

Book Reviews (Continued)

worked on the seabirds of Vieques and Culebra islands for many years and is intimately acquainted with the ecosystems of these islands. The value of this well-designed and beautifully illustrated book goes far beyond the community of Vieques. It will be of interest to all students of West Indian birds.

The main body of the book is divided into four sections: Birds (96 species), Reptiles (15), Amphibians (3), and Mammal (1). Birds occupy the bulk of the book with 191 pages devoted to this group. An additional section ("General Information") includes a bibliography and index of English, Spanish, and Latin names. For each species the bilingual text includes taxonomic information and a description of the species, along with its status, habitat, and additional comments. On the facing page, a full-color photograph of the subject is displayed. Most of these are lovely shots of wild birds.

Unfortunately, only a limited number of copies were produced through an arrangement with the U. S. Navy whereby they would be distributed free of charge to schools, government agencies, and private organizations primarily in

Vieques. Those interested in obtaining a copy should contact Mr. Winston Martínez, U. S. Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Box 3021, FPO Miami, Florida 34051-3021; telephone: 809-865-4429.—JWW.

CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF GUADELOUPE, MARTINIQUE AND THEIR OFFSHORE ISLANDS/ LISTE DES OISEAUX DE GUADELOUPE, MARTINIQUE ET DE LEURS DEPENDANCES by **Philippe Feldmann, Arnaud Le Dru, Claudie Pavis, and Pascal Villard**. A.E.V.A., Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe, French West Indies. 16 pp.—This checklist adds 37 species to the 240 forms recorded in the subject area in the past 50 years. Scientific, French, Creole, and English names are provided for each species, as well as notes on status and distribution in the French West Indies (including St. Barthelemy and St. Martin). Copies can be obtained by contacting A.E.V.A.—Le Toto bois c/o M. Barré, Belair Desrozières, 97170 Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe, French West Indies. Tel./Fax: 590-95-08-19.—JWW.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The recently formed Neotropical Bird Club publishes its journal, *Cotinga*, twice annually. The West Indies are included in the region covered by the journal, with a section entitled "Neotropical Notebook" devoted to recent records from the Caribbean and other neotropical areas. Recent issues have included reports on the status of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*; by Martjan Lammertink) in Cuba and the threatened birds of Cuba project. Each issue contains many color photographs, and a color painting of the Cuban Trogon (*Priotelus temnurus*) appeared on the February 1995 cover. Membership is open to all, and costs US\$24/£12 per year (US\$10 reduced rate for nationals resident in neotropical countries). To join or for further details contact the

Membership Secretary, NBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, United Kingdom.

KEY AREAS FOR THREATENED BIRDS IN THE NEOTROPICS, by D. C. Wege and A. J. Long. £22.00. A unique site-based guide to the major threatened bird conservation hotspots in the neotropics, with concise information on the region's priority areas for globally threatened birds. Data are presented site-by-site for each country in a highly accessible format, which includes maps and tables. Available from BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge, CB3 0NA, United Kingdom.

ISLAND REPORT

REPORT FROM THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

BY PATRICIA E. BRADLEY
SCO Representative

The new Minister and government officers in the Department of the Environment are cooperating fully with the National Trust of the Cayman Islands in their efforts to secure and protect Crown land to the Trust. Due to the human population increase in Grand Cayman (18,000 in 1984 to an estimated 33,000 in 1995) terrestrial avian habitats are increasingly being developed into urban areas and this building boom is not expected to slow in the foreseeable future. The Trust, as the foremost NGO in conservation, has therefore directed its efforts to acquiring and protecting areas of pristine terrestrial and wetland habitat. Some of our recent accomplishments

include:

- 240 acres of dry limestone woodland in central Grand Cayman, the Mastic, have been purchased by the Trust and protected under Trust Laws; further areas will be bought as funds allow and owners are prepared to sell. The Mastic Reserve is breeding habitat for all the endemic species of terrestrial birds. Money has been received from RARE to re-open an historic right-of-way as a walking path through the reserve which, with a trained guide, is revenue-raising with tourists and is an area used to expose young people to

environmental education.

- The Trust continues, with the help of the Department of the Environment, to seek ways to protect the Central Mangrove Swamp, which is regarded as a critical wetland. It seems that purchasing the whole area is the only long term solution. The government has passed a proposal for the creation of a second Ramsar site to include the Swamp border with the North Sound, a parcel of Crown land, and several cays.
- The Rookery in Little Cayman, site of an estimated 400 pairs of Red-footed Boobies (*Sula sula*) and 150 pairs of Magnificent Frigatebirds (*Fregata magnificens*), is now a Ramsar site and ownership has been transferred to the National Trust. Ground has been broken for an interpretive centre and viewing platform, and management plans for the colony and ponds are underway. Funding was received from the Governor's Fund, the British Government, local Trust members, and the National Trust Council.

The Trust and concerned citizens on Little Cayman are monitoring government plans for a new site for the airport which may impact the booby population. Pressure is building to ensure the strip remains a short grass runway

unsuitable for jet traffic.

- The Nature Trail at the Royal Botanic Park is open to tourists and residents. This area of managed secondary habitat is proving an excellent place to observe and photograph indigenous and migrant landbirds. An enclosure, funded by the World Wildlife Fund, is part of the iguana breeding programme. A monitoring system for this area is being established.
- A walking trail has been opened by the Trust on the border of the parrot reserve on the bluff, Cayman Brac. The population of the Cayman Brac Parrot (*Amazona leucocephala hesterna*) showed a slight increase during a 1994 survey.
- A count of breeding Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) by the Cayman Islands Bird Club revealed 120 pairs and 53 juveniles.

The bad news is a pair of Shiny Cowbirds (*Molothrus bonariensis*) was observed at Hutland for a week – the first record.

WEST INDIAN INSTITUTIONS

MUSEO DE CIENCIAS NATURALES "FELIPE POEY"

FACULTAD DE BIOLOGÍA
UNIVERSIDAD DE LA HABANA

Creado en 1842 por el insigne naturalista cubano Don Felipe Poe y Aloy, es el museo de Ciencias Naturales más antiguo del país. Cuenta con numerosos peces descritos y preparados por él, así como una amplia variedad de sus manuscritos originales sobre diversos aspectos de nuestra fauna autóctona.

En la actualidad están presentes la magnífica colección de conchas de moluscos creada por uno de sus discípulos, el Dr. Carlos de la Torre; la colección de lepidópteros del Dr. Salvador de la Torre, así como otras colecciones de invertebrados marinos, insectos y más de 1700 pieles de aves.

En la sala de exposiciones pueden admirarse una amplia variedad de peces, reptiles, aves y mamíferos colectados en Cuba. Se destaca por su amplitud la exhibición de aves, donde están presentes todas las especies endémicas de nuestro territorio, así como especies amenazadas o en peligro de extinción, como el Carpintero Real (*Campephilus principalis*). Como hecho relevante puede citarse la presencia de la Gallinuela de Santo Tomás (*Cyanolimnas cerverai*), género y especies endémicas de Cuba y del que sólo existe un ejemplar disecado en el mundo.

Este museo, dada su antigüedad y contenido, constituye un interesante aporte al conocimiento de la biodiversidad faunística de nuestros tiempos pasados y actuales.

Servicios que ofrece el museo:

- Consultas especializadas en colecciones de insectos, moluscos y aves.
- Exposición permanente de carteles sobre investigaciones zoológicas.
- Ciclos de muestras trimestrales que abarcan grupos importantes de problemas biológicos y que se denominan:
 - 1) La migración de los animales
 - 2) El hombre y la naturaleza
 - 3) El endemismo
 - 4) El peligro de la extinción
- Conferencias
- Concursos sobre temas zoológicos

Horario: De Lunes a Viernes
De 9:00 AM a 4:00 PM

Lugar: Edificio Poe y
Universidad de La Habana

Precio de entrada: 1.00 USD

Para más información, dirijase a:

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