

CROWDER-MESSERSMITH  
CONSERVATION FUND  
Audubon Naturalist Society  
8940 Jones Mill Road  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
[www.ANShome.org](http://www.ANShome.org)



**Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund Annual Talk:  
Report from Vieques: Hurricane Maria's Impact on the Birds of  
Puerto Rico  
Thursday, October 11 (7-9pm)  
Woodend Sanctuary**

**Daphne Gemmill**, also known as the “Bird Lady of Vieques”, has studied the birds of Vieques Island, Puerto Rico for over 35 years. Returning to the island after hurricane Maria, Daphne will report on her observations of the impacts of Maria in 2017 as well as future challenges associated with climate change on both Vieques and other Caribbean Islands’ birdlife.

Light refreshments served. Please RSVP to Carol Hayes at [carol.hayes@anshome.org](mailto:carol.hayes@anshome.org) or 301-652-9188 x10 by October 5. Contributions to the Crowder-Messersmith Fund will be gratefully accepted.



*Latest News on the Fund's Grantees*

The Audubon Naturalist Society’s Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund Committee grantees for 2018 joined grantees from more than 55 countries that have received awards since 1976. Four proposals were selected for funding from 42 applications.

**2018 Grantees:**

The Institute of Social Research and Development in Manipur, **India**, seeks to reduce conflict in communities bordering the Keibul Lamjao National Park to protect the critically endangered Brow-Antlered Deer and promote biodiversity in the region. Village communities will have a leading role in protection and conservation activities in partnership with other conservation, community, media and security groups to build a resource pool with a common objective. Members of a Youth Task Force reporting to the Village Committee will monitor the Park and surrounding areas and work to connect villagers to the plight of the deer and protection of the Park.

The critically endangered Utila Spiny-Tailed Iguana on Utila Island, **Honduras**, has had its survival threatened on several fronts, including habitat loss, hunting of adults and eggs, invasive species and pollution. To understand and foster pride in of this unique species the proposed education program will involve the community in outreach events, especially engaging children in field trips where they will participate in field biology and beach clean-ups, also stressing the importance of recycling and minimizing use of disposable items. Workshops will be held in partnership with the Utila Handmade Cooperative, and three large scale events will be organized, including world lizard day in August.

Since 2011 the People, Lions and Environmental Campaign in **Tanzania**, locally abbreviated as WASIMA in Swahili, has been successful in virtually eliminating lion killings south of Katavi National Park with educational programs discouraging traditional lion killing practices through the involvement of the local community. WASIMA involved the local policing body in its efforts, a group highly respected and trusted by community members. Among the projects WASIMA has sponsored are the approval of protection by-laws by village officials and assemblies, seminars, partnerships and monthly meetings. This grant will serve to expand the WASIMA model to areas adjacent to the protected regions in western Tanzania.

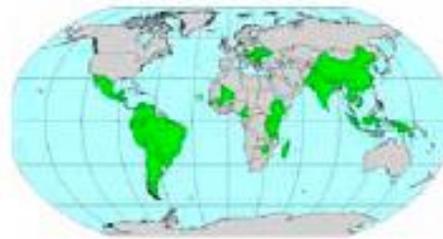
With the generous donation from a Crowder-Messersmith supporter in memory of her mother, Alice Evans Pratt, we continue our support of a dedicated group of **Cape Verdeans** to rehabilitate, protect and develop eco-tourism. Beginning as a project to protect the critically endangered Leatherback Turtle, the project has grown to include the local high school and the entire community. Last year the U.S. Ambassador to Cape Verde visited the project.



Stream clean-up and protected turtle nesting site on Santiago Island, Cape Verde

### 2017 Grantees Updates:

In the Cross River region of **Nigeria** the grantee engaged affected communities in an effort to stop a new superhighway through the last remaining rainforest in the country. Reefkeeper **Belize** brought marine science education to schoolchildren to promote stewardship of the country's resources, with a spotlight on the critically endangered Goliath Grouper. Education and outreach programs were developed to raise awareness of the critically endangered **Ecuadorian** Brown-headed Spider Monkey in both mestizo and indigenous communities. Conservation awareness targeting local populations in the protection of the Giant Slippery Frog in the Dikome Balue region in **Cameroon** will be ongoing, as the project had to be suspended due to the volatile political situation in that country.



The map to the left illustrates countries (in green) which have received grants. The table below shows the total number of grants given to that country.

<b>NORTH AMERICA/CARIBBEAN</b>	Bolivia 4	Bulgaria 1	Cape Verde 1	India 8
Bahamas 2	Brazil 4	Croatia 1	Ethiopia 2	Indonesia 1
Curacao 1	Colombia 3	Cyprus 12	Ghana 2	Nepal 9
Dominican Republic 1	Costa Rica 4	Czech Republic 1	Kenya 6	Pakistan 1
Jamaica 1	Ecuador 7	Hungary 1	Madagascar 2	Papua New Guinea 4
Mexico 9	Falkland Islands 2	Israel 4	Mali 1	South Korea 1
Puerto Rico 2	Guatemala 2	Moldova 3	Nigeria 1	Sri Lanka 4
Trinidad and Tobago 2	Honduras 3	Romania 1	Rwanda 1	Thailand 1
West Indies 1	Paraguay 1	United Kingdom 4	Swaziland 1	Vietnam 1
	Peru 6	Ukraine 5	Tanzania 1	
<b>SOUTH &amp; CENTRAL AMERICA</b>	Venezuela 1	<b>AFRICA</b>	Uganda 3	
Argentina 4		Benin 1	Zimbabwe 2	
Belize 3	<b>EUROPE &amp; MID EAST</b>	Cameroon 2		<b>ASIA &amp; THE PACIFIC</b>
	Armenia 1			

### *Thank You C-M Committee Members*

The Crowder-Messersmith Fund would like to thank its committee members, who volunteer their time and expertise: Daphne Gemmill (chair), Betsy Connole, Yoli Del Buono, Marcie Francis, Vance Hyndman, Chris Herman, and Karen Wilhelm. The Committee is pleased to welcome a new member in 2018, Alan Johnston.

Since last year's talk, the Crowder-Messersmith Fund Committee had undergone some changes. Sadly, two of the original members of the Committee died unexpectedly. The Committee will miss the thoughtful and knowledgeable grant reviews by Jane Huff and Yoli Del Buono along with their tales of foreign travel. Jane's careful analysis of grant applications reflected her science and international backgrounds. Yoli, who spoke at least four languages and lived in various parts of the world, contributed greatly to the committee's deliberations. They will be missed.

### *To Receive Our Annual Newsletter*

Please send your email to [carol.hayes@ANShome.org](mailto:carol.hayes@ANShome.org) if you would like to receive future newsletters and announcements of C-M events. Your email will be used solely for C-M activities.

### *Thank you to our Donors!*

A special thank you to contributions made to the C-M Fund by Kent & Marcia Minichiello, Diane H. Munro, Richard & Martha Pine, Marcia Joiner & Jim Schreiber, Woody & Rae Dubois, Frank Corrado, Saint C. Seifert, Barbara Nash, Lynn Rust, Donna Messersmith Jones, Judith F. Kneen, Rick Borchelt

### *And for Contributions in Memory of Yoli Del Buono*

Julie Beaugrand, Donna Boxer & Ted Leavengood, Peter & Bernadette Chapin, Vincenzo & Josephine Civitella, Bonnie Coe, Daphne Gemmill, Vance & Kathy Hyndman, Jane Johnston, Jane Waldmann, Michael Wilpers, Cathy Wiss, Elizabeth Wooster, Bill Yeaman, Adria Zeldin, Lisa Zuckerman Gamshad

### *Contributions to the Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund*

This small innovative grants program, together with the international foray program, allows ANS members to experience other cultures and environments and to promote conservation awareness and protection beyond our borders. Your contributions to the Fund allow us to support more projects in developing countries – please be sure to designate your donation to the Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund. You can contribute by going <https://anshome.org/2017/04/donate/> or by sending a check to: Crowder-Messersmith Fund, Audubon Naturalist Society, 8940 Jones Mill Rd., Chevy Chase, MD 20815

### *Birthathon 2018*

The Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund thanks the following people for sponsoring C-M Committee Chair Daphne Gemmill's Birdathon in Angola:

Tom Andrews  
Ana Anguelles  
Sandy Banstorp  
Mrs. Romney W. Bathurst  
Larry Cartwright  
Julie Christian  
Carla Dove  
Diana Drake  
Brenda Frank  
Elizabeth Gemmill  
Helen Gemmill  
Ed Harper  
Chris Herman,  
Carolyn Isber  
George Jett  
Alan Johnston  
Joan Keenan  
Susanna Lawson  
Sam Little  
Pat Moore  
William Mueller  
Diana Munn  
Lee & Kirk Robinson  
Heather Santos  
Susan Sarason  
John & Karen Shrader  
Nancy Twist  
Larry & Betty Waldron