



Rainforest Biodiversity Group
7 N. Pinckney St
Suite 220
Madison, WI 53703
www.rainforestbiodiversity.org
info@rainforestbiodiversity.org

Rainforest Biodiversity Group

Annual Report 2007

January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

Rainforest Biodiversity Groups' mission is to protect biological diversity, including migratory bird species, through the protection of habitat for the Great Green Macaw and the creation of local conservation initiatives. We accomplish our goals through the creation and support of public, as well as, private conservation initiatives. This annual report covers our activities for the calendar year of 2007.

Annual Summary

Rainforest Biodiversity Group (RBG) continued to implement the Costa Rican Bird Route (CRBR) project under the US Fish and Wildlife Service grant that was awarded to the organization in 2006. Rainforest Biodiversity Group maintained three staff members to coordinate this project: Guisselle Monge Arias as the Costa Rican Bird Route Director in Costa Rica; Jon Kohl as an advisor for the project; and Andrew Rothman as the US Director of the Costa Rican Bird Route.

Additionally there were many people who were involved in one way or another with the development of the Costa Rican Bird Route. These people included Holly Robertson, Olivier Chassot, Andrea Holbrook, Russ Rothman, Matt Kemp, Gary Johnson, Vladimir Jimenez, Raquel Gomez, Jim Zook, Chris Wood, Andy Paulios, Craig Thompson, the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, and the Costa Rican Ornithological Association.

Rainforest Biodiversity Group also conducted promotional and fundraising activities to grow and support the organization. RBG attended conferences and festivals and became registered on several certified donor sites.

2007 Activities

The Rainforest Biodiversity Group completed the following during the 2007 Annual Cycle (Jan.1, 2007 – Dec. 31, 2007).

1. Maintained staff and operational needs for the Costa Rican Bird Route project
 - a. RBG has maintained the services of Guisselle Monge as Project Director in Costa Rica, Jon Kohl as Project Advisor, and Andrew Rothman as Assistant Project Director in US.

2. Throughout the months of April and May, members of the Costa Rican Ornithological Association (AOCR) conducted big day bird counts at most of the 25 pre-qualified potential Costa Rican Bird Route sites. The idea behind the counts was to get a good snap shot of what species occurred at the sites that were being reviewed as possible sites for the route.
3. Site selection for the Costa Rican Bird Route was finalized in November 2007, and a certificate of recognition as an official Costa Rican Bird Route was presented to each site during a meeting and presentation of the CRBR.
4. Three of the new reserves were enrolled into the Costa Rican Private Reserve Network with the goal being to enroll all 7 new reserves by the end of 2008.
5. Began development on action plans for each Costa Rican Bird Route site. These action plans are the plans that will be implemented by each site to meet the sustainable standards developed by RBG for the Costa Rican Bird Route. These actions plans also lay out timelines for implementing the plans and the development of the site for tourism. Updates on the advancements of sites will be included in quarterly Bird Route newsletters, which will be sent out to interested parties and all of the sites of the Bird Route.
6. Vision statement for the Costa Rican Bird Route was finalized.
7. Work was begun on the development of a Familiarization Tour to take place in February 2008. This tour will be the first tour of the Bird Route. Participants of the tour are ornithological and tourism professionals. The tour will take place as an extension trip of the Partners in Flight annual meeting in McAllen, TX, and is sponsored by Partners in Flight. The purpose of the tour is to get feedback on the feasibility of this project as a tool for habitat conservation in Latin America, as well as a mechanism to get feedback on the development of the Bird Route itself.
8. The official bird species list for the Costa Rican Bird Route was finalized and contains 520 species of birds.
9. The Bird Route sites were all registered as Hotspots on eBird. Now visitors to the Bird Route can enter their bird sightings for that particular reserve at www.ebird.org.
10. Per the contracts we have developed with each Portal site, these sites are required to develop a tour to one of the Remote sites. We have started working with these sites to develop these tours, making contacts, and developing the interpretive themes. RBG and the CCT have also begun developing a Great Green Macaw Tour for the entire route, which will include multiple sites and could be offered by the Portal sites.
11. Work continues to be done on completing the Business and Operation Plan for the Costa Rican Bird Route. This plan will be used to leverage support and funds for the bird route, will help sites understand their role in the bird role, as well as set tourism and financial goals for the Bird Route as a whole. Business investors and venture capitalists are asked to contact RBG directly for more information.
12. RBG applied for a new Neo-tropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grant in order to fund a Coordinator position for the Costa Rican Bird Route. Our estimated budget for staff,

transportation, and equipment is around \$20,000 for one year. We are in need of an additional \$10,000 to host a guide training workshop and sustainable tourism workshops for our sites, additional Bird Route signage, and website maintenance for 2008-2009.

13. Eight volunteers were placed at three of the Bird Route sites and were successful in accomplishing the following:
 - a. Two Albergue el Socorro volunteers developed multiple Km of hiking trails, hiking trail signs, and a trail map. In addition they started a bird list for the site and in just a few weeks over 250 species have been identified. In addition, a program has been started to begin to separate different types of trash and recyclable items.
 - b. Two volunteers at Mi Pedacito de Cielo developed a trail map for the established trails, began an official bird list for the site, and started a refuse separation program.
 - c. Two volunteers at Finca Pangola marked out a trail system that will soon be developed; began an official bird list for the site, and conducted English classes 2 x a week for 6 weeks for nearly 40 residents of the town of Pangola.

14. Promotion of Costa Rican Bird Route
 - a. Continued to develop the Costa Rican Bird Route Guide Map. Worked on creating the text and information for the piece.
 - b. Attended two conferences and distributed information on the Bird Route: The International Ecotourism Society North American Meetings in Madison, WI; Partners in Flight; and the Bird Education Network National Gathering in Austin, TX.
 - c. Costa Rican Bird Route signs with the Bird Route logo have been produced and distributed to the remote site where they will be placed in front of each site, to make the site easily identifiable as a Bird Route site to visitors.
 - d. RBG developed and produced 2,000 Costa Rican Bird Route brochures that were distributed to Audubon groups, ornithological societies, tour operators, and bird conservation organizations. Another 1,000 of these brochures have been distributed within Costa Rica.
 - e. The Costa Rican Bird Route website was updated and maintained (www.costaricanbirdroute.com).

Additional Activities:

Associations:

- Became official member organization of The International Ecotourism Society (TIES).
- Received official support for project from Partners in Flight.
- Maintained membership within Executive Committee of San Juan – La Selva Biological Corridor.
- Maintained Membership with Bird Conservation Alliance (BCA).
- Received official support from Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI).

Awards:

- Certificates of appreciation were given to the following people to recognize their significant contributions in Costa Rica to the Bird Route project:

- Kevin Loope
- Elizabeth Hunter
- Ulla Kail
- Pedro da Costa

Promotion and Outreach:

- Held fundraising activities:
 1. Spring Bird-a-Thon;
 2. eBay Online Auction
 3. Booth at the Waterfront Festival in Madison, Wisconsin.
- Attended the 2007 Green Festival Expo in Chicago, Illinois and distributed information about the organization and obtained in-kind donations from supportive organizations and companies.
- Registered Rainforest Biodiversity Group as a recipient non-profit organization for the following:
 1. Good Search;
 2. 1% for the Planet;
 3. eBay Charity Giving Works.
- In 2007 RBG published 4 newsletters. Issues number 29, 30, 31 and 32. Our newsletter list serve contains close to 400 people.
- The RBG Website was updated and maintained in 2007.
- The Costa Rican Bird Route website (www.costaricanbirdroute.com) was launched and regular maintenance was done on the website.

MEMBERSHIP:

Board of Directors:

In 2007 the Board of Directors still maintained two parts, an Executive Board, and an Advisory Board. The Executive Board held voting responsibilities on issues and policies, and the advisory board provided recommendations and oversight of the development and implementation of these same topics, as well as acting as the tie breaking vote.

The Executive Board 2007:

President: Andrew Rothman
 Vice President: Bill Volkert
 Secretary: Jen Ewald/Holly Robertson
 Treasurer: Russ Rothman

The Advisory Board 2007:

Carl Leopold
 Bobbie Webster

Jen Ewald resigned as Secretary of RBG in the summer of 2007. Holly Robertson was nominated to fill this position.

General membership:

In 2007, good membership numbers were still lacking, but the number of general donors has greatly

increased with concerted fundraising efforts. We had just 9 official members. This is an area that the organization still needs to significantly improve on.

2007 DONORS / General Members

First Name	Last Name
Dave	Beres
Sara	Beres
Howard	Berger
Ellen	Connolly
Alan	Crossley
Nikki	Dowland
Cheryl	Hageman
Lillian	Harris
Alex	Kozlowski
Edward	Krempasanka
Henk	Morelisse
Jan	Nelson
Lauren	Nelson
Ellen	Newberry
Benjamin	Olewine IV
Elizabeth	Schlagenhaft
Nate	Schlingmann
Guy	Somers
Judith	Utevsky
Erin	Wilichowski
Louise	Riemer Rothman
Lyndsay	Hubbard-Van Stelle
Craig	Dunn
Cindy	Dunn
Damon	Jeffrey
Peter	Fiensinger
Martha	Krump
Duane	Barmore
Carl	Leopold

Volunteers:

In 2007 RBG received assistance in the form of volunteer services from the following people:

- Ulla Kail
- Pedro da Costa
- Cody Robertson
- Grace Thomson
- Kevin Loope
- Elizabeth Hunter

In 2007, RBG received in-kind donations from the following companies:

- Lao Laan Xang
- Boulders Climbing Gym
- Budget Cycles
- Green 3 Apparel
- Cobrahead
- Xeko
- Fontana
- Harvest Moon
- Peace Coffee
- Numi Tea
- Guayaki
- EcoTeas
- Choice Teas
- Dropwise Essentials
- Glee Gum
- Chicobag Company
- Green Glass Company
- Trader Joes

RBG General Accounting

CASH DONATIONS 2007:

2007 Total Donations: \$2,112.92

Membership total: \$310

Bird-a-Thon donations: \$413.30

Waterfront Festival donations: \$783.70

Other donations: \$605.92

IN-KIND Donations 2007:

Work:

- Volunteer hours:
 - Holly Robertson: \$13,520 (=1040 hours @ \$13/hr)
 - Andrew Rothman: \$1600 (=80 hours @ \$20/hr)
 - Raquel Gomez: \$2100 (=105 hrs @ \$20/hr)
 - Ulla Kail: \$1,920 (=240 hours @ \$8/hr)
 - Pedro da Costa: \$1,920 (=240 hours @ \$8/hr)
 - Kevin Loope: \$1,920 (=240 hours @ \$8/hr)
 - Elizabeth Hunter: \$1,920 (=240 hours @ \$8/hr)
 - Grace Thomson: \$1,920 (=240 hours @ \$8/hr)
 - Cody Robertson: \$1,920 (=240 hours @ \$8/hr)
- Food cost for volunteers: \$1,800
- Russell Stevens Marketing: \$2,725
- EMK Designs: \$10,893.75

- Donations for the RBG fundraising event at Waterfront Festival: \$1,029
- Other: \$1100.39

TOTAL IN-KIND US 2007: \$44,488.14

TOTAL DONATIONS US 2007: \$46,601.06

EXPENDITURES US 2007

Total Expenditures: \$1619.57

- Includes: Office Supplies, website fees, membership fees to the International Ecotourism Society, postage fees, organizational fees, and printing costs.

Bird Route Accounting:

NMBCA Funds Spent in 2007:

In 2007 RBG used \$24,152.61 of the \$50,000 grant. These funds were used to pay salaries of staff, purchase office items, print initial round of Bird Route signs, printing of Bird Route brochures, conduct a bird count, paying for work on the CRBR website, and for travel within and to Costa Rica. For detailed information please contact the organization.

CASH ACCOUNTING TOTALS:

TOTAL INCOMING DONATIONS 2007: **\$2,112.92**

TOTAL INCOME FOR FAM TOUR (TO BE HELD IN 2008): **\$1,691.85**

GRAND TOTAL 2007 INCOME: \$3,804.77

TOTAL EXPENDITURES RBG 2007: **\$1,619.57**

DIFFERENCE (\$3,804.77 - \$1,619.57): \$2,185.20

CASH ON HAND FOR RBG:

Jan 1. 2007: **\$1452.99**

Dec. 31 2007: **\$3,638.19**

Difference = \$2,185.20

BIRD ROUTE 2007 ACCOUNTING:

TOTAL DISPURSED to RBG: \$25,133
TOTAL EXPENDED by RBG: \$24,152.61

DIFFERENCE: \$980.39