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VIITH NEOTROPICAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS, PUYEHUE, CHILE, 5–11 OCTOBER 2003: REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL

François Vuilleumier¹ & Luis A. Espinosa G.²

¹President, VIIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress, Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192, U.S.A. *E-mail*: vuill@amnh.org

²Secretary General, VIIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress, Unión de Ornitólogos de Chile, Grupo Censo de Aves Acuáticas, Casilla 301, Puerto Varas, Chile.
E-mail: espinosachile@hotmail.com

Resumen. – VII^{mo} Congreso de Ornitología Neotropical, Puyehue, Chile, 5–11 de Octubre de 2003: Informe del Presidente y del Secretario General. – El VII^{mo} Congreso de Ornitología Neotropical (VII CON), organizado por la Sociedad de Ornitología Neotropical (SON), tuvo lugar en Puyehue, X^{ma} Región, Chile, del 5 al 11 de Octubre de 2003. Dos otras reuniones se realizaron al mismo tiempo: El VII^{mo} Congreso Chileno de Ornitología y la Conferencia en Conservación de Especies Migratorias en el Hemisferio Occidental. La Unión de Ornitólogos de Chile (UNORCH) fue la sociedad patrocinadora en Chile. El presidente del VII CON fue François Vuilleumier y su Secretario General Luis A. Espinosa G. Las hermosas facilidades del Hotel y Spa Termas de Puyehue (salones de plenarios, salas de reuniones, acomodaciones y comida) ofrecieron un magnífico lugar de encuentro. Aqua Motion Ltda de Puerto Varas, con su Gerente General Matthias Holzmann, proporcionó una excelente ayuda logística en terreno. Las preparaciones para el VII CON comenzaron en Noviembre de 1999 y se continuaron con muchas otras reuniones, en Chile y los Estados Unidos. La página web del Congreso permitió a los participantes registrarse en línea. Mas de 391 participantes se registraron de 37 países, 26 de los cuales eran de América Latina. Asistencia financiera de cerca de \$55 000 fue otorgada a alrededor de 100 participantes (uno de cada cuatro recibió ayuda financiera). El costo total del VII CON fue alrededor de \$220 000; los mayores gastos fueron los del hotel, la traducción simultánea y la página web. La obtención de fondos extras fue indispensable para cubrir estos gastos, ya que sólo con los valores de las inscripciones no se alcanzan a cubrir los costos de un evento de tal envergadura. Un excelente programa científico, preparado por los co-presidentes: Cristina Y. Miyaki (Brasil) y Jaime Jiménez (Chile), incluyó 5 plenarios, 20 simposios de 5 presentaciones cada uno, 6 talleres, 2 mesas redondas, 20 sesiones de presentaciones orales y 140 afiches. Excursiones anteriores y posteriores al congreso permitieron a los participantes visitar una variada gama de paisajes, desde la costa y puna en el extremo norte, hasta la Patagonia y Tierra del Fuego en el extremo sur. Premios fueron entregados a los autores de las mejores presentaciones y afiches de estudiantes. Fue creado un nuevo fondo de la SON, el

Fondo Vuilleumier designado a ayudar a jóvenes estudiantes latinoamericanos en ornitología Neotropical. En el último día del VII CON, el nuevo comité ejecutivo de la SON, bajo la presidencia de Patricia Escalante-Pliego (México), tomo a su cargo la administración de la SON. Las ceremonias de apertura y clausura, realizadas en el salón principal del hotel Termas de Puyehue, incluyeron una interpretación musical del famoso grupo folklórico chileno Bordemar.

Resumo. – VII Congresso de Ornitologia Neotropical, Puyehue, Chile, 5-11 de Outubro de 2003:

Relatório do Presidente e do Secretário Geral. – O VII Congresso de Ornitologia Neotropical (CON), organizado pela Sociedade de Ornitologia Neotropical (SON), ocorreu em Puyehue, Xª Região, Chile, de 5 a 11 de Outubro de 2003. Dois eventos adicionais ocorreram simultaneamente: a VII Congresso de Ornitologia Chilena e a Conferência sobre Conservação de Espécies Migratórias no Hemisfério Ocidental. A União de Ornitólogos Chilenos (UNORCH) foi a sociedade anfitriã no Chile. O Presidente do VII NOC foi François Vuilleumier e o Secretário Geral foi Luis A. Espinosa G. A infraestrutura do Hotel e Spa Termas de Puyehue (anfiteatros, salas de reunião, acomodações e refeições) forneceu um excelente e belo local para o evento. A Aqua Motion Ltda. De Puerto Varas, coordenada pelo seu Gerente Geral Matthias Holzmann, proporcionou um excelente apoio logístico local. Os preparativos para o VII NOC se iniciaram em Novembro de 1999 e foram discutidos em várias reuniões no Chile e nos Estados Unidos. A página de Internet do Congresso permitiu que os participantes se registrassem “online”. Estavam presentes mais de 391 participantes registrados de 37 países, 26 dos quais eram da América Latina. Mais de 70% dos participantes eram da América Latina. Muitos estudantes compareceram (cerca de 55% do total de participantes), sendo a maioria da América Latina. Auxílio financeiro de cerca de USD\$ 55 000 foi oferecido para cerca de 100 participantes (um de cada quatro participantes recebeu auxílio). O orçamento total do VII NOC, de aproximadamente USD\$ 220 000, incluiu como despesas mais elevadas os custos do hotel, o service de tradução e a página de Internet. A captação de recursos foi indispensável para cobrir todos os gastos, pois as inscrições não seriam suficientes para cobri-los. O programa científico, preparado pelos “co-chairs” do Comitê de Programa Científico, Cristina Miyaki (Brasil) e Jaime Jiménez (Chile), incluiu cinco palestras plenárias, 20 simpósios com cinco apresentações cada, seis oficinas, duas mesas-redondas, 20 seções de apresentações orais e 140 painéis. As viagens pré e pós-congresso permitiram que os participantes visitassem vários tipos de paisagem no Chile, na costa e puna no extremo norte, até a Patagônia e Terra do Fogo. Foram distribuídos prêmios para os melhores trabalhos orais e painéis de estudantes. Um novo “Fundo Vuilleumier” foi criado para auxiliar jovens estudantes de ornitologia neotropical da América Latina. No último dia do VII NOC, a nova Diretoria Executiva da SON tomou posse, tendo como Presidente Patricia Escalante-Pliego (México). As cerimônias de abertura e encerramento, que ocorreram no auditório geral em termas de Puyehue, incluíram apresentações musicais do famoso grupo chileno Bordemar.

Abstract. – The VIIth Neotropical Congress of Ornithology (VII NOC), organized by the Neotropical Ornithological Society (NOS), took place in Puyehue, Xth Region, Chile, 5–11 October 2003. Two other meetings were held concurrently: the VIIth Chilean Congress of Ornithology and the Conference on Conservation of Migratory Species in the Western Hemisphere. The Union of Chilean Ornithologists (UNORCH) was the host society in Chile. The president of the VII NOC was François Vuilleumier and its Secretary General Luis A. Espinosa G. The beautiful facilities of the Hotel and Spa Termas de Puyehue (lecture halls, meeting rooms, accommodation, and food) offered a magnificent venue. Aqua Motion Ltda of Puerto Varas, headed by its General Manager Matthias Holzmann, provided excellent logistical ground support. Preparations for the VII NOC started in November 1999 and were carried out through many meetings, in Chile and in the United States. The Congress website allowed participants to register online. Over 391 registered participants from 37 countries, 26 of which were from Latin America, attended the VII NOC. Over 70% of the participants were from Latin America. Many students (about 55% of the total of participants) attended, most of them from Latin America. Financial assistance of about \$55,000 was awarded to about 100 participants (one participant in four therefore received financial help). The total budget of the VII NOC, about \$220,000, included as major expenses hotel costs, translation services, and

the website. Fund raising was indispensable to cover these expenses, as the registration fees do not cover the costs of such an event. The outstanding scientific program, prepared by Scientific Program Co-Chairs Cristina Y. Miyaki (Brazil) and Jaime Jiménez (Chile), included 5 plenary lectures, 20 symposia of 5 papers each, 6 workshops, 2 round tables, 20 sessions of oral papers, and 140 posters. Pre- and post Congress field trips allowed participants to visit Chile's varied landscapes, from the coast and puna in the extreme north, to Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego in the far south. Prizes were awarded for the best student oral papers and posters. A new fund of the NOS, the Vuilleumier Fund, designed to help young Latin American students of Neotropical ornithology, was created. As of the last day of the VII NOC, the new Executive Board of the NOS, under the presidency of Patricia Escalante-Pliego (Mexico) took over the administration of the NOS. The opening and closing ceremonies, held in the main lecture hall at Termas de Puyehue, included musical entertainment by the well-known Chilean group Bordemar.

Key words: VII Neotropical Ornithological Congress, Puyehue, Chile, South America, Latin America, Neotropical Ornithological Society, scientific program, organizing committees, budget, Vuilleumier Fund, student participation.

INTRODUCTION

This was the first time that Chilean ornithologists had the pleasure of hosting a Neotropical Ornithological Congress. Two previous congresses had been convened in southern South America, the 1st in Argentina (Buenos Aires, 25 November–1 December 1979), and the 5th in Paraguay (Asunción, 5–11 August 1995). Organized by the Neotropical Ornithological Society (NOS), the VIIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress (VII NOC) was held in Puyehue, just outside the magnificent Puyehue National Park, Xth Region, Chile, from 5 to 11 October 2003. The host society in Chile, the Union of Chilean Ornithologists (Unión de Ornítólogos de Chile, UNORCH) helped organize the VII NOC, and held the VIIth Chilean Congress of Ornithology (VII Congreso Chileno de Ornitología, VII CCO) simultaneously and jointly with the VII NOC. In parallel with these two congresses, the Department of State and the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States convened the “Conference on Conservation of Migratory Species in the Western Hemisphere” (CCMSWH; “Conferencia del Hemisferio Occidental sobre Conservación de Especies Migratorias”), 6–8 October 2003.

All three events, VII NOC, VII CCO, and

CCMSWH, took place under the same roof, in the spectacular “Hotel and Spa Termas de Puyehue,” which has second-to-none facilities for reunions with such a large number of attendants. To go from one event to another, all the participants had to do was to walk up or down a couple of floors to reach the main lecture hall, the different rooms for symposia, oral papers, workshops, and round table discussions, or the halls where posters were displayed and exhibitors showed their products, and where artwork was hung. The spacious dining room areas were conveniently located just below the meeting halls areas. When they wanted a break, the congress attendants needed only to step out of the Hotel Termas de Puyehue and take short walks to a variety of habitats where local and endemic Chilean birds could easily be observed. Other facilities included very comfortable spaces for small or informal meetings, a centrally located and well-stocked bar, shops, and a thermal swimming pool.

Spanish and English were the two official languages of the congress. Speakers were encouraged to deliver their papers in English, as this is the *lingua franca* of science, but they were left to choose. A translation service was available during the congress (see below). General items in the Program and

Book of Abstracts were printed in both languages. Abstracts were printed in the languages in which they were submitted.

This report generally follows the format used by Enkerlin-Hoeflich & Vuilleumier (2000) in their report of the VIth NOC in Monterrey, México, 4–9 October 1999. However, the present document includes details about the organization and other aspects of the VIIth congress that the earlier one for the VIth congress did not have. We hope thereby, first to set a standard and a template for the preparation of future NOC reports, thus facilitating the task of authors of such reports, and second, to provide information that will be useful for those in charge of organizing future NOCs. The list of registered participants at VII NOC is included in Appendix 1. It was prepared using the databases elaborated by Ellen Paul and Ximena Campbell.

ORGANIZATION

The decision to hold the VII NOC in Chile was made at the VIth NOC in Monterrey, México, in October 1999, after several proposals from other countries had been examined by the then Executive Board of the NOS. In November 1999, a month after having been elected to the new Executive Board of the NOS for the 4-year period 1999–2003, NOS president François Vuilleumier and Council Member Victoria McDonald flew to Chile to attend the VIth Chilean Congress of Ornithology in Antofagasta. There they laid the groundwork and set up an agenda and timetable for the VII NOC, with the help of an *ad hoc* committee consisting of several UNORCH members, including its then president, Jürgen Rottmann, and the eventual Secretary General of the VII NOC, Luis A. Espinosa G. The decision to hold the VII NOC jointly with the VII CCO in the town of Puerto Varas, Xth

Region, in southern Chile's beautiful Lake District, was made in Antofagasta in November 1999.

Between October 2000 and February 2003, Vuilleumier made five other trips to Chile, either alone or accompanied at various times by NOS Executive Board members Victoria McDonald, Raymond McNeil, and M. Ross Lein, by Scientific Program Committee Co-Chairs Cristina Miyaki and Jaime Jimenez, and by coordinator Ellen Paul. During these trips, to Puerto Varas and to Santiago, Chile's capital, numerous meetings were held with Chilean organizations and offices in addition to members of the Executive Board of UNORCH, including SAG (Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero), CONAF (Corporación Nacional Forestal de Chile), the National Museum of Natural History, CONAMA (Corporación Nacional del Medio Ambiente), the Mayor of Puerto Varas, the Governor ("Intendente") of the Xth Region, and the Rector (President) of the Universidad de los Lagos. The detailed structure of the organization of the VII NOC was in place before the end of 2000.

François Vuilleumier, president of the NOS, was also president of the VII NOC. Luis A. Espinosa G., of Puerto Varas, member of the Executive Board of UNORCH and Coordinator of Waterbird Censuses in Chile, was appointed Secretary General. After his withdrawal as chair of the Scientific Program Committee (SPC), Dr. Karl-L. Schuchmann (Germany) was replaced by two co-chairs, Dr. Jaime Jiménez, of the Universidad de los Lagos in Osorno, Chile, and Dra. Cristina Yumi Miyaki, of the Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil. The full SPC eventually included an additional ten members from six countries: Cristián Estades, María Victoria López, Roberto Schlatter, and Cristina Klesse (Chile), Maria Alice dos Santos Alves and Luiz dos Anjos (Brazil), Patricia Escalante (México), Diego Montalti (Argentina), John

Rappole (USA), and Angela Schmitz-Ornés (Venezuela). The Student Travel Awards Committee was composed of André Weller (Germany), Chairman, and members Luiz dos Anjos (Brazil) and John Rappole (USA). Cristián Estades, Charif Tala, and Jorge Tomasevic were appointed by UNORCH as the official UNORCH representatives on the organization of the VII NOC, and were also charged to coordinate activities between the VII NOC and UNORCH's own VII CCO.

Early in 2000 the Executive Board of the NOS appointed Matthias Holzmann, General Manager (“Gerente General”) of Aqua Motion Ltda in Puerto Varas, Tour Operator for Chile and Patagonia and a member of the Board of Directors of the “Corporación de Desarrollo Turístico y Cultural de Puerto Varas,” as the Local Coordinator for Logistics. Subsequently, Matthias Holzmann and his staff at Aqua Motion (Jorge Barra, Ximena Campbell, Kathy Cuevas, Antonio Hernández, Karin Holzmann, Klaus Holzmann, María Alicia Madrid, Alejandra Mardones, and Hugo Torres) and the officers and staff of the Corporación, especially its President, Eric Ebner Fuentes, and its Executive Director, Bettina Holzmann, all working in close coordination with the NOS, prepared the ground arrangements for the VII NOC, such as accommodation, local transportation, cultural events, registration of participants, etc. The Executive Board of the NOS entered into an agreement with the Executive Board of the “Corporación” that greatly facilitated, among other things, financial aspects of the organization of the VII NOC. Ellen Paul (USA), Executive Director of the Ornithological Council, joined the organization of the NOC in 2002 as a coordinator, and greatly assisted the NOS and the local committees in Chile during the final phases of preparation of the congress. She and NOS Secretary M. Ross Lein accompanied François Vuilleumier during a critical

last trip to Chile prior to the congress, in early 2003.

The members of the Executive Board of the NOS unanimously agreed that it was indispensable to publish a volume of Proceedings of the Congress. Raymond McNeil, Editor of *Ornitología Neotropical*, took over the responsibility of editing these proceedings, and set up guidelines for the preparation of manuscripts. Iván Lazo, former Managing Editor of the *Revista Chilena de Historia Natural*, was appointed co-editor of the proceedings.

In spite of the usual difficulties (and some quite unusual ones) that the organizers of the NOC had to surmount before the congress, the detailed preparations made prior to the opening of the VII NOC insured a flawless congress. Upon their arrival in Puyehue, participants were given an attractive briefcase of dark green cloth (the color of forests in southern Chile...), containing the Program and Book of Abstracts, and adorned with the insignias of the two congresses and the handsome logo of the NOC, a Buff-necked Ibis *Theristicus melanopis*, an abundant and typical species of southern Chile's lake region, depicted against a background of lake, forest, snow, and a perfectly cone-shaped volcano. The beautiful VII NOC logo was designed by the talented Chilean ornithologist and artist Ricardo Matus, who was chair of the NOC Art Exhibit Committee, with Jorge Ruiz as his co-chair.

LanChile was the official airline of the VII NOC. Several organizations provided crucial services and much needed personnel before and during the congress. They include especially the Universidad de los Lagos in Osorno, Tur Viajes, UNORCH, Intérpretes Simultáneas Ltda, and Aqua Motion. The very attractive Program and Book of Abstracts, painstakingly prepared by Scientific Program Committee co-chairs Jaime Jimenez and Cristina Miyaki, was designed by graphic designer

Verónica Etcheverry R. from Puerto Montt and printed by Etcheverry Printers in Osorno. Other printing jobs were executed by Gráfica Ensenada (Luis Hernán Droguett S., manager) in Puerto Varas. The costs of printing the Program and Book of Abstracts were underwritten by the Universidad de los Lagos, thanks to its President (“Rector”) Raúl Aguilar G., and by François Vuilleumier.

During the congress, simultaneous translation was available for the speeches at official events, like the opening and closing ceremonies, and for plenary lectures, symposia papers, and some other scientific events. The translators from Intérpretes Simultáneas Ltda in Santiago worked extremely hard and very efficiently, and managed to master the technical jargon of ornithologists in no time at all. They were Inés Cox, Valenne Georges, Jacqueline Jaime, Ana María de Lacerda, Pamela Lagniel, Lia Lloyd-Clare, José Manuel Medina, Enrique Miriel, María Elena Pastor, and María Alicia Ruiz-Tagle. They translated from English into Spanish and vice-versa, and often had to move quickly from one mode of translation to the other and back again, as speakers at times, in their international enthusiasm, switched back and forth from one language to the other. The translators were also able to understand and skillfully translate the presentations of speakers who lectured in a language other than their mother tongue. We express our warm thanks to the interpreters on behalf of the organizers of the VII NOC and of all participants who benefited from their services.

For the first time in the history of NOCs, which goes back to 1979, a very professional and attractive website (www.nocchile.cl) was designed. Oscar Aguilera A. of CamGraphic S.A. in Puerto Varas, under the direction of its General Manager Juan Claudio Peters A., who was also a member of the Local Organizing Committee, was the designer of the site. All information concerning the VII NOC was

thus available on the Internet. This permitted participants to register, to apply for accommodation, to send abstracts of their presentations, and to book pre-or post Congress tours, all online.

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF NOS AND UNORCH AT TIME OF THE CONGRESS

In October 2003, at the time of the VII NOC and VII CCO, the boards of directors of the two societies were composed of the following members:

Neotropical Ornithological Society: President, François Vuilleumier (USA); vice-president, Roberto Cavalcanti (Brazil); secretary, M. Ross Lein (Canada; who replaced Robert C. Beason, USA, after the latter withdrew in 2002); treasurer, J. Michael Meyers (USA); directors, M. Victoria McDonald (USA), Eugene S. Morton (USA), and Edwin O. Willis (Brazil); Editor-in-Chief of *Ornitología Neotropical*, Raymond McNeil (Canada).

Union de Ornítólogos de Chile: President, Guillermo Egli W.; vice-president, Jürgen Rottmann; secretary, Armando Salce; treasurer, Ricardo González; directors, Jorge Lee and Jorge Tomasevic; Editor-in-Chief of *Boletín Chileno de Ornitología*, Cristián Estades.

VENUE OF THE CONGRESS

The original venue of the VII NOC, selected in October 2000, was the former Hotel and Casino of Puerto Varas, a large and spacious structure located on a wooded hillside dominating the town of Puerto Varas, only a few hundred meters from the center of town, and with superb views of Lake Llanquihue and the spectacular, snow-peaked Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes. Unfortunately, because of circumstances that the NOC organizers could

not control, the venue as originally planned had to be abandoned in February 2003, only eight months before the October 5–11 dates of the NOC. In spite of this very serious hardship, however, we were able to rent the superb Hotel Termas de Puyehue for the exclusive use of the VII NOC, and also to rent two excellent adjacent facilities for accommodation of NOC and CCO participants, especially students and others with modest means, Cabañas Ñilque at a lovely lakeside site, and the cabins at Aguas Calientes, right inside Puyehue National Park. We were also able to negotiate for, and obtain, very attractive rates that included full room and board at these facilities for the entire week of the Congress. Once the issue of the venue was settled, another problem, transportation, needed a solution, as Puyehue, at the foot of the Andes, is located about 180 km north of the town of Puerto Varas and the airport of Puerto Montt, where most participants would arrive. Thanks to Matthias Holzmann and his staff at Aqua Motion we entered into an agreement with Tur Viajes and were able to obtain the use of their luxurious coaches for this operation.

Congress participants were met upon arrival at El Tepual, Puerto Montt's airport, by representatives from Aqua Motion, and then driven directly to the accommodation of their choice, whether Termas de Puyehue, Ñilque, or Aguas Calientes. During the ride from El Tepual to Puyehue, local guides gave explanations about Chile, the Lake Region, and the congress. We thank them all for their wonderful job. Also, a word of thanks for the drivers of the coaches is in order. Not only were they good drivers, they were also helpful to participants and courteous under all circumstances. During the congress week, a bus shuttle service was available to take participants back and forth from either Ñilque or Aguas Calientes to the congress center at Hotel Termas de Puyehue.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

A wide range of room types, and hence of prices, was available to participants, depending on whether they selected Termas de Puyehue, Ñilque, or Aguas Calientes, and whether they choose single rooms, rooms with extra beds, cabins, or suites. These different kinds of accommodation were all excellent. Meals, included in the cost package that was negotiated with these three companies, were provided in the dining rooms of Hotel and Spa Termas de Puyehue. The astonishing variety and great abundance of the various kinds of food served during the Congress week were only matched by their extraordinary quality, meal after meal and day after day. Although the meals were served buffet-style, excellent waiter service was also available. The Executive Chef (Hernán Quiroz) and his staff, the Wine Steward (John Harrison) and his staff, and the Head Waiter (Daniel Giorgis) and his staff, were all extremely attentive to the needs of Congress participants and insured that everyone was satisfied and happy. In this they succeeded admirably. We thank them for their outstanding work and their courtesy, which greatly helped make the VII NOC a success, by adding a very welcome gastronomical element to the scientific side of the meeting. We should add that a wide variety of beverages were available, including some of the excellent local beers and some of the many wonderful Chilean wines. Everybody appreciated the skill and good humor of the Head Barman, Victor Chacón. We heard several participants, veterans of other international meetings, state that the food at the VII NOC was the best they had ever eaten at such congresses.

NOC PARTICIPATION

General participation. The VII NOC was truly international, with over 391 registered participants from 37 countries, 26 of which were

from Latin America. By comparison, the VI NOC in Monterrey, México, had 419 registered participants from 26 countries, 18 of which were from Latin America. The largest national representations at VII NOC were from the USA (90 participants), Chile (58), Brazil (43), Argentina (42), and Mexico (35). There were 17 attendants from Colombia, 13 from Bolivia, 10 from Venezuela, 8 from Uruguay, and smaller numbers from other Latin American countries. The number of Latin American participants was 270, in other words nearly 70% of the total. There were also 21 participants from 7 European and 2 Australasian countries.

At the end of the congress, each participant was given a handsome certificate of attendance (“diploma”), signed by the presidents of the NOS (François Vuilleumier) and UNORCH (Guillermo Egli). The document, printed on glossy bristol paper, includes the logos of the NOS and UNORCH as well as the emblem of the NOC.

Active participants ranged in age from teenagers to senior ornithologists, including some over 80 years old. We wish to mention here especially two friends and colleagues, Allen Keast (Canada, Australia) and Chandler Robbins (USA), who were the oldest members of the congress, but by no means the least active. Chan Robbins has attended every NOC since the 2nd in México in 1983! Among younger and extremely active NOS members, we are pleased to mention that Raymond McNeil, Editor of *Ornitología Neotropical*, has also attended all NOCs since the second in Xalapa, México.

On another note, we are delighted to report here that, in addition to a healthy representation from younger ornithologists, many of them from Latin America, the VII NOC also had a healthy representation of women, especially young women, from Latin America. Given the *machismo* that unfortunately still prevails in the general population

in many parts of this region, we can state happily that this attitude is absent from Neotropical ornithology.

Student participation. The Executive Board of the NOS took special trouble to insure that as many students as possible, from all over Latin America, could attend and actively participate in the VII NOC. To fulfill this goal, registration fees for students were lower than those for other congress members. More importantly, a special fund, named the Goelet Student Fund to honor its principal donor, was created back in 1999, when Vuilleumier became president of the NOS. This fund was increased by other donations, including a substantial one by Dr. Luc Hoffmann of Switzerland, so that the local organization of the NOC was eventually able to make a number of travel grants to deserving students. Their applications for travel funds and their proposals for their presentations at the NOC were reviewed by the three members of the Student Travel Committee, chaired by André Weller. In addition, and for the first time in the history of NOCs, at least to the best of our knowledge, a number of awards were made to students for the best oral and poster presentations (see below). We very much hope that this initiative will mark the beginnings of a long tradition. The proportion of students who attended the NOC was perhaps as high as 55%, if not even higher.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPANTS

Aware of the fact that the venue of the VII NOC, in southern Chile, was quite a long way from home for most Latin American participants, the NOC organizing committees were keen on providing financial assistance to as many potential congress participants as possible, students and non-students alike. Travel grants totaling about \$55,000 were

awarded to 100 participants, 35 students (about \$24,000) and 65 non-students (about \$31,000). Thus one participant in four received some sort of financial assistance from the NOC organizers. This help was made possible through the generosity of a number of individuals and organizations. Major contributions were made by Barbara Knapton, Escondida Mining, and Universidad de Chile in Chile; Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Goelet, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Department of State, and Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of the American Museum of Natural History in the United States; Conservation International Brazil Program; and Dr. Luc Hoffmann in Switzerland.

We wish to mention here that at the time they registered, many potential participants requested financial assistance, stating that they could simply not attend the VII NOC without such funding. Although this may have been true, these individuals seemed to believe that the NOS and the organizers of the VII NOC had unlimited amounts of money at their disposal. This was certainly not the case (see section on budget below). Indeed, the organizers of the NOC had to work extremely hard to raise sufficient funds for the NOC to take place in the first place. International ornithological congresses like the NOCs are put together by teams of volunteer workers, ornithologists who are not paid for such organizational work, and who spend much uncompensated time and effort toward a goal such as a NOC. Potential participants to future NOCs have to realize that it is up to them to raise the funds for their trip to the NOC. The organizers of the VII NOC were lucky to be able to obtain as much financial help for travel assistance to the VII NOC as they did.

BUDGET

NOCs are very expensive events. The VII

NOC cost about \$220,000. Some of the most expensive budget items included: miscellaneous hotel costs (receptions, coffee breaks) (over \$40,000), translation services (nearly \$38,000), publication of the Proceedings volume (\$24,000), website (nearly \$10,000), audio-visual equipment (nearly \$9,000), financial services (nearly \$7,000), and buses for transfers (nearly \$6,000). It must be stressed here that the registration fees do not provide anywhere near the amount of money necessary to cover the costs of an event like the VII NOC. Income from registration fees has to be supplemented by funds obtained from many other sources. Thus, fund-raising is a major activity of NOC's organizing committees, and this was certainly the case for VII NOC.

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

The VII NOC and VII CCO were officially opened on 6 October 2003 in the main lecture hall of the Hotel Termas de Puyehue. Luis Espinosa, Secretary General of the VII NOC, was master of ceremonies. After Guillermo Egli W. spoke on behalf of UNORCH, of which he is the president, Miss Paola Lagos welcomed congress participants on behalf of Mrs. María Jimena Morales, Mayor of Entre Lagos, and Herb Raffaele did the same on behalf of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. In order to highlight the fact that Chile is a country where not only science flourishes, but also other aspects of culture, NOS president François Vuilleumier read two poems by Chile's Nobel prize winners, "Sol del Trópico" by Pablo Neruda, and "Pequeña América" by Gabriela Mistral. Entertainment was provided by Bordemar, a folkloric group from Puerto Montt, well known throughout Chile, which interpreted the lovely music from the Island of Chiloé.

At the closing ceremony, held on 11 Octo-

ber 2003, also in the main lecture hall at Termas de Puyehue, Secretary General Luis Espinosa once again acted as MC. Outgoing NOS president François Vuilleumier thanked, on behalf of the organizers, Jaime Jiménez and Cristina Miyaki, co-chairs of the Scientific Program Committee, for their outstanding job, and Ellen Paul for her remarkable coordination of all events prior to the congress. As a token of thanks from the NOS, all three were given original paintings by Chilean artist Ricardo Matus, who had coordinated the art exhibit of the congress. The student prizes were then distributed to a total of 15 students from various countries whose oral or poster papers were judged by a panel of NOS members (see below). The new members of the Executive Board of the NOS (see below) were presented.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Ideas for both the structure and the substance of the scientific program of the VII NOC were debated by members of the NOS Executive Board and their Chilean colleagues from November 1999 onward. Preliminary proposals about the format and other aspects of the Scientific Program were examined critically, and a first program was elaborated in October 2000. Scientific Program Co-Chairs Cristina Miyaki and Jaime Jiménez, with the help of the members of their committee and of NOS Executive Board members, took things up from there. The vigorous scientific program that they put together began in the afternoon of Sunday 5 October 2003 with a workshop on banding. The full program started on Monday 6 October. With the exception of Thursday 9 October, a day of rest or excursions, each working day (Monday 6 October, Tuesday 7 October, Wednesday 8 October, Friday 10 October, and Saturday 11 October) was organized in the same way. The day started with a plenary lecture in the main

lecture hall, and continued with parallel symposia in adjacent rooms. After lunch, symposia and workshops occupied the time until a break in the late afternoon. Five plenary lectures were delivered, by François Vuilleumier, American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA (“A critique of Neotropical ornithology: is research on Neotropical birds scientific?”); Fabián Jaksic M., Center for Advanced Studies in Ecology and Biodiversity, Santiago, Chile (“El Niño and the birds: a resource-based interpretation of climatic forcing”); Elizabeth Höfling, Department of Zoology, Institute of Biosciences, University of São Paulo, Brazil (“Recent anatomical studies on Neotropical birds”); Keith L. Bildstein, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania, USA (“Raptor migration in the Neotropics: the interplay of migration ability, regional biogeography, and speciation”); and Luis Chiappe M., Department of Vertebrate Paleontology, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, USA (“The origin of birds”). The program of the congress comprised 20 symposia with 5 presentations each, 6 workshops, 2 round tables, 20 sessions of oral papers, and 140 posters. In addition, a number of informal sessions were held throughout the week.

PROCEEDINGS

In 2000, the Executive Board of the NOS unanimously approved the idea that a volume of Proceedings must be published after the end of the VII NOC. This decision reflected the strong position of Board members that, given the fact that volumes of proceedings had been published only after two previous NOCs, the first in Buenos Aires, Argentina (Daciuk 1979) and the third in Cali, Colombia (Alvarez-López *et al.* 1987), it was imperative to start the tradition of a proceedings volume, parallel to the time-honored tradition of proceedings of International Ornithological Con-

gresses. These books serve as a repository of presentations made at NOCs (and IOCs), which are therefore available for consultation and study into the foreseeable future. Such proceedings also serve as historical documents that illustrate vividly the history and development of the science. After much discussion, and after considering a number of options, which depended on information such as the number of pages of such a volume, the costs of printing, binding, and mailing it, and where and how to publish it, the Executive Board voted to publish the proceedings of the VII as a special issue of *Ornitología Neotropical*. The Executive Board of the NOS, considering the costs of such proceedings also decided that the volume would include only the texts of the plenary lectures and the papers presented at symposia and that all manuscripts would be refereed. Authors of all other presentations (oral papers, posters, workshops, roundtables) would be free to publish their work as they saw fit. The costs of publishing the VII NOC Proceedings are defrayed almost entirely by a special grant from Mr. Robert G. Goelet. The Editorial Committee of the Proceedings was composed of Raymond McNeil (Canada), Editor, Iván Lazo (Chile), Co-Editor, and members Jaime E. Jiménez (Chile), Cristina Y. Miyaki (Brazil), and François Vuilleumier (USA), ex-officio as President of the VII NOC.

PARALLEL MEETING ON CONSERVATION

The Conference on Conservation of Migratory Species in the Western Hemisphere, which took place during the week of the VII NOC and VII CCO, was organized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Department of State. The directors of the wildlife divisions of 25 of 35 countries in the western hemisphere met to discuss hemisphere-wide conservation problems, probably a first. They

identified a series of priority actions for a follow-up covering a large spectrum of wildlife conservation activities, and agreed to meet again within two years. They established an interim steering committee of 11 members, including representatives from 5 governments, 4 NGOs, and 3 conventions (RAMSAR, CMS, and Sea Turtles of the Western Hemisphere). Herb Raffaele of the US Fish and Wildlife Service will chair this committee. The meeting could prove historical by setting up a mechanism to coordinate technical level cooperation for wildlife conservation across the hemisphere. The organizers of the VII NOC and the members of the Executive Boards of the NOS and of UNORCH are pleased to have been able to co-host this important meeting and thank Ellen Paul for her help in coordinating these events. The parallel meetings dealing with ornithological science on the one hand and conservation action on the other showed how interrelated these two sorts of activities are. Furthermore, the scientific program of the VII NOC included many presentations that, in one way or another, bridged pure research and conservation action.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Informal birdwatching walks were organized in the early mornings during the entire congress week in areas close to the Hotel Termas de Puyehue. On Thursday, 9 October 2003, full-day excursions by comfortable coach allowed many participants to visit several areas of southern Chile representative of the landscapes, fauna, and flora of that beautiful region, including Puyehue National Park, various sites near the city of Valdivia, the island of Chiloé, and the spectacular falls of the Río Petrohué. Landscape types in these areas include southern beech *Nothofagus* spp. forests, agricultural lands, pastures, fast-flowing rivers, lakes, and seacoasts. Among the charac-

teristic bird species of southern Chile that were sighted during these excursions, can be mentioned Buff-necked Ibis (*Theristicus melanopus*; chosen for the VII NOC logo), Black-necked Swan (*Cygnus melancoryphus*), Torrent Duck (*Merganetta armata*), Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*), Chimango Caracara (*Milvago chimango*), Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*), Brown-hooded Gull (*Larus maculipennis*), Chilean Pigeon (*Columba araucana*), Austral Parakeet (*Enicognathus ferrugineus*), Green-backed Firecrown (*Sephenoides sephaniodes*), Dark-bellied Cinclodes (*Cinclodes patagonicus*), Thorn-tailed Rayadito (*Aphrastura spinicauda*, emblem of the NOS), Des Murs' Wiretail (*Sylviorthorhynchus desmursii*), Black-throated Huet-huet (*Pteroptochos tarnii*), Chucao Tapaculo (*Scelorchilus rubecula*, emblem of UNORCH), Magellanic Tapaculo (*Scytalopus magellanicus*), White-crested Elaenia (*Elaenia albiceps*), Chilean Swallow (*Tachycineta meyeni*), Austral Thrush (*Turdus falcklandii*), Patagonian Sierra-Finch (*Phrygilus patagonicus*), Austral Blackbird (*Curaeus curaeus*), Long-tailed Meadowlark (*Sturnella loyca*), and Black-chinned Siskin (*Carduelis barbata*). By great good fortune, the cool and rainy weather, typical of southern Chile, that otherwise prevailed during the Congress week, was replaced by warm and sunny conditions for the day of mid-week excursions. (Incidentally we note that the cool and rainy weather in question did not seem to affect in any way the pleasure of participants to take part in the Congress. Raincoats and rubber boots were the norm.)

Prior to, and after, the VII NOC, 3–5 day-long fieldtrips permitted participants to have a glimpse of other Chilean landscapes, flora and fauna, from the coastal Humboldt current, desert, and high Andean puna in northernmost Chile to mainland Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego in the south. These fieldtrips, designed by NOS president François Vuilleumier, were implemented and superbly executed logisti-

cally by Matthias Holzmann and his staff at Aqua Motion. Some participants, taking full advantage of the design of these trips, traveled to northern Chile before the congress, had a glimpse of the Lake region during the event, and then saw the far south after the meeting, thus obtaining a good cross-section of Chile's extraordinary geography and climate.

ART EXHIBIT

The art exhibit organized by Ricardo Matus and Jorge Ruiz was quite successful. The pieces on exhibit were either brought along by participants or were sent to Chile if they could not attend. These pieces included a variety of artwork and related items: original artwork (paintings and drawings), book illustrations, and photography, showing a range of styles and techniques. A total of 19 artists from five countries (Argentina: 2; Brazil: 3; Chile: 5; Mexico: 1; and USA: 8) exhibited their work at the VII NOC. We wish to mention here the names of the Latin American artists, known in their respective countries but not so much outside of them, and for whom this exhibit provided a good way of showing their work to a broad international audience: Ors Kovacs and Jorge Warde (Argentina); Joacilei Lemos Cardoso, Eduardo Parentoni Brettas, and Andréa Carvalho (Brazil); Marcelo Flores, Jorge Ruiz, Vanessa Brown, Rómulo Sanhueza, and Ricardo Matus (Chile); and Julio César Gallardo (México). Some of the artwork was for sale, and several pieces were indeed sold. We congratulate and thank the co-chairs of the exhibit and the artists for their work.

OTHER EXHIBITS

Several exhibitors were able to display their products or illustrate their activities at the VII NOC. They included Corporación Nacional

Forestal de Chile (CONAF; information and publications about Puyehue and other Chilean National Parks); Swarovski Optik (optical equipment such as binoculars and telescopes); Lynx Edicions (ornithological books, especially the multi-volume "Handbook of the Birds of the World"); Loro Parque Fundación; Birders' Exchange; Ornithological Council; Holohill Systems Ltd. (radio transmitters); Ecotone (mist nets and other field equipment); Brunton Optics (field and optical equipment), and UNORCH (ornithological activities of its members in Chile).

SILENT AUCTION

A silent auction was held on 10 October 2003 at Hotel Termas de Puyehue. A variety of objects donated by individuals and companies were exhibited for several hours, during which congress participants bid on items of their choice. The objects ranged from T-shirts and lapel pins to items of field equipment and ornithological books. The proceeds of this silent auction, about \$2,500, went to UNORCH, to help the Union of Chilean Ornithologists fund ornithological activities in Chile. The very attractive T-shirts that had been produced for the VII NOC were also on sale at the time of the auction, and were eagerly bought.

STUDENT AWARDS

An *ad hoc* Selection Committee for Student Awards was headed by Scientific Program Committee Co-Chairs Jaime Jimenez and Cristina Miyaki. They were helped in this task by 17 other ornithologists from 11 countries, representing a broad spectrum of geography, ornithological interests (biochemistry to ecology and systematics; seabirds as well as landbirds; fieldwork and labwork), and ages (from freshly-minted PhDs to senior investigators), thus insuring impartial evaluations of

student presentations, both oral papers and posters. They were: Maria Alice Alves (Brazil), Luiz dos Anjos (Brazil), Sara Bertelli (Argentina-USA), Victor Cueto (Argentina), Patricia Escalante (México), Cristián Estades (Chile), Rosendo Fraga (Argentina), Maria Victoria López (Chile), Vickie McDonald (USA), Steve McGehee (Chile-USA), Raymond McNeil (Canada), Raúl Ortiz (México), Ana Luz Porzecanski (USA-Uruguay), Kimberly Smith (USA), Anita Wajntal (Brazil), André Weller (Germany), and Pablo Yorio (Argentina).

The author or senior author (many presentations were multi-author) of the best papers in each category were given prizes consisting of books and binoculars at the Closing Ceremony on 11 October 2003. Binoculars were generously donated by Optics for the Tropics, and presented by its representative, Joni Ellis; books were donated by François Vuilleumier. The prizes were given to the authors of the eight best oral papers, and the seven best posters. As most of these presentations were multi-author, it would unfortunately take too much space here to give a complete list of names. The prize winners for best oral papers were from Chile, Ecuador, and the USA, and those for best posters from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Puerto Rico. We congratulate all the students who participated in this contest, and especially, of course, those who won those well-deserved prizes. We also thank all the friends and colleagues who cheerfully accepted to serve on this committee. We believe that all of us present at the prize-giving ceremony will agree with us that it was a wonderful experience to see the beaming faces of the happy young ornithologists rewarded for their efforts.

FUNDING SOURCES AND OTHER SUPPORT

Several funding sources have already been

identified in previous sections. Here we list the organizations that provided direct or indirect financial support for the VII NOC: American Birding Association; American Museum of Natural History (Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund); American Ornithologists' Union; Birder's Exchange; BirdLife International; Brunton Optics; Conservation International Brazil Program; Cooper Ornithological Society; Ecotone; Holohil Systems Ltd; Escondida Mining Chile; LanChile; Loro Parque Fundación; Lynx Edicions; Neotropical Grasslands Conservancy; Optics for the Tropics; Ornithological Council; Peregrine Fund; Princeton University Press; Yale University Press; Swarovski Optik; United States Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Divisions of International Conservation and of Bird Habitat Conservation; Universidad de Chile, Santiago (Programa Interdisciplinario de Estudios en Biodiversidad); Universidad de los Lagos, Osorno. Individuals who contributed funding are Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Goelet, Dr. Luc Hoffmann, and Ms. Barbara Knapton (Alto Andino Nature Tours, Chile).

VUILLEUMIER FUND

A new special fund was established at the VII NOC, to be called the "François Vuilleumier Fund for Research on Neotropical Birds." Seed money for this fund was donated by four individuals, Mr. Robert G. Goelet, Dr. Luc Hoffmann, Mrs. Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff, and an anonymous donor. The donors request that the Vuilleumier Fund be administered by an *ad hoc* committee of the NOS, and that additional donations be sought in order to increase the fund to a level where grants can be made. The purpose of the fund is to award small financial grants to students of ornithology from Latin America who are, at the beginning of their career, either without

any sources of funding, or else have insufficient funding at their disposal to start their research projects. This research is to be conducted on birds of the Neotropical region.

REPORT OF THE NOS EXECUTIVE BOARD

The 1999–2003 Executive Board of the NOS was represented at the VII NOC by its president, François Vuilleumier, its secretary, Ross Lein, and members Vickie McDonald and Eugene Morton, and Ornitología Neotropical Editor Raymond McNeil. The board held several informal and two formal meetings during the congress. A meeting of NOS members took place on 10 October 2003, chaired by NOS president Vuilleumier. During these meetings past activities of the NOS were reviewed and a large range of issues were discussed, including the financial state of the NOS, the need to recruit more members, especially from Latin America, the role of women in Latin American ornithology, the publication of the journal *Ornitología Neotropical*, and the role of the NOS as a key international society in Latin American ornithology. Dr. McNeil, editor of *Ornitología Neotropical*, presented a report on his work and on the excellent health of the journal, and was thanked and congratulated on behalf of the Board and of all NOS members and other readers of ON by president Vuilleumier, who also presented the financial report on behalf of NOS Treasurer J. Michael Meyers (USA), who was unfortunately unable to be present. Even though financially sound, the NOS is far from having a secure, long-term, financial situation, and fund raising and recruiting new members will need to be vigorously pursued in this connection. Dr. Meyers was thanked for the tremendous job he did for the NOS. President Vuilleumier also thanked the other members of the out-going board for their collaboration: Vice-President Roberto Caval-

canti, Secretary Ross Lein, and members Vickie McDonald, Eugene Morton, and Edwin Willis. Ross Lein deserves special thanks for having stepped into the position of Secretary to replace Robert Beason, who had to withdraw from this job.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND NOS BYLAWS

The new president of the NOS, for the period 2003–2007, is Dra. Patricia Escalante-Pliego, Chair of the Department of Vertebrate Zoology and Curator of the Bird Collection at the Universidad Autónoma de México. The new President-Elect is Dr. Joe Wunderle, Research Wildlife Biologist, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, Puerto Rico. The new Secretary is Dr. Vickie McDonald, Department of Biology, University of Central Arkansas, USA, and the new treasurer is Dr. Bette A. Loiselle, Department of Biology, University of Missouri, St. Louis, USA. Raymond McNeil was re-elected for a one-year term as Editor-in-Chief of *Ornitología Neotropical*. As more than six nominations were received, it was decided that ballots were to be sent to NOS members subsequent to the congress in order to elect the six other members of the Board of Directors for the next four years. It was also decided that ballots were to be sent to NOS members for approving NOS bylaws.

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS AND NEW PATRON

The members of the Executive Board present at the VII NOC unanimously decided to elect the following three persons to the special category of Honorary Members: (1) Dr. Gary Stiles, from Colombia, for his outstanding contributions to Neotropical ornithology, especially his work on the avifauna of Costa Rica and his long-term research on hummingbirds, and his inspiration to many young Latin

American ornithologists; (2) Dr. David Snow, from the United Kingdom, for his remarkable work as a former Director of the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galápagos Islands, his detailed research on the breeding biology of a number of Neotropical birds, especially the Cotingidae, his contributions to the study of fruit-eating birds, and his long-term work on the birds of Trinidad; and (3) Mr. Luis A. Espinosa G., from Chile, Coordinator of the Waterbird Group of UNORCH, for his dedicated work, carried out in his spare time, on waterbird censuses, for his research on the wintering of northern hemisphere shorebirds in southern Chile, especially the Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*); and for his outstanding work as Secretary-General of the VII NOC.

Similarly, in recognition of his substantial support of the VII NOC and the NOS, the Board members are pleased to name, as new Patron of the NOS, Dr. Luc Hoffmann, of Switzerland, founder of the Research Station of the Tour-du-Valat in the Camargue, France, supporter *extraordinaire* of the cause of conservation generally, and of wetlands and waterbirds especially, one of the founders of RAMSAR, and someone who has tirelessly worked, often behind the scene, to further the cause of research and conservation, worldwide and in Latin America

VENUE OF VIII NOC IN 2007

The venue of the VIIIth NOC in 2007 could not be decided upon by the Executive Board at the VII NOC. Two excellent proposals were examined critically, one from Venezuela and the other from Perú. On the basis of the evidence presented at the NOC, the Board members felt that they could not make a unanimous decision and choose one proposal over the other. In order to make the right choice, the Board therefore postponed making this very important decision for a few

months, thus allowing the representatives of these two countries to work further on their proposals. They were requested to submit new proposals by March 2004, with more detailed information on a number of points, which they agreed to do. After reviewing the new proposals from Perú and Venezuela, the members of the Executive Board of the NOS for 2003–2007, unanimously, decided to accept the proposal from Venezuela. The VIII NOC will be held from 4 to 9 June 2007 in Maturín (Monagas, Venezuela). It will be hosted by the Unión Venezolana de Ornitólogos, and its Secretary General will be Carlos Bosque of Universidad Simón Bolívar in Caracas.

DIFFUSION OF CONGRESS IN CHILE

The three events that took place at Puyehue 5–11 October 2003 (VII NOC, VII CCO, and the Western Hemisphere Conference on Migratory Birds), attracted wide attention from the local and national media in Chile. Several organizers were interviewed about the events for the media. Regional newspapers that published articles about the events in Puyehue include *El Llanquihue* (two articles, 6 October and 8 October 2003, the second one including a photograph of participants in a workshop) and *El Diario Austral* (by Graciela Ojeda, 4 October 2003). The influential Chilean national newspaper, *El Mercurio*, published in Santiago, devoted an entire page of its section “Science and Technology” of 13 October 2004 to the events. The author of the piece, Nicolás Luco R., did a very good job indeed and, to help readers find out more, included the websites of the NOS and of UNORCH.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to all the organizations and indi-

viduals mentioned above, and to whom we express once again, on behalf of the organizers of the VII NOC, in Chile, the USA, and other countries, and on behalf of all NOC participants, profound thanks for their logistical assistance, financial support, and many other kinds of help, the authors of this report wish to acknowledge their very special debt to Ximena Campbell, Roberto Cavalcanti, Eric Ebner Fuentes, Guillermo Egli, Cristián Estades, Robert Goelet, Luc Hoffmann, Bettina Holzmann, Matthias Holzmann, Dominique Homberger, Jaime Jiménez, Iván Lazo, Ross Lein, Ricardo Matus, Vickie McDonald, Raymond McNeil, Cristina Miyaki, Ellen Paul, Herb Raffaele, John Rappole, Jürgen Rottmann, Charif Tala, and André Weller. We also wish to thank Javier Labra V., Administrator of the Puyehue National Park, and his Park Rangers; Mr. Francisco Del Escoval, Operations Manager at Termas de Puyehue; Ms. Carolina Andrade, Events and Reservations Executive at Termas de Puyehue; Jaime Gutiérrez Recabarren, Operations Manager at Aguas Calientes; Marianela Orrego Vergara, Operations Chief at Aguas Calientes; and Marcela Velasco of Tur Bus. François Vuilleumier gratefully acknowledges financial assistance received from the Sanford Fund and the Patricia Stryker Joseph Fund.

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APPENDIX 1. List of registered participants at the VIIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress in Chile, October 2003.

- ABRIL, MÓNICA, Reconquista 78, (9000) Comodoro Rivadavia, Chubut, Argentina. *E-mail:* mabril@mixmail.com
- AGUIRRE CASTRO, JUAN, Unión de Ornitólogos de Chile (UNORCH), Antonio Varas 2465, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* juan_aguirre2@hotmail.com
- AGUIRRE, LUIS, Centro de Biodiversidad y Genética, Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS), Cochabamba, Bolivia.
- ALFARO BARRIOS, MATILDE, Facultad de Ciencias, Iguá 4225, Montevideo 11400, Uruguay. *E-mail:* matildeab@hotmail.com
- ALVES, MARIA ALICE S., Departamento de Ecología, Instituto de Biología Roberto Alcântara Gomes (IBRAG), Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, 524 Rua São Francisco Xavier, Río de Janeiro, RJ 20550-011, Brasil. *E-mail:* masa@uerj.br
- ANDERKA, FRED, Holohil Systems Ltd., 112 John Cavanaugh Drive, Carp, Ontario K0A 1L0, Canada.
- ANJOS, LUIZ DOS, Departamento Biología Animal e Vegetal, Universidade Estadual de Londrina, C.P. 6001, Londrina, Paraná, Brasil. *E-mail:* llanhos@sercomtel.com.br
- ANTHONY, DONALD, Forestry Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Castries, St. Lucia.
- APARICIO MORENO, ALEXANDRA, Organization for Tropical Studies, La Selva, Apdo 676-2050, San Pedro, Costa Rica. *E-mail:* aaparici@yahoo.com
- ARENDRY, WAYNE J., USDA Forest Service, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, Sabana Research Station, HC 2 Box 6205, Luquillo, Puerto Rico 00773, USA. *E-mail:* warendt@fs.fed.us
- ARIZMENDI ARRIAGA, MARIA DEL CORO, Laboratorio de Ecología, Unidad de Biología, Tecnología y Prototipos (UBI-PRO), Facultad de Estudios Superiores, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Av. de los Barrios 1, Los Reyes Iztacala, Tlanepantla, Edo México CP 54090, México. *E-mail:* coro@servidor.unam.mx.
- ARRIARAN HEREDIA, GREISSY, Centro de Biodiversidad y Genética, Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS), Calle Sucre, Parque La Torre, Cochabamba, Bolivia. *E-mail:* greissy_a@hotmail.com
- AYALA ISLAS, DALIA ELIZABETH, c/o Patricia Escalante, Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Apdo Postal 70-153, C.P. 04510, México DF, México. *E-mail:* trogon@prodigy.net.mx
- AYRES, JUDITH, U.S. EPA Office of International Affairs, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460, USA.
- AZPIROZ, ADRIÁN, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Biology Department, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63121, USA. *E-mail:* abavg5@studentmail.ums.edu
- BALTA ABADÍE, KATYA, Departamento de Ornitología, Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (UNMSM), 1256 Av. Arenales, Jesús María, Lima, Perú. *E-mail:* k_balta@hotmail.com
- BARZOTTI KOHLRAUSCH, ADRIANA, Rua Maria Vidal, 63 Sumaré, São Paulo, 01253-040 Brasil. *E-mail:* adribk@yahoo.com.br
- BATALHA VELTEN, SIMONE, 2635 Rua Profesora Amália Pimentel, Bairro São Jose, 14403-440 Franca São Paulo, Brasil. *E-mail:* svelten@terra.com.br
- BECHARD, MARC, Department of Biology, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho 83725, USA. *E-mail:* mbechard@boisestate.edu,
- BEIDLEMAN, CAROL, National Park Service,

- 3245 Tunnel Road, Estes Park, Colorado 80517-8303, USA. *E-mail:* BeidlemanC@aol.com,
- BENNETT, ANDREW T. D., School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol, Woodland RD, Bristol BS8 1UG, UK. *E-mail:* andy.bennett@bristol.ac.uk.
- BERLANGA GARCIA, HUMBERTO, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)/North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), Liga Periférico-Insurgentes Sur 4903, México DF, México. *E-mail:* hberlang@xolo.conabio.gob.mx
- BERNAL MORALES, MARIANO, Universidad de Valparaíso, Casilla 5080, Reñaca, Viña del Mar, Chile. *E-mail:* mariano.bernal@uv.cl
- BERTELLI, SARA, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024, USA. *E-mail:* bertelli@amnh.org
- BERTSCH KVARNBÄCK, CAROLINA, Universidad Simón Bolívar, Valle de Sartenejas, Apdo 89000, Caracas, Venezuela. *E-mail:* 00-80894@usb.ve
- BETANCOURT, ASTOLFO MATA, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, Altos de Pipe, Carretera Panamericana, Km 11, Caracas, Venezuela. *E-mail:* amata@ivic.ve
- BIANCHI, CARLOS, PNUD/IBAMA, EPTG QE 04, Bloco A7, Apto 204 - Guaraville, Brasília, DF 71.030.000 Brasil. *E-mail:* carlos.bianchi@ibama.gov.br
- BILDSTEIN, KEITH, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Acopian Center for Conservation Learning, 410 Summer Valley Road, Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania 17961, USA. *E-mail:* bildstein@hawkmtn.org
- BLANCO RODRÍGUEZ, PEDRO, Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Carretera de Varona Km 3.5, A.P. 8010, C.P. 10800, Habana 8, Cuba. *E-mail:* ecologia@ceniai.inf.cu
- BLANCO, DANIEL, Wetlands International, 25 de Mayo 758 10 I, (1002), Buenos Aires, Argentina. *E-mail:* dblanco@wamani.apc.org
- BÓ, MARIA SUSANA, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Funes 3350, Mar del Plata, Argentina. *E-mail:* msbo@mdp.edu.ar
- BOÇON, ROBERTO, SPVS, 296 Rua Gutemberg, Batel ã Curitiba, Paraná, CEP 80420-030, Brasil. *E-mail:* amazona@spvs.org.br
- BORBOROGLU, PABLO, Centro Nacional Patagónico-CONICET, Blvd Brown s/n, Puerto Madryn, Argentina. *E-mail:* pgborbor@cenpat.edu.ar
- BOSQUE, CARLOS, Departamento de Biología de Organismos, Universidad Simón Bolívar, Apartado 89.000, Caracas 1080, Venezuela. *E-mail:* carlosb@usb.ve
- BOYLA, KEREM, Birdlife International, Vicente Cárdenas E-575 y Japón, Piso 3, Casilla 17-17-717, Quito, Ecuador. *E-mail:* Kerem.Boyla@birdlife.org.ec
- BOZINOVIC, FRANCISCO, CASEB, Departamento de Ecología, Universidad Católica de Chile, Alameda 340, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* fbozinov@genes.bio.puc.cl
- BRANT, HELGA, Unión de Ornitólogos de Chile (UNORCH), Casilla 159-12, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* gegli@ctcinternet.cl
- BRENNAN, PATRICIA, Cornell University, 303 Fairmount Avenue, Ithaca, New York 14850, USA. *E-mail:* pb42@cornell.edu
- BRIGHTSMITH, DONALD, Department of Biology, Duke University, 116 Stedwick Place, Durham, North Carolina 27712-1224, USA. *E-mail:* djb4@duke.edu
- BROOKS, DAN, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 1 Hermann Circle, Houston, Texas 77030-1749, USA. *E-mail:* dbrooks@hmns.org
- BROWN, STEPHEN, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, P.O. Box 1770, Manomet, Massachusetts 02345, USA. *E-mail:* sbrown@manomet.org
- BUSHEY, SARA, National Wildlife Federation, 1400 16th Street NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20036-2266, USA. *E-mail:* bushey

- @nwf.org
- CABALLERO GARCIA, MARTHA EDITH, Pronatura A.C., Aspergulas No. 22, Col. San Clemente, 01740 México DF, México. *E-mail:* ecaballero@pronatura.Org.mx
- CABANNE, GUSTAVO SEBASTIÁN, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, Rua do Matão 277, Sala 230, São Paulo, CEP 05508-900, SP, Brasil. *E-mail:* cabanne@ib.usp.br
- CABEZAS BRAVO, LUIS, Facultad de Ciencias del Mar, Universidad de Valparaíso, Av. Borgoño s/n, Viña del Mar, Chile. *E-mail:* arielcb@universia.cl
- CADENA, DANIEL, R-223, Biology Department, University Missouri-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63121, USA. *E-mail:* cdc35b@student-mail.umsl.edu
- CAHILL MANGUDO, JENNIFER, Centro Biodiversidad y Genética, Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS), Calle Sucre y Parque La Torre, Cochabamba, Bolivia. *E-mail:* jcahill@fcyt.umss.edu.bo
- CALDERON FRANCO, DIEGO, Universidad de Antioquia - SAO, Carrera 80 B # 40-02, Apartamento 506, Medellín, Colombia. *E-mail:* manakin00@hotmail.com
- CALVO DOMINGO, JOSÉ JOAQUÍN, Encargado de Vida Silvestre, Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación, Ministerio del Ambiente y Energía, San José, Costa Rica.
- CAMANO, ANDRÉS A. F., Minera Escondida, Av. A. Vespucio Sur 100, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* Andres.F.Camano@bhpbilliton.com
- CANFIELD, ELOISE, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 1120 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036, USA. *E-mail:* canfield@nfwf.org
- CAPARROZ, RENATO, Departamento de Biología, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, Rua do Matão 277, São Paulo, SP, Brasil. *E-mail:* renatocz@yahoo.com.br
- CAPP, JOHN, Forest Service, 1099 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA. *E-mail:* jcapp@fs.fed.us
- CAVIEDES-VIDAL, ENRIQUE, Departamento de Bioquímica y Ciencias. Biológicas, Universidad Nacional de San Luis, Republica del Libano 57, San Luis, Argentina. *E-mail:* ecv@unsl.edu.ar
- CEREZO, ALEXIS, Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAE-CO), 7a. Calle A, 20-53, Zona 11, Colonia Mirador, Guatemala. *E-mail:* alexisguate@yahoo.com
- CHESSER, TERRY, Australian National Wildlife Collection, G.P.O. Box 284, Camberra, Australia. *E-mail:* terry.chesser@csiro.au
- CHIAPPE, LUIS, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90007, USA. *E-mail:* chiappe@nhm.org
- CINTRON, GIL, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of International Conservation, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203, USA. *E-mail:* Gil_Cintron@fws.gov
- CLAUDE, DALBERG, Ministère de L'Agriculture, des Ressources Naturelles et du Développement Rural (MARNDR), BP 1441, Route Nationale No 1, Damien, Haiti.
- CLAY, ROB, Guyra Paraguay, Coronel Rafael Franco 381, Asunción, Paraguay. *E-mail:* rob@guyra.org.py.
- CODESIDO, MARIANO, Sección de Ornitología, Depto Vertebrados, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Paseo del Bosque s/n, C.P. 1900 La Plata, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina. *E-mail:* marianolucas@hotmail.com.
- COOKE, FRED, UEA, Larkins Cottage, 6 Lynn Road, Castle Rising, Norfolk, PE31 6AB, UK. *E-mail:* f.cooke@uea.ac.uk
- COOKE, SYLVIA, Larkins Cottage, 6 Lynn Road, Castle Rising, Norfolk, PE31 6AB, UK. *E-mail:* f.cooke@uea.ac.uk
- COPELLO, SOFIA, Centro Nacional Patagónico (CENPAT)/Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Boulevard Brown s/n, Puerto

- Madryn, Argentina. *E-mail*: scopello@cenpat.edu.ar
- CÓRDOBA-CÓRDOBA, SERGIO, Instituto Alexander von Humboldt, Calle 52A # 9-72, Apto 201, Bogotá, Colombia. *E-mail*: scordoba@humboldt.org.co
- CORNELIUS, CINTIA, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Rd., R223 Research Building, Saint Louis, Missouri 63121, USA. *E-mail*: cc697@studentmail.umsl.edu
- COSSIO, SAUL ARIAS, Dirección General de Biodiversidad, Ministerio de Desarrollo Sostenible, Av. Mariscal Santa Cruz N° 1092 (Esq. Oruro), La Paz, Bolivia.
- CRAVINO, JORGE LUIS, Departamento de Fauna, Dirección General de Recursos Naturales Renovables, Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca, Cerrito 318, C.P. 11000, Montevideo, Uruguay.
- CRUZ ANGÓN, ANDREA, Instituto de Ecología, A. C., Antonio Plaza 362, Lomas de Sta. María, Morelia, México. *E-mail*: angonac@yahoo.com.mx
- CRUZ SCHNEIDER, MARIA PAULA, LPDNA/UFGPA, Av. Dr. Malcher 287, Cidade Velha 66020-50, Belém, Brasil. *E-mail*: paula@ufpa.br
- CRUZ-BURGOS, JOSÉ A., HC 02 Box 9950, Juncos, Puerto Rico 00777, USA. *E-mail*: agelaius@hotmail.com
- CUERVO, ANDRÉS M., Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico-RP, P. O. Box 23360, San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA. *E-mail*: wa022129@cnnnet.clu.edu
- CUETO, VÍCTOR RODOLFO, Departamento de Ecología, Genética y Evolución, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Piso 4, Pab. 2, Ciudad Universitaria C1428EHA, Buenos Aires, Argentina. *E-mail*: vcuetto@bg.fcen.uba.ar
- DANZENBAKER, JIM, Brunton Optics, 620 East Munroe Avenue, Riverton, Wyoming 82501, USA. *E-mail*: jdanzenbaker@brunton.com
- DAVIS, SUSAN, Museo de Historia Natural Noel Kempff Mercado, Casilla 2489, Santa Cruz, Bolivia. *E-mail*: sedavis@141.com
- DE LA BALZE, VICTORIA, Wetlands International, 25 de Mayo 758 10° G, (1002) Buenos Aires, Argentina. *E-mail*: vbalze@wamani.apc.org
- DE LA ZERDA, SUSANA, Proyecto BioMap, Cra. 21, No. 39-45, Bogota, Colombia. *E-mail*: sdelazerda@yahoo.com
- DE LAS CASAS SERRANO, JUAN CARLOS, Corporación Sentido Natural, Cr 48-80-46, Bogotá, Colombia. *E-mail*: jc@sentidonatural.org
- DE LOS ANGELES HERNÁNDEZ, MARÍA, Centro Nacional Patagónico, Boulevard Brown 3500, Puerto Madryn U9120ACV, Chubut, Argentina. *E-mail*: marianh@cenpat.edu.ar
- DE MENDONÇA DANTAS, GISELE PIRES, Universidade de São Paulo, Rua de Matão 277, Cidade Universitária, São Paulo, SP, CEP 05508-900, Brasil. *E-mail*: giselebio@yahoo.com.br
- DEL HOYO, JOSEP, Lynx Edicions, Montseny 8, E-08193 Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain. *E-mail*: jdelhoyo@hbw.com
- DEVELEY, PEDRO, Department of Ecology, IB/USP, R. Matão n. 321, São Paulo, Brasil. *E-mail*: pdeveley@uol.com.br
- DI GIACOMO, ADRIÁN S., Aves Argentinas - Asociación Ornitológica del Plata, 25 de Mayo 749, Piso 2, Oficina 6, (C 1002 ABO) Buenos Aires, Argentina. *E-mail*: digiacomo@avesargentinas.org.ar
- DIAZ ROMERO, IVÁN, University of Florida, 110 Newins Ziegler Hall, P.O. Box 110430, Gainesville, Florida 32611, USA. *E-mail*: diazi@ufl.edu
- DICOSTANZO, JOSEPH, Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024-5192, USA. *E-mail*: jdicost@amnh.org
- DISCONZI, GISLAINE, Environment Specialist, American Embassy-Brasília, SES Lote 03

- Quadra 801, 70.403-900, Brasília,, DF, Brasil. *E-mail:* gdisconzi@yahoo.com
- DONALDSON, GARRY, Canadian Wildlife Service, 351 St. Joseph Boulevard, Gatineau, Québec, Canada K1A 0H3. *E-mail:* garry.donaldson@ec.gc.ca.
- DOUGLAS, LEO, Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, 11A Lounsbury Avenue, Kingston 10, Jamaica. *E-mail:* leodouglas@cwjamaica.com.
- DUNCAN, CHARLES, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, 76 Emery Street, Portland, Maine 04102-3707, USA. *E-mail:* cduncan@maine.rr.com
- DURÃES, RENATA, Department of Biology, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Rd., R223 Research Building, Saint Louis, Missouri 63121, USA. *E-mail:* rrd32@studentmail.umsl.edu
- DYRCZ, ANDRZEJ, Department of Avian Ecology, Wroclaw University, Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wroclaw, Poland. *E-mail:* dyrcz@biol.uni.wroc.pl
- EACHEVERRY GALVIS, MARIA ANGELA, Instituto Alexander Von Humboldt, Dia 123 #51-27 Int 7a, Bogotá, Colombia. *E-mail:* mayayito@yahoo.com
- EGGERS FROHLICH, SABINE JOHANNA, Mons. Escrava de Balaguer 6281, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* bvonmalapert@ultragas.cl
- EGLI MÜLLER, GUILLERMO, Unión de Ornólogos de Chile (UNORCH), Casilla 159-12, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* gegli@ctcinternet.cl
- ELLIS, JONI, Optics for the Tropics, 3449 NW 13 Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32605-4853, USA. *E-mail:* Joni@opticsforthetropics.org
- ENKERLIN, ERNESTO, National Commission of Natural Protected Areas, Ajusco 200, Piso 3, México DF 014210, México,
- ESCALANTE, PATRÍCIA, Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), AP 70-153, C.P. 04510, México DF, México. *E-mail:* escalant@ibio-logia.unam.mx
- ESCOBAR CUADROS, MARTÍN ALONSO HÉCTOR, Universidad de Chile, Andalién 7302, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* marcuesc@dic.uchile.cl
- ESPINOSA GALLEGUILLOS, LUIS, Unión de Ornólogos de Chile (UNORCH), Casilla 301, Puerto Varas, Chile. *E-mail:* legpvar@entelchile.net
- ESTADES, CRISTIÁN, Universidad de Chile, Casilla 9206, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* cestasdes@uchile.cl
- ESTRADA ESQUIVEL, AUREA, Ducks Unlimited de México, A.C., Oficina Cd. de México, Bosques de Ghana No. 43, México, México. *E-mail:* aestrada@dumac.org
- EZCURRA, EXEQUIEL, Instituto Nacional de Ecología, Periférico Sur 5000, Piso 5, Col. Insurgentes Cuicuilco, 04530 Mexico DF, México.
- FARMER, ADRIAN, USGS, 2150 Centre Ave., Bldg C, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526-8118, USA. *E-mail:* adrian_farmer@usgs.gov
- FERNANDEZ ACEVES, GUILLERMO, Centre for Wildlife Ecology, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, British Colombia V5A 1S6, Canada. *E-mail:* gjf@sfu.ca
- FERNÁNDEZ HERRERA, M. RAMÓN, Unión de Ornólogos de Chile (UNORCH), Ureta Cox 930, San-Miguel, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* rfh@madeco.cl & oc@mundowedwards.com
- FERNÁNDEZ JAUREGUI, MARÍA JOSÉ, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Alameda 340, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* mjfernan@genes.bio.puc.cl
- FERRARI, SILVIA, Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia Austral, Unidad Académica Río Gallegos, Lisandro de la Torre 1070, (9400) Río Gallegos, Santa Cruz, Argentina. *E-mail:* albricuc@infovia.com.ar
- FILLOY, JULIETA, Departamento de Ecología, Genética y Evolución, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales (FCEyN), Universidad de Buenos Aires, Int. Guiraldes 2620, Piso 4, Buenos Aires, Argentina. *E-mail:* jfilloy

- @bg.fcen.uba.ar
- FIUCZYNSKI, KLAUS DIETRICH, Strandallee 42, Apt. 16, D 23669 Timmendorfer Strand, Germany. *E-mail:* Falco.subbuteo@web.de
- FLORES MORALES, MARCELO ALEJANDRO, Universidad de Valparaíso, Calle Valparaíso 676, Dp. 307, Edificio Couve, Viña del Mar, Chile. *E-mail:* marcelo.flores@uv.cl
- FONTANA, CARLA SUERTEGARAY, Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Av. Ipiranga 6681, 90619 900, Porto Alegre, RS, Brasil. *E-mail:* carla@pucrs.br
- FRAGA, ROSENDO M., Tucuman 335, 11 C, 1049 Buenos Aires, Argentina. *E-mail:* chfraga@yahoo.com
- FRANCO MAYA, ANA MARIA, Línea Especies Focales, Instituto Humboldt, Av. 13 # 86-10 (304), Bogota, Colombia. *E-mail:* amfranco@humboldt.org.co
- FRANKE, IRMA, Museo de Historia Natural, Av. Arenales 1256, Jesús María, Apdo 14-0434, Lima 14, Perú. *E-mail:* ifrankej@unmsm.edu.pe
- FREILE, JUAN F., Fundación Numashir, Mariano Ortiz e Iberia, C.P. 17-12-122, Quito, Ecuador. *E-mail:* jfreile@numashir.org
- FREITAS LOPES, IARA, Departamento de Genética e Evolução, Universidade Federal de São Carlos, Rodovia Washington Luís (SP-310), Km 235, São Carlos, São Paulo, CEP: 13565-905, Brasil. *E-mail:* pifl@iris.ufscar.br
- FRERE, ESTEBAN, Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia Austral/WCS, Estrada 1541 (9050), Puerto Deseado, Argentina. *E-mail:* estebanfrere@yahoo.com.ar
- FREYMANN, BERND, A. Koenig Zoological Museum, Adenauerallee 160, 53113 Bonn, Germany. *E-mail:* bernd.frey mann@gmx.de
- GALLARDO DEL ANGEL, JULIO CESAR, Circuito Teodoro A. Dehesa # 348, Fracc. Lucas Martín, C.P. 91100, Xalapa, Veracruz, México. *E-mail:* juliogallardo1@yahoo.com
- GARCIA AMADO, MARIA ALEXANDRA, Centro de Biofísica y Bioquímica, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas (IVIC), Carretera Panamericana Km 11, Altos de Pipe, Venezuela. *E-mail:* magarcia@ivic.ve
- GARCIA BARISON, MARIA DOLORES, Unión de Ornitólogos de Chile (UNORCH), Neveria 4524, Depto 50, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* m_dolores13@hotmail.com
- GARCIA DERAS, GABRIELA MARGARITA, Museo de Zoología, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Apdo Postal 70-399, C.P. 04510, México DF, México. *E-mail:* deras@hotmail.com
- GARCÍA OLASO, FELIPE, Laboratorio de Evolución/Averaves, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la Republica, Igua 4225, Piso 9, Montevideo, C.P. 11400, Uruguay. *E-mail:* fgarola@adinet.com.uy
- GARITANO-ZAVALA BURGOS, ÁLVARO, Instituto de Ecología. Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, Calle 26 s/n, Cota Cota, La Paz, Bolivia. *E-mail:* iecbf@ceibo.entelnet.bo
- GARTHE, STEFAN, University of Kiel, Hafentörn, Buesum, Germany. *E-mail:* garthe@ftz-west.uni-kiel.de
- GATTO, ALEJANDRO JAVIER, Centro Nacional Patagónico ñ CONICET, Blvd. Brown 3600, Puerto Madryn (U9120ACF), Chubut, Argentina. *E-mail:* alegatto@cenpat.edu.ar
- GEORGE, GREGORY, East Stroudsburg University, 4004 Butternut Dr, Walnutport, Pennsylvania 18301, USA. *E-mail:* ggeorge1975@hotmail.com
- GERHARDT, RICHARD, Sage Science, 319 SE Woodside Ct., Madras, Oregon, USA. *E-mail:* rgerhardt@madras.net
- GILLIES, CAMERON, University of Alberta,

- 9744 84th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 2E9, Canada. *E-mail*: cgillies@ualberta.ca
- GOERCK, JAQUELINE MARIA, BirdLife International - Programa do Brasil, Alameda Grécia 297, 06474-010 Barueri, São Paulo, Brasil. *E-mail*: birdlifebrasil@uol.com.br
- GOMES, VERÔNICA, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rua Ribeiro de Almeida 38/901, Laranjeiras, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. *E-mail*: vsmgomes@yahoo.com.br
- GÓMEZ, ISABEL M., Colección Boliviana de Fauna, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, CosaCota, Calle 26, Casilla 6394, Correo Central, La Paz, Bolivia. *E-mail*: isabelgomez@alamo.entelnet.bo
- GONZÁLEZ CABEZAS, RICARDO, Juana de Lestonac 0138, Depto. 132, Providencia, 750-0864, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail*: gotario@yahoo.com
- GONZÁLEZ GAJARDO, ANGELICA LORENA, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Alameda 340, Casilla 114-D, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail*: algonzag@bio.puc.cl
- GONZÁLEZ ZARAGOZA, CLEMENTINA, Instituto de Ecología, A. C., AP 63, C.P. 91000, Km 2.5 antigua carretera a Coatepec, Xalapa, Veracruz 9100, México. *E-mail*: clemen@ecologia.edu.mx
- GONZÁLEZ ZEVALLOS, DIEGO RICARDO, Mathews 1771, Departamento No. 1, Puerto Madryn, C.P. 9120, Argentina. *E-mail*: diegue34@hotmail.com
- GONZÁLEZ, OSCAR, Gómez del Carpio 135, Barrio Medico, Lima 34, Perú. *E-mail*: pajarologo@hotmail.com
- GONZÁLEZ, PATRICIA, Fundación Inalafquen, Pedro Morón 385, San Antonio Oeste, Argentina. *E-mail*: patriciag@canaldig.com.ar
- GONZÁLEZ-ACUÑA, DANIEL ALFONSO, Universidad de Concepción, Casilla 537, Chillán, Chile. *E-mail*: danigon@udec.cl
- GRAHAM, CATHERINE, Department of Ecology and Evolution, 650 Life Sciences Bldg., Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York 11794, USA. *E-mail*: cgraham@life.bio.sunysb.edu
- GRANIZO, RAÚL TOMÁS, C/Playa de Lagoa 3, 28660 Boadilla del Monte, Madrid, Spain. *E-mail*: rtomasgranizo@terra.es
- GUEDES, NEIVA M. R., Projeto Arara Azul/ Universidade para o Desenvolvimento do Estado e da Região do Pantanal (UNIDERP), Rua Klaus Sturk, 178 Jardim Mansur, 79.051-660 Campo Grande, MS, CEP 79051-660, Brasil. *E-mail*: projetoararaazul@uol.com.br
- GUERRERO, GLADYS, Lasserre 318, Río Grande, C.P. 9420, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. *E-mail*: gla@netcombbs.com.ar
- GUERRERO-MADRILES, MARIO ALBERTO, Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Colima 331 ote. Col. República, C.P. 25280, Saltillo, Coahuila, México. *E-mail*: guerrero-madriles@yahoo.com.mx
- GUSTAFSON, MARY, USGS PWRC Bird Banding Laboratory, 12100 Beech Forest Road, Laurel, Maryland 20708, USA. *E-mail*: Mary_Gustafson@usgs.gov
- GUTIÉRREZ ÁLVAREZ, MARÍA MERCEDES, Pilcomayo 5429/701, C.P. 11400, Montevideo, Uruguay. *E-mail*: macbeth@movinet.com.uy
- GUTIÉRREZ PÉREZ, ADRIÁN, EB Chamela, Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Apdo Postal 21, C.P. 48980, Jalisco, San Patricio, México. *E-mail*: hadriangp@hotmail.com
- HAIG, SUSAN, USGS-FRESC, Oregon State University, 3200 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis, Oregon 97331 USA. *E-mail*: susan_haig@usgs.gov
- HAINES, VALERIE, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4, Canada. *E-mail*: haines@ucalgary.ca
- HAMEL, PAUL, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 227, Stoneville, Mississippi 39403, USA. *E-mail*: phamel@fs.fed.us
- HANSBAUER, MIRIAM, Kaspar-Kerll-Str. 22, 81245 Munich, Germany. *E-mail*: Miriam-

- Melanie@web.de
 HAWKINS, ROSS, The Hummingbird Society, P.O. Box 394, Newark, New Jersey 07101, USA. *E-mail:* hummerman@hummingbird.org
- HAYS, HELEN, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024. *E-mail:* USA, hays@amnh.org
- HENGSTENBERG, DEREK, Mississippi State University, Mail Stop 9690, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762, USA. *E-mail:* dwh1@msstate.edu
- HENNESSY, BENNETT, Asociación Armonía, Avenida Lomas de Arena No. 400, Casilla 3566, Santa Cruz, Bolivia. *E-mail:* tan-gara@unete.com
- HERNANDES VOLPATO, GRAZIELE R., Tocantins n 255, Apto 604L, CEP 86025 780, Vila Nova, Londrina, Brasil. *E-mail:* gravol-pato@yahoo.com.br
- HERNÁNDEZ FERNÁNDEZ, AIDA, PRONATURA A.C., Aspergulas No. 22, Col. San Clemente, México DF, México. *E-mail:* tita_sob@yahoo.com
- HERNÁNDEZ GARCIA, MARTHA, Department of Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA), Km 12 1/2 Carretera Norte, Managua, Nicaragua.
- HERNÁNDEZ, BLANCA, Museo de Zoología, Departamento de Biología Evolutiva, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), México DF 04510, México. *E-mail:* behb@hp.fciencias.unam.mx
- HILL, MEGAN, 1840 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22201, USA. *E-mail:* mhill@rarecenter.org
- HOBSON, KEITH, Canadian Wildlife Service, 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4, Canada. *E-mail:* Keith.Hobson@ec.gc.ca
- HÖFLING, ELIZABETH, Universidade de São Paulo, Rua do Matão, Trav. 14, n. 321, São Paulo, Brasil. *E-mail:* ehofling@ib.usp.br
- HOLBERTON, REBECCA, University of Maine, 5751 Murray Hall, Department of Biological Sciences, Orono, Maine 04469, USA. *E-mail:* rebecca.holberton@maine.edu
- HOMBERGER, DOMINIQUE G., Louisiana State University, Department of Biological Sciences, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803, USA. *E-mail:* zodhomb@lsu.edu
- HONEY ESCANDON, MAGALI, Museo de Zoología, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Apdo Postal 70-399, México 04510, DF, México. *E-mail:* mbihoney@yahoo.com
- HOWELL, JUDD A., USGS-Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, 12100 Beech Forest Road, Suite 4039, Laurel, Maryland 20708-4039, USA. *E-mail:* judd_howell@usgs.gov
- HUANCA LLANOS, NOEMÍ ESTHER, Centro de Biodiversidad y Genética, Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS), Calle Sucre y Parque La Torre, Cochabamba, Bolivia. *E-mail:* noemi_ehll@yahoo.com
- IBÁÑEZ HERNÁNDEZ, GABRIELA, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Circuito Ext. s/n, Ciudad Universitaria, México. *E-mail:* pgih@hp.fciencias.unam.mx
- IBARGUCHI, GABRIELA, Queen's University, 4431 Bath Road, Amherstview, Ontario K7L 3N6, Canada. *E-mail:* gibarguchi@biology.ca
- IBARRA ELIESSETCH, JOSE TOMAS, Universidad Católica de Chile, Camino Farellones 21269, Barnechea, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* jtibarra@puc.cl
- IBARRA PORTILLO, RICARDO ENRIQUE, Avenida Tecana No. 618, Colonia Miramonte, San Salvador, El Salvador. *E-mail:* ribarra@telesal.net
- ILISZKO, LECH, Ecotone Ecological Analyses & Projects, ul. Grunwaldzka 612C, 80-337 Gdansk, Poland. *E-mail:* office@ecotone.pl
- IPPI, SILVINA, ONG Omora, Costanera 271,

- Puerto Williams, XII Región, Chile. *E-mail:* silvinaippi@angelfire.com
- JAHN, ALEX, University of Florida, Department of Zoology, Gainesville, Florida 32611, USA. *E-mail:* ajahn@zoo.ufl.edu
- JAKSIC, FABIÁN, Universidad Católica de Chile, Alameda 340, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* fjaksic@bio.puc.cl
- JARAMILLO, ALVARO, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 247, Alviso, California 95002, USA. *E-mail:* chucao@comcast.net
- JIMÉNEZ, JAIME E., Laboratorio de Ecología, Universidad de Los Lagos, Casilla 933, Osorno, Chile. *E-mail:* jjimenez@ulagos.cl
- JOHNSON, ARELIS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Box 1600, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico 00745, USA. *E-mail:* diputado99@hotmail.com
- JOHNSON, JENNIFER, Swarthmore College, 500 College Ave., Swarthmore, Pennsylvania 19081, USA. *E-mail:* jjohnso1@swarthmore.edu
- JOHOW, FEDERICO, Unión de Ornitólogos de Chile (UNORCH), Álvarez 2642 C 4, Viña del Mar, Chile. *E-mail:* fjohow@hotmail.com
- JOSEPH, LEO, Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, USA. *E-mail:* joseph@acnatsci.org
- JUNEMANN, CRISTIAN ENRIQUE, Swarovski Optik, Nosedal 6498-B, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* cjunemann@interactiva.cl
- KEAST, ALLEN, Queen's University, Department of Biology, Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6, Canada. *E-mail:* keastja@biology.queensu.ca
- KELLY, DAVID, Trinity College Dublin, 28 Connolly Avenue, Inchicore, Dublin 8, Ireland. *E-mail:* djkelly@tcd.ie
- KELLY, JEFFREY, Oklahoma Biological Survey, University of Oklahoma, 111 East Chesapeake St., Norman, Oklahoma 73019, USA. *E-mail:* jkelly@ou.edu
- KNAPTON, BARBARA E., Alto Andino Nature Tours, Baquedano 299, Putre, Chile. *E-mail:* beknapton@hotmail.com
- KOMAR, OLIVER, SalvaNatura, Colonia Flor Blanca, 33 Ave. Sur #640, San Salvador, El Salvador. *E-mail:* okomar@salvanatura.org
- KRIESE, KENNETH, Department of Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology, University of California, One Shields Ave, Davis, California 95616, USA. *E-mail:* neochen@yahoo.com
- KUSHLAN, JAMES, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, P.O. Box 1930, Edgewater, Maryland 21037, USA. *E-mail:* jkushlan@earthlink.net
- LANCOT, RICHARD, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory bird Management, 1011 East Tudor Road, MS 201, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, USA. *E-mail:* richard_lancot@fws.gov
- LARA RODRÍGUEZ, CARLOS, Centro Tlaxcala de Biología de la Conducta, Carretera Tlaxcala-Puebla Km 1.5, Tlaxcala, México. *E-mail:* laracar@garza.uatx.mx
- LATTA, STEVEN, PRBO Conservation Science, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, California 94970, USA. *E-mail:* slatta@prbo.org
- LAZO, IVAN, Comité Nacional Pro-Defensa de la Fauna y Flora (CODEFF), Luis Uribe 2620, Ñuñoa, Chile. *E-mail:* bubo@vtr.net
- LEIN, ROSS, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4, Canada. *E-mail:* mrlein@ucalgary.ca
- LENS, LUC, Terrestrial Ecology Unit, Department of Biology, Ghent University, Ledeganckstraat 35, B-9000 Ghent, Belgium. *E-mail:* Luc.Lens@UGent.be
- LENTINO, MIGUEL, Colección Ornitológica Phelps, Boulevard de Sabana Grande, Edificio Gran Sabana, Piso 3, Caracas, Venezuela. *E-mail:* mlentino@reacciun.ve
- LEVEY, DOUG, Department of Zoology, University of Florida, P.O. 118525, Gainesville, Florida 32611, USA. *E-mail:* dlevey@zoo.ufl.edu

- LIEBIG FOSSAS, IVÁN, Museo de Zoología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Apdo Postal 70-399, México DF, México. *E-mail:* ivanliebig@yahoo.com.mx
- LINARES, MAGALY, Fondo Peregrino - Panamá, Clayton, Ciudad del Saber, Casa 87, Panamá. *E-mail:* mlinares@fondoperegrino.org
- LINGAARD, MARCHAL, Suriname Forest Service, Cornelis Jougbastraat No 10-14, Paramaribo, Suriname.
- LIRA-NORIEGA, ANDRÉS, Porfirio Díaz # 164-1, Col. Del Valle, 03100 México DF, México. *E-mail:* aliranoliega@yahoo.com
- LISNIZER, NORA, Calle 19 # 851, (1896) City Bell, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina. *E-mail:* lisnizer@netverk.com.ar
- LOISELLE, BETTE, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63121, USA. *E-mail:* loiselle@umsl.edu
- LONDOÑO, GUSTAVO ADOLFO, EcoAndina, Av 5A Norte # 51-07, Barrio la Flora, Cali, Colombia. *E-mail:* galembo76@yahoo.com
- LÓPEZ ISLAS, MARÍA EUGENIA, Ave. Instituto Politécnico Nacional # 2203, Edificio 1, Entrada A, Departamento 302, Unidad Habitacional "Juan de Dios BatizZacatenco", C.P. 07360, México DF, México. *E-mail:* lopezislas_maru@msn.com
- LÓPEZ, JOSÉ LUIS, Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas, 5 Avenida 6-06, Zona 1, Edificio IPM 01005, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- LÓPEZ-CALLEJA, MARIA VICTORIA, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Alameda 340, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* mvlopez@genes.bio.puc.cl
- LÓPEZ-FLORES, MARISEL, HC 02 Box 9950, Juncos, Puerto Rico 00777, USA. *E-mail:* lmarisel@hotmail.com
- LUNA-JORQUERA, GUILLERMO, Departamento de Biología Marina, Universidad Católica del Norte, Larrondo 1281, Coquimbo, Chile. *E-mail:* gluna@ucn.cl
- LUQUER, HEIDI, Manomet/WHSRN, P.O. Box 143, 5 Brownsville Road, Hartland Four Corners, Vermont 05049, USA. *E-mail:* luquer@vermontel.net
- MACIAS CABALLERO, CLAUDIA, Pronatura Chiapas, A.C., Av. Miguel Hidalgo No. 9, San Cristóbal, México. *E-mail:* cmacias@pronatura-chiapas.org
- MACIAS-DUARTE, ALBERTO, The Peregrine Fund, 5668 West Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, Idaho 83709-7289, USA. *E-mail:* maciasduarte@hotmail.com
- MÄHLER JR., JAN KAREL FELIX, Secretaria de Meio Ambiente do Rio Grande do Sul, Rua Augusto de Lourenço Martins 70, Vila Nova, Porto Alegre, RS, CEP: 91.740-510, Brasil. *E-mail:* jancibele@via-rs.net.
- MARIANO-JELICICH, ROCÍO, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Funes 3250, Mar del Plata, Argentina. *E-mail:* rmjelic@mdp.edu.ar
- MARIN EDMONDS, DANIEL, Universidad de los Lagos, Escuela de Post-Grado, Av. Fuchslocher 1305, Osorno, Chile. *E-mail:* strombus@hotmail.com
- MARRA, PETER, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, 647 Contees Wharf Rd, Edgewater, Maryland 21037, USA. *E-mail:* marrap@si.edu
- MARTELLA, MONICA BEATRIZ, Centro de Zoología Aplicada, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, CC 122, (5000) Córdoba, Argentina, martemo@com.uncor.edu
- MARTENSEN, ALEXANDRE, Universidade de São Paulo, R. Prof. Jose Horacio M. Teixeira 836, AP 131, São Paulo, Brasil. *E-mail:* martensen@terra.com.br
- MARTIN, GRAHAM, School of Biosciences, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, UK. *E-mail:* g.r.martin@bham.ac.uk
- MARTIN, MARIE-ANNE, School of Biosciences, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, UK. UK.

- E-mail:* g.r.martin@bham.ac.uk
- MARTINEZ, JUAN CARLOS, 900 North Stuart Street, Apt. 717, Arlington, Virginia 22203, USA. *E-mail:* jcmartinez@avesnicaragua.org
- MATARASSO, HORACIO F., Universidad Nacional Comahue, Las Golondrinas 183, 8370 San Martín de los Andes, Argentina. *E-mail:* papu@smandes.com.ar
- MATUS NAVARRO, RICARDO JAVIER, José Robert 0289, Punta Arenas, Chile. *E-mail:* rmatusn@entelchile.net
- MCCALL, ROB, Henfryn Farm, Pentrecwrt, Llandysul, Carmarthenshire, Wales, SA44 SBB, UK. *E-mail:* robm.call@virgin.net
- MCCRACKEN, KEVIN, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775, USA. *E-mail:* fnkgm@uaf.edu
- MCDONALD, MARY VICTORIA, Department of Biology, University of Central Arkansas, 201 Donaghey Ave, Conway, Arkansas 72035, USA. *E-mail:* mcdonaldv@mail.uca.edu
- MCGEHEE, STEVEN, 2449 Pocahontas Pl., St Louis, Missouri 63144, USA. *E-mail:* whitethroatedcaracara@yahoo.com
- MCKECHNIE, ANDREW E., School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Private Bag 3, Wits 2050, South Africa. *E-mail:* mckechnie@gecko.biol.wits.ac.za
- MCNEIL, RAYMOND, Département de Sciences Biologiques, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, Succ. Centre-ville, Montréal, Québec H3C 3J7, Canada. *E-mail:* Raymond.McNeil@videotron.ca
- MEHLMAN, DAVID, The Nature Conservancy, 1303 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Suite 5, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104, USA. *E-mail:* dmehlman@tnc.org
- MELO JUNIOR, TADEU, Rua Professora Amália Pimentel 2635, Barrio Sao Jose, 14403-440 Franca São Paulo, Brasil. *E-mail:* tadeu_melojr@yahoo.com.br
- MENDONÇA D'HORTA, FERNANDO, Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Av Perimetral 1901, Belém, Brasil. *E-mail:* fmhorta@ig.com.br
- MERKORD, CHRISTOPHER L., Division of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri, 105 Tucker Hall, Columbia, Missouri 65211, USA. *E-mail:* clm9q7@mizzou.edu
- MERLET, HORACIO, Departamento de Protección de Recursos Naturales Renovables, Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG), Avenida Presidente Bulnes 140, Santiago, Chile.
- MEYNARD SALINAS, CHRISTINE, Department of Environmental Science and Policy, University of California, Davis, 1 Shields Av., Davis, California 95616, USA. *E-mail:* cnmeynard@ucdavis.edu
- MIYAKI, CRISTINA YUMI, Departamento de Biología, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, Rua do Matão 277, CEP 05508-900, São Paulo, SP, Brasil. *E-mail:* cymiyaki@usp.br
- MOLLER RIVAS, JORGE, Eco Travel, Av. Costanera s/n, Puerto Varas, Chile. *E-mail:* jmoller@ecotravel.cl
- MONTAÑO CENTELLAS, FLAVIA, DRIADE-Ecología y conservación, Av. Saavedra, Edif. Ceibo, Depto 1B, La Paz, Bolivia. *E-mail:* fla_mc@hotmail.com
- MONTOYA, GABRIEL, Unidad de Vida Silvestre y Ecosistemas Frágiles, Dirección de Biodiversidad y Áreas Protegidas, Ministerio del Ambiente, Av. Eloy Alfaro NN30-350, Amazonas, Quito, Ecuador.
- MOORE, FRANK, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Drive (5018), Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39406-0001, USA. *E-mail:* frank.moore@usm.edu
- MORALES, CRISTINA, Departamento Vertebrados, Dirección de Investigación Biológica, Secretaría del Ambiente, Piuta Mcal. Esti-zarribia Km 10, San Lorenzo, Paraguay.
- MORONG CAMPILLO, CAROLINA NILDA, Alcalde Jorge Monckeberg 1550, Ñuñoa, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* morongcampillo

- @yahoo.com
- MORTON, EUGENE, Smithsonian Institution, 22318 Teepleville Flats Road, Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania 16403-5564, USA. *E-mail:* emorton@crc.si.edu
- MOSA, SERGIO, Instituto de Recursos Naturales y Ecodesarrollo, Universidad Nacional de Salta, Buenos Aires 177, Argentina. *E-mail:* sermosa@unsa.edu.ar
- MOTTA, BETZABEY, Ministerio del Ambiente y los Recursos Naturales, Dirección General de Fauna y Diversidad, Centro Simón Bolívar, Torre Sur, Piso 6, El Silencio, Caracas, Venezuela.
- MUÑOZ LÓPEZ, RUTH, BirdLife International, Vicente Cárdenas E5-75, Piso 3, Quito, Ecuador. *E-mail:* harpyec@yahoo.com
- MUÑOZ TORO, ANIR, Miguel Claro 2322, Ñuñoa, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* irian85@yahoo.com
- MURGA, MARÍA GABRIELA, Asociación Patagónica de Ornitología, Esquel 2283, (9000) Comodoro Rivadavia, Chubut, Argentina. *E-mail:* murgamg@yahoo.com.ar
- NAKA, LUCIANO, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia, Rua Jasmins 371, C.P. 478, 69011-970 Manaus, Brasil. *E-mail:* nak@inpa.gov.br
- NAOKI, KAZUYA, Centro de Análisis Espacial, Instituto de Ecología, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, Casilla 6394, Correo Central, La Paz, Bolivia. *E-mail:* knaoki@alamo.entelnet.bo
- NAVARRO SIGUENZA, ADOLFO, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Apdo Postal 70-399, México DF, México. *E-mail:* fcvg01@servidor.unam.mx
- NEWTON, ERIC, Directorate of Public Health Department of Nature and Environment, Santa Rosaweg 122, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles.
- NILIUS, RAYE, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington Virginia 22203, USA. *E-mail:* Raye_Nilius@fws.gov.
- NOGUEIRA, DENISE, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rua São Francisco Xavier 524, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. *E-mail:* deniosemn@hotmail.com
- OJEDA, VALERIA, Universidad Nacional del Comahue, Quintral 1250, Bariloche, Argentina. *E-mail:* campephilus@bariloche.com.ar
- OLIVO, CRISTIAN, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Casilla 13794, La Paz, Bolivia. *E-mail:* olivocris@yahoo.it
- OLSON, KIMBERLY, University of Montana, P.O. Box 8363, Missoula, Montana 59807, USA. *E-mail:* n_tro_p@hotmail.com
- ORTIZ-PULIDO, RAUL, Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas (CIB), Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, A.P. 69, Pachuca, México. *E-mail:* ortizrau@uaeh.reduaeh.mx
- OTTEMA, OTTE, Foundation for Nature Conservation in Suriname (STINASU), P.O. Box 12252, Paramaribo, Suriname. *E-mail:* research@stinasu.sr
- OUTLAW, DIANA, Department of Biology, Ellington Hall, University of Memphis, 3700 Walker Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38152, USA. *E-mail:* dianaoutlaw@earthlink.net
- PACHECO DELGADO, María Andreína, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, Carretera Panamericana, Km 11, Altos de Pipe, Caracas, Venezuela. *E-mail:* apacheco@ivic.ve
- PÁEZ LÓPEZ, JUAN MAURICIO, Centro Cultural Queltehue, Machalí, Chile. *E-mail:* vanletus@hotmail.com
- PARADA MEYER, MARIO ENRIQUE, Minería Escondida Ltda, Av. de la Minería 501, Antofagasta, Chile. *E-mail:* mparada30@hotmail.com
- PARRA, JUAN, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, 3101 VLSB, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720, USA. *E-mail:*

- juanp@uclink.berkeley.edu
 PASHLEY, DAVID, American Bird Conservancy, P.O. Box 249, The Plains, Virginia 20198, USA. *E-mail:* dpashley@abcbirds.org
- PAUL, ELLEN, Ornithological Council, 8722 Preston Place, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815, USA. *E-mail:* ellen.paul@verizon.net
- PEREZ ZUÑIGA, JOSE MIGUEL, Departamento de Herpetología, Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Av. Arenales 1256, Jesus María, Lima, Perú. *E-mail:* perez_zjm@hotmail.com
- PÉREZ, EDGAR SELVIN, Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza, 7 av 7-09, zona 13, Guatemala City, Guatemala. *E-mail:* dendroica@defensores.org.gt
- PEREZ, GUILLERMO, Canadian Wildlife Service, 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4, Canada. *E-mail:* Guillermo.Perez@ec.gc.ca
- PIZO, MARCO AURELIO, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Departamento de Botânica, C.P. 199, 13 506-900 Rio Claro, Brasil. *E-mail:* pizo@rc.unesp.br
- PLETSCHET, SANDRA, 4020 Hughes Circle, Norman, Oklahoma 73019, USA. *E-mail:* jeff-sandy@sbcglobal.net
- PORRAS, PABLO, Asociación ANAI, Hone Creek, Talamanca, Costa Rica. *E-mail:* raptors@anaicr.org
- PORZECANSKI, ANA LUZ, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024, USA. *E-mail:* alporze@amnh.org
- PULGARIN RESTREPO, PAULO CESAR, Universidad de Antioquia, Cra 75 # 9a-02, Blq 11 - Apto 201, Medellín, Colombia. *E-mail:* p_pulgarin@hotmail.com
- PURYEAR, ANN, North Carolina Community Colleges, 2406 Idle Hour Drive, Asheville, North Carolina 28806, USA.
- QUINTANA, FLAVIO, Centro Nacional Patagónico, Blvd Brown s/n, (9120) Puerto Madryn, Argentina. *E-mail:* quintana@cenpat.edu.ar
- QUINTANA, RUBEN DARIO, Departamento de Ecología, Genética y Evolución, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Pabellón II, Ciudad Universitaria, 1428 Buenos Aires, Argentina. *E-mail:* rubenq@bg.fcen.uba.ar
- QUINTERO, MA. ESTHER, Instituto de Ecología, A.C., Km 2.5 Carretera Antigua a Coatepec No 351, Congregación el Haya, Xalapa, Veracruz, C.P. 91070, México. *E-mail:* quintero@ecologia.edu.mx
- RABUFFETTI, FABIÁN, Conservación de Aves Marinas, Aves Argentinas - Asociación Ornitológica del Plata, BirdLife Internacional en Argentina, 25 de Mayo 749, Piso 2, Depto 6, Buenos Aires, Argentina. *E-mail:* rabuffetti@avesargentinas.org.ar
- RAFFAELE, HERB, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of International Conservation, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203, USA. *E-mail:* herb_raffaele@fws.gov
- RAMADORI, DANIEL, Fauna Silvestre, Dirección Nacional de Recursos Naturales y Conservación de la Biodiversidad, Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable, San Martín 459, (1004) Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- RAMÍREZ ALBORES, JORGE ENRIQUE, El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR), Carr. Panamericana y Av. Periférico Sur s/n, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, México. *E-mail:* jorgeramirez22@hotmail.com
- RAMÍREZ CEDILLO, MARÍA GUADALUPE, El Colegio de La Frontera Sur, Carr. Panamericana y Av. Periférico Sur s/n, San Cristóbal, México, gurace20@hotmail.com,
- RAPOSO, MARCOS ANDRÉ, Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, raposo@mn.ufrj.br,
- REID WOODFORDE-BOOTH, SHARON, Departamento Ecología, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Casilla 114-D, Santiago, Chile, sreid@bio.puc.cl,

- REIS SARI, ELOISA HELENA, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, R Ten Anastácio Moura 221/2204 Sta Efigenia, Belo Horizonte-Minas Gerais, Brasil. *E-mail:* eloisagene@yahoo.com.br
- RENNER, SWEN C., Zentrum für Naturschutz, University of Göttingen, Von Siebold Strasse 2, 37075 Goettingen, Germany. *E-mail:* swen.renner@web.de
- REPENNING, MÁRCIO, Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Av. Ipiranga 6681, Porto Alegre, Brasil. *E-mail:* 01106470@pucrs.br
- RETANA, MARÍA VALERIA, Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia San Juan Bosc, Blvd Brown 3700, (9120) Puerto Madryn, Argentina. *E-mail:* valeretana@yahoo.com.ar
- REY, NICOLÁS, Conservación Argentina, Universidad Maimónides-Hidalgo, Hidalgo 745, Piso 6, C1405BCK, Buenos Aires, Argentina. *E-mail:* nikorey2@hotmail.com
- RIBAS, CAMILA, Universidade de São Paulo, Rua Republica do Peru, 53/301, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. *E-mail:* ribasc@usp.br
- RICH, TERRELL D., U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5815 Peachtree Street, Boise, Idaho 83703-3125, USA. *E-mail:* terry_rich@fws.gov
- RIESTRA MIRANDA, SEBASTIÁN ANDRÉS, Julio Prado #2115, Ñuñoa, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* sriestram@hotmail.com
- RILLA, FRANCISCO D., Universidad Católica del Uruguay/Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humana, Programa de Gestión Ambiental, Av. Gral Uruiza 2842, C.P. 11600, Montevideo, Uruguay. *E-mail:* pico@internet.com.uy
- RÍOS MUÑOZ, CÉSAR ANTONIO, Museo de Zoología, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Calle 25, #3 Col. Maravillas, C.P. 57410, México DF, México. *E-mail:* rmunoz_98@yahoo.com
- RIVERA GUTIÉRREZ, MARIA, Dirección de Ecosistemas, Ministerio del Medio Ambiente, Calle 37, No 8-40, Piso 2, Bogotá DC, Colombia.
- ROBBINS, CHANDLER, 12100 Beech Forest Road, Laurel, Maryland 20708, USA. *E-mail:* chan_robbins@usgs.gov
- ROCHA SAGRERA, GABRIEL, AVES Uruguay, Canelones 1164, Montevideo, Uruguay. *E-mail:* elaenia@adinet.com.uy
- RODNER, CLEMENCIA, Audubon de Venezuela, Apdo 80450, Caracas, 1080-A, Caracas, Venezuela. *E-mail:* edqcrodner@cantv.net
- RODRÍGUEZ-FERRARO, ADRIANA, Biology Department, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63121, USA. *E-mail:* arppf@studentmail.umsl.edu
- RODRIGUEZ-FLORES, CLAUDIA ISABEL, Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Apartado Aéreo 7495, Carrera 30 Calle 45, Bogotá, Colombia. *E-mail:* crodriaves@yahoo.com.ar
- ROJAS NOSSA, SANDRA VICTORIA, AA. 356.884, Bogotá, Colombia. *E-mail:* svrojasn@unal.edu.co
- ROJAS, LUZ MARINA, Instituto de Investigaciones en Biomedicina y Ciencias Aplicadas, Universidad de Oriente, Cumaná, Sucre, Venezuela. *E-mail:* lmarinarojas@hotmail.com
- ROJAS-SOTO, OCTAVIO R., Laboratorio del Departamento de Ecología y Comportamiento Animal, Instituto de Ecología, A. C., Km 2.5 Antigua Carretera a Coatepec 351, Congregación el Haya, C.P. 91070, Xalapa, Veracruz, México. *E-mail:* octavio@ecologia.edu.mx
- ROSERO, LILIANA, Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia, Carretera Central del Norte, Km 1 via Paipa, Tunja, Colombia. *E-mail:* lilianaroslas@yahoo.com.mx
- ROSSELLI, LORETA, Asociación Bogotana de Ornitología, Calle 109, No 25-10 (Int. 8),

- Bogotá, Colombia. *E-mail:* loreta@cable.net.co
- ROTH, DANA, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20520, USA. *E-mail:* RothDS@state.gov
- ROZZI, RICARDO, Fundación Omora - Universidad de Magallanes, Costanera 449, Puerto Williams, Chile. *E-mail:* omorapark@yahoo.com
- RUIZ BETANCOURT, OLGA, Centro de Biodiversidad y Genética, Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS), Calle Sucre frente al Parque La Torre, C.P. 538, Cochabamba, Bolivia. *E-mail:* oruiz@fcyt.umss.edu.bo,
- SABAT, KIRKWOOD, Universidad de Chile, Las Palmeras 3425, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* psabat@uchile.cl
- SABAT, PABLO, Departamento de Ciencias Ecológicas, Universidad de Chile, Casilla 653, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* psabat@uchile.cl
- SALAMAN, PAUL, Conservación Internacional, Coruña 1754 y Novoa Caamaño, Quito, Ecuador. *E-mail:* salaman@ognorhynchus.com
- SALAS ARIAS, INGRID, Fundación para el Desarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAE-CO), 7a Calle a 20 53, Zona 11, Guatemala, Guatemala. *E-mail:* formicarius-gua@hotmail.com
- SALAZAR RAMÍREZ, CLAUDIA CECILIA, Centro de Biodiversidad y Genética, Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS), Calle Sucre y Parque La Torre, Cochabamba, Bolivia. *E-mail:* taqui330@hotmail.com
- SÁNCHEZ-GONZÁLEZ, LUIS ANTONIO, Museo de Zoología, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Av. Universidad 3000, Col. Copilco, C.P. 04510, México, México. *E-mail:* lasg_howell@yahoo.com
- SANTOS, MARCOS PÉRSIO DANTAS, Universidade Federal do Piauí, Centro de Ciências da Natureza, Departamento de Biologia, Campus da Ininga, Av. Universitaria 1310, 64049-550 Teresina, Piauí, Brasil. *E-mail:* marcospersio@uol.com.br
- SANZ D'ANGELO, VIRGINIA, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Apdo Postal 47058, Caracas 1041-A, Caracas, Venezuela. *E-mail:* vsanzd@etheron.net,
- SAPOZNIKOW, ALEXANDRA, Centro Nacional Patagónico (CENPAT)/Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Boulevard Brown s/n, 9120 Puerto Madryn, Chubut, Argentina. *E-mail:* alexa@cenpat.edu.ar
- SARROCA RODRÍGUEZ, MACARENA, Facultad de Ciencias, 9° Sur, Universidad de la República, Iguá 4225, C.P. 11400, Montevideo, Uruguay. *E-mail:* macas@internet.com.uy
- SAWICKI, ZONIA, Fundación Inalafquen, Punta Delgado 756, Las Grutas, Argentina. *E-mail:* ocasion@canaldig.com.ar
- SCHELSKY, WENDY, 4808 NW 79th Rd, Gainesville, Florida 32653, USA. *E-mail:* tinamidae@hotmail.com
- SCHERER NETO, PEDRO, Museu de História Natural “Capão da Imbuia”, Rua Benedito Conceição 407, Curitiba, Paraná, 82810-080 Brasil. *E-mail:* schererneto@bbs2.sul.com.br
- SCHLATTER VOLLMANN, ROBERTO, Instituto de Zoología, Universidad Austral de Chile, Campus Isla Teja, Valdivia, Chile. *E-mail:* rschlatt@uach.cl
- SCHONDUBE, JORGE E., Centro de Investigaciones en Ecosistemas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Campus Morelia, Apartado Postal 27-3 (Xangari), 58089, Morelia, Michoacán, México. *E-mail:* chon@oikos.unam.mx
- SEGUÍ LÍMIDO, ROSINA, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la República, Iguá 4225, Piso 8, Ala Norte, 11400 Montevideo, Uruguay. *E-mail:* rsegui@fcien.edu.uy
- SEIPKE, SERGIO HUGO, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, 16 n 722 d 3 (e/46 y 47), La Plata, Argentina. *E-mail:* seipke@yahoo.com.ar

- SEPULVEDA, FELIPE, Victoria # 2832, Valparaíso, Chile. *E-mail:* fsepulveda@sernapesca.cl
- SERVAT, GRACE, Proyecto Quenual, Av. San Luis 2773, San Borja, Lima, Perú. *E-mail:* gservat@aol.com
- SHAW, ANN, Linnaean Society of New York, 600 West 218th Street, Apt 3-G, New York, New York 10034-1010, USA.
- SIEDE BARRIE, JOCELYN CAROLINA, Hernando de Aguirre #1764, Providencia, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* jsiedeb@hotmail.com
- SILVA RODRÍGUEZ, MARIA PATRICIA, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Funes 3250 (B7602AYJ), Mar del Plata, Argentina. *E-mail:* faro@copetel.com.ar
- SILVA-GARCIA, CELESTE M., Llano Subercaseaux 3003, Depto 62, San Miguel, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* celestesilva@yahoo.com
- SIMEONE, ALEJANDRO, La Joya 369, Departamento 107, Renaca, Viña del Mar, Chile. *E-mail:* peguino@hotmail.com
- SKOREK, MONICA, Ecotone Ecological Analyses & Projects, ul. Grunwaldzka 612C, 80-337 Gdansk, Poland. *E-mail:* moniskorek@poczta.onet.pl
- SMITH, DAVID A., USFWS/DBHC, 4401 North Fairfax Drive MS4075, Arlington, Virginia 22203, USA. *E-mail:* david_a_smith@fws.gov
- SMITH, KIMBERLY, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701, USA. *E-mail:* kgsmith@uark.edu
- SOARES DOS SANTOS, MARCELO, Rua Tiradentes 650, Apto 1701, Edif. Maria Tudor, Bairro Reduto, Belém, CEP 66.053-330, Brasil. *E-mail:* mssantos@ufpa.br
- SOAVE, GUILLERMO ENRIQUE, División Zoología Vertebrados, Museo de La Plata, Paseo del Bosque, 1900 La Plata, Argentina. *E-mail:* gsoave@museo.fcnym.unlp.edu.ar
- STEINKAMP, MELANIE, Wetlands International, 4401 Fairfax Drive # 730, Arlington, Virginia 22203, USA. *E-mail:* melanie_steinkamp@fws.gov
- STILES, F. GARY, Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Apdo 7495, Bogotá DC, Colombia. *E-mail:* fgstiles@unal.edu.co
- STRONG, YVETTE, National Environment and Planning Agency, 10 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5, Jamaica.
- SVAGELJ, WALTER SERGIO, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Justo Antonio Suárez 7273, Buenos Aires, Argentina. *E-mail:* titosvagelj@bg.fcen.uba.ar
- SYMPSON, LORENZO, Sociedad Naturalista Andino Patagónica, C.C. 768, Bariloche, Argentina. *E-mail:* lorsymp@bariloche.com.ar
- TALA GONZÁLEZ, CHARIF, Unión de Ornitólogos de Chile (UNORCH), Av. Bulnes 140, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* charif.tala@sag.gob.cl
- TAVARES, ERIKA SENDRA, Departamento de Biología, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, Rua do Matão, São Paulo, Brasil. *E-mail:* erika@usp.br
- TERDIMAN SCHAALMANN, CLAUDIA, Secretario de Meio Ambiente do Estado de São Paulo, Av. Prof. Lucas de Assunção 139, São Paulo, Brasil. *E-mail:* sma.claudiat@cetesb.sp.gov.br
- THIBOU, ADRIEL, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands & Fisheries, P.O. Box 2122, St. John's, Antigua.
- THOMPSON, JEFFREY, Warnell School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602, USA. *E-mail:* perdiz@uga.edu
- TOLEDO, MARIA CECÍLIA BARBOSA, Departamento de Biología, Campus do Bom Conselho, Universidade de Taubaté, Av. Tiradentes s/n, Taubaté, CEP 12030-180, Brasil. *E-mail:* ceciliabt@horizon.com.br
- TOMASEVIC, JORGE A., Laboratório de Ecología de Vida Silvestre, Depto. Manejo de Recursos Forestales, Universidad de

- Chile, Casilla 9602, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* jtomasevic@esfera.cl
- TORRES-MURA, JUAN CARLOS, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Casilla 787, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* jtorres@mnhn.cl
- TREJO, ANA, Departamento de Zoología, Centro Regional Bariloche, Universidad Nacional del Comahue, 8400 Bariloche, Provincia. de Río Negro, Argentina. *E-mail:* strix@bariloche.com.ar
- TURNER, JOHN, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, US Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20520, USA.
- UEZU, ALEXANDRE, Universidade de São Paulo, Av. Eng. Armando Arruda Pereira 1572, São Paulo, Brasil. *E-mail:* aleuzeu@usp.br
- UMAÑA VILLAVECES, ANA MARIA, Diagonal 109 A # 17-66 (Apto 506), Bogotá, Colombia. *E-mail:* umana@humboldt.org.co
- VALENCIA RODRÍGUEZ, IVÁN DARÍO, Convención sobre Humedales (Ramsar), Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196, Gland, Switzerland. *E-mail:* ivandval@yahoo.com
- VARELA CONTADOR, SEBASTIÁN, Universidad de Chile, Dalmacia 1196, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* geositta@yahoo.com
- VARGA LOPES, EDSON, Universidade Estadual de Londrina, Rua Argélia 202, Londrina, PR, CEP 86080-060, Brasil. *E-mail:* edson.varga@uel.br
- VEGA PICOS, XICOTÉNCATL, Pronatura Noreste, Estado de Chihuahua 1636, Col. Las Quintas, Culiacán, Sinaloa 80060, México. *E-mail:* xicovega@itesm.mx
- VELÁSQUEZ SANDINO, MARIA PATRICIA, Calle 62 # 47-46, Medellín, Colombia. *E-mail:* patvel@epm.net.co
- VELÁSQUEZ TIBATÁ, JORGE IVÁN, Universidad Nacional, Fundación ProAves, Diagonal 145A No. 31-10, Bogotá, Colombia. *E-mail:* hapalopsittaca@proaves.org
- VENEGAS CASTRO, ANA MARÍA, Universidad de Chile, Pasaje Río Lauca # 422, La Reina, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* anacaven@hotmail.com
- VERGARA EGERT, PABLO MARIO, Universidad Católica de Chile, Alameda 340, Casilla 114-D, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* pmvergar@puc.cl
- VIDAL, OSVALDO, Escuela de Ciencias Biológicas, Universidad Austral de Chile, Casilla 567, Valdivia, Chile. *E-mail:* osvaldovidal@uach.cl
- VIDAL-OJEDA, CLAUDIO, Fantástico Sur Birding, Magallanes 960, Piso 2, Punta Arenas, Chile. *E-mail:* cvidal@fantasticosur.com
- VILELLA, FRANCISCO J., USGS Biological Resources Division, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units, Mail Stop 9691, Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762, USA. *E-mail:* fvilella@cfr.msstate.edu
- VILLABLANCA MONTAÑO, ROBERTO ANDRÉS, Universidad Católica del Norte, Larrondo 1281, Coquimbo, Chile. *E-mail:* roberto@ucn.cl
- VILLAGRAN AVARIA, GASTÓN RAFAEL, Vivero Forestal Oro Verde, Las Galerías 653, Rancagua, Chile. *E-mail:* gastonvillagran@mail.com
- VILLASEÑOR GÓMEZ, LAURA EUGENIA, Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo, Av. J. Nicolás Michelena 97 PB, Morelia, Michoacán, México. *E-mail:* vgomez@zeus.umich.mx
- VON MEYER HECKER, ANDREAS P, Unión de Ornitólogos de Chile (UNORCH), Fundo Pelluco, Puerto Montt, Chile. *E-mail:* Dachsbraten@yahoo.com
- VUILLEUMIER, FRANÇOIS, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024, USA. *E-mail:* vuill@amnh.org
- VUKOSOVIC FLORES, MARIA ANGÉLICA, Universidad de Chile, Andalien 7302, Santiago, Chile. *E-mail:* marivuka@hotmail.com
- WAJNTAL, ANITA, Departamento de Biología, Universidade de São Paulo, Rua do Matão

- 277, CEP 05508-900, São Paulo, SP, Brasil.
E-mail: aniwa@usp.br
- WALLACE, GEORGE, American Bird Conservancy, 4249 Loundon Ave., Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198, USA. *E-mail:* gwallace@abcbirds.org
- WATSON, KARL, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, St. Michael, Barbados.
- WATSON, RICK, The Peregrine Fund, 5668 West Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, Idaho 83709, USA. *E-mail:* rwatson@peregrinefund.org
- WELLER, ANDRÉ, Museum Alexander Koenig, Adenauerallee 160, 53113 Bonn, Germany.
E-mail: a.weller@uni-bonn.de,
- WENDT, STEVE, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Place Vincent Massey, 351 St. Joseph Blvd., 3rd Floor, Hull, Quebec K1A 0H3, Canada.
- WHITE, THOMAS H., US Fish and Wildlife Service, Box 1600, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico 00745, USA. *E-mail:* diputado99@hotmail.com
- WIEDENFELD, DAVID, Fundación Charles Darwin, Estación Científica Charles Darwin, Puerto Ayora, Galápagos, Ecuador. *E-mail:* dwiedenfeld@fcdarwin.org.ec
- WILLSON, MARY F, Estación Biológica Senda Darwin, University of Alaska, 5230 Terrace Pl., Juneau, Alaska 99801, USA. *E-mail:* mwillson@gci.net
- WILSON, ROBERT, Department of Biology & Wildlife, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 211 Irving Hall, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775, USA. *E-mail:* ftrew1@uaf.edu
- WINDSOR, MARCELO, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Commerce and Industry, Forest Department, Forest Drive, Belmopan, Belize.
- WOLF, BLAIR, Department of Biology, University of New Mexico, 167 Castetter Hall, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131, USA. *E-mail:* E-mail: wolf@unm.edu
- WUNDERLE, JOSEPH, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 490, Palmer, Puerto Rico 00721, USA. *E-mail:* wunderle@coqui.net
- XAVIER DO NASCIMENTO, JOÃO LUIZ, Centro Nacional de Pesquisa para Conservação de Aves (CEMAVE), C.P. 102, João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brasil.
- YAHYA, HAFIZ, Department of Wildlife Sciences, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India. *E-mail:* hafiz_yahya@hotmail.com
- YORIO, PABLO, Centro Nacional Patagónico (CENPAT)/Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Azcuenaga 55, Puerto Madryn, Argentina. *E-mail:* yorio@cenpat.edu.ar
- YOUNG, BRUCE, Apdo. 75-5655, Monteverde, Puntarenas, Costa Rica. *E-mail:* bruce_young@naturereserve.org
- ZILIO, FELIPE, Universidade Estadual Paulista-Rio Claro, 3 Av. Getúlio Vargas, 888/404, 90150-002, Porto Alegre, RS, Brasil. *E-mail:* fzilio@ig.com.br
- ZOLOTOFF-PALLAIS, JOSÉ MANUEL, Fundación Cocibolca, Apto No C-212, Managua, Nicaragua. *E-mail:* zolotoff@ibw.com.ni
- ZURITA, GUSTAVO ANDRÉS, WWF-Education for Nature, Depto. De Ecología, Genética y Evolución, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Entre Ríos 85, Puerto Iguazú, (CP: N3370DCA) Argentina. *E-mail:* gazu