

## Ocean to Ocean Raptor Count coming up

Ocean to Ocean Raptor Count coming up, October 2nd to November 12, 2006

The Panama Audubon Society is organizing again a Migratory Raptor Count across the isthmus of Panama, this time with five sites, including San Lorenzo National Park with one site at the southern end, Loma Flores, near Escobal. En 2005, more than 250,000 raptors were counted flying over Escobal, including 117 thousand turkey vultures, 80 thousand broad winged hawks and 60 thousand Swainson hawks. Numbers were lower than in 2004, as the birds were also affected in their annual flight south, by the early strong hurricanes that season. All the bird counters are young men and women from the local communities, and were trained by a biologist from the Panama Audubon Society, following the protocols of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. See their website, and look at the video made in Achote in 2004 for local TV on the Fundacion Albatros website, [www.albatrosmedia.net](http://www.albatrosmedia.net). Chelina Batista will be supervising the count in the field, and analysing the data together with Dr. George Angehr. You can help, joining the bird counters at their site any time between 8.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m., during the Raptor count. Please call the Centro El Tucan, at 6567 5634 if you would like to support the count in Escobal.

### Birds and Coffee Festival in Achote

The IV Festival of Birds and Coffee will be held in Achote on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th October. You will be very welcome to join the fun, while the local schools parade each with their bird princess, and then take part in competitions, exhibits and sporting events. And buy some delicious local coffee and great food. Please call Belisario Villarreal, president of the Organizing Committee, for more details, or call the Centro El Tucán, Achote.

### Referendum on Building the Third Set of Locks, 22nd October

The referendum on whether or not to build a third set of locks will be held on October 22nd. Are you voting? Send us an email with your comments on how the decision may affect the San Lorenzo National Park and the local communities on the west bank of the Canal.