

Rainforest Biodiversity Group  
Newsletter 28  
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## *HELLO ALL,*

WOW, time has really flown by. It seems like just last month that we received word that we received funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Yet it has already been 4 months since we initiated our project to develop the San Juan – La Selva section of the Costa Rican Bird Route (CRBR). And the project is moving along. Our first informational piece is now available in .pdf format on the Bird Route website [www.costaricanbirdroute.com](http://www.costaricanbirdroute.com). For those of you receiving this newsletter by mail we have attached a copy for your convenience. Russell Bensman Marketing has worked closely with RBG to develop this piece and has begun to design the business plan for the CRBR. Much of our time in the early months of the project has been devoted to organizing the many facets of the project, having meetings to cement partners, and further developing the vision of how the route will actually function. Recently we have developed communication with the Rainforest Alliance. Rainforest Alliance will be working with us to help ensure that the new reserves created within the CRBR are done so in a sustainable way. Rainforest Alliance will help us to develop a set of Sustainable Tourism Standards for the Route. These standards will be the “code of ethics” that are to guide development and management at the new reserves. Rainforest Alliance and RBG will conduct two Sustainable Tourism workshops for the owners of the new properties to provide information on sustainable tourism and to train these landowners in Sustainable Tourism techniques.

There are many lodges, hotels, etc that use the word “eco” to describe themselves. However in Costa Rica the term is used loosely and not all that says it is eco, is eco. We at RBG want to ensure that when visitors visit the Costa Rican Bird Route, they know that the reserves they are visiting have proper water and waste management practices. That the sites actively prohibit hunting and the use the quadricycles for recreation, that construction materials are from legally cut wood, and that they are actually working toward “eco-sustainable” certification and are doing the right things.

Look for RBG to continue to do the right things and ensure the protection of wildlife habitat as the Costa Rican Bird Route is developed. In the coming months we will begin to communicate directly with potential landowners. We will be compiling the Costa Rica Bird Route Bird Checklist and posting it on the web. We will also be putting the final touches on the CRBR business and marketing plan. Be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities for next summer. We will need volunteers to help develop the new reserves for hosting tourism. Check back with us regularly at our website [www.greatgreenmacaw.org](http://www.greatgreenmacaw.org) for more information and please visit the



Bird Route website at [www.costaricanbirdroute.com](http://www.costaricanbirdroute.com) and follow the development of the route on our blog.

Thanks for all your support and contact us if you have questions or suggestions.

### *DID YOU KNOW:*

Did you know that cats permitted to roam outdoors kill an estimated 200 million individual birds a year! Give birds a chance, keep your cats indoors.

### *NEWS and NOTES:*

Please note that our offices have moved and we have a new mailing address. Our new address is:

Rainforest Biodiversity Group  
7 N. Pinkney St Suite 220  
Madison, WI 53711

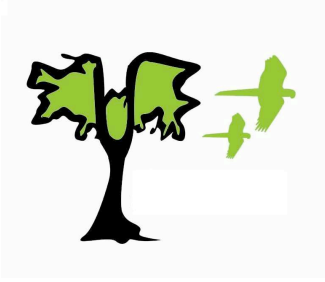
Jennifer Ewald of Madison, WI and Jennifer Davis of UW- Green Bay will be developing the Costa Rican Bird Route Website.

For those of you that are MySpace users and fans be ready to make the Rainforest Biodiversity Group a friend. We will be getting our MySpace profile up soon.

### *MEMBERSHIP:*

We want to take this opportunity to thank Stephen Bielke, Bob and Nancy Kathman-Queen, Alex Queen, Mara Hoyer-Winfield, Russ Rothman, Craig and Cindy Dunn, Jim and Linda Endres, and Marc and Marcia Williamson for their contributions and membership renewals. Time still remains to be a 2006 member.

Memberships are just \$25, and if you're a student they are just \$10. It is with your support we have been able to accomplish what we have so far. It is also with your support that we will be able to fulfill our mission and ensure the successful implementation of the Costa Rican Bird Route.



**Memberships and Donations can be sent to the address noted above**

***Thanks for your support!***

***Contact us at***

[amigosdelapa@yahoo.com](mailto:amigosdelapa@yahoo.com)

*or*

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