

relative abundance, status, and bird occurrence on each island group is provided for use with the checklist. The checklist itself is divided into Waterbirds, from the grebes (Podicipedidae) to the gulls and terns (Laridae), and Landbirds, from the pigeons and doves (Columbidae) to the finches and sparrows (Emberizidae). Space is provided for recording new sightings and notes. In addition, a list of recommended books is given. Bird-watchers are reminded that permits are required to visit sanctuaries, and that birds in the Turks and Caicos Islands are protected. **Chandra A. Degia**, Grambling Cooperative Wildlife Project, P. O. Box 4290, Grambling State University, Grambling, Louisiana 71245, U. S. A.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS OF CUBA AND ADJACENT ISLANDS

As announced at the Society's 1993 annual meeting in Playa Girón, Cuba, the Breeding Bird Atlas of Cuba Project proposes to provide data on the status and distribution of the approximately 160 species that nest on the main island of Cuba, Isla de la Juventud (formerly Isla de Pinos), and adjacent keys. Preliminary results of the Project were presented at the XXI International Ornithological Congress held in Vienna, Austria last year. The Project is coordinated at the Zoology Department of the Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, with participating ornithologists from several Cuban agencies and institutions. Cuban ornithologists are in charge of finding and evaluating information from their colleagues. To date, funding for the Project has come mainly from the participating institutions, but a grant has been requested from the Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericano of Spain.

The Project organizers invite individuals and organizations interested in ornithology, biodiversity, and conservation to collaborate with them, or to send any suggestions they may have. They also request that interested ornithologists or birdwatchers who have visited Cuba during the breeding season send data for inclusion in the database. Each contribution will be acknowledged in the Atlas, and the organizers hope to offer copies of the book to collaborators at a reduced rate. The organizers request that curators of ornithological collections send a list of Cuban bird skins (with dates and localities) in their collections. All information and inquiries should be sent to:

Prof. Dr. Salvador J. Peris
Depto. de Biología Animal-Zoología
Facultad de Biología
Universidad de Salamanca
37071 Salamanca, España
Telephone: 923-294463
Fax: 923-294513

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL

The Ornithological Council is the public voice for ornithologists in the United States. It was founded in 1992 by seven scientific societies, including the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Colonial Waterbird Society, Cooper Ornithological Society, Pacific Seabird Group, Raptor Research Foundation, and Wilson Ornithological Society. These societies represent more than 5000 scientists and students of bird life with worldwide membership and expertise. The objectives of the Council and its members include to (1) Link the scientific community with public and private decision-makers; (2) Provide timely information about birds to help ensure scientifically-based decisions, policies, and management actions; (3) Inform ornithologists of proposals and actions that affect birds or the study of birds; and (4) Speak for scientific ornithology on public issues. Among the services provided by the Council are (1) Development of a database of expertise, (2) Analyses of funding trends in ornithological programs, and (3) Information exchange to improve the quality of decisions. A brochure describing The Ornithological Council and its activities is available from:

Dr. David Blockstein
NIE
730 11th St., NW, Suite 300
Washington, D. C. 20001-4521
Telephone: 202-628-1731

STATUS OF PUERTO RICAN RAPTORS

The Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*) and Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus venator*) were listed as Endangered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on 9 September 1994.

BUYER BEWARE BROCHURE AVAILABLE

The World Wildlife Fund, together with several Caribbean governments and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), has put together a brochure to educate tourists and protect endangered wildlife. "Buyer Beware" summarizes which wildlife and wildlife products should generally be avoided when looking for souvenirs. For a copy, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to World Wildlife Fund, 1250 24th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037, U.S.A., Attn.: "Buyer Beware" Brochure for the Caribbean.