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THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY TO CO-HOST THE THIRD NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology (SCO) has accepted an invitation to co-host the third North American Ornithological Conference, to be held 24–31 September 2002 in New Orleans. Although SCO will not hold a Society meeting at the conference (the next SCO meeting is scheduled for 2003), SCO will be sponsoring a symposium on the conservation and study of Caribbean birds. Rosemarie Gnam, Brandon Hay, and Carolyn Wardle will be organizing this effort. Please check the SCO website for further details.

SCO encourages its members, especially from the Caribbean region, to submit papers for the general paper sessions and for other symposia. Topics under consideration include: the impact of birds and bird biologists on conservation; an array of coffee-related topics, such as the bird–plant–insect interactions and economic and other issues that are related to efforts to increase the market share of shade-grown, organic, free-traded coffee; and the importance of fragmentation and edge effects in tropical habitats. Watch the North American Ornithological Conference (NAOC) website at <http://www.tulane.edu/~naoc-02/> for further details on the program and for information on registration.

SCO particularly encourages students to submit papers. Three of the co-hosts – the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), the Cooper Ornithological Society (COS), and the Raptor Research Foundation (RRF) – offer student travel awards. Although each limits eligibility to members of the societies, student memberships are inexpensive – \$15/year for RRF, \$22/year for COS, and \$20/year for AOU. In fact, the AOU provides several hundred grants in the form of a three-year AOU membership to qualifying western hemisphere undergraduate or graduate students interested in pursuing a career in ornithology (see page 83 of this issue). Membership grants will provide full membership in the AOU (including subscription to *The Auk*) for three consecutive years, and are not renewable. See the AOU website at <http://www.aou.org/aou/Member.html> for details. Details for membership in COS and RRF can be found by visiting BIRDNET – the website of the Ornithological Council – at <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/index.html>.

SCO members interested in attending this meeting should begin to look for funding immediately. Although some funding may be available from the Ornithological Council, the conference organizers, or other sources, there is no certain source of funding at this time. Should funding be available, SCO will give preference to those who (a) have demonstrated a commitment to the study and/or conservation of Caribbean birds, (b) will participate in the symposium it is organizing or some other Conference-related event, (c) are current members of the SCO, and (d) have demonstrated an effort to raise funding. SCO will be reluctant to provide full funding to anyone.

This is a great opportunity for SCO members to meet and talk with their colleagues, who rarely have an opportunity to attend SCO meetings, and to show how much SCO's capacity and energy have grown over the years. It is also a very good opportunity for students to meet potential mentors and advisors.