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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

2001 MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY

The next meeting of the Society for Caribbean Ornithology (SCO) will be held in Topes de Collante, Cuba from July 15 to July 22, 2001. Topes de Collante is a national park in the Sierra del Escambray, Sancti Spiritus Province, about 340 km east of Havana and about 21 km northwest of the nearest town, which is Trinidad.

A formal announcement, call for papers, and registration materials will be mailed by SCO by mid-January. Information will also be posted on the SCO website (<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/SCO/index.html>), Ornith-L and NEOORN. For instructions on subscribing to Ornith-L and NEOORN (and other ornithology listservers, see <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/mainindex.html#ProfInfo>). The same information will also be posted on the Caribbean Biodiversity Conservation listserv on <http://www.egroups.com/group/caribbean-biodiversity>. Information may also be obtained from Dr. Hiram Gonzalez, Cuba Local Committee, at ecologia@unepnet.inf.cu and ecologia@ceniai.inf.cu, as well as on the web page of the Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática: <http://www.cuba.cu/ciencia/CITMA/AMA/ecologia>. It is critical that conference attendees arrive no later than July 15, because the only way to get to this location is by private bus arranged by the tour operator. The tour operator has arranged for everyone to stay at the Novohotel in Miramar (a suburb of Havana) on the first night. The bus to the meeting site will leave from that hotel the next day. There may be public bus service to Trinidad, but there is probably no public transportation from Trinidad to the park or the hotel. Those who do not arrive on time (e.g., the day before) may not be able to get to the meeting. Renting a car in Cuba is not really any more expensive than elsewhere, but renters must pay an enormous cash deposit as well as the entire fee up front, so for a week's rental, in excess of \$900 in cash is needed for the least expensive car.

The registration fee will be \$75 per person prior to May 15; \$100 thereafter. The banquet fee is \$25. At this time, the anticipated cost is U.S.\$550 per person inclusive of all travel (including airport transfers), lodging, and meals (with the exception of the banquet). U.S. citizens planning to attend this meeting should note that information pertaining to U.S. Treasury Dept. requirements for legal travel to Cuba will be included in the announcements.