

SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANT FROM RARE CENTER

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology has received a generous grant from the RARE Center for Tropical Conservation. The grant will help support the distribution of the Society's newsletter, *El Pitirre*, to Members and Associate Members in the West Indies.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED TO SCO BOARD

Two new members have been elected to the Society's Board of Directors: Donald Anthony will represent St. Lucia, whereas Simon Guerrero will represent the Dominican Republic. As announced at the 1993 annual meeting, Francisco Vitella will replace Frank Rivera as the Board member from Puerto Rico.

DIRECTORY OF REFERENCE COLLECTIONS AND SPECIALISTS IN CARIBBEAN BIODIVERSITY

This is a request for information that will be included in the Directory of Reference Collections and Specialists in Caribbean Biodiversity. The goal is to promote the inventory of biodiversity in the Caribbean islands and Bahamas by providing a guide to Caribbean collection resources and to taxonomic specialists capable of identifying specimens from Caribbean inventories. The directory is envisioned as the first step in establishing a general program to provide assistance and support to systematics collections in the region. Once we have made initial contact among institutions with biodiversity collections, we will design additional surveys to uncover common problems in the maintenance of Caribbean reference collections.

The preliminary Directory will consist of two parts. First, a section on reference collections will provide a description of Caribbean institutions that maintain research collections. This section is intended to provide Caribbean-based specialists with current information on the institutional resources available to them in the Basin. It will also draw attention to Caribbean institutions as repositories for material resulting from inventories that are currently underway. We hope this effort will result in more rapid transfer of information on Caribbean biodiversity to the institutions where it will be used.

The second part will comprise a list of specialists with key words chosen by them to describe their research interests and professional activities related to collections or biodiversity. The list will include persons involved in the maintenance and care of collections, persons conducting inventories, and taxonomic specialists who have expertise in the identification and classification of Caribbean species. The goal is to

Biodiversity directory (continued)

reduce backlogs and increase the effectiveness of the Caribbean inventory by improving access to taxonomic expertise. Users of the Directory will be advised to contact specialists in advance of sending specimens for identification.

To be included in the listing, please fill out the accompanying form for specialists and return it to the address below that is most convenient for you.

The Directory will be distributed at no charge to all respondents and to other interested parties on request.

Gilberto Silva
Museo Nacional de Historia Natural
Capitolio Nacional
Ciudad de La Habana 10200, Cuba
Telephone: 53-7 63-2589

Sixto Incháustegui
Grupo Jaragua
El Vergel 33
Santo Domingo, República Dominicana
FAX: (809) 566-2798

Michael L. Smith
Center for Marine Conservation
1725 DeSales Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20036, U.S.A.

NOTICE

WILD BIRD CONSERVATION ACT OF 1992

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

The Wild Bird Conservation Act (Act), a significant new step in international conservation efforts to protect exotic birds subject to trade, became effective on 23 October 1992. The Act focuses on bird species listed in the Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). If you import birds, you must now meet requirements imposed by this new law in addition to existing requirements imposed by CITES, the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, or other regulations that may apply.

IMPORTATIONS ALLOWED UNDER THE ACT

Permit Required

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) may issue permits to allow importation of otherwise prohibited species if the Service determines the importation does not undermine the species' survival. A permit must be issued by the Service prior to importation. Permits may be issued only for the following purposes:

- scientific research;
- zoological breeding or display;
- pet importation when owners are returning to the United

Wild Bird Act (continued)

- States after at least a year's absence; and
- cooperative breeding programs, if the programs have been approved by the Service.

In addition, the Service allows birds listed under CITES that were exported from the United States by their owners to return to the United States. These importations are allowed provided the birds were exported legally with a CITES permit and a copy of that permit is presented when the birds are to be returned to the United States. Also, owners must accompany these birds when they are returned to the United States.

Permit Not Required

The Act provides for certain otherwise prohibited importations without a permit provided the Service has approved the species, the captive breeding facility, or a scientifically based management plan for the species.

APPLYING FOR A PERMIT TO IMPORT BIRDS

Permit applications and any other information you may need are available from the Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 420, Arlington, Virginia 22203, U.S.A.; Telephone: 1-800-358-2104 or (703) 358-2093; FAX: (703) 358-2281.

OPPORTUNITIES

The **Foundation of Field Research** offers support for a graduate student or professional to conduct research on an introduced population of African Mona monkeys (*Cercopithecus mona*) on the island of Grenada. The foundation will provide use of its research center on the island, food, airfare, and a limited budget for supplies from 1 August 1994 to 1 August 1995. For further details contact: Foundation for Field Research, P.O. Box 771, St. George's, Grenada, West Indies, Telephone (809) 440-8854, FAX (809) 440-2330.

The **Mona monkey Project**, Grand Etang National Park, Grenada seeks a field assistant from now until August 1994. Responsibilities include assisting the Principal Investigator with collection of natural history data and assisting the Field Manager with general logistics. Applicants should have, as a minimum, a B.A. or B.S. in anthropology, wildlife biology, or a related biological science, be in good physical condition, and have some previous field experience. Room and board at the field station will be provided. Contact: Mary Glenn, c/o K. Bensen, Peace Corps, P.O. Box 766, St. George's, Grenada, West Indies; Telephone (809) 440-9779.

International Graduate Student Fellowship Program at the American Museum of Natural History's Center for

Opportunities (continued)

Biodiversity and Conservation. AMNH invites applications from non-U.S. citizens to enter a new doctoral program under the auspices of the Museum's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation. Students will have an outstanding opportunity to study a diversified curriculum in systematics, biodiversity, conservation, and public policy. Through their training, graduates of the program will advance environmental research and conservation programs in their countries. Students must simultaneously apply to the Museum and to one of four cooperating universities depending on field of interest. Students should have a bachelors degree and must fulfill university admission requirements. Students will receive travel assistance, full fellowship support for 12 months, and tuition will be fully paid. Applicants should contact the Office of Grants and Fellowships to discuss their interests, background, and eligibility for the Program. The Museum's deadline for full application on prescribed forms is 1 January 1995; this will include a resumé of your academic background, work experience, research interests, and the names of three referees familiar with your work. For further information on these requirements and those of the cooperating universities, contact:

Office of Grants and Fellowships
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, NY 10024, U.S.A.
Telephone: 212-769-5467
Fax: 212-769-5495
E-mail: bynum@amnh.org

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

29 April 1994 – **XIII Symposium on Caribbean Flora and Fauna**, Humacao University College, University of Puerto Rico, Humacao, Puerto Rico. (Dr. Miguel P. Sastre, Telephone: 809-850-9388; FAX: 809-850-0710; E-mail: M_SASTRE@CUHAC.UPR.CLU.EDU).

11-15 May 1994 – Joint meeting of **The Association of Systematics Collections and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections**, Missouri Botanical Garden. (ASC, 730 11th Street, N.W., Second Floor, Washington, D.C. 20001, U.S.A. Telephone: 202-347-2850).

7-12 June 1994 – Joint annual meeting of the **Society for Conservation Biology and The Association for Tropical Biology**, University of Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. (Eduardo Santana, Department of Wildlife Biology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, U.S.A. FAX: 608-262-6099; or Laboratorio Natural Las Joyas, Universidad de Guadalajara, Apdo. Postal 1-3933, Guadalajara, Jalisco, C.P. 44100, Mexico. FAX: 52-338-7-27-49).