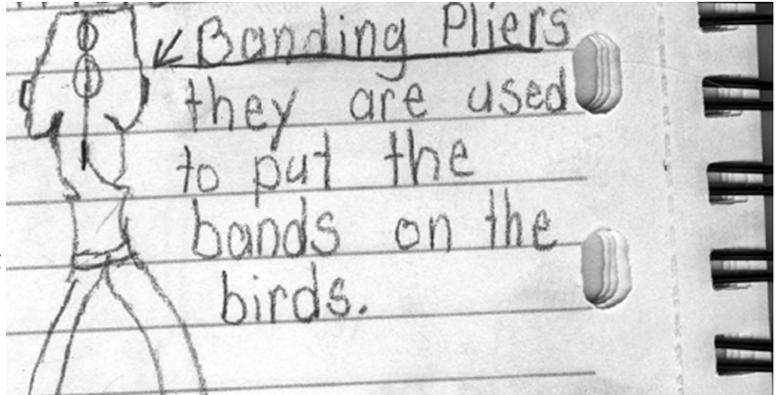


August 2002

## Education in the Field

For many educators, summer is the time to relax, regroup, and take a breather. For others, the field season doubles as a time to offer great new education opportunities for youth and adults. Bird banding stations are one great place to introduce the public to birds. Twelve year-old Emily Bartell recorded her observations at a high elevation riparian station. Her



work will double when she submits it to the American Birding Association's Young Birder competition. If you need some ideas at the banding station, check out Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's Birds in Hand and Field activity guide. You can get it directly (for \$5.50) by calling (303)659-4348 or order online at [www.birdday.org](http://www.birdday.org).

## On-line Education Course Offered

A new on-line course, "Fundamentals of Environmental Education" will be available to educators in September of 2002. The course will be offered via the Internet for two undergraduate or graduate level credits by the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. For more information about the course or enrollment information, please log on to <http://www.eetap.org/> or contact Rick Wilke at [rwilke@uwsp.edu](mailto:rwilke@uwsp.edu) or 715-346-4766.

## Organize Your State's Bird Festivals

A great way to publicize your birding event is to coordinate efforts with other groups who have similar programs. California has done that by creating the California Wildlife Festivals brochure, which offers a calendar of events for the entire state.

Sponsored by a suite of groups, including California Tourism, California Wildlife Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and the Western Section of the Wildlife Society, the brochure features a map of the state with locations of events. Each event is numbered, and additional information provides contact numbers, web sites, and short description of the activities to be offered.

Brochures can be distributed at tourist centers, meetings, agency offices, and via mail.

## More Education Offered On-Line

**Ducks Unlimited**, the world leader in wetland and waterfowl conservation, has developed a new education section for its web site at [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org).

The online resource includes teaching materials for parents and educators, plus educational fun for kids to enjoy.

**Partners in Flight** news is now on-line through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Check it out at [www.cornell.edu](http://www.cornell.edu).



## North American Ornithological Conference

The September 2002 American Ornithologists Union conference in New Orleans, Louisiana will offer an education track for the first time, as well as a weekend workshop for educators. Support bird education by attending the sessions and learn about field ornithology for schools and the general public, International Migratory Bird Day, and more. Details are available at <[www.tulane.edu/~naoc-o2/](http://www.tulane.edu/~naoc-o2/)>.

## Yucatan Hosts First Annual Bird Festival

Saturday, November 16th will be the inauguration of the first Bird Festival in Ria Lagartos Biosphere Reserve in Mérida, Yucatan. The 8-day festival offers bird art, discussions on ecotourism, kayaking and biking trips, birdwatching trips, conferences on avian research and conservation in the area, a bird-a-thon, and much more. Guest speakers include Dr. Chandler Robbins, Dr. Héctor Gómez de Silva with the Institute of Ecology in Mexico, and representatives of the Important Bird Areas program. For information and reservations, contact Ecoturismo Yucatán: [toh@ecoyuc.com](mailto:toh@ecoyuc.com);

## Coffee Crisis Continues

You may not see a change in coffee prices at your local shop or grocery store, but coffee growers in many countries are receiving far less for their product. New York's Coffee, Sugar, and Cocoa Exchange indicates that prices have dropped more than 80% - from about \$3.15 to just 50 cents per pound. Production prices in Central America, however, are about 80 cents per pound. The drop in world coffee prices is affecting millions of people in Latin America; closing down coffee farms and sending workers into poverty. Specialty coffees, such as shade-grown coffee, offer an option for some growers. These farms help to keep workers employed, but they also provide some habitat for resident and migratory birds. To learn more, join Rainforest Alliance's Coffee Hot Line by sending a message to their listserv at [coffee-hot-line-subscribe@igc.topica.com](mailto:coffee-hot-line-subscribe@igc.topica.com).

## Group Studies Value of Shade Coffee

The Grupo Mesófilo A.C. in Rincon de Ixtlán, México is studying the value of shade coffee farms as habitats for biodiversity conservation. Staff are assessing the risks of different management practices and the added value of coffee farms as a result of diversification. Coffee cultivation can be improved by strengthening the capacity of regional and independent coffee organizations to manage and sell biodiversity-friendly coffee as a certified product under the standards of a fair market. Learn more at <http://www.eco-index.org/search/results.cfm?ProjectID=29>. Review the more than 15 projects related to coffee and conservation at [www.eco-index.org/search/index.cfm](http://www.eco-index.org/search/index.cfm) - type in "coffee" as a keyword.

### Jobs

*American Birding Association, Colorado Springs, CO* - Education and Conservation Coordinator.

[www.americanbirding.org/abaopps6.htm](http://www.americanbirding.org/abaopps6.htm)

*National Wildlife Federation, Boulder, CO* - Senior Educator. [jobopp@nwf.org](mailto:jobopp@nwf.org)

*Turner Foundation, Atlanta, GA* - Habitat Program Officer. [karenc@turnerfoundation.org](mailto:karenc@turnerfoundation.org)