



FLIGHT LOG

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

First Draft of the Coniferous Forest Bird Conservation Plan Available for Public Comment

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California Partners in Flight (CalPIF), The USDA Forest Service and PRBO Conservation Science (PRBO) announce the release of the draft Coniferous Forest Bird Conservation Plan (Coniferous Forest BCP), which was developed in close collaboration with the Klamath Bird Observatory and key ornithologists, conservation organizations, and government agencies throughout the state of California. This draft document is now available for public review and comment at www.prbo.org/calpif/htmldocs/conifer.html. Any comments on the draft plan may be sent directly to John C. Robinson. We are particularly interested in receiving input from land managers.

The Coniferous Forest BCP represents a comprehensive synthesis of state-of-the-art science concerning birds in coniferous forested habitats, and offers over 40 specific conservation recommendations for ways in which land use, conservation projects, land management planning, and habitat restoration may be most effectively managed to benefit our native avifauna. It is our hope that these recommendations will guide land managers, private landowners, and policy makers whenever possible and appropriate.

A bird conservation plan for the coniferous forests of California will be an extremely valuable

tool, given that coniferous forests cover 45% of the state's land base and have been impacted by over a century of intensive resource extraction and management. In fact, the need for the Coniferous Forest BCP was driven by the very problems that coniferous forests face, which include: a) habitat loss; b) lack of replacement of old-growth stands; c) fire suppression; d) elimination of snags and dead trees; e) fragmentation, and f) livestock grazing.

Similar to the other habitat-based conservation plans that have been created by CalPIF, the Coniferous Forest BCP identifies a set of focal species whose conservation needs are considered representative of the needs of many of the bird species that also utilize coniferous forested habitats in the state. The primary list of focal species include: Black-backed Woodpecker, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Brown Creeper, Dark-eyed Junco, Flammulated Owl, and eight others. A detailed natural history account for each of these species was prepared (available at www.prbo.org/calpif/htmldocs/conifer.html) and helped inform the identification of multi-species management recommendations in the Conifer Plan. In addition, secondary focal species and species of bioregional significance are identified.

The 43 conservation recommendations included in the Coniferous Forest BCP seek to

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The overall success of the Conifer Plan in achieving conservation objectives for birds in coniferous forested habitats within California largely depends on receiving timely input and suggestions for improvement from individuals like you. We therefore encourage you to review a copy of the Conifer Plan today and send us your comments.

California Hosts the Third International Partners in Flight Conference Asilomar Conference Grounds, March 20-24, 2002

More than 600 ornithologists, biologists, and conservationists gathered March 20th through 24th in Monterey, California for the Third International Partners in Flight Conference. Participants came from throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Latin America to discuss the progress made and future directions of conservation of birds in all habitats and across borders. Participants at this unprecedented gathering attended sessions that focused on the most recent advances and future

directions of design, implementation and integration of Bird Conservation Plans for the four major bird conservation initiatives (see www.nabci-us.org/plans.html), and the research, monitoring and conceptual advances that have shaped these plans.

Keynote speakers included Dr. John Fitzpatrick, Director, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology; Martin Cody, UCLA; Bea van

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Conference Participants

Coniferous Forest Plan (Continued from page 1)

reverse the declines of many coniferous forest-associated bird populations and to proactively maintain stable conditions of others. Six implementation tasks were also identified in the conifer plan and are part of the overall implementation plan being developed for the Conifer Plan. Ultimately, these implementation tasks will provide a framework for land managers and partners to set bio-regional habitat conservation priorities that benefit coniferous forest-associated wildlife.

One of the unique features of the Coniferous Forest BCP is the inclusion of a feedback form that can be used by land managers and/or other partners to let us know how the plan is working and what needs improvement. The potential utility of this feedback form was immediately recognized by various bird conservation planners; and a modified version of this form has been posted on PRBO's web site at www.prbo.org/calpif/feedback.html to allow anyone to provide feedback on any of the existing bird conservation plans in California.

***The Executive Order on Migratory Bird Conservation:
A Presidential Mandate for Coordinated Federal Action***

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A recent Presidential Executive Order is laying the groundwork for better federal coordination and joint efforts to conserve bird populations. This new tool is already increasing interagency cooperation on bird conservation.

Executive Order 13186, titled "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds," was signed by President Clinton in January 2001, and directs any Federal agency whose actions have a measurable negative impact on migratory bird populations to develop a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to promote migratory bird conservation.

The MOUs will establish protocols to guide future agency regulatory actions and policy decisions; renewal of permits, contracts, etc.; and the creation of or revisions to land management plans. In addition to avoiding or minimizing negative impacts to migratory bird populations, the EO requires agencies to, pursuant to their particular MOU, restore and enhance habitat, prevent or abate pollution affecting birds, share new inventory, monitoring, and research findings with the Service and other appropriate agencies, and develop partnerships with non-Federal entities to further bird conservation. The EO also requires the Interior Secretary to establish a Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds to oversee implementation of the EO.

Each MOU should also ensure that agency plans and actions promote the comprehensive migratory bird planning efforts such as Partners in Flight, National Shorebird Plan, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and North American Waterbird Plan

The MOUs developed in this process will help federal land managers to better incorporate bird conservation activities into their management plans and actions. In California, for example, this means that National Forests, National Parks, and other federal land management units will need to place an increased emphasis on birds during their natural resource planning and while conducting analyses required by the National Environmental Policy Act.



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The eastern Sierra Nevada is a region that inspires one to both celebrate and seek understanding of a complex landscape and its accompanying bird life. A fusion of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, the high Great Basin desert and northern Mojave desert has inspired bird lovers, naturalists, researchers, educators, conservationists and land managers for decades.

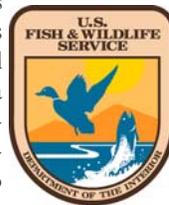
This year's summer solstice marked the first annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua – a weekend bird festival at Mono Lake. A culmination of effort on the part of the Mono Lake Committee (MLC), USDA Forest Service, California State Parks, Eastern Sierra Audubon Society (ESAS) and PRBO Conservation Science (PRBO) made this event a successful "knowledge festival" that combined multiple daily bird walks, songbird monitoring workshops, evening science programs, bat workshops and demonstrations of current bird monitoring and research. Participants included resource managers, children, amateur and professional birders, old friends to the Mono Basin and drop-in visitors.

The event was a culmination of a surge of interest in bird conservation over the last several years in the Eastern Sierra -a surge with deep historical roots. The well-known story of the MLC's battle to save Mono Lake need not be repeated here, but one should remember that the plight of the California Gull was key to the success of returning water to Mono's tributary streams. The eastern Sierra Nevada has since been home to several restoration and management efforts that are both intentionally and unintentionally creating or regenerating bird habitat. In addition, the region has seen decades of bird monitoring and research projects geared primarily toward the applied conservation of birds and their habitats.

Specifically important to the success of bird conservation in the region is the support and interest of multiple county, state, and federal agencies, non-profit conservation and private groups and an exceptionally active local amateur and professional birding community. Such efforts include:

- The Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Office (BLM) and Inyo National Forest (INF) have integrated songbird monitoring on most of their major riparian drainages as a means to provide timely information for management and planning decisions.
- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is actively involved in encouraging songbird, waterfowl and shorebird monitoring as primary components of major habitat alteration or restoration projects in the region.
- Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has implemented a baseline songbird monitoring project within riparian habitats along the east and west Walker River drainages, the first of its kind for the Forest.
- Devil's Postpile National Monument is using a combination of bird, micro invertebrate and vegetation sampling to monitor the effectiveness of their riparian meadow restoration efforts in the monument.

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East Side Story – The current era of bird conservation in the eastern Sierra Nevada (continued from pg. 2)

- The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is incorporating songbird, waterfowl and shorebird monitoring into most of their stream diversion and restoration projects.
- The Inyo County Water Department, who is responsible for the monitoring component of a plan to rewater the 70 mile stretch of the Lower Owens River (Lower Owens River Project (LORP)), has made great efforts to ensure that bird monitoring be included as a measure of the project success.
- Non-profit groups Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, Mono Lake Committee (MLC) and the Owens Valley Committee are integrally involved in public education and outreach, emphasizing bird and habitat conservation issues, and are currently working on a Eastern Sierra Birding Trail map, with hopes to encourage the non-extractive economy of bird adoration.
- The MLC has encouraged bird-monitoring efforts along Mono's major tributary creeks, supporting the idea that songbirds can be used as a tool to monitor the restoration process.

Statewide CalPIF meeting held in Mono Basin

Last June, CalPIF hosted a conference in conjunction with the Riparian Habitat Joint Venture's first bioregional workshop for the Sierra Nevada bioregion (see article pg. 5). The meeting was located in Lee Vining at the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center and all of the major management and private groups listed above attended as speakers, workshop participants, or assisted in organizing the event. The meeting was a huge success, highlighting the major bird and habitat conservation issues in the eastern Sierra region and providing a venue for the various groups to swap information and plan future work.

BLM presented work on their sage grouse monitoring project, which was well complemented by a presentation by PRBO on their songbird monitoring work in eastern Oregon and Washington's shrub-steppe habitats. UC Santa Barbara's Stephen Rothstein highlighted the Brown-headed Cowbird research that he previously conducted in the eastern Sierra. His talk complemented presentations by INF on new Sierra Nevada-wide Willow Flycatcher management guidelines, and by PRBO on the Eastern Sierra Riparian Songbird Conservation Project that includes a USFS Region 5 PIF-funded study on cowbird parasitism near riparian-based livestock pack stations. CDFG highlighted the major threats to wildlife populations in the region, and discussed major habitat projects such as the Owens Dry Lake dust mitigation project. LADWP continued along these lines highlighting their songbird monitoring work in the Owens River Gorge and future plans for the LORP. PRBO's Riparian Habitat Conservationist highlighted bird conservation efforts on private lands and PRBO updated participants on the progress of the CDFG supported California State Species of Special Concern project. INF highlighted their Dechambeau Ponds waterfowl restoration project and a member of the Walker Lake Working Group passionately described the immediate threats to the ecology of Walker Lake. The status of the Nevada Breeding Bird Atlas was presented by Great Basin Bird Observatory and California Audubon discussed their Important Bird Area project.

The latter part of the meeting incorporated talks geared toward wider PIF efforts, including a description of the recently finished Coniferous Bird Conservation Plan, and the USFS Adaptive Management Strategy for Bird Conservation in the Sierra

Nevada Forest Plan Amendment. US Fish and Wildlife Service presented their regional PIF perspective and Jim Cole of Intermountain West Joint Venture highlighted the importance of "all-bird" monitoring with the inclusion of upland, in addition to riparian and wetland, habitats.

In the last two years, two major bird-related events have occurred, hosted by several agencies and private groups in the eastern Sierra Nevada. This alone demonstrates the momentum and support for bird conservation efforts in the region, not withstanding the long list of projects and active state, federal, county and private participants in the region. The region serves as a good example of how to turn inspiration into support and action, with the intention of conserving birds and the habitats in which they thrive.

The Sierra Nevada Research and Conservation Program

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The Sierra Nevada is enormously important to many of western North America's Neotropical migratory birds. IBP, in partnership with Forest Service biologists and the Forest Service PIF program, conducted field work on three research and conservation projects in the Sierra this year.

The Manter Fire Project

We are studying the short and longterm effects of stand-replacing fire on avian communities and population dynamics in the southeastern Sierra. Our 30 sq-km study area encompasses adjacent patches of mature forest, similar forest consumed by the 2000 Manter Fire, and chaparral resulting from another stand-replacing fire in 1950. Preliminary findings indicate that even some severely burned areas still host a surprisingly high diversity and abundance of birds, but that bird density decreases sharply at a threshold distance from the edge of the unburned forest. If confirmed by ongoing work, these results may help land managers implement firebreaks or prescribed burns in a way that maximizes habitat value for breeding birds.

Great Gray Owl Survey

The endangered California population of the Great Gray Owl is primarily restricted to the Greater Yosemite area. Recent Forest Service guidelines require stringent conservation measures in and around meadows where Great Gray Owls nest. In 2001, we surveyed potential nesting sites on Sierra National Forest, just south of Yosemite National Park. We detected owl pairs at seven sites, plus owls of indeterminate breeding status at two additional sites. This year, we are surveying other potential breeding sites at the southern and northern extremes of the Sierra.

BBS Habitat Classification

We are classifying habitat and taking archival photographs at each point count station along all 48 Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes in the Sierra Nevada. A detailed understanding of which habitats are currently well sampled or poorly sampled by



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the BBS, relative to their proportion in the landscape, will allow future monitoring efforts to focus on under-monitored habitats. Our habitat classifications for each of the 2,400 points will facilitate habitat-specific analyses of BBS results in the Sierra, and our photographs will aid in assessing long-term ecological change throughout the range. For more information about these projects visit the web page www.birdpop.org/SIERRA.HTM

Advancing Conservation Through Web-based Tools

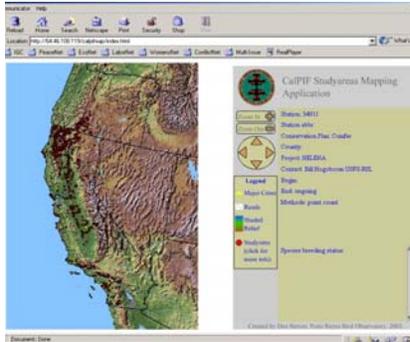
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Numerous government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and consulting firms collect data and create reports and conservation plans important to the goals of the major bird conservation initiatives under the North American Bird Conservation Initiative – including California Partners in Flight. Making a synopsis of data collected during such projects readily available on the world-wide-web would be a great boon to both national and international bird conservation. The goal of the California Partners in Flight breeding status and study area database is to accomplish this for California.

Development of the California Partners in Flight (CalPIF) breeding status and study area database began in 1999. Using a variety of data shared by CalPIF members, current focal species range maps have been developed for 45 species in California. This data is used intensively in the development of habitat-based CalPIF Bird Conservation Plans. Additionally, information on study areas and methods across an entire state or region can provide information on what monitoring efforts and species should be prioritized, and identify knowledge gaps.

The internet provides a very useful and accessible tool for accomplishing this goal. The development of open-source (and thus free) pieces of software for creating data-driven web sites greatly expands the utility of this method. As available technologies have improved, we have developed a web-based interface to this database, allowing researchers in California to share information on where and what they are working, and whether CalPIF focal species are breeding there. A GIS tool for querying the CalPIF study sites and breeding status database is now available to the general public in the CalPIF section of PRBO's website (www.prbo.org/calpif). Also, the next generation of interactive focal species range maps are now available.

The combined data of multiple organizations and individuals are very useful to statewide, nationwide, and international bird conservation, and consolidation of such data should be attempted wherever possible. Development of conservation plan priorities and implementation of plans can be improved to a large degree using broad-scale geographic data from as many sources as possible. If you are a researcher in California and would like to contribute or update information in this database, please email gballard@prbo.org.



Just released - Revised Version 2.0 of the Oak Woodland Bird Conservation Plan

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The Oak Woodland Bird Conservation Plan (Oak Woodland BCP) for California has been reviewed by a team of oak woodland ecologists and a revised version is now available on the CalPIF web page (www.prbo.org/calpif/plans.html). The fate of oak woodland birds is directly linked to the major conservation threats facing California's oak woodlands. California's oak woodlands are imperiled in many ways. Ongoing habitat loss, the lack of regeneration of several key tree species, and the recent "Sudden Oak Death" crisis are the main threats. As approximately 80% of the habitat is on private land, there is a great challenge in managing these threats, but also a great opportunity; although the forces that put California's oaks at risk endanger the birds and other wildlife tied to them, most oak woodland birds are still relatively common. Thus, if we act quickly and broadly, the outlook is good for birds in California's oak woodlands.

Our Oak Woodland BCP combines our understanding of the threats to California's oak woodlands with information on how these issues influence the birds that are intimately connected to oak-dominated habitats. The birds of California's oak woodlands are connected to this distinctive habitat mainly through acorns, the often-copious fruits of oaks that are eaten and stored by dozens of species. There also is a reciprocal enterprise in the ecology of acorns, as species like Western Scrub-Jays and Yellow-billed Magpies incompletely retrieve their cached acorns, effectively dispersing oak seedlings across the landscape. These species and our other focal species of the plan represent a diversity of ecologies in oak woodlands: understory specialist (Lark Sparrow), cavity nesters (Western Bluebird, Oak Titmouse), and insectivores on oak foliage (Blue-gray Gnatcatcher). The omnipresent Acorn Woodpecker is of course on the list; it and the titmouse, jays, and magpie are closely tied to the oaks through acorns.

In addition, several conservation research projects have begun in response to the research needs identified in the first draft on the Oak Woodland BCP, and have contributed data to the revised Plan.

The California Oak Foundation has generously agreed to publish the Oak Woodland BCP for distribution to land managers and private landowners throughout California. See "Thank you California Oak Foundation" under News and Announcements p.6.

Highlights of the revised version of the Plan include:

- An updated bibliography on oak woodland birds and many other aspects of oak woodland ecology, as well as a list of numerous web links and other information sources.
- A revised set of Conservation Action Recommendations, which now include a review of the current science underlying them.
- Updated tables of population data on oak woodland focal species.

Riparian Habitat Joint Venture – Bioregional Workshops

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The Riparian Habitat Joint Venture (RHJV) is a coalition of 17 public and non-profit conservation organizations working together to restore, enhance and protect riparian habitat in California. The RHJV completed a statewide Riparian Bird Conservation Plan in 2000 and is currently in the final stages of completing an accompanying Implementation Strategy. The RHJV is beginning to conduct local workshops around California within each of the 10 bioregions defined by the California Biodiversity Council. These workshops will be a primary vehicle for implementing the goals of the Conservation Plan and the RHJV. Some of the workshop objectives include:

- Familiarizing local organizations with the Conservation Plan and the Implementation Strategy
- Identifying local initiatives, projects and organizations to partner with on riparian conservation
- Developing conservation/restoration targets for riparian habitat.

The workshops are conducted in two phases. The first round of workshops is designed to gain a statewide perspective on riparian conservation and the partners involved in it. The objective of the second round is to target specific local issues or themes in ongoing workshops and develop loosely woven bioregional working groups focused on riparian conservation in each bioregion while providing a link to the RHJV.

The first workshop was held in the Sierra Bioregion in June 2001 in conjunction with the California Partners in Flight Meeting (see *East Side Story*, pg. 2). Over 50 participants attended from 17 different organizations representing seven different bioregions. We had large group presentations and small breakout groups during the one-day workshop. We compiled a large list of ongoing and potential projects, identified local issues and gained insight into each other's work in the various bioregions. The second workshop in November 2001 targeted the Sacramento Valley Bioregion exclusively and was held in Red Bluff, California in conjunction with the Sacramento River Conference. There were 30 participants representing 18 organizations with a similar format and outcome as the first workshop. Participants discovered that there were many more projects in the bioregion than expected. The workshop was a helpful forum for discussing all projects together and in innovative ways. Examples of some of the local issues that were raised include:

- Communication between different user groups (e.g., hunters, birders, private landowners, public agencies)
- Flood planning and flood control
- Anadromous fish restoration
- Local tax base issues



Ann Chrisney, RHJV Coordinator and Dan Strait, USFWS, at the Sierra Bioregion workshop

- Balancing sustained agriculture with riparian restoration/preservation
- Outreach and education on riparian ecosystems
- Lack of local ordinances to protect oaks from fire-wood cutting
- Need for a database for project and funding tracking within all bioregions

Towards the end of 2001 a unique opportunity arose to complete the first phase of workshops. The California Legacy Project is planning a series of nine regional workshops around the state with the objective of promoting conservation; gathering information on conservation issues and data from multiple stakeholders; and developing criteria for prioritizing resource conversation in the state. The California Legacy Project workshops will focus on all habitat types in the state. Since the goals of the RHJV and California Legacy Project workshops were so well matched, the RHJV is joining forces with the Legacy Project to participate in and help facilitate the riparian/aquatic portion of their workshops. This in turn will meet the RHJV's initial goal of developing a statewide perspective on riparian conservation. After the Legacy workshops are completed in May 2003, the RHJV will refocus on individual themes for workshops in each bioregion. Check the RHJV website for workshop announcements and updates: www.prbo.org/calpif/htmldocs/rhvj/.

International PIF Conference (Continued from page 1)

Horne, Research Program Leader, USDA Forest Service; Eduardo Santana, Sierra de Manantlan Biosphere Reserve, Mexico; David Bracket, Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service; and Jim Tate, Science Advisor to the US Secretary of the Interior, among others. They addressed the importance of integrating bird conservation efforts from land-bird, waterfowl, shorebirds, and waterbird conservation initiatives. A proceedings of this important event will be published. For more information about the program and proceedings, please visit www.prbo.org/PIF/NPIF2002.htm.

Many groups and individuals donated time and money to this important international conference. Special thanks to the following groups for their contributions that helped make this California-hosted conference such a huge success: American Bird Conservancy, American Ornithologist's Union, Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, The Big Sur Ornithology Lab of the Ventana Wilderness Society, California Department of Fish and Game, Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, Department of Defense - Partners in Flight, Ducks Unlimited, Eagle Optics, Environment Canada, Fermata Inc., Intermountain West Joint Venture, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Klamath Bird Observatory, NABCI -Canada, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, PRBO Conservation Science, Riparian Habitat Joint Venture, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, Sutton Avian Research Center, Upper Mississippi and Great Lakes Joint Venture, USDA Forest Service—including Region 5, Pacific Southwest Research Station, and Redwood Sciences Lab, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and PIF's Western and Southeastern Working Groups.

News and Announcements

2002 Farm Bill Reauthorizes and Expands Popular Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

California landowners who wish to participate in a voluntary federal conservation program to enhance wildlife habitat will have their first opportunity to do so in over a year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California received \$370,000 for the federal Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) from the recently passed Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, the 2002 Farm Bill. "The WHIP projects we are funding will help private landowners improve wildlife habitat by undertaking projects such as establishing native plants, adding small wildlife watering sites, leaving food plots within fields, stabilizing streambanks and many other activities," said NRCS California State Conservationist Charles Bell.

The 2002 Farm Bill increased funding for the WHIP program by 700 percent—from \$50 million in the 1996 Farm Bill to \$360 million over the life of the 2002 Farm Bill. Nationally, fifteen million dollars has been released for use between now and the end of September. An additional \$30 million has been authorized for the 2003 fiscal year beginning October 1, 2002.

Since the inception of the program, California has been able to fund 170 projects benefiting approximately 13,157 acres in 40 counties. "In addition to providing much needed habitat for California's wildlife species, the conservation practices applied through WHIP benefit our watersheds, decreasing soil erosion and reducing the transport of sediments and other pollutants into rivers, streams and lakes. This program benefits everyone," stated Bell. Through WHIP, NRCS provides technical expertise and up to 75 percent of the funding needed for practices that enhance wildlife habitat on private land. Landowners enter into five to ten year agreements to implement a habitat enhancement plan. Longer agreements are available for landowners who are creating long-lasting habitat for especially vulnerable species.

To apply for WHIP funds, landowners should visit their local USDA Service Center. Find your local service center by checking the website www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/directoriesrch.html, or calling the state office at (530) 792-5600.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act – An Overwhelming Response to the New Grants Program

Passed in 2000 by Congress, the Act establishes a matching grants program to fund projects promoting Neotropical migratory bird and habitat conservation in the U. S., Latin America and the Caribbean. Congress appropriated \$3,000,000 for FY02 of an authorized \$5,000,000. The response in the first year was overwhelming. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which administers the grant, received 286 proposals from 33 countries and 31 US states as of the May 13, 2002 deadline. Applicants requested more than \$25 million and offered more than \$95 million in non-federal matching funds. The quality of the proposals was truly outstanding and the reviewers had a very difficult time selecting from among them. Awardees will be announced when tentative selections are approved. We are hopeful that the high quality and quantity of projects will demonstrate the magnitude of interest that exists in Neotropical migratory bird conservation action and that this will lead to increased authorizations and appropriations. The needs are great and the partners have responded, showing capacity,

imagination and attention to the priorities established in PIF Bird Conservation Plans.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Readers are reminded that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation helped create the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program, which became Partners In Flight. NFWF has continued to build, expand, and fund programs that advance bird conservation. Visit www.nfwf.org/index.htm.

Thank you to the David and Lucile Packard Foundation

CalPIF has a new website with tons of new information and features thanks to the financial support of the Packard Foundation. Check it out at www.prbo.org/calpif/.

Thank you Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

Thank you to the BOR for funding the publishing of paper copies of the Riparian Bird Conservation Plan, version 1.0. Since its release, the BOR, with special thanks to Bob Shaffer and Myrnie Mayville, has paid for the publication of 2000 copies of this important document which has been distributed to agencies, organizations and individuals throughout the state. To receive a copy, contact Sandy Scoggin at sscoggin@prbo.org. Plans are also available on the web at www.prbo.org/calpif/.

Thank you California Oak Foundation (COF)

For generously funding the printing of 10,000 copies of CalPIF's Oak Woodland Bird Conservation Plan v. 2.0. COF is a great partner in CalPIF's efforts to conserve California's oak woodlands for birds and other wildlife.

CalPIF Coastal Scrub and Chaparral Bird Conservation Plan

A revised and updated draft of the CalPIF Coastal Scrub and Chaparral Bird Conservation Plan will be available for review at the end of August. If you are willing to formally review the Plan, please contact Mary Chase at mchase@prbo.org.

California's Plants And Animals

Species accounts and pdf versions of various reports are now available from the California Department of Fish and Game Habitat Conservation Planning Branch at www.dfg.ca.gov/hcpb/species/search_species.shtml. A number of priority bird species and subspecies are included. A draft Bird Species of Special Concern list is available at www.prbo.org/BSSC/.

Brian Millsap New USFWS Chief

The new Chief of the Division of Migratory Bird Management for the USFWS in Arlington, VA is Brian Millsap. Brian is leaving his position with the State of Florida as the chief of the wildlife diversity section. He has a BS from Colorado State in Wildlife Management and an MS from George Mason University. More will be coming out on Brian soon. This position is critical to the future support and direction for PIF and the other bird initiatives.

IBA Update

The California IBA report was posted on the Audubon California website in November 2001 (www.audubon-ca.org). The report is currently being revised to align with the recently-released (for review) California Bird Species of Special Concern report (www.prbo.org/BSSC/). This report is complimentary

News and Announcements

to the IBA effort, as it provides the latest ecological and distributional information for several dozen rare and declining bird species in the state. National Audubon is working with Cornell University Press to develop a publication agreement and schedule for all state Important Bird Areas books, and California should be among the first. Several bird surveys were initiated with the help of local chapters as part of the "Avian Inventory and Monitoring" program, a joint program between Audubon and The Nature Conservancy. Single-day surveys were conducted during spring 2002 in the San Joaquin Valley and other areas to assist in filling information gaps in the California IBA report. These surveys documented several sensitive breeding species at these poorly-known sites, including Swainson's Hawk and Yellow Warbler. For more information on the IBA program, please contact Dan Cooper at dcooper1@pacbell.net.

CalPIF meeting summary

The last CalPIF meeting took place at Asilomar Conference Grounds in conjunction with the International PIF meeting (see article, pg. 1). Items discussed included future directions of the structure of CalPIF, re-establishing a CalPIF listserver (visit the CalPIF website soon for more information), and review of the entries of the CalPIF logo contest. Updates were given on California's IBA program and the CalPIF website.

Upcoming CalPIF Meetings

CalPIF meetings next spring and late summer will spotlight California's desert region and northern Sierra Nevada region. Watch the website (www.prbo.org/calpif/meetings.html) for upcoming announcements.

CalPIF Steering Committee Meeting

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. Long-time participants in CalPIF and in bird conservation in California will be meeting in September to strategize on the structure of CalPIF and plan for the future. For more information, contact Sandy Scoggin at sscoggin@prbo.org.

New California Partners in Flight Co-Chair

CalPIF is excited to welcome Debra Schlafmann as Co-Chair, joining Geoff Geupel at the helm. Debra is currently working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento California. She is responsible for Habitat Conservation and Migratory Bird Program issues for California & Nevada. She has been working for the FWS since 1992 primarily with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, an incentive based program encouraging private landowners to provide wildlife habitat on their property. Debra's first work experience with the FWS was in the Research Division (currently located in USGS) studying shorebird and waterfowl use in the Tulare Basin. Prior to working

with the FWS, Debra has been employed by a number of nonprofit organizations, US Forest Service, and CA Dept. Fish and Game. She received her M.S. in Wildlife Management, Humboldt State University, Arcata CA and her B.S. in Forestry, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI. "I am very excited to be a part of this organization, especially during these interesting times as public and political sectors direct their focus on the health and well-being of all birds. CalPIF has always provided leadership and direction for the Partners in Flight mission and it will be fun to see where it takes us in the next few years."

New California Partners in Flight Education and Outreach Chair

California Partners in Flight (CalPIF) is pleased to welcome Melissa Pitkin, PRBO's Education and Outreach Director, as the new chair of CalPIF's Education and Outreach Committee. Melissa has been working with PRBO since 1997, directing their education and outreach programs, educating people of all ages about PRBO's bird conservation science. Her work includes developing hands-on curriculum for students of all ages, providing landowners and managers with science-based recommendations on how to make their land bird friendly, designing programs for International Migratory Bird Day, working with the National Park Service on the Park Flight program, and working with volunteers to involve them in bird conservation science.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the past chairs of this committee, Beth Huning and Meryl Sundove for their contributions to CalPIF.

Attention Education and Outreach Working Group— A message from Melissa

It's time to re-invigorate the CalPIF Education and Outreach working group! It is my hope that together the members of the working group can create a set of focused messages about bird conservation for each of California's habitat types. Once completed, these messages can be incorporated into and serve as a guide for existing and future outreach projects.

To do this, I need your help. *Please contact me if you would like to participate in this working group.* Everyone is welcome! I would also like to connect everyone working on bird education and outreach with each other by creating an on-line inventory of existing education and outreach projects. Please send me a brief description of any existing education and outreach projects in which you are involved, following the guidelines on the CalPIF Education and Outreach Website at www.prbo.org/calpif/education.html.

In addition, the next issue of the CalPIF *Flight Log* will be focused on CalPIF Education and Outreach and will highlight existing projects and future directions for this important component of the CalPIF program. Contact me with ideas for articles or submissions!

Please feel free to e mail (mpitkin@prbo.org) or call me (415/868-1221 X 307) with comments, suggestions, and questions.

USDA Forest Service, Redwood Sciences Laboratory
(also home of the Monitoring & Working Group and
International Working Group pages):
www.rslpsw.fs.fed.us/pif/index.html

North American Bird Conservation Initiative
<http://www.nabci-us.org/>

American Bird Conservancy
www.abcbirds.org

La Tangara Online:
www.rslpsw.fs.fed.us/pif/news.html

National Partners in Flight Home Page:
<http://www.partnersinflight.org/>

PRBO Conservation Science
www.prbo.org

Flight Log Online:
www.prbo.org/PRBOjournals.html

The Information Center for the
Environment (ICE): ice.ucdavis.edu

Institute for Bird Populations:
www.birdpop.org

California Partners in Flight:
www.prbo.org/calpif/

Audubon-California:
www.audubon-california.org

California Dept. of Fish & Game:
www.dfg.ca.gov

**PARTNERS ON
THE WORLD
WIDE WEB**

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Plans available at www.prbo.org/calpif/plans.html

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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