

NEWS—NOTICIAS—NOTÍCIAS

VITH NEOTROPICAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

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The 6th Neotropical Ornithological Congress (VI NOC) was held in Monterrey and Saltillo, México, from 4 to 9 October 1999, convened by the Neotropical Ornithological Society (NOS). The VI NOC was made possible by the assistance of two organizing institutions, the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) and the Consejo Internacional para la Protección de las Aves-México (CIPAMEX), was hosted by the Museo de las Aves de México in Saltillo and by PRONATURA, and was sponsored by the Fundación ARA, A. C. The congress took place in the Centro Estudiantil del Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, where outstanding facilities are available for such a large meeting.

Organization. Initially, the VI CON was to have taken place in Costa Rica, under the chairmanship of Daniel Hernández. After the unexpected death of this respected colleague, a new venue had to be decided upon in about two and a half years. Monterrey, México, was selected, in part because of the facilities at ITESM and in part because the Local Organizing Committee could count on the sponsorship and support of several Monterrey and

Saltillo, as well as State and Federal Mexican organizations. The Local Organizing Committee, formed in 1997, included twelve ornithologists from Monterrey and México City, under the chairmanship of Ernesto C. Enkerlin and under the general coordination of Roberto Phillips. The Scientific Program Committee was headed by J. Francisco Ornelas of the Instituto de Ecología in Xalapa.

The attractive bags given each participant, and containing the abstract book and other congress material, were handsomely embroidered by hand with beautiful bird motifs by Chiapas women of the Tzeltal culture, an activity that was carried out under the sponsorship of PRONATURA in that state.

As part of a membership drive, and for the first time in the history of Neotropical Ornithological Congresses, each participant to the VI NOC who was not yet a member of the Neotropical Ornithological Society became one upon registering and paying his or her congress dues.

The VIth Neotropical Congress was held at ITESM in Monterrey, Nuevo León, on 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 October, and in Saltillo, Coahuila, on 6 October. Congress participants were

transported to and from Saltillo by bus. The Saltillo program, excellently organized by Aldegundo Garza de León and his staff at the museum, included a visit to the Museo de las Aves de México, a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of the Allan Phillips Memorial Library by the Governor of Coahuila, and four guest lectures (by Armando Fuentes-Aguirre, Gary Stiles, Niels Krabbe, and Adolfo Navarro).

Aeroméxico was appointed the official carrier to the congress. Several governmental (Federal Mexican and state, Nuevo León and Coahuila) and several non-governmental organizations provided support and services that were indispensable for the functioning of the VI NOC. Special assistance was provided during the congress by members of the Facultad de Ciencias of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and of CIPAMEX.

A ceremony for the issuing of a commemorative stamp was held on the second day of the congress, when the Mexican Postal Service (SEPOMEX), in association with "Unidos para la Conservación," presented a new stamp, the tenth, illustrating Mexican wildlife and representing a Harpy Eagle, painted by Karl Brest Van Kempen.

After the opening ceremony on the first evening of the congress on 4 October 1999, a welcome cocktail allowed participants to meet and mix in a most congenial atmosphere.

Membership. Members of the VIth Neotropical Congress included 419 registered participants from 26 countries, of which 18 were Latin American.

Opening and closing of the congress. The opening of the congress took place on Monday evening 4 October 1999. With the cheerful and efficient chairing of the event by master of ceremonies Jannette Chao, members were welcomed by NOS President Mario Ramos

and Congress Local Committee Chairman Ernesto Enkerlin. Other welcoming addresses were heard from twelve distinguished guests representing several governmental and non-governmental organizations, including Maca Garza de Romo on behalf of Fundación ARA, the major financial sponsor of the congress.

The congress was officially closed by President Mario Ramos at the banquet held on Saturday 9 October 1999 in the Hotel Holiday Inn Parque Fundidora in Monterrey, where, again, Jannette Chao acted as MC. The Alexander F. Skutch Award, from the Association of Field Ornithologists, was presented to Herbert Raffaele by Charles Duncan. Announcements were made about the VIIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress, which will be held in 2003 in Chile, and about the election of the new NOS President, François Vuilleumier, and of new members of the Executive Committee. Robert G. Goelet was elected a Patron of the NOS. Mexican ornithologists gave awards recognizing the special achievements of several ornithologists (posthumously to Allan R. Phillips and to Miguel Álvarez del Toro; and to Andrés M. Sada, Robert W. Dickermann, Aldegundo Garza de León, and Mario Ramos). Mario Ramos received a well-deserved ovation for his indefatigable work on behalf of the NOS for so many years. After the banquet a lively mariachi band entertained the participants, many of whom danced enthusiastically late into the night to the beat of hot Latin rhythms.

Local activities. For members who were so inclined, early morning bird walks were available through Aven-Tur of Monterrey (headed by Sonia Ortiz), which also organized a very successful post-congress field trip to the magnificent El Cielo Biosphere Reserve in Tamaulipas, from 10 to 12 October.

Cultural events. Tuesday 5 October, a special

evening program included the Omnimax movie "El Mar Viviente" and the congress stamp issue. In addition, the opening of the exhibit, "Guías de Aves: Los Ilustradores," took place, showing works by several artists, including Karl Brest Van Kempen, John O'Neill, George M. Sutton, Lorenzo Rosenzweig, and Oscar Córtez. The art exhibit was organized by Alida Madero-Enkerlin with the help of the bird- and butterfly-watching clubs of Monterrey (Club de Observadores de Aves and Papalotl, respectively).

Scientific program. The Scientific Program Committee, under the energetic chairmanship of J. Francisco Ornelas of the Instituto de Ecología in Xalapa, designed a varied program that included 320 oral papers, 105 posters, 9 symposia, and 15 thematic tables. In addition, several interest groups held informal meetings during the congress.

Report of the executive board. The Executive Board held two meetings of board members on 4 and 8 October, during which various items were discussed, including finances, committee membership, board membership, editorial matters, plans for special publications, and the venue of the VIIth NOC. On 9 October, the Board held an open meeting, during which the results of the election and other organizational matters were presented, including plans for the future of the Society and the increase of Ornitología Neotropical from two to four issues per year.

The new Executive Board (see also The President's Page) consists of President François Vuilleumier; Vice-President Roberto Cavalcanti; Treasurer J. Michael Meyers; Secretary Robert Beason; Editor of Ornitología Neotropical Raymond McNeil; and Council Members Mary Victoria McDonald, Eugene S. Morton, and Edwin O. Willis.

The following committees and their chairpersons were selected: Executive Board

(chaired by NOS President François Vuilleumier); Local Arrangements Committee (chair to be selected); Scientific Program Committee (chair: Karl-L. Schuchmann); Resolutions Committee (co-chairs: Maria del Coro Arizmendi and David Blockstein); Membership Committee (chair: Jack Clinton Eitnienar); Fundraising Committee (chair: François Vuilleumier); Conservation Committee (co-chairs: Alejandro Grajal and Jean-Marc Thiollay); Travel Grants Committee (chair: André Weller).

The following individuals were elected to the special category of Honorary Member (see also The President's Page in this issue): Humberto Álvarez López (organizer of the Cali congress in 1987), Juan Daciuk (initiator of the Neotropical congresses), Ernesto Enkerlin-Hoeflich (organizer of the Monterrey congress), Jürgen Haffer (for his scientific contributions to Neotropical ornithology), Nancy Hilgert de Benavides (organizer of the Quito Congress in 1991), Nancy López de Kochalka (organizer of the Asunción congress in 1995), Allan R. Phillips (posthumously for his scientific contributions to Neotropical and Mexican ornithology), Mario A. Ramos (past President and organizer of the Xalapa congress in 1983), John H. Rappole (past Secretary and Treasurer of the NOS), and Karl-L. Schuchmann (past Editor of Ornitología Neotropical).

To recognize his substantial and continued financial support of the Neotropical Ornithological Society, Mr. Robert G. Goelet was elected to the special category of Patron (see also The President's Page).

Funding. Sources of income for the VIth Neotropical Congress included the proceeds from membership fees. In addition, generous support was received from many sources, especially Fundación ARA (official sponsor of the VIth Congress). The following other organizations are gratefully acknowledged for their

support: Aeroméxico, American Bird Conservancy, American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Bebidas Mundiales, Birders' Exchange, Bureau of Land Management, Casa Madero, Centro Cultural Alfa, Centro Estudiantil ITESM, Colorado Bird Observatory, Domecq, Ducks Unlimited, Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of the American Museum of Natural History, Grupo Millenium, Grupo Senda, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Mobil Kraft S.A. de C.V., National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Nabisco, Neotropical Bird Club, Nestlé, Partners in Flight, Pronatura A.C., Pronatura Noreste A.C., Rizzo, US Aid, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Finally, a special word of thanks from the Neotropical Ornithological Society is due to Mr. Robert G. Goelet.

Grants to participants. Thanks to the generosity of the sponsors cited above, the Local Organizing Committee of the VIth NOC was able to make financial grants to 105 persons, totaling over \$61,000, to defray costs of attending the congress, and to award partial registration support to 54 additional participants.

Acknowledgments. In addition to the organizations and persons cited above, special acknowledgments are due to the ITESM, CIPAMEX, Museo de las Aves de México (Saltillo), Pronatura, Pronatura Noreste, and Fundación ARA, without whose support the congress would not have been possible.

Warm thanks are due to the members of the Club de Observadores de Aves del Noroeste, to Sonia Ortiz of Aven-Tur in Monterrey, to the Chairman of the Scientific Program Committee J. Francisco Ornelas and his assistants in Xalapa, and to the members of the Local Organizing Committee: Roberto Phillips, Jannette Chao, Sayuri Yamanaka, Verónica Tafich, Claudia Macías, Clementina González, Jorge Brenner, Miguel Angel Cruz, Alida Madero, Magdalena Rovalo, and many volunteers who supported their work.

Finally, we extend our most heartfelt thanks to our past President Mario Ramos, who has worked diligently on behalf of the NOS for so many years, who organized the IId Congress in Xalapa, and who was instrumental in helping make the VIth Congress in Monterrey a reality.

XXIIIRD INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The XXIIIrd International Ornithological Congress will be held in Beijing, China, on **11–17 August 2002**.

The following officers were elected: Honorary President, Prof. Ernst Sutter (Switzerland), President, Prof. Walter Bock (U.S.A., *E-mail*: wb4@columbia.edu), Vice President, Prof. Jacques Blondel (France, *E-mail*: blondel@cefe.cnrs-mop.fr), Secretary-General, Prof. Xu Weishu (China, *E-mail*: s-g@ioc.org.cn), Assistant Secretary-General, The Honorable Liu Feng (China, *E-mail*:

liufeng@public.bta.net.cn), Secretary of the International Ornithological Committee, Dr. Dominique G. Homberger (U.S.A., *E-mail*: zodhomb@lsu.edu>).

The Scientific Program Committee for the XXIIIrd International Ornithological Congress has been appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. Fernando Spina (Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica, Via Ca' Fornacetta 9, I-40064 Ozzano Emilia (BO), Italy. Phone: +39-051-65-12-111; Fax: +39-051-79-66-28; *E-mail*: infsioc@iperbole.bologna.it).

General information on the congress can be obtained via e-mail: infocenter@ioc.org.cn, or via the internet at <http://www.ioc.org.cn>. Information about the IOC can also be obtained from our new home page at <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRD-NET/IOC/>.

All inquiries about the scientific program of the 23rd congress, as well as comments and suggestions for the general program, plenary lectures, symposia, contributed papers (in the form of oral presentations and poster papers) and round table discussions, should be sent to Dr. Fernando Spina.

As in previous congresses, the plenary speakers will be internationally known ornithologists chosen to cover a diversity of topics to ornithologists. Symposia contributions will be intended for the general ornithologist rather than the specialist and should offer updated review papers on recent developments in a research field. Contributed papers will provide a means for individual ornitholo-

gists to present their most recent findings and ideas to the congress.

All interested ornithologists are invited and urged strongly to submit proposals for symposia and for plenary speakers before the end of April 2000. Proposals of plenary speakers should include the name and address (including e-mail address) of the proposed speaker, and a statement of the possible topic and why the person was proposed. Symposia proposals should include a title, a statement on the expected content of the symposium (not exceeding 1800 characters), suggested symposia speakers (maximum 5, including postal and e-mail addresses), the suggested conveners (a primary convener and a co-convener, including their full postal and e-mail addresses). It is urged that contributors in each symposium be as international as possible. Round table discussions can also be proposed at this time although there will be a subsequent call for proposals for RTDs and for contributed papers.

THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The Southern Hemisphere Ornithological Congress will be convened by Birds Australia (formerly RAOU) and the Queensland Ornithological Society for **27 June to 2 July 2000** in Brisbane, Australia. The program will include such topics as: Birds on the edge: fragmentation & disturbance; parrot conservation: methods & management; community & population ecology of forest birds; biology

of ratites; historical ecology and biogeography of southern hemisphere birds; movement patterns of south hemisphere landbirds; southern mating systems; seabird ecology and conservation; breeding biology of tropical and southern hemisphere birds; wader migration studies. Fax information request to: SHOC 2000 Congress Secretariat Conventions Queensland: + 61 7 3371 9514.

THE GOELET STUDENT FUND

At the VIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress in Monterrey, Mexico, October 1999,

Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Goelet of New York City donated \$5000 to the Society of Neotro-

pical Ornithology, to be used as seed money for a fund, to be called the "Goelet Student Fund," which is earmarked specifically to make financial grants to students from the Neotropical Region in order for them to attend and present either a paper or a poster at the VIIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress, which will be held in 2003 in Chile.

This Society of Neotropical Ornithology would like to raise additional money in order to at least double the amount in this fund by early 2003, when grants will be made to deserving students. In order to reach this important goal, donations from members are urgently solicited. Even small gifts, when made by many people, can go a long way. Thus if 200 members each were to give \$20 in addition to their annual dues in 2000, then our goal would be nearly reached only one year after the initial donation by Mr. and Mrs.

Goelet.

The status of the Neotropical Ornithological Society as a tax-exempt organization under the United States Internal Revenue Service code insures that members' donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by US law.

Gifts should be made to the Neotropical Ornithological Society, earmarked as a contribution to the "Goelet Student Fund," and sent to Dr. J. Michael Meyers, Treasurer, The Neotropical Ornithological Society, Warnell School of Forest Resources, D. W. Brooks Drive, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-2152, USA.

All payments must be to the treasurer in US currency, either by credit card (VISA, MasterCard), or by cheque or international money order drawn on a US bank. *E-mail:* jmeyers@smokey.forestry.uga.edu.

VIIth NEOTROPICAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The VIIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress (VII NOC), will take place in 2003 in Chile. The VII NOC will be hosted by the Union de Ornitólogos de Chile (UNORCH) under the chairmanship of Dr. Yerko A. Vilina, of the Universidad Santo Tomás, Ejercito 146, Santiago, Region Metropolitana, Chile. The Congress will probably be held in October (austral spring) in either Valdivia or

Puerto Varas. This is an advance announcement designed to inform members of the Neotropical Ornithological Society about the VII NOC, so that they can put this date on their calendar at this early date. As more information concerning the exact place and date of the Congress and its organization becomes available it will be announced in *Ornitología Neotropical*.