



SOCIEDAD CARIBEÑA DE ORNITOLOGÍA

EL PITIRRE

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SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY INCORPORATES AND GETS NEW NAME

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The Society of Caribbean Ornithology has been incorporated and is about to apply for recognition as a tax-exempt organization by the United States Internal Revenue Service. Along with the new legal status, the organization has a new name: **Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds** (SCSCB). The new name reflects many years of discussion among members and officers about a name that both describes the full range of activities of its members and is more recognizable to the public.

Culminating years of effort by many people, including Catherine Levy, Rosemarie Gnam, Eric Carey, Maurice Anselme, Joe Wunderle, Jerry Jackson, Jim Wiley, Herb Raffaele, Ann Sutton, Ellen Paul, and others, the incorporation marks a turning point in the organization's development. Although the organization is, of course, Caribbean in its focus, the corporate documents were filed in the United States to allow the organization to apply for tax exempt status in that country, because most donors and grantors are in the United States and are more likely to contribute if their contributions are tax-deductible under U.S. law.

The filing of the documents to incorporate followed the open discussion of the proposed bylaws that was open to all members. After this three-month comment period, a ballot was mailed to all members current in 2001, asking for a vote to accept or reject the new bylaws. When the ballot period closed on May 15, the final tally was 66 votes to accept, 3 to reject, and 5 abstaining. The new bylaws will be posted on the SCSCB website at <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/SCO/index.html>.

UPCOMING SCO ELECTIONS

Elections for new a **Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds** board are about to commence. The new SCSCB bylaws, which are now posted on the website at <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/SCO/index.html>, provide for elections to begin with the appointment of a nominating committee. Watch the SCSCB website for an announcement of the appointment of the nominating committee. A call for nominations will be made by July 18 and the deadline for nominations is August 17.