wide variety of waterbirds and Bay wetland flora. We expect continued funding and expansion of the program for a second year and beyond. Our Education Committee is currently looking for interested persons with experience and enthusiasm to help us to continue to enhance our education program at SFBBO.

For more information on this or visits to the station, please email outreach@sfbbo.org.

Eastern Sierra Songbird Outreach Project
Songbirds Connecting Communities
 River Gates, PRBO Conservation Science
Rgates@prbbo.org

PRBO Conservation Science (PRBO) has been working with several state, federal, county and private organizations to monitor bird responses to management and restoration activities in riparian habitats of the eastern Sierra Nevada since 1998. Recently, PRBO was awarded a grant by both United States Forest Service Region 5 Partner's In Flight program and Devil's Postpile National Monument (DEPO) to further the education and outreach component of this project. The primary project goal of Songbirds Connecting Communities is to increase public awareness in the eastern Sierra about bird ecology and conservation, highlighting the importance of riparian areas as habitat, and ways individuals can protect and enhance songbird habitat.

The educational programs include in-class visits to local schools with presentations focusing on developing student's observational skills, highlighting the current bird monitoring research that is conducted in the region, and providing suggestions for ways students can study and conserve birds. Other activities consist of sponsoring local events, including a public mist-netting demonstration on International Migratory Bird Day, and participating in the planning and facilitation of the 2nd Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua (www.birdchautauqua.org). Mist netting demonstrations within a meadow restoration site near the Devil's Postpile Monument Visitor Center are used to interpret and inform the public about bird ecology, habitat restoration and conservation. Partnering with Inyo National Forest, the Mono Lake Committee's Outdoor Experiences program and the



Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, mist-netting demonstrations for Forest visitors, student groups and Audubon members are available.

We are currently working to promote citizen science in the local communities by recruiting and engaging individuals and local birding groups in data collection and outreach. Working with our partners we will build community support for riparian habitat restoration and enhancement projects and bird conservation in the eastern Sierra. If you are interested in any of the above mentioned activities please contact River Gates at 760 647-6109 or rgates@prbo.org

Sage Grouse Ecology Education Project
 Joy Fatooh, BLM, Bishop Field Office
jfatooh@ca.blm.gov

This project provides local schools and teachers with the opportunity for a Sage Grouse ecologist to visit their school for a classroom/field activity that introduces the students to Sage Grouse ecology and policy. Each presentation is tailored to the grade level of the class. In the presentation we discuss the need to locate critical grouse habitat and strategies to protect it. We also demonstrate methods of gathering that information via radio telemetry, and allow students to try out the equipment. For more information contact Joy Fatooh at jfatooh@ca.blm.gov.

Birding in The Classroom
 Debby Parker, E-Sierra Audubon
jimndebby@qnet.com

This project offers an opportunity for third grade classrooms to learn about local birds, and to develop birding skills and proper birding etiquette. Students are shown slides of local birds and are taught how to correctly identify them. Classes are then broken into smaller groups for a local field trip. In the field, skilled birders discuss topics including proper binocular use, proper birding conduct, and natural history information of birds. For more information regarding the Birding in the Classroom program, contact Debby Parker at jimndebby@qnet.com.

Clear Creek
Riparian Songbird Education Project
 Melissa Pitkin, PRBO
mpitkin@prbo.org

In collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the West Shasta Resource Conservation District (WSRCD), the Clear Creek Riparian Songbird Monitoring Project in Redding, CA initiated an ongoing education component in 2002. Through partnerships with BOR, WSRCD, and a local environmental education group, the Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve mist-netting demonstrations for the general public, local schools and community groups are offered free of charge! Teaching materials, handouts and species profiles of the "Birds of Clear Creek" are also available for participants. In 2003 the project will host the second annual IMBD celebration for the local community on May 10. For more information contact Melissa Pitkin (415) 868-1221 X 307 or email mpitkin@prbo.org.

Education Announcements & Funding



Art copyright Gerald Sneed

International Migratory Bird Day, May 10, 2003 **Birds ~ Catalysts For Conservation** www.birdday.org

IMBD is an annual celebration of one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird — its journey between summer and winter homes. IMBD was created to focus public attention on the need for action to conserve birds and their habitats. Celebrating bird migrations is your opportunity to introduce others to the wonder of birds and to help ensure that they will always be a part of our future.

This is a great time to celebrate birds with the public at your refuge, park, open space, national forest or education organization. To find out about organizing festivals, hosting the public, and ordering materials visit www.birdday.org.

Cats Indoors! **Veterinarian and College Campus Outreach Campaigns** www.abcbirds.org

Thanks to a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, American Bird Conservancy is sending a mailing to 11,400 small animal practice owners who are members of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) which will include a cover letter, brochure, return envelope/order form, and a small 4-color poster to hang in their waiting or exam room. In addition, a full-page color ad will appear in the March 15 issue of AVMA's Journal. To help measure success of this outreach effort, a Web page has been designed for veterinarians to sign a pledge supporting keeping cats indoors at: www.abcbirds.org/vets.

ABC is also launching a campaign to reach college students on how they can make their campus cat and wildlife friendly. A full-page ad will appear in the April issue of *Conservation Biology*, and an e-mail notice will be sent to hundreds of student environmental and animal welfare groups on the Internet. To help measure success of the student campaign, a special Web page will be advertised where students can sign a pledge of support and download campaign materials at: www.abcbirds.org/campus.

For additional progress on the cat front, see the *Cats Indoors!* web page at www.abcbirds.org/cats/ or contact Linda Winter (lwinter@abcbirds.org)

The Second Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua www.birdchautauqua.org

The Chautauqua will be held in Lee Vining, CA June 20-22. The weekend festival of birding field trips, workshops and theater presentations will end with a picnic and music at Mono Lake County Park. For more information on how to register and complete details visit the website above or contact a Chautauqua staff person at birding@monolake.org

Santa Monica Mountains **National Recreation Area IMBD** Jack_Gillooly@nps.gov

On Saturday May 10, from 12:00-5:00pm, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is hosting its first International Migratory Bird Day at Peter Strauss Ranch in Agoura. For more info, see www.nps.gov/samo or call (805) 370-2301.

Conservation of Bird Habitats **through the Migratory Bird Conservancy** www.nfwf.org/programs/tnol.htm

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (www.nfwf.org) is accepting pre-proposals for habitat conservation and management projects to be funded through the Migratory Bird Conservancy www.conservebirds.org

MBC will fund projects that directly address conservation of priority bird habitats in the Western hemisphere. Acquisition, restoration, and improved management of habitats are program priorities. Education, research, and monitoring will be considered only as components of actual habitat conservation projects. All grantees will be required to match MBC awards on at least a one-to-one level with cash or tangible in-kind contributions.

Full proposals due by July 15, 2003. See the NFWF Web site for complete program guidelines.
www.nfwf.org/programs/mbc-rfp.htm

Nature of Learning Start-Up Grants www.nfwf.org/programs/tnol.htm

This is a new community-based environmental education initiative at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Partners include the NFWF, FWS's National Wildlife Refuge System, the NCTC, The Keystone Center and NWR Association. The goal is to start "The Nature of Learning" environmental educational program in the local area and use the National Wildlife Refuges to gain educational field experience for students. Grants will be from \$1 - 5K, and although matching funds are not required, leveraging of funding is encouraged. The program must involve a partnership among a local school, community group and a refuge. For information on how to apply: www.nfwf.org/programs/tnol.htm.

Deadline – 30 June 2003.

Deborah McCrensky (Deborah_McCrensky@fws.gov)

California News & Upcoming Meetings

California Partners in Flight has a Logo!

Thanks to all who submitted their artwork to the CalPIF logo contest. We had many excellent entries. The chosen artwork is by the internationally acclaimed artist Sophie Webb. It depicts a Lawrence's Goldfinch in flight over an outline of the state. The two-language circular logo design was completed by Sandy Scoggin.

Hats and shirts will be available soon!!



New CalPIF Listserv

California Partners in Flight has a listserv again! Special thanks to Kim Smith at the University of Arkansas for setting this up. Please subscribe to stay up to date on important CalPIF issues and information. As a member of the listserv, you will also be able to post your CalPIF related messages to the list. Only members can send messages to the list, so you should not receive any spam.

To Subscribe:

Send a message to listserv@listserv.uark.edu
subject line blank

with the following message

"subscribe CALPIF-L firstname lastname" {substitute YOUR first name and last name}

Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Statewide CalPIF Meeting
www.prbo.org/calpif/meetings.html

CalPIF's next statewide meeting will be held from July 17-19 at the beautiful UC Berkeley Sagehen Creek Field Station near Truckee (<http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~sagehen/>). We will be spotlighting mountain meadow conservation. Watch for the action packed agenda. Be sure to sign onto the listserv to receive important updates.

Please also check the website for updates.

New CalPIF Executive Steering Committee

Because of the growth of CalPIF over the last 10 years, with increased participation and expanded areas of influence, the necessity has arisen to develop a more structured CalPIF organization that will assist in effectively meeting our long-term goals. An Executive Steering Committee has been formed and will be the main body that establishes and modifies CalPIF priorities. This Committee includes representatives from state and federal wildlife and natural resource management agencies, non-profit conservation, research, and land protection organizations. Visit www.prbo.org/calpif/scommittee.htm or the back page of this newsletter for a list of current Committee members and contact information.

New CalPIF Working Committees

CalPIF has identified the highest priorities for bird conservation implementation for the next five years, which include integrating CalPIF Bird Conservation Plans recommendations and objectives into Joint Venture and agency management plans. Working Committees have been formed to address this and other highest priority CalPIF goals. Current Working Committees include Agency and Joint Venture Integration, Communication and Recruitment, Education and Outreach, Continuous Plan Revision or "Care-taking" (including subcommittees for each existing BCP and plan development committees for Shrubsteppe and Desert habitats), Research and Monitoring, and Workshops (Technical Assistance). Please visit www.prbo.org/calpif/committees.html for information about the working committees and how to participate. Please consider joining one of these committees to contribute to the future of bird conservation in California through CalPIF.

Updates to the CalPIF Website

www.prbo.org/calpif/index.html

Be sure to check out many new features on the CalPIF web pages including a GIS tool for querying the CalPIF study sites and breeding status database, a new white paper describing the CalPIF program, updated conservation plans, and more...

Klamath Bird Observatory Newsletter

www.KlamathBird.org

The December 2002 edition of *The Klamath Bird* is available at www.KlamathBird.org. Inside this edition you will find updates about ongoing and new projects that KBO has been involved with during the past year. As we look towards the coming year we anticipate much progress in our mission of promoting the conservation of bird populations and their habitats through excellent science. Two recently posted reports include: Upper Klamath Basin Bird Monitoring Project 1997-2001 and Foggy Eden Bird Monitoring 2002 Report.—John D. Alexander (kbo@klamathbird.org)

South Fork Kern Land Acquisition Update

Bob Barnes bbarnes@lightspeed.net

Private landowner cooperation with Audubon-California, California Department of Fish & Game (DFG), California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has resulted in the acquisition of over 1600-acres of land in north-central Kern County. The lower fourteen miles of the South Fork Kern River is a Flagship Project of California Partners In Flight's Riparian Habitat Joint Venture. The above partners are working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to acquire more land in the South Fork Valley to mitigate Federally Endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher habitat loss within the high water line of Isabella Reservoir.

News of People Congratulations to CalPIF Co-chair Deb Schlafmann and her husband on the birth of their son, Edward.

National Partners in Flight News and Announcements

PIF North American Landbird Conservation Plan

The second draft of the subject plan is now available for review in pdf format. A very significant addition to the plan has been made possible through the permission of NatureServe (www.natureserve.org/) to use the new digital range maps for North American landbirds. This has increased our analytical capabilities greatly. This draft includes 40 new maps portraying landbird priorities in various ways. Our goal is to have a final printed plan of version 1.0 available for IAFWA in September. Comments on the current draft are due on 25 April. Contact me or anyone of the PIF Technical Committee for a copy.—Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov)

Partners in Flight Searchable Database

For those of you who haven't checked out this resource yet, Partners in Flight has a searchable database on their website that provides information about the research and monitoring priorities identified in various PIF Bird Conservation Plans. It can be found under PIF Resources on the website or directly at:

www.partnersinflight.org/pifneeds/searchform.cfm

Partners In Flight Strategic Planning Session

The Partners In Flight Strategic Plan, a companion document to the Continental Plan, outlines the functions that need to be carried out to advance PIF into the future. On 24-25 March 2003, the PIF Management Steering Committee (MSC) met in Winston-Salem, NC, in a facilitated workshop to revisit, evaluate and revise, as needed, where PIF is headed. In a series of breakouts and whole group discussions, the MSC discussed four topics: mission, objectives, organizational structure and priorities for PIF. The latter were organized into two groups: 1) priorities for the next 3 years with current resources, and 2) priorities for 4-10 years with increased resources. Draft priorities were identified through brainstorming sessions and voting.

The results of these four discussion topics were then brought forward for further discussion at the IAFWA PIF Committee meeting, PIF Federal Committee meeting, and PIF Joint Steering Committee meeting for approval. The final draft of the workshop results will be available in mid-April. The next step will be to revise the Strategic Plan itself. MSC members and workshop participants will automatically receive a copy of the workshop results. If you are not in one of these groups but would like to obtain the report, contact Laurel Moore (lamoore@fs.fed.us), chair of the MSC.

Asilomar Proceedings

Over 200 manuscripts have been submitted for publication in the proceedings of the Partners In Flight Asilomar conference. We currently are reviewing all papers and obtaining additional peer review as necessary. As in the conference itself, there is an excellent mix of topics, geography, species and approaches in the submitted papers. Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov) and C. J. Ralph (cjr2@humboldt.edu)

Avian Demographic Data Now Available On-Line

www.birdpop.org/nbii/default.asp

The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program was created by The Institute for Bird Populations in 1989 to assess and monitor the vital rates and population dynamics of over 120 species of North American landbirds in order to provide critical conservation and management information on their populations.

The MAPS Program utilizes constant-effort mist netting and banding at a continent-wide network of monitoring stations staffed by both professional biologists and highly trained volunteers.

The Institute for Bird Populations has just completed a project with the USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure's (NBII) Bird Conservation Node to make available some of the basic data generated by the MAPS program. These data include apparent survival rate estimates from Cormack-Jolly-Seber models, annual changes in the numbers of young and adults captured, indices of reproductive success, and breeding status lists for individual MAPS stations.

American Birding Association Sponsors

Partners In Flight 2002 Awards

The American Birding Association (ABA; www.americanbirding.org/) has again sponsored the Partners In Flight Awards program (www.partnersinflight.org/awards/). Awards were presented by USFWS Director Steve Williams during the Director's Reception at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Winston-Salem, NC on 26 March 2003. Paul Baicich represented ABA and its Executive Director, Dr. Paul Green. Please visit the website for award details.

CalPIF Welcomes New

National PIF Education Committee Chair

Joni Ellis, Florida F & W Conservation Commission

Joni@wild-florida.com

Joni Ellis is currently the conservation education specialist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Her nine-year tenure has included seven years as the PIF education lead for the agency developing public awareness of migratory birds and their conservation needs through many innovative outreach activities including Welcome Back Songbird Festivals, teacher training workshops, the Songbird Blues trunk and a general Learning About Birds trunk, providing presentations on the PIF program and a Birding 101 program, promoting ABC's Cat Indoors! program with county animal controls and vets and many others. Joni has also been active with the regional South East PIF Steering Committee and has developed partnerships with the Caribbean to provide educational materials and binoculars through a new program she started titled "Optics for the Tropics." www.OpticsfortheTropics.org

MEETINGS

The VIIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress

The 7th NOC will take place in Puerto Varas (Xth Region), Chile, 5-11 October 2003. For more information, see www.nocchile.cl.

Western Field Ornithologists 28th Annual Meeting and -New Mexico Ornithological Society 41st Annual Meeting

24 - 27 July 2003 - Silver City, New Mexico

www.wfo-cbrc.org/confer.html

Other Meetings:

See meetings listed in the Ornithological Newsletter (<http://birds.cornell.edu/OSNA/ornnews1.htm>).

CalPIF Executive Steering Committee

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The descriptions of excellent bird education projects in California included in this issue were received through the new on-line database of the California Partners In Flight website.

Do you know of project that is missing here? If so, visit www.prbo.org/calpif/education.html and register your project now!

Help us spread the word and pass this on to educators you know.

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Look for an electronic version of this newsletter and Partners in Flight news, announcements, and links at the PRBO website at www.prbo.org