



FLIGHT LOG

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



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Desert Bird Conservation Plan

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Avian communities of the Mojave and Sonoran deserts face numerous threats, such as habitat loss to rapid urbanization, habitat changes due to the introduction of exotic plant species, and intensive off-highway vehicle recreation. While we know that such threats are more prevalent today than in the past, we lack contemporary population data for many desert bird species. Many resident and migrant bird species that nest in the deserts are endemic, emphasizing the necessity to correctly manage our desert resources. Hence, land management agencies and biologists require a framework to guide the conservation of our desert birds.

In 2003, California Partners in Flight embarked on the creation of the latest habitat-based Bird Conservation Plan (BCP), the Desert Bird Conservation Plan. With support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the DMARLOU Foundation, and the Sonoran Joint Venture, this plan will cover habitats of the Mojave and Sonoran deserts in California and parts of Nevada, Arizona, and Mexico. Like its predecessors, the Desert BCP will be a powerful conservation tool that provides habitat conservation, restoration, and research recommendations to land managers, planners, and researchers.



Eric Preston

CalPIF hosted a Desert BCP meeting at Yuma Crossing State Historical Park in early November 2003 to give participants a forum to discuss the plan's geographic coverage, threats to important habitats, and possible focal species. There were approximately 30 participants, representing a variety of organizations and agencies from five states, including Baja California and Sonora. Many of those in attendance were new to CalPIF, thus several new partnerships were formed. Participants representing over 20 groups have pledged their assistance in writing and reviewing the plan. *(continued on page 4)*

The Legacy of California Partners in Flight

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The California chapter of Partners in Flight (CalPIF) was formed in 1992 as a partnership of federal, state, and private land managers, scientists, non-governmental organizations, universities, industries and citizens interested in the conservation of nongame landbirds throughout California's diverse habitats. The accomplishments of CalPIF during these 12 years are impressive. Bird Conservation Plans (BCP) for every major habitat type in California have been completed and contain over 250 recommendations based on the biology of mul-

tiples species and the latest scientific literature. Agencies and Joint Ventures are incorporating CalPIF recommendations and objectives into their land management and implementation plans. The funding criteria of a growing list of federal and private conservation funders now reward applicants for implementation of BCP conservation practices and measures. Conservationists are using landbirds as effective indicators to evaluate the success of restoration, enhancement, and acquisition of critical habitats throughout the state. The Partners in Flight vision is that every citizen, land manager, biologist, and consultant in the state can become involved in the restoration and enhancement of California habitats important to songbirds and other wildlife. *(continued on page 5)*

California Bird Species of Special Concern

Thomas Gardali and Dave Shuford
PRBO Conservation Science



Keith Hansen

In 1978, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) first published the California Bird Species of Special Concern (BSSC), which subjectively described declining or vulnerable species. No official revision has been completed since. To prevent further population declines of native birds, CDFG initiated a process to set conservation and research priorities by revising the BSSC. Clearly, revision was needed to identify currently at-risk taxa that warrant *proactive* conservation and research measures to ensure their population health in California.

PRBO Conservation Science, in collaboration with the CDFG and numerous other partners are working on developing and publishing the monograph: *California Bird Species of Special Concern: An assessment and management manual for at-risk birds*. This book-length monograph uses objective criteria to identify the state's at-risk birds most in need of help. Additionally, it makes specific recommendations for research, monitoring, and conservation actions that will keep them off lists of threatened and endangered species.

We considered 289 bird taxa as nominees for the special concern list. Nominations were made from various sources including "Priority Pool Tiers" I or II of the National Partners in Flight Rankings. The prioritized list consists of 42 species and 26 subspecies or geographic populations. The process also identified a Responsibility List of Birds in California, intended as a tool for longer-term conservation planning. This list contains 119 taxa that qualify because all or a very high proportion of their North American populations occur in the state. A taxon's co-occurrence on both the special concern and responsibility lists indicates a particularly high level of conservation concern in California.

The main text of the BSSC document presents analyses of broad scale patterns highlighting the habitats and geographic regions of California with high numbers of special concern taxa. It also identifies the most important threats to these birds and improvements

needed to enhance scientific, educational, and conservation efforts for at-risk birds. The list of at-risk taxa is unique among ranking systems in that it includes subspecies and geographically isolated populations in addition to full species. The BSSC is also unique in that a detailed species account, authored by experts from around the state and individually peer-reviewed, will be provided for each at-risk species. These accounts provide information that justifies the inclusion of certain taxa on the list and each account provides detailed management, research, and monitoring recommendations. Importantly, we put in place a dynamic ranking process that allows for scores to be updated as new data become available. This is an open process where interested parties can view scores and suggest changes.

What is the status of the BSSC? The overall manuscript (that describes the ranking system, etc.) has been submitted to *Western Birds*, sent out for peer review, and returned to us for revisions. The majority of the remaining work, however, lies with completing the individual species accounts. Accounts have now been written for all but one of the taxa. Of these, over half have been peer reviewed and returned to authors. We plan to return the remaining accounts to authors for revision by the end of February. It is our goal to see the final manuscript published in 2004.

For more information and to support the BSSC by purchasing a limited edition Keith Hansen print, go to www.prbo.org/bssc.

Proceedings for the 2001 Riparian Habitat and Floodplains Conference

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achrisney@prbo.org

The proceedings from the 2001 riparian conference held in Sacramento, California has finally been published by the Riparian Habitat Joint Venture (RHJV)! It is titled *California Riparian Systems: Processes and Floodplains Management, Ecology, and Restoration*. The proceedings is 600 pages long and includes 71 manuscripts from presentations given at the conference. All conference participants and authors will receive a copy of the proceedings. Postcards were sent out recently to announce the proceedings and verify addresses. If you did not receive a postcard, we probably don't have your current address. Contact the RHJV Coordinator for address-related questions. Additional copies of the proceedings can be purchased for \$30 soft cover and \$45 hard cover (limited number) through the RHJV. Contact the RHJV Coordinator to order at achrisney@prbo.org or 916-329-7458. Payment will be by checks and money orders only.



Coastal Scrub and Chaparral Plan Update

A significant number of songbirds that depend on chaparral and coastal scrub habitats are facing dramatic declines primarily due to habitat loss over the past century. Many once common bird species are now becoming threatened and highly susceptible to localized extinction. For example, the Greater Roadrunner has disappeared from portions of its historic range including the northern Central Valley, the San Francisco Bay area, and parts of Santa Barbara and San Diego counties. Another species, the California Gnatcatcher, is one of the most threatened inhabitants of California scrub habitats. This species was considered locally common in the mid-1940's, but since then has declined substantially in California due to extensive destruction of its coastal sage scrub habitat. The continued persistence of species such as these depends on the preservation and proper management of the remaining coastal scrub and chaparral habitats.



Ryan Burnett

The science-based recommendations in the Coastal Scrub and Chaparral Bird Conservation Plan (BCP) highlights the ecologically important areas that have the greatest potential for management and conservation of scrub habitats. This BCP promotes restoration and conservation of these habitats to support long-term viability and recovery of native bird species, such as the Greater Roadrunner and California Gnatcatcher, and other native species. PRBO Conservation Science and California Partners in Flight secured a grant of \$8,000 from the Temper of the Times Foundation, Inc. to cover the printing costs associated with publishing 500 copies of the Coastal Scrub and Chaparral BCP.

Publication of the Coastal Scrub and Chaparral BCP will promote improved management practices and increase public awareness of the threats facing birds, other wildlife and the coastal scrub and chaparral habitats in California. Broader dissemination of this Plan will be an important component of recovery strategies, from protecting or restoring coastal scrub and chaparral habitats to focusing habitat acquisitions of lands identified as important for recovery. Hardcopies of this plan will be available in late 2004. We wish to thank the Temper of the Times Foundation, Inc. for their generous contribution to landbird conservation.

Riparian Plan Version 2.0 Update

This document represents the second iteration of the Riparian Bird Conservation Plan. A review of the original focal species list revealed the need to add three new species to better capture the diversity of habitat niches found in California riparian systems, and to account for species which are experiencing range reductions in the state. Following the same criteria established in the selection of the original 14 focal species, Spotted Sandpiper, Tree Swallow, and Tricolored Blackbird were added. Species accounts for these new additions are currently in preparation and will be available at <http://www.prbo.org/calpif/htmldocs/riparian.html>. Their summary information has been added to this document. Static range maps of all 17 focal species, with 2003 data incorporated, are included in this version of the Plan. As always, the most recent updates for these maps can be viewed on the web site.

New to this version is a description of a process for setting population objectives for select focal species using current monitoring data and GIS data layers. In this version, examples from Central Valley Basins are used to estimate current and potential population size. The most current riparian songbird data from several California bioregions and the latest topical references from the scientific literature are incorporated into the Conservation Recommendations section. Tables reflecting bird and habitat associations, estimates of nest success, and riparian songbird nesting seasons by bioregions have been added to better assist land managers with data pertaining to their specific area. Additionally, there are updates on the North American all-bird initiatives and the Riparian Habitat Joint Venture, and a comprehensive list of opportunities for private citizens to be involved in bird conservation.

The English Department of San Jose State University is professionally editing Version 2.0. We would like to give a special thanks to Professor Chris Fink for agreeing to this task and thereby making this a stronger document. Version 3.0 is planned for release in September of 2006.



Eire Preston

The New Sagebrush Bird Conservation Plan

Aaron Holmes, PRBO Conservation Science
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The first draft of *The Sagebrush Bird Conservation Plan: a resource for protecting and managing sagebrush habitats and associated birds in California* was recently completed and distributed for review. The plan, one of a series covering major habitat types in California, summarizes current information on distribution, habitat associations, conservation challenges, and management recommendations for 11 species of songbirds that rely heavily on sagebrush or associated grassland and woodland habitats. It contains 23 specific recommendations that address a wide variety of issues at multiple spatial scales. Previously unpublished results of PRBO Conservation Science and CalPIF research projects in northeastern California provide locally based information. Future revisions will also include results of a new PRBO monitoring effort that will begin this year in Mono County under the direction of Sacha Heath and an in depth summary of Greater Sage Grouse conservation issues prepared by Frank Hall, a wildlife biologist with California Department of Fish and Game. If you are interested in obtaining a draft copy of the plan, please contact Aaron Holmes (aholmes@prbo.org) or Kim Kreitinger (kkreitinger@prbo.org).



Eric Preston

Desert Bird Conservation Plan (continued from page 1)

We will continue to work on the plan throughout 2004, and will likely meet in Yuma this autumn to compose the plan's habitat, monitoring, and restoration recommendations. As Chair of the Desert Bird Conservation Plan Committee, I will finalize the plan's focal species list for review, continue to recruit focal species account authors and reviewers, and most importantly, continue to network through the desert research and conservation community to ensure that the plan will be guided by the most current data available. If you are interested in contributing to the Desert Bird Conservation Plan, contact Chris McCreedy at cmccreedy@prbo.org.

Important Bird Areas Publication

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Audubon California is pleased to announce the release of Important Bird Areas of California, the result of a three-year effort to identify and describe key areas around the state most important to birds. This landmark publication represents the combined effort of hundreds of advisors from around the state, including resource agency officials, Audubon members and field biologists, and helps set a course for continued conservation of these special places.

Important Bird Areas of California provides current data for roughly 150 sites in all 58 counties. Nearly 300 pages long, it features dozens of photos of selected IBAs and the sensitive bird species that rely on them. Information in the book was thoroughly reviewed and edited by a team of experts on California bird distribution.

With this initial documentation of its IBAs, California joins a worldwide effort, coordinated by BirdLife International in partnership with Audubon, to identify local concentrations of the most imperiled bird species, as well as sites that host exceptionally large aggregations of key groups of species during breeding, migration and/or winter. This information should enable landowners, government officials, biologists, planners and conservationists to make sound land use and management decisions that protect our precious natural resources.

Over the next few years, Audubon California will be identifying partners associated with these Important Bird Areas, and with the help of its 51 local chapters, developing monitoring programs where appropriate and conservation strategies for each.

By distributing this book widely, we hope to raise awareness about all of California's IBAs, but particularly the more threatened sites - places that may be lost forever to birds and other wildlife unless immediate conservation action is taken.

Please contact Audubon California to obtain copies of Important Bird Areas of California. We also have a limited number of sturdy, metal signs that identify a particular location as an Audubon IBA available upon request.

Books are currently available through Audubon California for \$19.99 (tax incl.) + \$5.00 shipping and handling. Bulk rates are available. Make checks payable to "Audubon California - IBA" and send orders to:

IBAs of California
 Audubon California
 87 No. Raymond Ave.
 Suite 700
 Pasadena, CA 91103

The Legacy of California Partners in Flight (continued from page 1)

Lyann Comrack, currently with California Department of Fish and Game, was CalPIF Coordinator from 1992-1996, and 1999-2000. Lyann stated, "California Partners in Flight early on recognized the value of developing a standardized, objective approach to setting priorities for bird conservation." CalPIF institutionalized this philosophy from its inception in 1992. Noting that the major cause of population declines in California appeared to be habitat loss, CalPIF began identifying critical habitats important to birds and worked cooperatively to protect and enhance remaining habitat fragments. This led to the development of comprehensive bird-habitat management planning for riparian, coastal scrub, grassland, oak woodland, and coniferous forest habitats and the Sierra Nevada bioregion. Many individuals volunteered their knowledge and skills to make these habitat-based bird conservation plans a reality. Plans have now been distributed to over 130 different agencies and thousands of private landowners. California Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plans are dynamic documents, meaning they are continually updated and revised. The second version of the Coastal Scrub/Chaparral and Oak Woodland plans have already been completed, and Version 2.0 of the Riparian Bird Conservation Plan is near completion. In 2004, two new plans for Desert and Sagebrush habitats will be released.

Riparian habitat, in particular, was identified as being a high conservation priority due to its importance to birds and its severe degradation throughout the state. Following a series of strategic meetings with members of the CalPIF Management Committee in 1993, the Riparian Habitat Joint Venture (RHJV) project was launched in a public ceremony along the American River in Sacramento in September 1994. The RHJV seeks to restore, enhance, and protect a network of functioning riparian habitat across California to support the long-term viability of birds and other species. The 19 member agencies and organizations involved endorse a philosophy of open-minded inquiry into effective land use from the standpoint of landowners, land managers, and wildlife. California Partners in Flight was instrumental in securing funding for a full-time coordinator for the RHJV and continues to be an important presence with RHJV projects. In 2001, CalPIF collaborated with the RHJV and other supporters to host the highly successful Riparian Habitat and Floodplain Management Conference in 2001. Approximately 400 scientific papers were presented and more than 1,500 people attended. The proceedings derived from this conference are now available for purchase (see page 2 of this newsletter).

California Partners in Flight was a powerful force behind another influential gathering: The Third International Partners in Flight Conference in 2002. Over 600 scientists and conservationists representing Canada, the U.S., and Latin America gathered in Monterey, CA to discuss the progress made and the future direction of bird conservation. A proceedings will soon be available for this highly successful exchange (see page 7).

Though much smaller in scale than the aforementioned conferences, the bi-annual CalPIF meetings are another forum for information exchange that often lead to targeted conservation actions. At the CalPIF Sagehen meeting in 2003, information gathered from the presentations and ensuing discussions guided the creation of a letter to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) that addressed the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) to the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA). The DSEIS includes fundamental changes to the standards and guidelines for vegetation, grazing, and recreation management

within sensitive species habitat that creates significant risk to the long-term viability of many Sierra species. The letter emphasized the importance of riparian and meadow habitats to birds, highlighted the detrimental effects of the relaxed standards stated in the DSEIS, and addressed the need for a comprehensive, adaptive management monitoring program if the proposed changes to the SNFPA are instituted. After receiving comments from California Partners in Flight and others, USFS senior staff asked John Robinson, a CalPIF Executive Steering Committee representative, to write a section in the DSEIS pertaining to the need for a Willow Flycatcher conservation strategy. The letter can be viewed at the CalPIF website.

CalPIF also encourages partnerships through other methods, such as a web site, a semi-annual newsletter, attendance at festivals and other public-outreach events, a listserv, and the Breeding Status and Study Areas Database. This interactive database stores a variety of data shared by CalPIF partners, including location of historic and current study sites, breeding status of all focal species, descriptions of methodologies employed, and contact information for researchers. This database also provides opportunities for on-line data entry and tools for data management. CalPIF encourages the addition of new data and new users. These data have been used to create a current range map for each focal species and to develop the habitat-based conservation plans. These geo-referenced data on birds help identify gaps in information, set priorities for future conservation activities, and assist land managers in developing management plans and implementing conservation strategies.

"CalPIF is in an exciting transition where we are moving rapidly into the implementation phase of the Partners in Flight initiative. Plans have been written, reviewed, and distributed, and land managers are now putting recommendations on the ground," notes Sandy Scoggin, CalPIF Coordinator 2000-2003. This implementation phase begins in earnest next month. CalPIF representatives will be discussing BCP integration into U.S. Forest Service regional planning efforts at the U.S. Forest Service's annual wildlife biologist meeting. CalPIF representatives also are working with all of California's habitat-based Joint Ventures to integrate CalPIF recommendations into JV implementation strategies.

CalPIF has been very effective in pulling together every major land management agency, landowners, and many scientists throughout California. "It's a critical time for all partners to participate and help insure that we follow the principles of adaptive management to assure that we are protecting and restoring habitat in ways that truly benefit birds," states Sandy Scoggin currently with the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. With the support of our partners, CalPIF will continue to increase public awareness of the threats facing critical habitat types and the wildlife that depends on them. We will continue to promote our science-based practices and recommendations as an important component of land management plans, recovery strategies, habitat acquisitions, and research and monitoring programs. Through our efforts, we will not only reverse the decline of bird populations, but help preserve the natural heritage and biodiversity of California.

Thanks to Lyann Comrack, Kevin Hunting, and Sandy Scoggin for assistance with this article.

California News & Upcoming Meetings

New Adaptive Conservation Planning Guide

PRBO Conservation Science recently produced a new conservation planning guide entitled: *Developing and Implementing an Adaptive Conservation Strategy: A guide for improving adaptive management and sharing the learning among conservation practitioners*. This guide presents case studies of applied Adaptive Conservation Planning in terrestrial, wetland and ocean realms, pointers for practitioners, and over 30 specific recommendations. A link to this informative document is found on the California Partners in Flight home page or at the Conservation Planning section of the PRBO Conservation Science web site.

What is an Adaptive Conservation Strategy?

In a world of diminishing natural resources, it is essential that efforts to conserve biodiversity and manage wildlife habitats be guided by the best available scientific knowledge. Science at its best uses experimental methods to constantly modify and improve the knowledge base; an Adaptive Conservation Strategy is designed to respond to evolving information. An adaptive conservation strategy has two components:

1. **Adaptive management** is a decades-old method of natural resource management that integrates design, management, and monitoring to systematically test assumptions in order to adapt and learn.
2. **Adaptive Conservation Planning** is the process of synthesizing monitoring and assessment data from many projects to develop science-based conservation recommendations that can be shared across projects.

Adaptive Conservation Strategies have focused on monitoring of bird populations because many bird species make excellent indicators of ecosystem health and integrity. Special thanks to the David and Lucille Packard Foundation and Resource Law Group for the development of this informative guide.

Updates to the CalPIF Web Site www.prbo.org/calpif/index.html

New to the web site: Version 2.0 of the Riparian Bird Conservation Plan will be available for downloading in February 2004. Riparian plan focal species accounts have been re-formatted and the following have been updated or added: Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Tricolored Blackbird. The California Partners in Flight letter to the U.S. Forest Service regarding mountain meadow conservation is available for viewing. The Guide to Adaptive Conservation Strategies also is available for downloading. We are always searching for new data contributors to the CalPIF Study Area Database. Help us identify distributional information, timing of migration, range expansions, and many other important factors regarding California's landbirds by sharing your knowledge. See the Data/Maps page on our website.

Subscribe to the CalPIF Listserve

Stay informed on important CalPIF issues and information. As a member of the listserv, you will be able to post your CalPIF message 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 and last name)

Mark Your Calendars!



Next CalPIF meeting tentatively scheduled for May 2004! This meeting will likely be in conjunction with the 11th Annual OR/WA PIF Monitoring Workshop. Watch the CalPIF web site for updates.

Salton Sea International Bird Festival, Imperial, CA
Feb. 13-16, 2004
<http://www.newriverwetlands.com/saltonsea.html>

Western Section Wildlife Society Meeting, Rohnert Park, CA
Feb. 26-28, 2004
<http://www.tws-west.org/>

Aquatic Outreach Institute Creeks Conference, Richmond, CA Feb. 26, 2004
<http://www.aoinstitute.org/3rdcreekmtg.html>

Aleutian Goose Festival, Crescent City, CA
Mar. 26-28, 2004
<http://www.aleutiangoosefestival.org/>

Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival, Arcata, CA
Apr. 16-18, 2004
<http://www.godwitdays.com/>

Kern River Valley Birding and Bioregions Festival, Weldon, CA
Apr. 30-May 6, 2004
<http://www.valleywild.org/bioregion.htm>

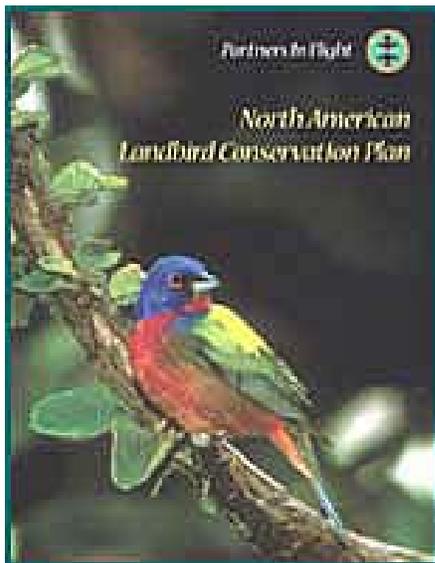
International Migratory Bird Day, May 8, 2004

Mono Basin Chautauqua, Lee Vining, CA
June 18-20, 2004
<http://www.birdchautauqua.org/>

National Partners in Flight News and Announcements

PIF North American Landbird Conservation Plan

As a result of numerous detailed comments on the PIF North American Landbird Conservation Plan, a few substantial changes have been made. First, the population objective for all Stewardship Species will be changed to "maintain." This is a result of many reviewers arguing that it was not realistic to ask for increases in populations of species that are still numerous and not highly vulnerable at this time. However, as a number of these species are experiencing population declines, they will be particularly closely tracked. Second, an assessment of the precision and accuracy of global population estimates will be added. Third, last minute approval was received from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to include an appendix on the landbird species of highest concern in those regions. Authors have finished making the final edits and the Plan is scheduled for printing in January 2004. Copies will be available for \$10 each.



Asilomar Proceedings

The proceedings of the Third International Partners in Flight Conference held in March of 2002 at Asilomar, California, is currently in press and should be published this spring. The editors are C. John Ralph and Terry D. Rich. Approximately 180 manuscripts are currently being formatted and page proofs are on their way to the authors. This will be a publication of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service in Albany, California, as a General Technical Report. There will be no cost for the publication and it will be available in hard copy and on the Web.

Population Objectives Step-down Workshop

Partners in Flight is holding a workshop to define a process for stepping down continental landbird population objectives to state, Joint Venture, BCR and local levels for conservation action. The workshop is being held 4-6 February 2004 at the Sandcastle Confer-

ence Center in Port Aransas, TX. The workshop will include background on the PIF methodology and on current JV approaches, and will use breakout sessions to address issues in detail. Both waterbird and shorebird components have been added.

PIF Population Estimates Workshop

As a result of great interest in PIF's estimation of global population sizes, PIF will hold a workshop this spring to examine the science of landbird population estimation, and to improve population estimates methodology. The workshop will be sponsored by USGS and will include invited scientists from PIF, USGS, and academia. The idea is to have a small, focused workshop to efficiently address population estimation issues. The PIF Science Committee will provide regular updates of global population estimates on the PIF web site.

PIF Mesoamerican Meeting

We are planning a PIF Mesoamerican meeting in conjunction with the Mesoamerican Society for Conservation and Biology (MSCB) in Managua, Nicaragua next year (November 2004). This will be a 2-3 day meeting to identify and prioritize needs while building links with the MSCB and, hopefully, the Austral and Neotropical Section of the Society for Conservation Biology. This is a result of a meeting of the PIF International Working Group held during the Neotropical Ornithological Congress in Chile.

Best Management Practices for Landbirds Being Developed

PIF, NRCS, the FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the American Bird Conservancy, and IAFWA have formed a new workgroup to develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for landbirds. The target audience are those federal employees who work with private landowners to implement various federal programs. BMPs will be very concise – perhaps only 1-2 pages of the most important actions. Species accounts, background and other information will be referenced but not repeated. These are meant to be useful to those who need to get to the bottom line quickly.

Vegetation Assessment for Point Count Sites Being Developed

As part of the Coordinated Bird Monitoring initiative, experts from the Breeding Bird Survey and the PIF Science Committee will be developing a rapid assessment protocol for vegetation at point count sites. Goals are to have a system that can be used at all BBS stops, that takes no longer than 1-2 minutes, and that is as consistent as possible with current vegetation assessment standards.

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