

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## *Post Revolution Romania Ornithology Society Formed*

The founding of the Societatea Ornithologica Romania, the first ornithological society in Romania since the revolution, was recently announced by its president, Dr. Dan Munteanu, one of the Society's founding members.

Among its major goals, the Society

is seeking to establish scientific links with ornithological societies "from abroad and with international organizations."

In a recent statement Dr. Munteanu requests that "ornithological societies and institutes from all over the world to support us with funds, books, journals and equipment. We would also be very happy to receive proposals for scien-

tific cooperation; and to attend international symposiums and meetings. On the other hand, we would appreciate foreign ornithologists intending to come to Romania to contact the Romanian Ornithological Society first."

You may contact the Societatea Ornithologica Romania as follows: Dr. Dan Munteanu (President), Biological Research Center, Str. Republicii 48, 3400-CLUJ, Romania. Telephone: 951.18084 or 951.11238. Peter Weber (Secretary), Muzeul Municipal, Str. Viitorului 46, 3125 MEDIAS, Romania. Telephone: 928.11299 or 928.14036.

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## *The National Bird-feeding Society Research Grants*

The National Bird-feeding Society, an organization devoted to education and research on the feeding and housing of backyard birds, will be funding research grants, from \$500 to \$1500, to projects that reflect these ornithological concerns.

Grants will be awarded on the basis of the significance of the research topic to the Society, how well the method of research is thought out, the ability of the researcher to complete the task, and how well the proposal is presented.

For further information on suggested (but not limited to) research topics and proposal requirements, contact the National Bird-feeding Society, Research Grants Department, 1163 Shermer Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062. Telephone: 708/272-0135 or 508/369-8488.

## *Request for Assistance in Alberta*

In 1991 the Alberta Bird Atlas Project will be in its final year of collecting data on breeding birds. Birders are invited to participate in Alberta in "our big push to fill in all the gaps".

Assistance would be appreciated anywhere in the province, but volunteers are particularly needed to take part in remote area trips to Alberta's north country and mountainous areas. Familiarity with boreal bird species, as well as wilderness survival skills are essential. In many of the remaining blocks, canoeing experience would be desirable.

In northern Alberta, June and July are the key months for atlas work. Vol-

unteers for such northern work should be able to commit at least one week to road-accessible blocks and 10 days for fly-in blocks. If you have shorter periods of visits available, there will be many squares in southern Alberta on which assistance would be helpful. Atlassers who worked on blocks in northern Ontario are particularly encouraged to visit Alberta and reacquaint themselves with the boreal forest bird fauna.

Travel assistance, lodging and support can be provided within Alberta. Financial assistance with other travel or living expenses may be available.

For more information, contact Albert Brule, Executive Director, Alberta Bird Atlas Project, c/o Provincial Museum of Alberta, 12845 - 102 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5M 0L9. Telephone: 403/453-9163 .

### ***Ecotourism and Conservation of Natural Areas Conference***

The Sierra Club will host an international symposium on ecotourism and the conservation of natural areas, November 27-31, 1990, in Miami Beach, Florida.

The conference will bring together conservationists, travel industry personnel, scientists, and public policy makers to develop guidelines, and define research needs for ensuring that tourism in such vulnerable areas as wetlands and rainforests, can meet its potential for providing sustainable economic return through resource protection. Such tourism may contribute to the destruction of these resources if incorrectly carried out.

The symposium will focus on developing nations, with the emphasis on "how to" information and case studies derived from other countries including the United States.

The conference, which is being coordinated by Association of Wetlands managers, to appeal particularly to tour operators and ecotourists, landowners and nonprofits, scientists, protected area planners, and general interest, is also sponsored by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and International Expeditions; also World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, and the Nature Conservancy. For registration and information, write to Ecotourism, P.O. Box 2463, Berne, NY 12023.

### ***Birders Mobilize to Aid Research on Migrant Birds***

At a recent symposium on neotropical migrant birds hosted by the Manomet Bird Observatory in Massachusetts, Latin American scientists delivered an eloquent plea for help: a lack of binoculars and other basic research tools is frustrating the efforts of local research and conservation groups to identify the habitats crucial to their wintering migrant birds and to educate the Latin American public on conservation issues.

In response, the Manomet Bird Observatory and 18 Massachusetts bird clubs have formed the MBO/Mass. Birders' Forum to help protect migrants and their habitats by establishing links with research, conservation, and education groups in Latin America. The Forum's initial project is to collect used binoculars from birders through their clubs for distribution to Latin American groups. Future projects may include sending field guides, ornithological reference books, and funds for research.

Manomet Bird Observatory is eager to work with other groups from around the United States who are interested in forming similar networks. For more information contact Birders' Forum Coordinator, Manomet Bird Observatory, Box 936, Manomet, MA 02345. Telephone: 508/224-6521; fax: 508/224-9220).

### ***1991 International Piping Plover Census***

The 1991 International Piping Plover Census will be conducted across the species' range, and will attempt to include all Atlantic Coast and Interior Plains/Great Lakes breeding areas (June) and all Atlantic Coast and Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean wintering areas (January).

"We are in great need of volunteer censusers for the winter surveys" especially in the states of Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and the Caribbean. If you are interested in participating in a winter survey, contact Janice Nicholls, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, 75 Spring Street, SW, Suite 1278, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Telephone: 404/331-3580.



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