

**THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY**  
**ANNUAL MEETING, TRINIDAD**  
**28 JULY TO 2 AUGUST 1995**  
**CHANDRA DEGIA**  
*Grambling Cooperative Wildlife Project*  
*Grambling State University, Grambling, Louisiana 71245, U.S.A.*

The SCO held its annual meeting in Trinidad from 28 July to 2 August last. Some 47 persons attended, representing 13 countries. Participants hailed from the French-, Spanish-, Dutch-, and English-speaking Caribbean islands, as well as the mainland Americas, United Kingdom, and Venezuela. Presentations were made on Ecology, Behavior, Conservation, Taxonomy, Phylogeny, Biogeography, and Population Monitoring. Aside from these papers, island reports were made by representatives from the Greater and Lesser Antilles.

Of particular interest were the round-table discussions. The first such discussion was "The future of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology." During this discussion, several persons stressed the need for local participation at SCO meetings as they pointed out the relatively low turn-out of Trinidadians. Several suggestions, for example contacting media houses, were made as to how Island Representatives and Local Committees could improve attendance at future meetings. Some SCO members voiced the concern that annual meetings were often "too ornithological" and that little attention was being paid to socioeconomic factors, sustainable development, ecotourism, habitat conservation, and conservation education.

The second round-table discussion was entitled "Partnerships for Conservation." The first part of this discussion was on "Building Partnerships." Here several participants echoed their belief that a lack of communication between the Caribbean territories is a problem frequently discussed, yet is far from resolved. The session on "Wildlife Legislation and Conservation" revealed a great concern among SCO members for hunting laws and the enforcement of these laws. The day terminated with a thought-provoking discussion on

ecotourism.

The Resolutions were another highlight of the meeting. This section of the meeting demonstrated the potential the SCO has to facilitate positive change for ornithological issues in the Caribbean Basin. As the SCO grows and continues to spread its wings, it will certainly fulfill this potential.

Participants were able to take part in two field trips, a full day one to Asa Wright Nature Centre, followed by the Caroni Swamp; and an afternoon at Mount St. Benedict. The first was delightful, as members were permitted (unusual for day visitors to the Centre) to visit the Oilbirds. Following that visit a delightful lunch was provided by the hosts. In the afternoon, there was a boat trip through the mangroves of the Caroni Swamp to see the Scarlet Ibis come in to roost. A walk through the grounds of the spectacularly situated Mount St. Benedict Guest House was followed by tea (provided by the host) at which participants partook of all home-made delicacies.

The Society's banquet was the occasion for presentation of the annual award, received this year by Richard French, author of "A guide to the birds of Trinidad and Tobago." The Society made sure that Richard was able to attend the meeting, and he was tireless in assisting many persons to recognize and identify many of the species observed on the field trips.

This year saw a change of the Executive body, the previous one having served two terms. The full Executive Committee for 1995-97 is: Joseph Wunderle, Jr., President; Roeland de Kort, Vice-President; Marcia Mundle, Secretary; Rosemarie Gnam, Treasurer; Jim Wiley, Editor of *El Pitirre*; Catherine Levy, Immediate Past President.

#### CARIBBEAN POSTERS AVAILABLE

The CITES Conservation Treaty Support Fund (CTSF) has just published a beautiful poster entitled "Wild Treasures of the Caribbean," depicting sea turtles, birds, coral, and other endangered species of the Caribbean. The poster ties in with a brochure published by World Wildlife Fund/TRAFFIC USA as part of the "Buyer Beware" campaign that urges tourists and others not to buy endangered species or their products. The poster depicts Caribbean wildlife in a natural setting. Its design was done by the renowned wildlife artist, Mary Helsaple.

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology helped fund the production of this poster as part of the Society's public education effort. The idea for the poster and brochure was conceived at the 1992 CITES Training Workshop for English-speaking Caribbean nations.

Posters are free to the CITES Management Authorities on each Caribbean island. SCO Island Representatives can contact the CITES Management Authority on their island to help with distribution of the posters. A limited number of posters is available to the public to help raise funds for CITES and our Society. Our Society will receive a 10% profit from sales of the poster. SCO members can obtain the poster by sending a check or postal money order for \$25 (U.S.) to the Conservation Treaty Support Fund (CTSF), 3705 Cardiff Road, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815 U.S.A. Please indicate that you are a SCO member on your order. Discounts are available for wholesale purchases (20 posters or more). For further information, contact George Furness, Jr. at (301) 654-3150 or by fax at (301) 652-6390. PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE SCO IN THIS FUND-RAISING PROJECT!!!!

# SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

**President:**

Dr. Joseph Wunderle, Jr.

**Vice President:**

Mr. Roeland E. de Kort

Editor, *El Pitirre*

Dr. James W. Wiley

**Secretary:**

Dr. Marcia Mundle

**Treasurer:**

Dr. Rosemarie Gnam

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## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR U. S. REPRESENTATIVE

At the Annual Meeting in Trinidad, the Executive Officers of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology decided to hold an election for a representative to its Executive Board who will represent the continental United States. The by-laws and constitution of the Society provide that each country be represented on the Executive Board. In the past, there have been representatives for the Caribbean Islands, Puerto Rico, and Canada. Those persons represent the interests and conservation areas of the geographic areas for which they are responsible. Representatives serve two-year terms on the Board. In the past, there has not been a U. S. representative.

The Executive Officers are calling for nominations for the U. S. representative. Candidates must be members of the Society in good standing (annual membership dues paid),

have participated or be willing to participate in annual meetings, be willing to make a financial commitment to attend the annual meeting where the Executive Board meets, reside in the continental United States, be knowledgeable about ornithological and conservation issues in the U. S., and be willing to work at helping the Society achieve its goals. **Before nominating someone to serve as the U. S. representative, please confirm that the candidate is indeed willing to serve if elected.** Ballots will be mailed in December to all U. S. members who have paid their 1995 membership dues. These ballots will be included in the 1996 membership dues notice.

**Nominations should be sent no later than 15 November 1995 to Rosemarie Gnam, 13 East Rosemont Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301.**