
Common Tern ringing in Buenos Aires province, Argentina

During the last few years a significant number of Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* banded in North America have been retrapped at Punta Rasa, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina.

Punta Rasa is the southernmost point of Samborombon Bay—recently designated as a Ramsar Site—and large numbers of shorebirds, skimmers, gulls and, especially, terns gather to roost and feed. Approximately 20,000 Common Tern roost daily at Punta Rasa during the non-breeding season, making it the most important place for the species in Argentina.

Concerned about the future of the area, Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina—a private foundation—decided to create the ‘Punta Rasa Biological Station’, which commenced work in early 1985. Although the station pursues a wide range of activities, the main objective is to research the conservation of migratory shorebirds and terns in Samborombon Bay. Since 1993, Common Terns using the site have been ringed. Rings from the US Fish and Wildlife Service were formerly used, but in March 1997 new bands were instigated. Trapped birds have also been colour-dyed and orange flags placed on the left tarsus (no another project is colour-dyeing or colour-flagging this species in Argentina).

Help is required to ensure the success of this project: if you recover or see Common Terns which were ringed or colour-dyed at Punta Rasa, please advise the coordinators, who will be very grateful for your cooperation. The ringing results will not only provide new data about this species but also will help in the long-term protection of the area. Contact either: Alejandro Vila at Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina (E-mail: vilaa@ibm.net) or Esteban Bremer, Estación Biológica Punta Rasa, C. C. N° 16, 7105 San Clemente del Tuyu, Argentina.

Information on Jabiru from northern Mexico required

Matt White is assembling information on the status and distribution of Jabiru in Mexico (and Central and South America) for a possible paper on the species. Any information would be greatly appreciated and acknowledged. He particularly seeks information on records from Veracruz or Tamaulipas, Mexico. Whilst Howell & Webb do not list any such records, he would be interested to learn if there have been any subsequent records in northern Mexico.

Please contact Matt White, 2518 Monroe Commerce, TX 75428, USA. Tel: (903) 886-1887. E-mail: mwhite@sulphur-springs.isd.tenet.edu.

New web page for the BirdLife International Americas office

BirdLife International Americas Regional Office has a new site on the web, which can be reached at: <http://www.birdlife1.org.ec/ingles.html>. Any suggestions or comments are welcome. For further information contact: Oficina Regional de las Américas, BirdLife International, Casilla 17-17-717, Quito, Ecuador. Tel: 593 2 453645. Fax: 593 2 459627. E-mail: birdlife@ecnet.ec.

Worldtwitch Internet site

A web version of Worldtwitch is now on-line at: <http://geocities.com/rainforest/vines/9684>. The main purpose of this site is to disseminate information about rare birds in Latin America, Africa, Asia-Pacific, and the Middle East. Space is also offered for posting translations to and from English of important ornithological articles. All reports and suggested links are welcome and can be sent to: John Wall, New York, USA. E-mail: jwwall@ix.netcom.com.

Ecuadorian antpittas

An Ecuadorian undergraduate biology student, Juan Fernando Freile, is currently beginning his thesis project on the distributional patterns of (and their implications for) the conservation of Ecuadorian antpittas (*Grallaria* and *Grallaricula*). This work will include an evaluation of the biogeographical distribution of this group of birds, as well as an analysis of their conservation status, and will promote the creation of new protected areas and conservation strategies. In order to develop a thorough analysis and obtain detailed maps of the relevant species' distributions, he requires reliable information on Ecuadorian species, especially those which are poorly known, or from little-studied localities. All contributions, comments, suggestions or assistance will be fully acknowledged in the final document, as well as in any other papers subsequently produced. Please contact: Juan Fernando Freile O., Casilla Postal 17-12-122,

Quito, Ecuador. Tel: (593 2) 862 639. E-mail: jrhidalgo@puceuo.puce.edu.ec or jffreile@usa.net.

Grebe photographs required

André Konter is currently preparing a book on grebes. He is seeking photographs of many of the South American species, but especially required are images of Junín Flightless Grebe *Rollandia microptera* and the extinct Atitlán *Podilymbus gigas* and Colombian Grebes *Podiceps andinus*. If you can help, please contact: André Konter, 119 rue des Muguets, L-2167 Luxembourg, Luxembourg.

Second Southern Hemisphere Ornithological Congress (SHOC)

This week-long event will start on 27 June 2000 at Griffith University, Brisbane. The General Organising Committee consists of local Brisbane representatives—David Rounsevell and Carla Catterall and Birds Australia Research Committee members—Richard Loyn, Mike Clarke, Steve Ambrose and Lee Astheimer. The conference will contain a mix of plenary speakers, thematic symposia, contributed papers and poster sessions. Registration prices and other measures will encourage strong participation by post-graduate students. Early suggestions for symposia are welcome and should be accompanied by the necessary willingness and expertise to chair (or co-chair) the session. Symposia chairpersons will be asked to invite speakers, inform them of symposia guidelines, receive and edit their abstracts and chair the session. Please send early expressions of interest to Dr Lee Astheimer (Lee_Astheimer@uow.edu.au) for consideration.

New parrot discussion group

A new e-mail discussion group designed to provide a forum for those involved in the scientific study and conservation of wild parrots has been formed to facilitate rapid exchange of information and advance the scientific study and conservation of this group. It is called APC-LIST and is sponsored by the Association for Parrot Conservation and hosted by the University of Maryland. Subscription to the APC-LIST is simple—send a mail message to: listserv@umdd.umd.edu, leaving the subject line blank and writing in the message body: “sub APC-LIST” Firstname Lastname. There may be a slight delay while your subscription is approved. After approval you will receive a message welcoming you to APC-LIST and describing how to post messages to the discussion group. To encourage global participation, postings to the discussion group can be in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. List membership is confidential and will not be used for any commercial purposes. Tim Wright will be serving as moderator of APC-LIST, and is happy to answer any questions concerning the list’s workings. For more information contact: Tim Wright, Secretary, Executive Council of the Association for Parrot Conservation, Department of Biology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA. Office phone (no voicemail): (301) 405-6896. E-mail: wright@zool.umd.edu.

Neotropical bird photos on the internet

Martin Reid has been adding photos to the Neotropical sections of his personal web page. These display photos taken by himself and others in Ecuador, Chile and Brazil (sections on Belize and Costa Rica are forthcoming). He would like to bring this site—located at <http://rampages.onramp.net/~upupa/>—to birders’ attention. For more information contact: Martin Reid, 2500 Ridgmar Blvd #0036, Fort Worth, TX 76116 USA. E-mail: upupa@onramp.net.

Blue macaws website

Tony Pittman is creating a website dedicated to the *Anodorhynchus* macaws which features historical documents, information on their life in the wild and aviculture, articles that have appeared over the years as well as a newpage and images. Material on site appears in English, German, Portuguese and Spanish. Although as yet incomplete it can be found at <http://www.bluemacaws.org>.

You can contact Tony Pittman via e-mail: aba60@dial.pipex.com.

Request for published and unpublished information on the trogon family

I am preparing the entries on the trogon family for the *Handbook of birds of the world*, and would be very grateful to receive reprints and preprints from anyone who has written on these birds, not just as the exclusive subject of study but also any general faunal paper or site-related article, etc., in which trogons are mentioned. Moreover, I also request all readers to send me any unpublished observations which they believe may be unusual (range extension, feeding habit, breeding behaviour, notes on calls, etc.). Nigel Collar, 25 Springfield Road, Cambridge CB4 1AD, UK. E-mail: collar@birdlife.org.uk.

