

PROTECTION OF THE BEARDED WOOD-PARTRIDGE



The Gulf Coast Bird Observatory is again teaming up with Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda to conserve land in the cloud forests of the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve (SBRG) in Mexico. Using our **Tropical Forest Forever Fund**, GCBO will be providing \$27,500 towards the purchase of a 50-hectare property in the Hoya Verde, a densely wooded area comprised of temperate and cloud forests in the Eastern Sierra Madre. This, our second acquisition in the SBRG, will be completed by October 2008, but much remains to be purchased in this region, so we will continue this process as funds are available. If you wish to make a contribution towards our future land protection efforts in Latin America, please contact Cecilia Riley at

criley@gcbo.org to contribute to the **Tropical Forest Forever Fund**.

This project area is located on the principal range of the Sierra Madre Oriental, in the northeast part of the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve in an area with extensive forest cover, in the municipality of Jalpan de Serra. These mountains constitute an important biological corridor that runs north-south, from the Canyon of the Rio Santa María to the Rio Moctezuma, containing some of the best-conserved sites in the region. The property is found within two of the most valuable core zones of the reserve: "Cañada de las Avispas" and "Barranca de Paguas" and thus already contributes in a direct manner to the continuity of the vegetation between the core zones, allowing for the free transit of species. The area consists of mountains and scattered karstic sinkholes with canyons that descend from the mountains towards the Rio Santa Maria and give it an important inflow of humidity and relatively little exposure. The property has an average elevation of 1,400 meters (4,480 ft) above sea level, putting it in a transition zone between temperate climates in the higher mountains and hotter areas lower down.

This property is habitat for multiple species of threatened and endemic flora and fauna, including populations of the threatened and endemic Bearded Wood-Partridge. The Bearded Wood-Partridge, endemic to the temperate and cloud forests of a short section of the Sierra Madre Oriental, counts on the SBRG as its most important long-term refuge. This is because the forests of the Sierra Madre Oriental in the states of San Luis Potosi, Hidalgo, Puebla and Veracruz surrounding the eastern side of the SBRG are highly impacted, deforested and fragmented, putting this species in danger of extinction due to habitat loss and excessive hunting.

Birds of Hoya Verde

Crested Guan
Bearded Wood-Partridge
Singing Quail
Thicket Tinamu
Pale-billed Woodpecker
Bronze-winged Woodpecker
Collared Forest Falcon
Gray Hawk
Bat Falcon
Bumble-bee Hummingbird
Magnificent Hummingbird
White-eared Hummingbird
Buff-bellied Hummingbird
Blue-throated Hummingbird
White-fronted Parakeet
Green Parakeet
Blue-crowned Motmot
Mountain Trogon
Mottled Wood-Owl
Spot-crowned Woodcreeper
Olivaceous Woodcreeper
Pine Flycatcher
Tufted Flycatcher
Blue Mockingbird
Brown-backed Solitaire
Golden-browed Warbler
Hooded Grosbeak

Apart from the Bearded Wood-Partridge, this area also provides habitat for other animals, most notably the wild cats such as jaguar, puma, margay, jaguarundi, and ocelot, which will benefit directly from the protection of forest ecosystems. Many neotropical migrants spend the winter in search of food including Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hermit Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Ovenbird, Summer Tanager, Hepatic Tanager, and Western Tanager.