

Sonoran Joint Venture

binational bird conservation



July/August 2004

Conservation Easement at Península de Lucenilla, Ensenada de Pabellones

On 9 July 2004 the owner of Península de Lucenilla, located in AICA Ensenada de Pabellones on the central coast of Sinaloa, signed a conservation easement with Pronatura Noroeste.

Península de Lucenilla is considered a priority site for bird conservation in Mexico. The total surface area of the protected region encompasses more than 6,500 hectares of beaches, dunes, mangroves, and tropical deciduous forest. The area has been declared a Private Land Conservation project by its owner under an agreement with Pronatura. Because of its diverse habitats, the area represents a unique bird conservation opportunity for Northwest Mexico. This unprecedented act will provide protection to this important site for the next fifteen years.

For more information about this and other of Pronatura's projects in Sinaloa, contact Xico Vega at xicovega@itesm.mx.

Brown Pelican Woes in Southwest

Over the past month, a number of juvenile Brown Pelicans have turned up in various locations in Arizona, as far north as the Grand Canyon.

Although a few birds generally show up in the state each year, this year's



exceptionally high numbers are unusual. Most birds that have been found are in poor condition and appear to be starving. Additionally, virtually all of the birds are first year birds. Brown Pelicans feed on small fish, such as sardines and anchovies. One theory is that these resources have moved further offshore into deeper waters, making it more difficult for young birds to find them. Marine mammals that share these food resources, however, appear to be unaffected. Birds in the Phoenix area have also been found injured after diving into cement roads and parking lots, presumably taking the paved areas for bodies of water.

Pelicans in California appear to be affected, as well. Over 100 young birds have washed up on beaches in California, weak, dehydrated, and near death. Biologists and other experts are unsure of the cause, but say that the birds act as though they are starving.

Webless Migratory Game Bird Research Program report available

Hard copies of the current issue of the Webless Migratory Game Bird Research Program report are now available. This issue contains abstracts primarily on sandhill cranes, doves and band-tailed pigeons, and woodcock. You may also express your desire to establish a standing order so that you automatically receive this annual report, which in past and future years will cover projects on "marshbirds" (rails, sora, moorhen, etc.). Contact Brad Andres at Brad_Andres@fws.gov.

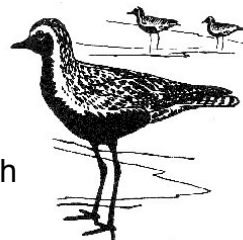


New Director Named for Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative

Jim Chu of the Forest Service International Programs has been named the new full time Director of the Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative. Jim will help guide conservation efforts for the migratory birds of the Copper River Delta on the Chugach National Forest in Alaska. These birds migrate each year from the Copper River Delta as far South as Panama, stopping along the way in Canada, Washington, Oregon, California, and Mexico. Jim will establish new partnerships with public and private landowners, conservation organizations, cultural organizations, community leaders, and others, and help target projects on priority habitat sites and bird species along the Pacific Flyway. The work will coordinate closely with the Pacific Coast, San Francisco Bay, Central Valley, Intermountain West, and Sonoran Joint Ventures, as well as the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

The Copper River Migratory Bird Conservation Initiative is a partnership among the Chugach National Forest in Alaska, the Forest Service's Alaska, Pacific Northwest, and Pacific Southwest Regions, Pacific Northwest Research Station, and International Programs as well as Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ducks Unlimited Mexico, and Ducks Unlimited Inc.

Representatives of these organizations form a Steering Committee which guides the Initiative.



Brown Pelican and Golden Plover by Robert W. Hines/USFWS; California Condor by Robert Savannah/USFWS

California Condors Hatch in Arizona

For the second consecutive year, California Condors have successfully hatched young in Arizona. Based on the behavior of the adult birds and nestling observations, biologists believe that each of the two nests (one at Grand Canyon National Park and one at Vermilion Cliffs National Monument) produced one nestling. These two new nestlings represent the second and third birds to be born in the wild in Arizona since the reintroduction program began in 1996.



New Education Resource Available on Web

BirdIQ (<http://www.BirdIQ.com>) is a bird conservation partnership between ConocoPhillips and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Together, they are protecting critical habitats and educating people of all ages about the importance of birds in our world.

The BirdIQ website is one-stop shopping for information and educational materials about birds. Visit here to be connected to conservation groups around the country that have posters, videos, curricula, and a wide variety of educational materials. Whether you want to learn more yourself, to share your education ideas, or to introduce your students, scouts, or neighborhood kids to birds, this is an excellent place to start.

sonoran joint venture: binational bird conservation



Arizona Audubon seeks nature center director

In support of the National Audubon Society's 2020 Vision, Audubon Arizona is launching its first major Audubon Center in Phoenix, Arizona. The Center will be located at the Rio Salado Project at Central Avenue, an urban area with a developing future in the center of the downtown Phoenix area.

Audubon Arizona seeks a motivated person to fill the position of Center Director. Responsibilities include planning, program development and implementation, budgeting and fundraising, land management, marketing and promotion, and administration. Interested individuals should send a resume to humanresources@audubon.org.

Comments Sought for Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California have drafted an Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report evaluating the issuance of a 50-year incidental take permit for threatened and endangered species that may be affected by the operations and maintenance of the lower Colorado River. The agencies are making the reports available for review and are seeking public comment.

The LCR MSCP has submitted a draft habitat conservation plan to the Service together with a request for permission to take listed species. The Service has weighed the alternatives of issuing such a permit in the draft Environmental Impact Statement and Report and is now seeking public comments before making its decision on issuing an incidental take permit.

These documents are voluminous, so interested parties are advised to access them at the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program website at <http://www.lcrmscp.org>. Alternatively, CDs containing electronic copies of these documents can be obtained by writing to: Mr. Steve Spangle, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, AZ 85021 or calling 602-242-0210; or to Mr. Glen Gould, Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 61470, LC-2011, Boulder City, NV 89006-1470 or calling 702-293-8702.

Written comments can be submitted to Mr. Steve Spangle at the address above (please telephone Service administrative staff at 602-242-0210 24 hours prior to hand- and courier-delivered packages) or by facsimile to 602-242-2513. All comments must be received by August 18, 2004.

To make a contribution to the SJV E-Newsletter, contact Jennie Duberstein, SJV Education and Outreach Coordinator. Next deadline is 24 August 2004.

SJV Contact Information:

Robert Mesta, Coordinator

Ph: 520-882-0047

Email: Robert_Mesta@fws.gov

Carol Beardmore, Science Coordinator

Ph: 602-242-0524 x 248

Email: Carol_Beardmore@fws.gov

Jennie Duberstein, Education and Outreach Coordinator

Ph: 520-882-0837

Email: Jennie_Duberstein@fws.gov

Website: www.sonoranjv.org