



# The Osprey

The bulletin of the International Fellowship of Bird Watching Rotarians  
[www.Rotarybirdwatchers.com](http://www.Rotarybirdwatchers.com)

February 2008

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**From Your IFBR President:**

Welcome to a new year of birding adventures! Like me, I hope you're eagerly anticipating the many new species to be seen at our next convention field trip in Los Angeles, U.S.A. See inside for a synopsis of our tour after the Salt Lake City convention.

I sincerely hope that you will plan to stay after the 2008 convention to join us! Thinking of the convention brings to mind several topics that I need to bring to your attention.

First, a special thanks to those members who helped with the booth at Salt Lake City. Roger and Pat Borup, Elena Laborde-Bishop, Harold Albers, Julie West and Gary Neuman and Susan and I were among those who worked. I have always had fun working the booth, talking to Rotarians from everywhere about birds.

Second, for the Los Angeles convention, we will also need volunteers to man the booth. It only takes a few hours, but we are REQUIRED to have our booth manned during all the official open hours: 12 noon to 6 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday. However, we want to staff the booth on Saturday, when many people have arrived for the convention and have plenty of time to visit the HOF. Please contact me at [steve.leonard@rotary6580.org](mailto:steve.leonard@rotary6580.org) if you can help.

Third, as Rotarians, we are always in search of appropriate projects. In the case of our Fellowship, we have contributed to a bird sanctuary in India and to a school in Botswana. At our annual meeting at Salt Lake City, those present voted to support a sanctuary for vultures in South Africa. See inside for details of this project. If you are aware of other bird/wildlife-related projects to which we could contribute, please let me know at the email address above.

Finally, as a Fellowship that spans the globe, finding leadership can be difficult. At each convention, we only see a handful of our members, and those who attend are usually asked to help lead the group. In 2008, it will again be time to elect leadership. This year, the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter Editor are open. If our Fellowship is to continue, we must have willing new leaders. Please consider taking on one of these responsibilities. The Fellowship will hold its annual meeting and election on the field trip after the L.A. convention.

Happy Birding,  
Steve

## Annual Birding Field Trip, Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah, June 2007

by Susan Leonard, newsletter editor

Thanks to members of the Great Salt Lake Audubon Society, IFBR birders caravanned to Big Cottonwood Canyon, 25 miles from Salt Lake City. We were treated to a pleasant morning hike around Silver Lake and on the trail to Lake Solitude, a total of nearly 3 miles at an 8,000-9,000 ft. elevation. Our local leader, Sylvia Gray, and other local birders were especially excited about at least 3 sightings of the colorful Western Tanager (left). Here is Sylvia's list:



Spotted Sandpiper, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Western Wood Pewee, Warbling Vireo, Clark's Nutcracker, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Western Tanager, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Pine Siskin.

Since we provided our own transportation, the group voted to contribute more than \$200 from the field trip fees collected to the local Audubon group.

Following the hike and lunch, those remaining met to select officers for the 2007-08 year and to discuss other matters. (Minutes follow.) Officers elected were: Steve Leonard, President; Julie West, Vice President; and Roger Borup, Secretary/Treasurer.

### Minutes of Annual General Meeting June 18, 2007, Big Cottonwood Canyon, Salt Lake City, Utah

Meeting called to order at 1:15 p.m., following the annual birding field trip.  
Steve Leonard, President, presided.

Business conducted:

Projects:

Motion by Pat Borup, seconded by Julie West, to give \$500 to assist in protection of the endangered Cape Vulture in Southern Africa. Pres. Steve was asked to look further into the project espoused by member John Wesson of Zambia and authorized to release the money. Motion passed. (See page 3 for info on this project.)

The Osprey (newsletter):

- Harold Albers volunteered to write an article about the loss of the Sandhill Cranes in Florida.
- Steve Leonard will ask for info for articles on where members can go on their own in connection with the L. A. convention and include this in the newsletter.
- Julie West volunteered to send copies of articles she sees in her reading.
- Pat Borup also agreed to work on articles.

2008 Convention:

Harold suggested that both 1-day and long-term trips be investigated for California.

The group concluded we need electricity for the booth next year so as to show CD or VHS of birds, since this year's attempt with a computer was not successful. Pat will look into selling books and/or posters and shipping them after the convention.

The following have agreed to serve as officers for the coming year:

Roger Borup—Secretary/Treasurer

Steve Leonard—President

Julie West—Vice President

Pat Borup moved to accept the slate. Motion passed.

Steve reported on the AGM of the Rotarian Action Groups, held during the convention.



Meeting adjourned for group photo at 2:15 p.m.

**Rhino & Lion Wildlife Conservation**

**Vulture Programme**  
Impacting Society  
520 Kromdraai Krugersdorp, Gauteng, South A.  
P.O. Box 180 Krugersdorp, 1740  
Company Reg. No. 2006/027758/08  
Cell: 082 808 5113  
**Non- Profit Organisation**



To: RI Fellowship of Birdwatching Rotarians  
Steve Leonard PDG

15 August 2007

Dear Mr. Leonard

**Donation**

I would like to express my appreciation with regards to the kind donation made to the Vulture Programme on behalf of the RI Fellowship of Birdwatching Rotarians. The amount will most definitely help and will go towards the construction of our new vulture hospital rehabilitation enclosures. On completion of these enclosures, I will send you updated photographs.

I will keep you updated on the progress of the Vulture Programme and will be sending you my monthly report to keep you updated on our activities.

Many thanks for your kind support and assistance and please don't hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information or further updates.

Yours sincerely

Kerri Wolter  
Manager

Please visit this website for more information on the project.

<http://www.rhinolionconservation.co.za/>

Or visit <http://www.rhinolionconservation.org.za/Vulture%20Programme.htm> to view a PowerPoint on the project.

## **Birding Utah June 9-24, 2007**

*by Julie West, Ohio, U.S.A.*

Each year that we attend a Rotary International Convention, my partner Gary Neuman and I have been able to spend some additional time either before or after the Convention birding in the area. This year we continued that tradition when we traveled to the RI Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A.

For those who have not been there, Utah includes 11 habitats ranging from lowland desert shrub to alpine. We were able to experience them all in 11 days spent in primarily the Eastern and central portions of the state and logged 132 species.

We spent the first 3 days of our birding adventure working out of Heber City, which is southeast of Salt Lake City. On our way from the airport to Heber City, we visited Park City Audubon Wildlife Area and Jordanelle State Park, where, being from Ohio, in the Eastern United States, we enjoyed seeing Audubon's warbler, red-shafted flicker, and violet-green swallows, as well as spotted towhee, Bullock's oriole, and Western wood peewee. The next day we visited the Provo River Restoration Project, Wasatch Mountain State Park, and the Silver Lake/Solitary Lake and Spruces Campground areas of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Among the birds we added were Eurasian collared-dove, Western tanager (multiple outstanding looks), pinyon and Steller's jay, Clark's nutcracker, mountain chickadee, Cassin's finch and pine grosbeak. The next day was spent at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, where we took the 12-mile auto tour. We were treated to yellow-headed blackbird, cinnamon teal, Western and Clark's grebes, Swainson's hawk and prairie falcon, American avocet, black-necked stilt, long-billed curlew, Western and Eastern kingbirds, and blue grosbeak.

The next day we headed west to Tooele, stopping at Mt. Timpanogos and traveling a portion of the Lake Mountain Raptor Loop on the way. Along a mountain stream we finally found our elusive American dipper and were further rewarded by seeing two fledged young being fed. In the more arid (high desert) portion of the drive we observed a common raven nest with 3 young on a utility pole and a common nighthawk resting on a telephone wire. Other sightings that day included lesser goldfinch, broad-tailed hummingbird, black-headed grosbeak, red-napped sapsucker, MacGillivray's warbler, mountain bluebird, ash-throated flycatcher, ferruginous hawk, and Brewer's sparrow. The next morning, we visited South Willow Canyon where we added band-tailed pigeon, loggerhead shrike, black-throated sparrow, and cordilleran flycatcher.

Then we headed to Ogden north of Salt Lake City, which would be our headquarters for the next 2 days. On the way north, we made a brief stop at the southern shore of the Great Salt Lake. Due to a drought, the actual water was far from the viewing area, and even with a scope, very few species could be identified. The next day we spent at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, the northern-most point of our travels in Utah. They have a wonderful Wildlife Education Center there with a boardwalk providing up-close views of many marsh and open water species. One of the highlights for us was seeing marsh wren nests under construction. We also drove the 12 mile auto tour where we encountered pied-billed grebes on nest and with young, Western grebe on nest, and American coots on nest and with young. We added white-faced ibis to our list. On our last birding day before heading into Salt Lake City for the Convention, we birded beautiful Tony Grove Lake and hiked through mountain meadows.

After the Convention and our Fellowship of Birding Rotarians field trip, we headed to Moab in southeastern Utah. Although this area is known for striking rock formations and desert habitats, we spent our first day on the La Sal Mountain Loop where we added white-throated swift, Western scrub jay, and green-tailed towhee. The next day, we discovered the Rotary Park in Moab and experienced the beautiful rock formations in Arches National Park.

On our last day in Utah, before heading to the airport, we visited City Creek Canyon in Salt Lake City, which is open to vehicles on even days of the week and only to bikes and pedestrians on the odd days of the week.

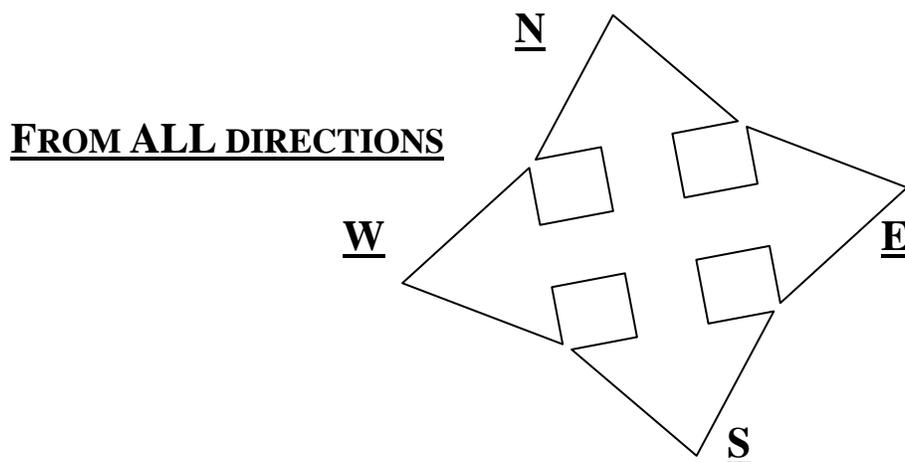
Planning for this year's trip to Utah was greatly aided by my discovery of three birding trail guides that basically cover the entire state. They can be viewed or ordered at [http://www.wasatchaudubon.org/map\\_birding\\_trails.htm](http://www.wasatchaudubon.org/map_birding_trails.htm). Another helpful resource was Birding Utah by D.E. McIvor (a Falcon Guide).

## GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH BIRDS IN GUATEMALA

*by President Steve Leonard*

Rotarian Richard Rivera from Guatemala contacted me regarding the IV International Birdwatching Encounter in Petén, Guatemala, March 2-8 of this year. I have checked info on the web from the previous three Encounters, and was excited by the wonderful reports! Since this event takes place every year, please consider the trip for next March (unless you can get away on short notice). Please visit [http://birds-guatemala.org/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=12&Itemid=26](http://birds-guatemala.org/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=12&Itemid=26) to get more information about this amazing opportunity.

Also, you can access reviews of previous Encounters at [http://birds-guatemala.org/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogsection&id=0&Itemid=9](http://birds-guatemala.org/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=0&Itemid=9)



## Birds and birdwatching in Sri Lanka

*submitted by Supem de Silva, Sri Lanka*

Sri Lanka is a beautiful tropical Island situated at the Southern tip of Peninsular India, in the Indian Ocean. Extent of the Island is c. 65,000 Km<sup>2</sup> and its geography varies from sea level to over 2500 m in the central hills. The geographical conditions and pattern of annual rainfall have created three distinct climatic zones within the country where a variety of natural habitats have been created. Different type of habitats exist unique to each climatic zone and these collectively hold a very high biodiversity within the country. E.g. rainforests in the Wet Zone, monsoonal forests in the Dry Zone, cool cloud forests in the Hill Zone and wetlands in all three zones.

Bird diversity of the country is high compared to its size, and is represented with many species of Asian birds. There are about 440 species authentically recorded to date in Sri Lanka including a significant number of endemic bird species. 33 species are currently recognized endemic to the country. This reflects the result of divergent evolution that has taken place in the Island. The endemic diversity was also quite unexpectedly enhanced with a discovery of an owl species new to science in 2001, and was quite a significant ornithological event in Sri Lanka as it happened after 132 years! The total number of species in the country also includes over 200 migrant species which occur during the northern autumn and winter months.

Amongst the birds found in Sri Lanka, the species which are significant and unique in the Asian region fall in to the categories of 'Sri Lankan endemics', 'other Indian Subcontinental endemics' and 'other Asian specialities' totaling to about 200 species. They are the species which have collectively created a great interest amongst birdwatching communities in many parts of the world to visit Sri Lanka for birdwatching. This was built up mainly through the last decade to the present and that has caused to put the country to day on the list of high priority birding destinations in South Asia.

To name a few attractive species of each category above are – the Sri Lankan endemics such as Ceylon Junglefowl , Red-faced Malkoha, Ceylon Blue Magpie, Chestnut-backed Owlet and the newly discovered Serendib Scops Owl; other Indian Subcontinental endemics such as of migrants Indian Pitta, Pied Thrush, Kashmir Red-breasted Flycatcher, and of residents Sirkeer Malkoha, Malabar Pied Hornbill and nocturnal Ceylon Frogmouth; and other Asian specialities such as Black Bittern, Yellow Bittern, Brown Fish Owl, Brown Wood Owl and Watercock.

A well organized two-week birdwatching tour can yield easily over 240 species during bird migratory season in Sri Lanka. This number usually includes all 33 species of the Sri Lankan endemics, around 50 species of other Indian Subcontinental endemics and many species of other Asian specialities. Most regional endemics and other Asian species which migrate southward from Himalayas are much easier to find in Sri Lanka than in mainland India, during the northern winter. However this type of a composition of species on the tour is only possible with the guidance of an expert local tour leader (who can be a top local birder or a top naturalist, who will also essentially possess the legal authority to lead tours, in order to ensure smooth and continuous run of the tour without any hassle).

The tours are arranged from economical to luxury in condition of the accommodation and transport. A well planned birdwatching tour will facilitate to find not only the birds significant in Sri Lanka but also to watch and appreciate some other significant wildlife of the country such as beautiful butterflies, large and small mammals (e.g. Asian Elephant, Leopard, Sloth Bear and endemic Monkeys), some large and small reptiles (Mugger Crocodile, Water Monitor and endemic Lizards), etc.

*Deepal Warakagoda and Lester Perera*  
*Bird and Wildlife Team*

Website: [www.birdandwildlifeteam.com](http://www.birdandwildlifeteam.com)

Email: [birdteam@sltnet.lk](mailto:birdteam@sltnet.lk)

### **Laguna de Lagarto Lodge, Costa Rica**

IFBR member Vinzenz Schmack of Laguna de Lagarto Lodge in Costa Rica has asked us to publicize his work and invite IFBR members to visit. The best way to learn about the lodge, and to see his bird list, is to visit the lodge's website at [www.lagarto-lodge-costa-rica.com](http://www.lagarto-lodge-costa-rica.com)

The Laguna del Lagarto rainforest lodge in Northern Costa Rica offers 1250 Acres (500 Hectares) of virgin tropical rainforest with an incredible variety of fauna and flora. 350 different species of birds have been counted, amongst them the Great Green Macaw. The Lodge is operated in harmony with nature, under ecological guidelines. A perfect place for passionate bird-watchers and rainforest lovers. More than 10 km of well marked rainforest trails make birding and exploring nature easy, no matter whether you prefer to explore nature and wildlife on your own or with a naturalist or birding guide.



You can also contact Vinzenz directly at [lagarto@racsa.co.cr](mailto:lagarto@racsa.co.cr)

*President Steve says: Having spent several days at a B&B in Costa Rica several years ago, Susan and I can attest to the beauty and variety of the birds there. We strongly encourage IFBR members to visit Vinzenz in Costa Rica!*

### **Spring Hawk Flight, New York, U.S.A.**

New IFBR member Stuart Hosler invites Rotarians and guests to visit the Spring Hawk Flight at Derby Hill Bird Observatory in New York, U.S.A. The observatory is located at the Southeast corner of Lake Ontario, Northeast of Texas, New York on Route 104. The annual event occurs in March, April and May. For further information, please visit <http://www.derbyhill.org> or call 315-963-8291 (U.S.A.).

Also, Stu would like any IFBR member who is also a Central N.Y. ABA member to contact him. You can reach him at 315-662-3794.

## New IFBR Website

**We're pleased to announce a new web address for IFBR:**

**[www.Rotarybirdwatchers.com](http://www.Rotarybirdwatchers.com)**

**If you are used to the old address, it will also still work.**

### TIME TO UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

**If you did not pay your dues at the 2007 International Convention, please do so by completing this form and remitting your dues as noted.**

#### The International Fellowship of Birdwatching Rotarians

Please PRINT clearly:

Last or Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Rotary Club \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with a check to cover the **annual dues of \$15 US—or \$60 for 5 years—to:**

Steve Leonard, IFBR President  
15251 Charbono St.  
Fishers, Indiana 46037 USA

### **The IFBR is happy to announce the following members who recently joined or updated their membership:**

Batory, Joan and Joe—Pennsylvania, U.S.A.  
Bray, Paul and Juanita—Montana, U.S.A.  
Borup, Roger and Pat—Iowa, U.S.A.  
Carlson, R. and P.—Arizona, U.S.A.  
Carpenter, Steve—Iowa, U.S.A.  
Cooper, Frances—Alabama, U.S.A.  
De Silva, Supem—Sri Lanka  
De Winter, Bernard—South Africa  
El-Kalafawi, Bashir—British Columbia, Canada  
Ellis, Lynn—Nova Scotia, Canada  
Galbraith, G. H.—Alberta, Canada  
Hagerty, E. Ann—California, U.S.A.  
Hosler, Stuart—New York, U.S.A.  
Howison, Barbara—California, U.S.A.  
Huber, Alfred (Freddy)—Switzerland  
Jakobi, Sharon—Florida, U.S.A.  
Judson, Bright—Pennsylvania, U.S.A.  
Laborde-Bishop, Elena—California, U.S.A.  
Leonard, Steve & Susan—Indiana, U.S.A.  
Mathews, Maurice—Nebraska, U.S.A.  
Morrison, Jon—New Mexico, U.S.A.  
Orr, Edward—British Columbia, Canada  
Prentice, Bob—Ontario, Canada  
Prinz, Juan—Ecuador  
Schmack, Vinzenz—Costa Rica

Schrader, Rena and Richard—California, U.S.A.  
Sekich, Karen--, Colorado, U.S.A.  
Solis, Lauro—Texas, U.S.A.  
Tafel, Dick—Ontario, Canada  
West, Julie—Ohio, U.S.A.  
If your name is not here, are you due for an update ? Please complete the form above and return it to IFBR President Steve Leonard (see first page for address).