

March 2009

CASA

Casa Avian Support Alliance

Volume 4 Issue 1

CASA's Annual Meeting 2009

At 9:00 AM, February 6, 2009, Casa Avian Support Alliance convened its Annual Board Meeting in the Rotunda Building, Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland California. A quorum of the Executive Board represented by Ms Jodi E. Benté, Executive Director, Ms Lee Richter, Marketing, and Mr. Vance G. Benté, Treasurer, were present.

Routine business matters, including election of the Executive Board, a report of the financial status of the NGO were addressed by the Executive Board. The 2008 members of the Executive board were re-elected to their respective offices for 2009, including Mr. Baldimir Manzanero who resides in San Ignacio, Belize as the on-site In-Country Director.

This meeting which was adjourned at 10:00 AM was followed immediately by the General Membership Meeting. This meeting was attended by the Executive Board members named above, and the following Board of Advisor members Mr. Jeff Alvarez (Wildlife Project), Ms Wendy Dexter (Condor Country Consulting), Ms Michele Hassid (Eckhoff Accountancy), Ms. Melanie Piazza (WildCare, San Rafael), other attendees included Ms Jennifer Schofield (ACM candidate) and Mr. Mike Van Horn (The Business Group).

Discussion topics addressed during the General Membership portion of the meeting dealt briefly with the roll of the Avian Clinic Manager, specifically the

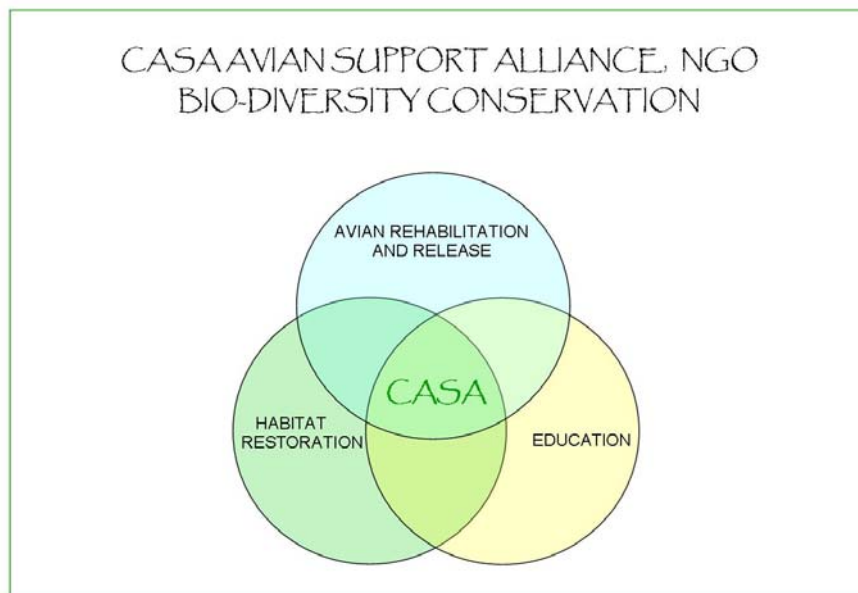
Continued on Page 2

Inside this issue:

<i>Executive Director's Message</i>	2
<i>CASA 2009 Board of Advisors</i>	3
<i>CASA 2009 Goals and Committees</i>	3
<i>Casa Growth Model</i>	3
<i>New Avian Clinic Manager</i>	5
<i>Ms Tracy Anderson Joins CASA</i>	5
<i>Captain Jack's Corner</i>	5
<i>Recent Bird Sightings</i>	6

Special Points of Interest

- **NEW SECTION** "The Kid's Corner," created by Mr. Jeff Alvarez, CASA Biologist and Advisory Board Member
- Dr. Yeray Seminario, DVM, representing The Peregrine Fund, (TPF) is the first to participate in CASA's "Visiting Scholar Program." Hosted at Casa del Caballo Blanco through an agreement with CASA, Dr. Seminario, Deputy Director of TPF Field Operations in Belize, is continuing his involvement in the experimental release program of Orange-breasted Falcons in Belize and Guatemala



Executive Director's Message

Director's



Dear Friends of CASA

Strategy, decisions, cause and effects - words and phrases used to describe the conservation efforts, or lack of, in various parts of the world. With increasing frequency, our shared concern with the impact of changing global weather patterns has become a common conversational topic and a re-occurring focus of media attention. Almost daily the media reports on the continuing decline in the bird population attributable to loss of habitat, destruction of water sources, and changing weather patterns, each of which is linked to the overuse of petroleum products, and each is contributing to an irreversible loss of species.

CASA is committed to raising awareness with regard to the increasing urgency to enact measures and policies that will contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity. 2009 brings with it new opportunities for CASA to continue and expand its current outreach in the Americas through its relationship with organizations such as Alianza Verde, which is headquartered in Guatemala, The Peregrine Fund, and Rainforest Alliance, with regional headquarters in Guatemala and Costa Rica.

CASA's contribution to habitat restoration, the 15 acre-plus portion of the property that is the site of the Tz'unuun Trail is well established, the rehabilitation and release aspect of the goals will continue to emerge and develop in 2009, and so efforts in 2009 will focus on the need to educate and encourage the general public with regard to bio-diversity conservation.

In late March a committee composed of CASA Advisory Board members, each committed to education and outreach, will meet to discuss the formulation and goals of a 2009-2010 program—which must be enduring. Absent habitat and the recognition of its singular importance to bio-diversity conservation, much of our other efforts may be for naught.

Members and readers who may want to participate can contact me at Jodi@casaavian.org at their convenience. I look forward to working with all of you and our continuous dialogue with like-minded organizations here and abroad each committed to the global conservation of biodiversity.

With Sincere Thanks

Jodi Bente

CASA Executive Board and General Membership Meeting (cont)

procedures and process involving periodic replacement, and then turned to a discussion of CASA's continued operation relative to the three fundamental areas of involvement—education, habitat restoration and avian rehabilitation and release.

Significant time was spent exploring the relationship among the three areas of involvement, and the dynamic precedence of each when considered relative to a variety of operation and external factors, for example, the importance to the mission, actual effort expended and effort required, the potential to attract volunteers, media, and funding, the degree of support it may provide the eco-lodge, and the importance to Belize, the Americas, and global bio-diversity conservation.

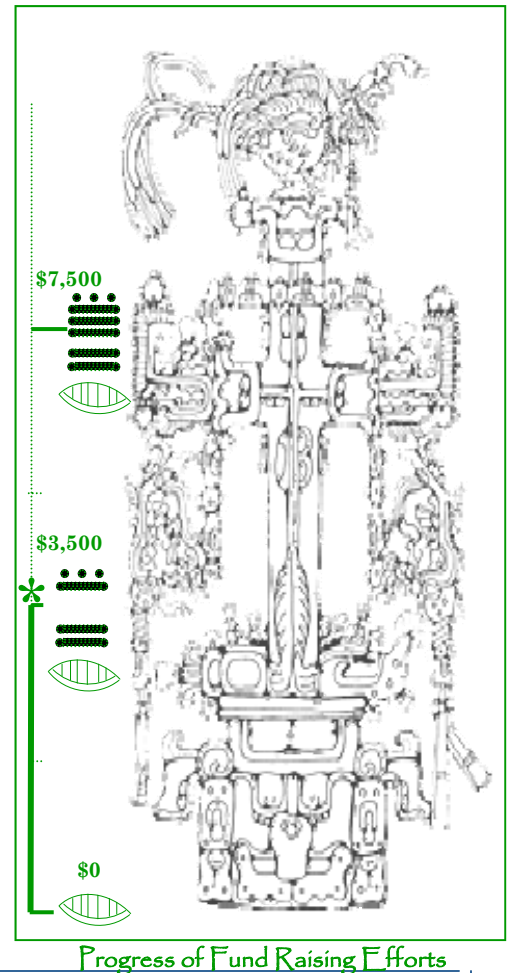
In sum, and after a lengthy discussion and an exercise in which each of the areas of involvement was considered and assigned a value relative to the factors described above, each of the areas were found to generally have equal value, albeit the values assigned a single area might vary widely with regard to a specific factor, e.g., the value assigned to habitat restoration might be a 2 as it essentially is a naturally occurring phenomena, whereas avian rehabilitation might have a value of 10. Alternatively, avian rehabilitation might score low with regard to the actual impact to bio-diversity conservation, where habitat restoration and education would score very high.

Based on needs identified through the exercise, a number of committees were established and participants identified. The primary sponsors, Jodi and Vance Benté, thank each of you that traveled to and participated in the 2009 Annual Meeting. Your contributions of time, knowledge and funding have helped to make CASA a contributor to bio-diversity conservation in the Americas.

February Bird Sightings

(continued from page 6)

Blue-gray Tanager	Montezuma Oropendula
Brown-crested Flycatcher	Olive-throated Parakeet
Brown Jay	Orchard Oriole
Cattle Egret	Ovenbird
Clay-colored Robin	Plain Chachalaca
Collared Aracari	Red-legged Honeycreeper
Common Pauraque	Red-lored Parrot
Common Yellowthroat	Red-throated Ant Tanager
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Roadside Hawk
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl	Ruddy Ground Dove
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
Golden-winged Warbler	Scrub Euphonia
Gray Catbird	Social Flycatcher
Great Kiskadee	Summer Tanager
Great-tailed Grackle	Wedge-tailed Sabrewing
Green-backed Sparrow	White-collared Seedeater
Green-breasted Mango	White-eyed Vireo
Groove-billed Ani	White-fronted Parrot
Hooded Warbler	White-tipped Dove
Indigo Bunting	White-winged Dove
Keel-billed Toucan	Wood Thrush
Laughing Falcon	Yellow-bellied Elenia
Lineated Woodpecker	Yellow-olive Flycatcher
Magnolia Warbler	Yellow Warbler
Mangrove Vireo	Yellow-faced Grassquit
Masked Tityra	Yellow-throated Chat
Melodious Blackbird	Yellow-throated Euphonia



CASA's 2009 Board of Advisors

In January 2009, letters requesting a confirmation of continuing interest, and a form requesting that board members identify specific areas of interest and their preferred level of involvement were sent to each of the 2008 Advisory Board members, and to selected individuals who the Executive Board viewed as key to the organizations continued operation and development.

The forms, and a confirmation of continuing interest and willingness to serve on the Advisory Board, were received from five recipients; an oral expression of interest were received from three additional recipients. The 2009 Advisory Board is currently comprised of the following individuals:

- Jeff Alvarez, The Wildlife Project 8/17/2008
- Ms. Denia Eunice Del Valle B., Rainforest Alliance 10/05/2007
- Wendy Dexter, Condor Country Consulting 8/17/2007
- Dr. Victor Gongora, Belize Agricultural Health Authority
- Ms. Michelle Hassid, Eckhoff Accountancy 11/17/2007
- Ms Mary Hilderman—Smith, CASA Benefactor
- Dr. Isabelle Paquet-Durand DVM
- Mr. Ivan Parr, Botanist
- Melanie Piazza, Director of Animal Care, WildCare 10/08/2007
- Dr. Debra Scheenstra, DVM, Avian Veterinarian 8/13/2007
- Mr. Mark Sprague, Office Perfect-Information Technology

CASA's 2009 Goals and Committees

As indicated by the diagram and lead article of this newsletter, CASA focuses on three areas that are critical to bio-diversity conservation—Education, Habitat Restoration, and Avian Rehabilitation and Release. To those ends Casa Avian Support Alliance, NGO, relies on the support of Casa del Caballo Blanco, LLC, for support. As a means to structure and focus the efforts of Advisory Board on issues critical to the continued development and operation of CASA five committees have been established for fiscal 2009, these are as follows:

Grants Members: Jeff Alvarez, Wendy Dexter, Ivan Parr, and Jodi Benté. Primary purpose: To identify grant opportunities, prepare applications and secure funding for the continued operation and development of CASA.

Education Members: Denise DeValle, Wendy Dexter, Jeff Alvarez, and Ivan Parr. Primary Purpose: To identify mechanisms and opportunities to provide educational outreach to the interested public.

Marketing Members: Lee Richter, Mike Van Horn, Vance Benté. Primary Purpose: To increase the marketing scope of both Casa Avian Support Alliance and Casa del Caballo Blanco, to create a revenue stream that will ensure sustainability for each.

Donation Management Members: Melanie Piazza, Vance Benté. Primary Purpose: To seek out donations of equipment and supplies for CASA, and to determine the most efficacious use of donated monies relative to the needs of CASA.

Casa Growth Model

Continuity, Dynamism, and Growth

The Role of the In-Country Director and the Avian Clinic Manager at CASA

Casa Avian Support Alliance (CASA), an ex-situ bio-diversity conservation facility, was established to address one of the most critical issues of the 21st Century—the unrelenting loss of species, and their habitat.

Recognizing that the loss of habitat is the primary causative agent with regard to species loss, 66% of the property that hosts CASA has been dedicated to habitat rehabilitation. In a few short years, and encouraged by a remarkable vegetation rebound, better than 50 species of birds have returned to the restoration area.

Perhaps second to the conservation and rehabilitation of habitat is the need to educate the public regarding the rates of loss and the measures required to stem the on-going wholesale loss of bio-diversity. An aspect of that educational challenge, and a further service to the biodiversity of the Americas, is the rehabilitation and release of avian wildlife that have been treated for illness and/or injury, and/or that have been recently released from illegal captivity. As depicted in the graphic on Page one, CASA represents the nexus of the three, inter-related spheres of activity— habitat restoration, education, and the rehabilitation and release of avian wildlife. Notably, and as depicted in the diagram's arrangement, Habitat Restoration and Education provide the foundation on which Avian Rehabilitation and Release relies.

To facilitate this mission CASA supports an In-country Director, Mr. Baldemir Manzanero, who along with his family resides on site. Measures are currently underway to provide Mr. Manzanero with advanced training in bird handling and rehabilitation, and to further support Mr. Manzanero so that all of his days will be devoted to the operation of the facility. This position will provide the continuity of guidance and institutional memory that is sought by every organization involved in rehabilitation.

As In-Country Director, Mr. Manzanero maintains oversight on all three elements of CASA's involvement in this conservation initiative. He is assisted by Ms Shenny Manzanero, his daughter, who is responsible for the In-country Administrative Management.

Daily care, feeding and observation of the avian patients is the principal responsibility of the Avian Clinic Manager (ACM). In addition to the daily rounds of each patient the ACM prepares caging enhancements, prepares patient records, and contributes to the avian menu diet book.

Each in-coming Avian Clinic Manager brings with them varied geographic experience, a prior professional network, and an individual knowledge base and educational background. Each ACM is carefully screened and selected on the basis of prior experience and educational background. The term of service is a minimum of one year and a maximum of two.

Word Search (for older kids)

N L P Y G R Q L L V Y S X E P
 F O E R W N G B O P D X Z S E
 J O I Q O S I L C R B I W T T
 Q Z N T B T U P I A L U O E O
 C A S A A N E B L E R U K P R
 N H F N T T E C B E K E R T R
 I D W E G H I M T Y H W A O A
 A U E H T D K L J I R U I N P
 H R M E E E W V I J O Z N E M
 F U V G H G J W V B O N F R A
 L A E C R U O S E R A U O A A
 S Y Z H J T I E A Y N H R E T
 B I R D H O S P I T A L E W F
 S K Q F A T W Z U K G Z S R L
 R D H P C H W H K W C Y T P Z

Find the words and phrases listed below in the letters on the left—

- BELIZE
- BIRD HOSPITAL
- CARE
- CASA
- HELPING
- PARROT
- PROTECTION
- RAINFOREST
- REHABILITATION
- RESOURCE
- SAVE THE BIRDS
- VOLUNTEER
- WE ARE NOT PETS

RIDDLES

What do you get when you cross a shark with a parrot?

What do you get when you cross a cat with a parrot?

What birds spend all their time on their knees?

_____ ☀ _____
 A bird that will talk your ear off, A Carrot, Birds of prey!

Answers to Riddles:

JUMBLED WORDS AND PHRASES

Unscramble the bird name and the message

Hint: _ _ _ l _ r _ d _ _ _ r _ _

 D R E - D L R O E

T P R R O A

 E W R A E T N O T E P S

Answers to Jumbled Words and Phrases: Red-lored Parrot, We are not pets

Answers to March

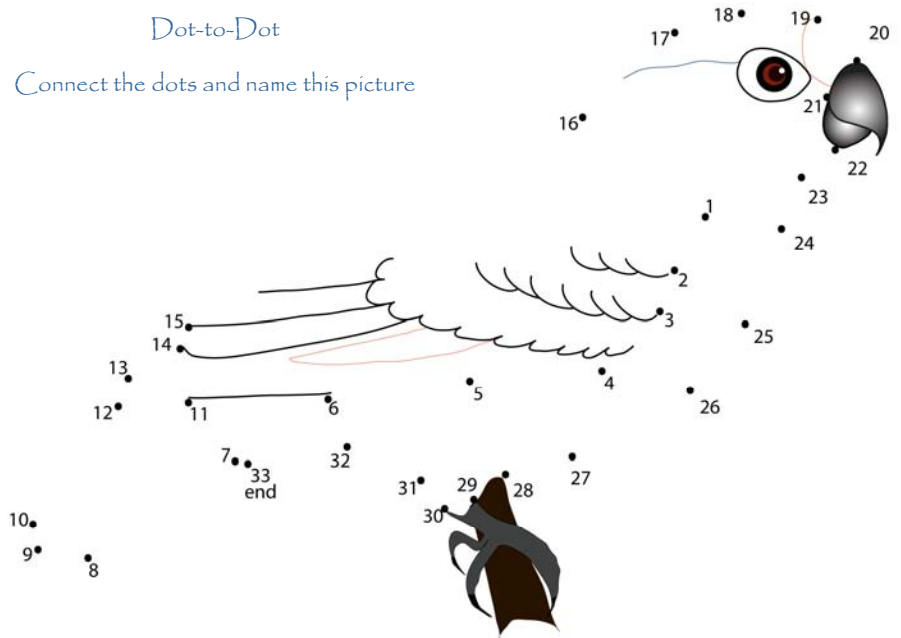
Kid's Corner

Word Search

S K O F A T W Z M Z U K G Z S R L
 B I R D H O S P I T A L E W F
 S Y Z H J T I E A Y N H R E T
 L A E C R U O S E R A U O A A
 F U V G H G J W V B O N F R A
 H R M E E E W V I J O Z N E M
 A U E H T D K L J I R U I N P
 I D W E G H I M T Y H W A O A
 N H F N T T E C B E K E R T R
 C A S A A N E B L E R U K P R
 Q Z N T B T U P I A L U O E O
 J O I Q O S I L C R B I W T T
 F O E R W N G B O P D X Z S E
 N L P Y G R Q L L V Y S X E P

Dot-to-Dot

Connect the dots and name this picture



The Role of the In-Country Director and the Avian Clinic Manager at CASA (continued from page 3)

The periodic replacement of the ACM provides two significant stimuli to the program, a.) it promotes growth to the organization both in terms of the information brought to the facility, and then subsequently by carrying information back to the point of departure, and b.) it creates a dynamic situation in which the unique skills of each individual, as they relate for example to educational outreach, botany, or specialties with specific species of avi-fauna bring new knowledge and experiences to the facility. This process of “refreshment” will help to avoid the stale state that organizations endure absent the introduction of new and current ideas and procedures.

In addition to the continuity that is provided by the “institutional” memory of the In-country Director, each Avian Clinic Manager benefits from the existing protocols, procedural manuals, patient records, notes and journals prepared by former ACM's. These records form the archive of birds treated, they are the testimony to the treatments that are successful, they provide the admonitions about behavior and diet that may be advance warnings of forthcoming issues. No single element or group of activities is more important than the accumulation of data relevant to the care and treatment of each patient. This includes the patient diet ‘menu book’ that provides the incoming ACM with diet descriptions, means of preparation and sources of food.

The current Avian Clinic Manager, CASA's first who arrived in late January 2008, will be replaced in early April by Ms. Tracy Anderson. During Ms Mangano's tenure as ACM, the first person in the position, she helped introduce CASA to a variety of organizations The Peregrine Fund and the Cayo District Tour Guide Association among them, developed feeding routines, began a species specific diet menu book, identified critical food sources, was principally responsible for the receipt, rehabilitation and release/reunification of 17 individual specimens of avian wildlife. CASA wishes to extend a thank you for her fourteen months of service and contribution to the avian wildlife of the Americas.

New CASA Avian Clinic Manager

Ms Tracy Anderson

Ms Tracy Anderson, born in Cape Town South Africa, who will travel from Victoria, British Columbia, will assume the role of ACM in the second week of April 2009. Ms Anderson, who received her B.Sc degree in Biogeography in 2006, University of Victoria, recently spoke on the ageing and sexing of birds in rehabilitative care at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Association conference in 2008, brings with her the knowledge and experience gained at Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society, Western Bluebird Reintroduction Project, Rocky Point Bird Observatory, Wildlife Rehabilitation Network, and International Bird Rescue Research Center.

Ms Anderson's skills and experience in training staff and interns in the advanced techniques of wildlife examination, care, housing and nutrition, and advance skills developed through International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council including wound management and fluid therapy will help to advance the knowledge of the CASA staff and interested volunteers. Additionally, Ms. Anderson is proficient in banding and is permitted in Canada to permit a variety of bird species.

CASA is fortunate and proud to welcome Ms. Anderson as the new CASA Avian Clinic Manager. As guided and advised by Ms Anderson we anticipate a fast-paced year of growth and development during which CASA will continue to improve and expand the facility and its related functions, expand outreach to the community and like-minded organizations, and establish its presence among the organizations and agencies promoting bio-diversity conservation in the Americas.

'Lored' Captain Jack's Corner



Dear Friends,

I am my usual happy self. 2008 was a wonderful year and 2009 promises to be even better. We have just received a do-

nation of a microscope for our medical lab from Dr. Debra Scheenstra, DVM of Novato, CA. It was listed at the top of our Wish List and we thank Dr. Debra for the donation.

The committees for 2009 are established and work is rumored to be underway on developing educational activities and continued research on grant opportunities. Ms. Hallock of New York continues her efforts in teaching her classroom about bio-diversity using me as a role model! I am having a great time learning about the various projects Ms. Halleck and her students have developed to study avian wildlife and our habitat. Ms Halleck's teachings are an example of the essential role played by education in bio-diversity conservation. Ms Hallock's lessons provide each student with the understanding that they are conservationists, and that the needs of people must be kept in balance with our natural surroundings. A special thank-you to Ms Halleck for promoting the role of education in bio-diversity conservation.

We have a new section in the Newsletter, written by one of my favorite biologists Jeff Alvarez of The Wildlife Project in California. Please visit Kids Corner and let me know how you do on the puzzles. I learned something from doing each puzzle and I also laughed out loud at his jokes. Send me an email with your thoughts.

A special note to my friend Ms Carole, who will be transitioning out as ACM. She and I helped a lot of patients with their rehabilitation prior to release and I will miss sitting on her shoulder telling her what to do. “Thanks Ms Carole, for the browse and challenges you provided me on a daily bases as I worked on my own special needs”. We wish you the best of luck in your next adventure.

C. Jack

Parents: We encourage you to read Captain Jack's Corner to your children and have them write Captain Jack at c.jack@casaavian.org

December 2008

Acadian Flycatcher
American Redstart
Baltimore Oriole
Barn Owl
Barred Antshrike
Black Catbird
Black Vulture
Black-and-white Warbler
Black-crowned Tityra
Black-headed Saltator
Black-headed Trogon
Blue-black Grassquit
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Blue-gray Tanager
Bright-rumped Attila
Brown Crested Flycatcher
Brown Jay
Cattle Egret
Clay-colored Robin
Collared Aracari
Common Pauraque
Common Yellowthroat
Dusky-capped Flycatcher
Eastern Meadowlark
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl
Golden-fronted Woodpecker
Golden-winged Warbler
Gray Catbird
Great Kiskadee

Great-tailed Grackle
Green-backed Sparrow
Green-breasted Mango
Groove-billed Ani
Hooded warbler
Laughing Falcon
Lineated Woodpecker
Magnolia Warbler
Mangrove Vireo
Masked Tityra
Melodious Blackbird
Montezuma Oropendula
Olive-throated Parakeet
Orchard Oriole
Ovenbird
Plain Chachalaca
Red-billed Pigeon
Red-legged Honeycreeper
Red-lore Parrot
Roadside Hawk
Royal Flycatcher
Ruddy Ground Dove
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
Scrub Euphonia
Social Flycatcher
Summer Tanager
Veery Thrush
Wedge-tailed Sabrewing
White-collared Seedeater
White-eyed Vireo

White-fronted Parrot
White-tipped Dove
White-winged Dove
Wood Thrush
Yellow-breasted Chat
Yellow-faced Grassquit
Yellow-throated Euphonia

Dusky-capped Flycatcher
Eastern Meadowlark
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl
Green-breasted Mango
Hooded warbler
Golden-winged Warbler
Great-tailed Grackle
Great Kiskadee
Green-backed Sparrow
Golden-fronted Woodpecker
Gray Catbird
Groove-billed Ani
Laughing Falcon
Lineated Woodpecker
Magnolia Warbler
Masked Tityra
Montezuma Oropendula
Melodious Blackbird
Mangrove Vireo
Olive-throated Parakeet
Orchard Oriole
Plain Chachalaca
Ovenbird
Red-billed Pigeon
Red-lore Parrot
Ruddy Ground Dove
Royal Flycatcher
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
Roadside Hawk
Red-legged Honeycreeper

Social Flycatcher
Scrub Euphonia
Summer Tanager
Yellow-throated Euphonia
White-eyed Vireo
Veery Thrush
Wedge-tailed Sabrewing
White-collared Seedeater
White-tipped Dove
White-winged Dove
White-fronted Parrot
Wood Thrush
Yellow-faced Grassquit
Yellow-breasted Chat

January 2008

Acadian Flycatcher
American Redstart
Barn Owl
Brown Jay
Barred Antshrike
Baltimore Oriole
Black Vulture
Brown-crested Flycatcher
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Black Catbird
Blue-black Grassquit
Bright-rumped Attila
Black-and-white Warbler
Black-crowned Tityra
Black-headed Trogon
Black-headed Saltator
Blue-gray Tanager
Cattle Egret
Clay-colored Robin
Collared Aracari
Common Pauraque
Common Yellowthroat

Dusky-capped Flycatcher
Eastern Meadowlark
Ferruginous Pygmy Owl
Green-breasted Mango
Hooded warbler
Golden-winged Warbler
Great-tailed Grackle
Great Kiskadee
Green-backed Sparrow
Golden-fronted Woodpecker
Gray Catbird
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Melodious Blackbird
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Olive-throated Parakeet
Orchard Oriole
Plain Chachalaca
Ovenbird
Red-billed Pigeon
Red-lore Parrot
Ruddy Ground Dove
Royal Flycatcher
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird
Roadside Hawk
Red-legged Honeycreeper

February 2008

Acadian Flycatcher
American Redstart
Blue-gray Tanager
Black-billed Cuckoo
Barred Antshrike
Brown Jay
Black Vulture
Black Catbird
Brown-crested Flycatcher
Black-and-white Warbler
Black-headed Trogon
Black-crowned Tityra
Black-headed Saltator
Barn Owl
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Recent Bird Sightings on the grounds and in CASA Habitat Restoration Area

Continued on Page 2

MEMBERSHIP—The Board of Directors for the Casa Avian Support Alliance (CASA) recognizes the value of interested individuals and organizations (both profit and non-profit), as a means to promote the goals of the organization. Memberships are not viewed as a primary source of income with respect to the sustainability of the NGO, but rather as a means to share the mission, goals and accomplishments of CASA with a broader public. CASA Inc. in the United States, is a recognized 501(c)(3), and as such all memberships and donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

REGULAR	Membership Description	BZE	US
Student or Sr. Citizen	Currently enrolled or graduated in last two -years	\$5	\$15
Individual	Individual on card plus one other	\$10	\$30
Family	Two or more	\$25	\$50
Participating Professional	Designed primarily for Veterinarians, Ornithologists, and Biologists involved in CASA's programs	\$30	\$60
SUPPORTING			
Affiliate	Members wishing recognition for affiliation	\$100	\$100
Advocate	Members that actively advocate the mission and goals of CASA	\$250	\$250
Patron	Members who wish to contribute to specific programs underway at CASA	\$500	\$500
Benefactor	Individuals who wish to support and promote the mission and goals of CASA	\$1000	\$1000
Guardian	Lifetime membership	\$2500	\$2500
Non-Profit Organization	Organizations with sympathetic missions and goals that would like to support and identify with CASA	\$250	\$250
For-Profit Enterprises	Enterprises who wish to support the mission and goals of CASA and be recognized for the contribution	\$250	\$250

All Regular Memberships receive a membership card, are invited to the annual meeting, receive a quarterly report, are enrolled in the "Passport Program," are listed in the membership directory, have the right to vote on issues put before the membership, and receive 10% discount on items offered in the gift shop.

Supporting Memberships receive the same benefits listed above and are recognized in the annual report for their contribution to the programs and activities of