

Recent ornithological literature from the Caribbean: 2016

A regular feature of the *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*, this column alerts readers to recent ornithological literature from the Caribbean basin that has appeared elsewhere. We would also like to include any unpublished theses or other reports that may be difficult to find in more universally available abstract services. We invite readers of the *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology* to alert our compiler, Steven Latta, to other articles that should be highlighted in this section. Our hope is that by providing these summaries we will increase the exchange of knowledge among Caribbean ornithologists and conservationists.

—Steven C. Latta

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Antonides, J., R. Ricklefs, and J.A. DeWoody. 2017. The genome sequence and insights into the immunogenetics of the Bananaquit (Passeriformes: *Coereba flaveola*). *Immunogenetics* 69:175–186.—E-mail: jantonid@purdue.edu.

Audet, J.-N., S. Ducatez, and L. Lefebvre. 2016. Bajan birds pull strings: two wild Antillean species enter the select club of string-pullers. *PLoS ONE* 11:e0156112.—String-pulling is one of the most popular tests in animal cognition because of its apparent complexity and its potential to be applied to very different taxa. Here, individuals of two innovative species from Barbados, the Barbados Bullfinch (*Loxigilla barbadensis*) and the Carib Grackle (*Quiscalus lugubris fortirostris*), pass the string-pulling test.

Bolton, N.M., C. Van Oosterhout, N.J. Collar, and D.J. Bell. 2016. Population constraints on the Grenada Dove *Leptotila wellsi*: preliminary findings and proposals from south-west Grenada. *Bird Conservation International* 26:205–213.—Of 12 habitat variables measured, greater levels of canopy cover were the best predictor of dove presence. Tracking tunnels indicated that introduced mongooses (*Herpestes auropunctatus*), widely known for negatively impacting Caribbean bird populations, have a high level of occupancy in dove habitat. Trail cameras revealed that Grenada Doves make good use of water from man-made wells and mongooses' scent-mark tunnels. E-mail: nicholas.bolton84@gmail.com.

Carlo, T.A., and J.M. Morales. 2016. Generalist birds promote tropical forest regeneration and increase plant diversity via rare-biased seed dispersal. *Ecology* 97:1819–1831.—Seed dispersal by birds can influence the speed and diversity of early successional forests in Puerto Rico. Two predominantly omnivorous bird species, the Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) and the Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*), proved critical for speeding up the establishment of woody plants and increasing the species richness and diversity of the seed rain in deforested areas.

Results indicate that birds that mix fruit and insects in their diets and actively forage across open and forested habitats can play keystone roles in the regeneration of mutualistic plant–animal communities. E-mail: tac17@psu.edu.

Cibois, A., L. Vallotton, N. Othman, C. Weber, and M. Ruedi. 2016. Type specimens of birds in the collections of the Natural History Museum of Geneva. *Revue Suisse de Zoologie* 123: 269–282.—An annotated list of the 63 type specimens of birds held in the collections of the Natural History Museum of Geneva, Switzerland, including birds from the island of Saint-Domingue (Hispaniola). E-mail: alice.cibois@ville-ge.ch.

Dalsgaard, B., A.C. Baquero, C. Rahbek, J.M. Olesen, and J.W. Wiley. 2016. Speciose opportunistic nectar-feeding avifauna in Cuba and its association to hummingbird island biogeography. *Journal of Ornithology* 157:627–634.—Cuban hummingbird fauna is less rich than expected when compared to the rest of the West Indian islands. Nectar-feeding behavior by 26 non-Trochilidae bird species in Cuba is reported here, encompassing pigeons/doves, woodpeckers, and passerines, and endemic, resident, and migratory species. Cuba's speciose non-Trochilidae nectar-feeding avifauna may be associated with its depauperate hummingbird fauna. E-mail: bo.dalsgaards@gmail.com.

González, A., A. Jiménez, L. Mugica, M. Acosta, I. García-Lau, R. Castro, M. López, J.M. de la Cruz, A. Pérez, Z. Hernández, and S. Aguilar. 2016. Current status of Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) in Cuba. *Waterbirds* 39:1–12.—E-mail: ariam@fbio.uh.cu.

Gratto-Trevor, C., S.M. Haig, M.P. Miller, T.D. Mullins, S. Maddock, E. Roche, and P. Moore. 2016. Breeding sites and winter site fidelity of Piping Plovers wintering in The Bahamas, a previously unknown major wintering area. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 87:29–41.—Results indicate that more than one third of the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) population that breeds along the Atlantic coast winters in The Bahamas. E-mail: gratto-trevor@canada.ca.

Irizarry, J.I., J.A. Collazo, and S.J. Dinsmore. 2016. Occupancy dynamics in human-modified landscapes in a tropical island: implications for conservation design. *Diversity and Distributions* 22:410–421.—This work identified habitat features that influenced seasonal probabilities of colonization and extinction in a human-modified landscape on Puerto Rico. Conservation design decisions are better informed with increased knowledge about inter-patch distances to improve matrix permeability, and habitat features that increase persistence or continued use of habitat stepping stones. E-mail: jcollazo@ncsu.edu.

Jodice, P.G.R., R.A. Ronconi, E. Rupp, G.E. Wallace, and Y. Satgé. 2015. First satellite tracks of the Endangered Black-capped Petrel. *Endangered Species Research* 29:23–33.—During chick rearing, petrels primarily used marine habitats in the

southern Caribbean Sea between the breeding site (Hispaniola) and the coasts of Venezuela and Colombia. Maximum distance from the breeding sites ranged from c. 500 to 1,500 km during the chick-rearing period. During the post-breeding period, birds dispersed north and used waters west of the Gulf Stream offshore of the mid- and southern Atlantic coasts of the USA as well as Gulf Stream waters and deeper pelagic waters east of the Gulf Stream. E-mail: pjodice@clemson.edu.

Kennedy, C.M., E.F. Zipkin, and P.P. Marra. 2017. Differential matrix use by Neotropical birds based on species traits and landscape condition. *Ecological Applications* 27:619–631.—Multi-species hierarchical occupancy models were employed to determine the use of human-modified habitats by Neotropical birds in landscapes that were similar in forest amount and configuration but surrounded by a matrix of agriculture (predominately pasture), bauxite mining (surface mining for aluminum), or suburban development in central Jamaica. E-mail: ckennedy@tnc.org.

Latta, S.C., S. Cabezas, D.A. Mejia, M.M. Paulino, H. Almonte, C.M. Miller-Butterworth, and G.R. Bortolotti. 2016. Carry-over effects provide linkages across the annual cycle of a Neotropical migratory bird, the Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*. *Ibis* 158:395–406.—There is very little evidence for carry-over effects from breeding to wintering grounds. We show that birds with lower levels of the stress hormone corticosterone in their feathers, indicating lower stress levels on the breeding grounds, occupied better winter territories and were in better body condition than birds with higher hormone levels. These birds were also more likely to survive to return the following year. Together these data suggest a carry-over effect from the breeding grounds to the wintering grounds that is further extended to annual return rates. E-mail: steven.latta@aviary.org.

Lloyd, J.D., C.C. Rimmer, and K.P. McFarland. 2016. Assessing conservation status of resident and migrant birds on Hispaniola with mist-netting. *PeerJ* 3:e1541.—E-mail: jlloyd@vtcostudies.org.

Mackin, W.A. 2016. Current and former populations of Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) in the Caribbean region. *Condor* 118:655–673.—This species nests or once nested on at least 154 islands in the Caribbean and remains on 137 today, with most habitat just above sea level. Remaining colonies represent 1% of the former breeding area and are remote. Using the best data from every colony, at least 13,600 defended nests (7,400 breeding pairs) remain. E-mail: willmackin@gmail.com.

Miller, P.S., R.C. Lacy, R. Medina-Miranda, R. López-Ortiz, and H. Díaz-Soltero. 2016. Confronting the invasive species crisis with metamodel analysis: an explicit, two-species demographic assessment of an endangered bird and its brood parasite in Puerto Rico. *Biological Conservation* 196:124–132.—Populations of the Endangered Yellow-shouldered Blackbird (*Agelaius xanthomus*, YSBL) have declined dramatically across Puerto Rico, largely through brood parasitism by the invasive Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*, SHCO). Models indicated that YSBL management may be most effective by direct removal of SHCO eggs from parasitized nests, which can also reduce the number of fledged cowbirds. Fledging success and post-fledging survival were also identified as critical determinants of YSBL population viability. E-mail: pmiller@cbsg.org.

Mlíkovský, J. 2016. Taxonomic status of *Geotrygon linearis trinitatis* Hellmayr & Seilern, 1912 (Aves, Columbidae). *Spixiana* 39:141–144.—A revision of the holotype of *Geotrygon linearis* and the study of specimens from Trinidad showed that *Geotrygon trinitatis* Hellmayr & Seilern deserves the status of a full species.

Mortensen, J.L., and J.M. Reed. 2016. Population viability and vital rate sensitivity of an Endangered avian cooperative breeder, the White-breasted Thrasher (*Ramphocinclus brachyurus*). *PLoS ONE* 11:e0148928.

Olson, S.L., and J.W. Wiley. 2016. The Blue-headed Quail-Dove (*Starnoenas cyanocephala*): an Australasian dove marooned in Cuba. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 128:1–21.—The taxonomic history, external morphology, anatomy, behavior, distribution, and zoogeography of this Cuban endemic is reviewed. This species presents a mosaic of characters shared with various Australasia genera but is most similar to the Australian genus *Geophaps*. This dove should be placed in its own subfamily, *Starnoenadinae*, until its relationships with Australasian genera can be refined by additional data including molecular, and the English name should be changed to Blue-headed Partridge-Dove. E-mail: olsons@si.edu.

Parks, M.A., J.A. Collazo, J.A. Colón, K.R. Ramos Álvarez, and O. Díaz. 2016. Change in numbers of resident and migratory shorebirds at the Cabo Rojo Salt Flats, Puerto Rico, USA (1985–2014). *Waterbirds* 39:209–214.—E-mail: jcollazo@ncsu.edu.

Pasachnik, S.A., R. Carreras De León, and Y.M. León. 2016. Protected only on paper? Three case studies from protected areas in the Dominican Republic. *Caribbean Naturalist* 30:1–19.—E-mail: SAPasachnik@gmail.com.

Ricklefs, R.E., M. Medeiros, V.A. Ellis, M. Svensson-Coelho, J.G. Blake, B.A. Loiselle, L. Soares, A. Fecchio, D. Outlaw, P.P. Marra, S.C. Latta, G. Valkiūnas, O. Hellgren, and S. Bensch. 2017. Avian migration and the distribution of malaria parasites in New World passerine birds. *Journal of Biogeography* 44:1113–1123.—E-mail: ricklefs@umsl.edu.

Ricklefs, R.E., L. Soares, V.A. Ellis, and S.C. Latta. 2016. Haemosporean parasites and avian host population abundance in the Lesser Antilles. *Journal of Biogeography* 43:1277–1286.—E-mail: ricklefs@umsl.edu.

Rivera-Milán, F.F., G.S. Boomer, and A.J. Martínez. 2016. Sustainability assessment of Plain Pigeons and White-crowned Pigeons illegally hunted in Puerto Rico. *Condor* 118:300–308.—Monitoring and modeling results suggest that an increase in illegal hunting may be responsible for some of the abundance decline in 2008–2014, and that population sustainability may be affected by illegal hunting in 2015–2025. Therefore, data collection and the control of illegal hunting should be considered management priorities. E-mail: frank_rivera@fws.gov.

Rockwell, S.M., J.M. Wunderle, Jr., T.S. Sillett, C.I. Bocetti, D.N. Ewert, D. Currie, J.D. White, and P.P. Marra. 2017. Seasonal survival estimation for a long-distance migratory bird and the influence of winter precipitation. *Oecologia* 183:715–726.—Results suggest that increased drought during the non-breeding season, which is predicted to occur under multiple climate change scenarios, could have important consequences on the annual survival and population growth rate of Kirtland's Warbler (*Seto-*

phaga kirtlandii) and other Neotropical–Nearctic migratory bird species. E-mail: smr@klamathbird.org.

Rushing, C.S., P.P. Marra, and M.R. Dudash. 2016. Winter habitat quality but not long-distance dispersal influences apparent reproductive success in a migratory bird. *Ecology* 97:1218–1227.—E-mail: rushingc@si.edu.

Sherry, T.W., M.D. Johnson, K.A. Williams, J.D. Kaban, C.K. McAvoy, A.M. Hallauer, S. Rainey, and S. Xu. 2016. Dietary opportunism, resource partitioning, and consumption of coffee berry borers by five species of migratory wood warblers (Parulidae) wintering in Jamaican shade coffee plantations. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 87:273–292.—E-mail: tsherry@tulane.edu.

Temeles, E.J., J.T. Newman, J.H. Newman, S.Y. Cho, A.R. Mazzotta, and W.J. Kress. 2016. Pollinator competition as a driver of floral divergence: an experimental test. *PLoS ONE* 11:e0146431.—Optimal foraging models of floral divergence predict that competition between two different types of pollinators will result in partitioning, increased assortative mating, and divergence of two floral phenotypes. These predictions were tested in a tropical plant-pollinator system using the Purple-throated Carib (*Eulampis jugularis*) as the pollinator, red and yellow morphs of *Heliconia caribaea* as the plants, and fluorescent dyes as pollen analogs.