



## Casa del Caballo Blanco and the Casa Avian Support Alliance

Bird watching is more than the identification of birds and updating a life list. It is the recognition that avian fauna are an essential contributor to the ecology, that their presence not only in number but in contribution is essential to biodiversity, it is knowing that the farming that each one participates in daily is essential to the maintenance of biodiversity – and it is listening to the music they provide.

### Casa Avian Support Alliance

These are a few among many reasons why we have dedicated 23 acres in Belize as an ex-situ conservation facility. La Casa del Caballo Blanco LLC, the eco-lodge, is host to Casa Avian Support Alliance, LLC, (CASA) a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), located in Cayo District, Belize, Central America. The primary goal of CASA is the rehabilitation and release of wild avian fauna recently released from capture or treatment for illness or injury. Contributing to this goal is a dedication and commitment to the education of locals and visitors with respect to land management and respect for

wildlife that will contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.

The Government of Belize, as evidenced by its participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Belize National Biodiversity Strategy, strongly support the conservation of its natu-



ral resources and programs designed and developed to enhance those programs. In support of those shared goals CASA is working closely with the Belize Audubon Society, Friends for Conservation and Development and, Birds Without Borders.

CASA relies on revenues from the eco-lodge, grants, donations and membership to support the operation, maintenance, and growth of the facility. Please see the discussion of membership on the back (page 4).

### Casa del Caballo Blanco

Casa del Caballo Blanco, the home of CASA, provides opportunities for education and involvement, through –

- A broad-based membership program that is designed to encourage participation from all sectors of the public and professional community,
- The Badge of Bird program, intended to promote an appreciation of avian wildlife and their dependence on the environment,
- A Visiting Veterinarian program, to enhance the operation and growth of the facility and to provide a real-time laboratory for the practice of avian medicine,
- A Passport Program that encourages travel to like facilities throughout Central America.

Organizations and individual guests to Casa del Caballo Blanco have access to 24 hour, wireless internet access and a full-service meeting room thoughtfully designed for educational ses-

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### Special points of interest:

- *CASA Director Attends Run-away Creek Reserve Strategic Planning Session*
- *CASA Certified as NGO*
- *Wildlife Monitoring Study Begins January 2006*

sions. Accommodations at Casa del Caballo Blanco consist of 6 rooms, each with private bathrooms, in three separate thatch-roofed buildings (maximum four people to each room).

Please remember that a portion of all revenue from the individual rooms is donated to the operation and maintenance of CASA.



## CASA Recognized as Non-Government Organization

We are very proud to announce that on February 7th, 2006, Casa Avian Support Alliance received certification from the Belizean Government as a Non-Governmental Organization under Belize Act No. 26 of 2000.

Receipt of this certification represents significant progress towards the goal of establishing CASA as a participant in the ongoing international effort, shared by numerous other ex-situ facilities throughout Central America, to conserve and protect the biodiversity of the Americas. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter the sponsors have begun the same process in the United States to achieve a non-profit status.



## TEAM NEWS—Birds Without Borders Visits CASA

Each month we will highlight the activities and accomplishments of the CASA team – this month we are honored to report on the visit by Dr. Gil Boese, founder of Birds Without Borders, and CASA’s attendance at the Strategic Planning meeting for the Runaway Creek Reserve

On Tuesday, February 26, 2005, Dr. Gil Boese and his wife Lillian, visited CASA to familiarize themselves with the grounds and mission of the facility. On Wednesday they returned with Michael Guzniczak, of the Wildlife In Need Center, and his wife Eli to further

explore the potential for the development of caging and treatment facilities. Gladys and Enrique Rivas, Casa’s In-country Director/Operations Manager, were then invited to attend the Strategic Planning meeting for the Runaway Creek Reserve. The purpose of the meeting was to initiate planning for the development and operation of the Reserve. Among the participants at the meetnig was Sharon Matola of the Belize Zoo. CASA was introduced as a new and welcomed participant in the efforts to conserve the biodiversity of Belize. (Picture of Boese’s and friends at CDCB dining room)



Dr. Gil Boese (left), Michael Guzniczak, Eli Guzniczak, Gladys Rivas, Enrique Rivas, and Lillian Boese at the CDCB dining Room

## Wildlife Biologists Begin Study at CASA

CASA is pleased to announce the development of a long-term relationship with wildlife biologists Ms. Wendy Dexter (Condor Country Consulting) and Mr. Jeff Alvarez (The Wildlife Project). Wendy and Jeff visited CASA in January of 2005 and began a long-term observation program that will monitor the rebound of the wildlife in the reforested northern two-thirds of the property.

Based on observations made at CASA and at surrounding locations in similar environments the biologists will evaluate the effectiveness of the reforestation program underway on the northern portion of the property. Next quarter’s newsletter will feature a list of species observed on the property and additional detail on the goals of this project.



## La Sala

### CASA's Meeting Room

The most notable feature of the main house at Casa del Caballo Blanco is a 1000 square floor meeting room, "La Sala." This tile-floored room is furnished with seven conference tables and chairs and will comfortably seat up to 36.

La Sala has ample natural/artificial lighting, is cooled by ceiling fans, and is adjacent to a large outdoor patio. The room is ideal for convening board meetings, focused planning sessions, and education sessions.



Beverage and snack service can be arranged both inside and on the patio, or a full meal service can be arranged in the dining room.

Please contact Gladys Rivas at 707 780-4544 to schedule your organization to use "La Sala."

Please remember that a percentage of all fees are donated to the operation and maintenance of CASA.

## Gift Shop Corner

Casa del Caballo Blanco is in the process of establishing a small gift shop in the main house. The purpose of the gift shop is to showcase the arts and crafts of Belize and nearby Guatemala.

Among the goods on display are slate carvings, games and utilitarian pieces handmade from local hardwoods, and beautiful textiles, similar items are on display or in use throughout CDCB, from the hands and back-strap looms of Guatemalan weavers. Please take a moment to visit the gift shop and enjoy the texture, color and design of these beautiful Guatemalan textiles, and the artistry displayed in the hardwoods and slate. Please remember that a percentage of all proceeds of the gift shop help

support the operation and maintenance of CASA



*Next quarter's newsletter will highlight the work of Cristina Lopez, Típicos "La Tejedora" and her sister -*

Cristina Lopez, El Remate, Guatemala

## Birding at CASA

CASA, devoted to the rehabilitation and release of avian fauna, is also an ideal location to begin your Belize birding experience. Each morning parrots fly from nesting locations to foraging areas and return to their nesting locations in the evening a wide array of birds can be viewed daily through each of the seasons. Below is a list of birds sighted during one week in January

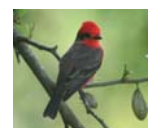
Brown Jay	Couch's Kingbird
Canivet's Emerald	Fork-tailed Flycatcher
Cattle Egret	Golden Fronted Woodpecker
Common Yellow-throat	

Gray Catbird
Great Blue Heron
Great Kiskidee
Great-tailed Grackle
Groove-billed Ani
Little Blue Heron
Melodious Blackbird
Montezuma Oropendula
Muscovy Duck

Myiarchus species
Northern Rough-wing Swallow
Olive-breasted Parakeet
Orchard oriole
Red-lore Parrot
Ringed Kingfisher
Road-side Hawk
Ruddy Ground Dove
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird

Snowy Egret
Sulpher-bellied Flycatcher
Tropical Kingbird
Vermiculated Screech Owl
Vermillion Flycatcher
Violaceous Trogon
White-collared Seedeater
White-crowned Parrot

White-fronted Parrot
White-tailed Kite
White-vented Euphonia
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-throated Euphonia
Yucatan Poorwill



Vermillion Flycatcher

## Casa Avian Support Alliance

Birds are the farmers of the world - help us  
to help them to continue to sow their seeds

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*Hola, Greetings from Gringo the  
namesake of Casa del Caballo Blanco,  
we are working on a CASA web page,  
in the mean time visit us at [www.  
casacaballoblanco.com](http://www.casacaballoblanco.com)*

Jodi



**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. Revenues captured from annual dues will be used primarily to support member related activities such as the Badge of Bird Program and the Quarterly Report to Members.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

The benefits of membership at the various levels are as follows:

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 CASA