

## **Job Announcement**

### **Bird Conservation Coordinator**



The Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE), under the aegis of the International Bicknell's Thrush Conservation Group (IBTCG), seeks a highly motivated individual to coordinate on-the-ground bird conservation activities on Hispaniola and other Greater Antillean islands. Primary emphasis will be on networking with local partners and facilitating conservation actions for Bicknell's Thrush and montane forest habitats on each island, following recommendations in IBTCG's 2010 *Conservation Action Plan for Bicknell's Thrush*.

#### OVERALL OBJECTIVES

- 1) Oversee implementation of International Bicknell's Thrush Conservation Group (IBTCG) Conservation Action Plan ("Plan") on Bicknell's Thrush (BITH) wintering grounds.
- 2) Build and strengthen partnerships with collaborators (both NGO and governmental) on Hispaniola, in the Greater Antilles, and in North America, to develop and implement conservation projects that include land protection, habitat management and restoration, monitoring and scientific research, local capacity building, and outreach.
- 3) Coordinate overall communications within IBTCG and its partner groups, as well as more broadly (e.g., media, international conservation community, corporate entities) relative to wintering BITH conservation issues and activities on Hispaniola and in the wider Caribbean.

#### SPECIFIC JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

##### Conservation Projects (2011-2012)

- 1) Coordinate production and publication of a trilingual "State of Hispaniolan Montane Forests" report. This report will distill biology and science into an illustrated, high-profile but non-technical document that summarizes conservation issues of each discrete mountain range and articulates explicit actions to address them. It is intended to closely follow a peer-reviewed scientific paper on the status of Hispaniolan montane forests and their biota.
- 2) Starting on Hispaniola and proceeding to other islands, collaboratively identify and establish contact with owners/managers of all protected areas with known or potential BITH habitat; identify explicit conservation needs for each area; review management plans (if any); prioritize actions necessary to achieve on-the-ground habitat conservation; and develop specific plans and timelines for each area.
- 3) 3) In the Dominican Republic's eastern Cordillera Septentrional, work with existing IBTCG partners (e.g., Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano, Fundacion Loma Quita Espuela, SODIN, Sociedad Ornitologica de la Hispaniola) to strengthen BITH-related habitat conservation in the region. Activities will include pursuing land protection opportunities, capacity building of local partners, outreach to local communities, and implementation of habitat restoration measures.

### **Outreach, Capacity Building, and Communication**

- 1) Catalyze and facilitate conservation actions by local partners and other institutions at sites of importance for BITH within the Greater Antilles.
- 2) Integrate conservation partners into on-the-ground activities, both locally and nationally, through development of collaborative networks.
- 3) Serve as information resource for BITH-related conservation issues, both in Caribbean and North America; coordinate regular maintenance and updating of IBTCG web site.
- 4) 4) Coordinate targeted training and capacity-building activities such as field workshops and meetings, and help local partners seek further educational and professional opportunities (e.g., graduate scholarships, formal internships).
- 5) Serve as primary coordinator/facilitator for grant-making process and disbursement of grants to local partners from the existing North American and DR BITH Habitat Protection Funds. Assist VCE staff and other partners in developing a marketing and communications strategy for the two Funds.
- 6) In cooperation with local partners, assess the feasibility of acquiring new lands on Hispaniola as a viable conservation strategy. If deemed feasible, conduct a land tenure assessment on Hispaniola and outline the legal process for new acquisitions.

### **Qualifications**

- B.S. or higher in conservation biology, ecology, social sciences, or natural resource management.
- Minimum 3 years on-the-ground experience in conservation biology or related field. Prior experience in avian conservation desirable.
- Prior work in Latin America and/or the Caribbean highly desirable
- Spoken and written fluency in Spanish and English mandatory; working knowledge of French highly desirable; willingness to learn Haitian Creole.
- Excellent oral and written communications skills.
- Proven strong human relations and networking abilities; willingness to bring people together.
- Strong organizational skills.
- Demonstrated experience raising funds and leveraging funding sources for discrete projects; willingness to assist in fundraising efforts targeted at Caribbean.
- Ability to drive standard transmission 4x4 truck on rough terrain; willingness to occasionally camp or live in primitive field conditions.
- Facility on computers, especially with programs such as Microsoft Word and Excel. Working knowledge of GIS desirable.
- Willingness to travel extensively to and within the Dominican Republic and Haiti, as well as to other Greater Antillean islands, and Vermont. Position will be based in Norwich, Vermont during 2011 and will then transition to being largely or exclusively based in the Caribbean.

**Compensation:** Commensurate with education and experience. Eligible for VCE benefits, including health insurance, international travel insurance, and earned time off.

**Selection Process:** Qualified candidates should submit a curriculum vitae and letter of interest, including names and contact information of 3 references to:

Chris Rimmer  
Vermont Center for Ecostudies  
P.O. Box 420  
Norwich, VT USA 05055

Or by e-mail to: [crimmer@vtecostudies.org](mailto:crimmer@vtecostudies.org)

[www.vtecostudies.org](http://www.vtecostudies.org)

**Deadline for application:** July 15, 2011

**Anticipated starting date:** October 15, 2011