Sociedad de la Ornitología Caribeña

EL PITIRRE

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EDITOR: James W. Wiley, 2201 Ashland St., Ruston, Louisiana 71270, U.S.A.
ASSISTANT EDITORS: Chandra Degia and Garfield Brown, Grambling Cooperative Wildlife Project, P.O. Box 4290, Grambling State University, Grambling, Louisiana 71245, U.S.A.

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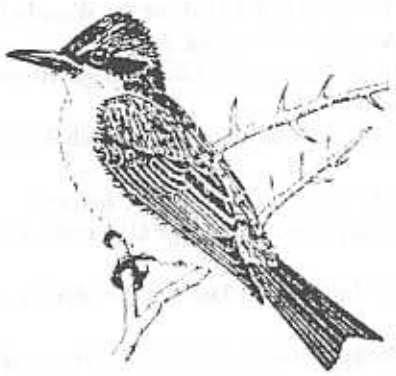
Tyrannus dominicensis



Pitirre, Gray Kingbird, Pestigre, Petchary

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology is a non-profit organization whose goals are to promote the scientific study and conservation of Caribbean birds and their habitats, to provide a link among island ornithologists and those elsewhere, to provide a written forum for researchers in the region (refereed journal—Ornitología Caribeña, published in conjunction with the Puerto Rico Ornithological Society) and to provide data or technical aid to conservation groups in the Caribbean.

La Sociedad de la Ornitología Caribeña es una organización sin fines de lucro cuyas metas son promover el estudio científico y la conservación de la avifauna caribeña, auspiciar un simposio anual sobre la ornitología caribeña, publicar una revista profesional llamada Ornitología Caribeña (publicada en conjunto con la Sociedad Ornitológica de Puerto Rico), ser una fuente de comunicación entre ornitólogos caribeños y en otras áreas y proveer ayuda técnica o datos a grupos de conservación en el caribe.

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THE SPOTTED RAIL *PARDIRALLUS MACULATUS* IN JAMAICA

Catherine Levy
Gosse Bird Club, 2 Starlight Avenue, Kingston 6, Jamaica

In early 1994, three sightings of the Spotted Rail *Pardirallus maculatus* were reported from Jamaica. Only two sightings of the Spotted Rail have been reported (1977 and 1987) since the Gosse Bird Club began keeping records in 1963. Thus, the three reports for 1994 are unusual enough to merit particular notice. I also report on the breeding status of the species in Jamaica. Dr. Richard Banks of the National Biological Survey at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., kindly provided much of the information for this search.

All of the 1994 sightings were likely of the same individual and were made in the area of the Black River Morass, northeast of the town of Black River, St. Elizabeth parish, southwestern Jamaica. The first observation was made by a group of visiting birders, whereas the second and third were made by experienced bird watchers resident on the island. The lower morass is a complex of shallow brackish lagoons, tidal marshes, mudflats, and mangroves near the coast, with extensive freshwater marshes, seasonally flooded grassland, and swamp forest (Scott and Carbonnel 1986). This area is a continuation of the upper morass which, over many years, has been drained for various reasons and has been further degraded by pollution and activities such as the planting of rice. Many species, including several waterfowl, breed in the morass, although the area's importance, especially to those species considered threatened, has never been studied.

Early reports of Jamaica's birdlife, including those of Gosse (1847), Scott (1892), and Sclater (1910), did not include the Spotted Rail. The earliest mention that I have found is that of Bangs (1913), who said, "The Spotted Rail of Jamaica has undoubtedly become extinct, without a single example having been preserved, so far as I am aware." The implication here is that Bangs knew of its existence in Jamaica, but no source is given. Although Bond did not know of (or omitted) this reference in the preparation of his first edition of *Birds of the West Indies* (1936), this was rectified in his *Check-list* (1940), where he reported, "This species is said to have formerly occurred on Jamaica."

The next known record was attained in 1977, when Allan Keith (1979) observed a Spotted Rail in flight (at a distance of 6 m in full sunlight) on the Black River. The 1987 report (Downer 1987) was of a bird, having flown into a glass window, that was found dead in Mandeville (parish of Manchester, to the east of the Black River area). R. Banks (pers. comm.) notes that "rails are notorious wanderers" — is it possible that this was one such? The bird was prepared as a specimen but, unfortunately, while it was drying, the skull and crown were damaged by a rat. The salvaged specimen is deposited in the Institute of Jamaica's Natural History Division.

Downer and Sutton (1990) characterized the Spotted Rail as "Unreported from Jamaica in the last one hundred years, until April 1977 (upper Black River Morass) and March 1987 (found dead in Mandeville)." Under *Status* they list the species as a "very rare winter visitor," but under *Range*, the entry reads "*P. m. inoptatus* Cuba, Dominican Republic, formerly Jamaica".

Lack (1976) doubted that the rail bred in Jamaica, as he wrote "Breeding has not been proven for ... [the] Spotted Rail (now extinct)." Lack also pointed out that (as far as birds are concerned) Jamaica is under-watched, so it is likely that it is also under-reported.

The American Ornithologists' Union [AOU] Check-list (1983) gives its distribution as: "Resident locally in ... Jamaica (at least formerly, a recent sight record from the Black River marshes) ...." This is derived from James Bond's entry in the 5th edition of his Birds of the West Indies (1985).

However, it appears that there is no basis for the AOU Check-list statement about former breeding on Jamaica, and the next edition will reflect this (R. Banks, pers. comm.). Further research is needed to reveal other early references to this species and to discover the source of Bangs' (1913) information. It would be valuable if studies on breeding and migratory species that use the Black River System could be soon undertaken before further habitat damage or destruction occurs.

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ALPINE SWIFT (*TACHYMARPTIS MELBA*) PHOTOGRAPHED ON ST. LUCIA, LESSER ANTILLES — THIRD RECORD FOR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Wayne Burke

31 Sunny Acres Road, Kingston, Ontario K7M 3N3, Canada

On the afternoon of 19 August 1992, I was standing near the summit of the Moule a Chique headland of precipitous cliffs at 223 m elevation, the southern-most extension of St. Lucia. At 17:13 h, an unknown bird rapidly approached at eye level from seaward (SSE). I soon determined that the bird was a swift (Apodidae), but not a species I had seen before.

The following description is taken from my field notes that were made at the time of the observation. The swift was larger than a Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*), which is a summer resident on St. Lucia (Bond 1985, pers. obs.), and was similar in size to the White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*). The head and upperparts were uniform light brown, the throat was whitish, the band across the breast was light brown, the lower breast and abdomen were white, the under tail coverts and forked tail were brown, as were the under wing coverts and wing. Its flight profile was distinctive, with the long bent wing giving the bird a "boomerang" shape. Its powered flight was fast, but interrupted by long glides, with its wings bent back at the wrist and held stiffly below the horizontal. The forked tail was obvious even when the tail was fanned. A field sketch was made in addition to the written description and the swift was photographed (VIREO b35/1/003 and b35/1/004). The bird was observed continuously from 17:13 to 17:48 h as it made regular circuits of the Moule a Chique headland and at times preened on the wing. Range varied from about 6 m on close passes to about 100 m on the apogee of the circuit. The weather was clear with no haze or cloud cover and wind was from the southeast at about 5 knots. As the swift made circuits around me, viewing conditions varied from poor, when the bird was to the west, through fair to excellent, when the swift was east of me.

The first documented record of the Alpine Swift for the Western Hemisphere was made by Captain Maurice Hutt in Barbados. Hutt (in litt.) recalled that "The bird was first seen about 300 meters inland at Gibb's on the west (leeward) coast of the island on September 20, 1955. The bird was seen by a Mr. Webster for several days and was collected on September 27th. The specimen (ANSP #169868, sex ?) was examined and identified by Hutt, who made a skin and sent it to [James] Bond at the Academy of Natural Science at Philadelphia." The second record was as Desecheo Island, off the west coast of Puerto Rico, on 20 July 1987 (Meier et al. 1989).

Both the Barbados and the St. Lucia birds appear to have been associated with the passage of a tropical depression across the Atlantic Ocean. The Barbados bird was first seen two days before Hurricane Janet passed to the south of the island. Interestingly, the specimen from Barbados is labelled as the North African race (*tuneti*), based on its distinctly paler dorsal coloration compared to the nominate race (*melba*) (Robert Ridgely, pers. comm. to Allan Keith). At 05:00 h on 18 August 1992, tropical storm (later Hurricane) Andrew was about 1100 km (700 miles) E of St. Lucia and passed about 900 km (560 miles) ENE of the island at 17:00 h the same day. The Alpine Swift was first seen at 17:13 h the next day.

Acknowledgments.—I thank Captain Hutt for details of the Barbados record, and Allan Keith and Mark Robbins for information and comments on a first draft of this note.

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SHINY COWBIRDS (*MOLOTHRUS BONARIENSIS*) ON NORTH ANDROS ISLAND, BAHAMAS

Michael E. Baltz
110 Tucker Hall, University of Missouri—Columbia, Columbia, Missouri 65211, U.S.A.

From 13-30 July 1994, I observed and photographed Shiny Cowbirds on several occasions in the settlement of Staniard Creek, North Andros Island, Bahamas. I saw up to five individuals (2 males, 3 females or juveniles) at one time and birds were regularly seen on the western shore of the creek that runs through the settlement.

A recent survey of this island (Baltz, Florida Field Nat. 21:115-117) failed to detect the species, and I believe this record represents the first for the Bahamas. Observers throughout the Bahama Islands should be alert for additional sightings because the spread of this species through the archipelago is worthy of documentation.

THE ABSENCE OF A NATAL PLUMAGE IN THE HISPANIOLAN PALM CHAT, *DULUS DOMINICUS* (DULINAE, PASSERIFORMES)

David Kenneth Wetherbee
Monción, Prov. Santiago Rodriguez, República Dominicana

Abstract.—The Palm Chat (*Dulus dominicus*) of Hispaniola has no natal plumage. This condition is rare among passerines and allies *Dulus* with *Bombycilla*, which also lacks a natal plumage. *Dulus* and *Bombycilla* are thus set apart at the subfamily level from *Phainopepla*, which has a copious natal down.

The endemic Palm Chat of Hispaniola, usually regarded to be a monotypic family or subfamily, has always presented problems to taxonomists. *Phainopepla* and *Bombycilla* are usually regarded to be the closest relatives of *Dulus*. Comparisons of natal plumages among avian groups can provide clues to relationships. However, a comprehensive review of the literature on the Palm Chat revealed no information on its neonatal plumage (Wetherbee 1992). Thus, my observations of the Palm Chat at hatching are of special interest.

Absolute nakedness at hatching is a rare condition among passerine genera. Wetherbee (1957) found complete nakedness only in such diverse genera as *Passer*, *Progne*, and *Bombycilla*. On 10 May 1994 at Monción, República Dominicana, I observed three neonate *Dulus*, which were completely naked. Whereas the absence of neosoptiles in *Dulus* strongly supports its putative alliance with *Bombycilla*, this absence stands in contrast to the condition in *Phainopepla*. The most appropriate way to show the relationships is to combine *Dulus* and *Bombycilla* in the same subfamily and to keep *Phainopepla* in its own subfamily. I suggest that terms Dulidae and/or Dulinae be discarded, for nothing is quite so useless as a monotypic higher category unless there is good reason for such.

Other notes on *Dulus* neonates include: rictal flanges and mouth lining bright yellow (not stained by berries, although the diet consisted of such fruits); skin dark gray; dorsal feather tract (in phantom) minimally expanded and (strangely) without an apterium— absence of a mid-dorsal apterium is not expected for a species often placed so early (before the crows) in the passerine series.

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PUERTO RICAN PARROTS DID IT AGAIN IN 1994: ONCE AGAIN THEY HAVE SHOWN THEIR ABILITY TO RECOVER

Jafet Vélez-Valentín
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Puerto Rican Parrot Field Office, Luquillo, Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*), one of the most endangered of parrots, reached the lowest number of individuals by 1975, with a total wild population of 13 birds. During the following 14 years, (1975-1989), the population increased from 13 to 47 birds in the wild. However, on 18 September 1989, Hurricane Hugo passed over northeastern Puerto Rico, after which the population declined to about 22 parrots in the wild. The hurricane caused major habitat

damage in the Caribbean National Forest, the last refuge of the Puerto Rican Parrot. No damage occurred to the captive population at the Luquillo Aviary, where 53 birds existed at that time.

Breeding activity in 1990 was low, but in 1991 the wild population produced a record successful nests. Six pairs of parrots in 1992 produced 10 chicks and with another fostered from the Luquillo aviary, a total of 11 chicks fledged from wild nests. In 1993, a project record of 22 chicks hatched and 15 fledged: 13 from wild nests and 9 in captivity.

In 1994, 14 chicks fledged from wild nests, whereas a total of 7 chicks fledged in captivity at the Luquillo Aviary. Most importantly, more new breeding pairs were formed using DNA fingerprinting information as the primary selection criteria. As a result of this, seven pairs of captive Puerto Rican Parrots laid fertile eggs.

Improved management techniques that have contributed to this improvement in productivity include structural modifications of natural cavities, fostering techniques, use of molecular genetics techniques to maximize genetic representation, a closed circuit camera system to monitor captive breeders, and use of PVC nesting structures for captive breeders to provide a re-usable, cleaner, and drier environment.

A second captive program has begun in a cooperative effort with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources. Six breeding pairs of captive Puerto Rican Parrots were transferred to the Río Abajo Aviary during 1993 to form the nucleus of the second captive population. Two chicks fledged at that aviary in 1994.

The recent successes for the recovery of the Puerto Rican Parrot are the result of many factors, including the inherent ability of the parrot to recover, the enhanced management techniques, and the effective habitat management but, most of all, the special touch of a group of people highly committed to the recovery of the parrot.

ABSTRACTS OF SELECTED PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY, MARTINIQUE, FRENCH WEST INDIES

PROYECTO EVALUATIVO DE LAS POBLACIONES DE TORCAZA CABECIBLANCA (*COLUMBA LEUCOCEPHALA*) EN LA ISLA DE LA JUVENTUD, CUBA

Rolando Ambrón[1] y Esteban Godinez[2]

[1]*Dirección de Silvicultura, Conill e/Ave. Independencia y Marino, Plaza 10600, Ciudad Habana, Cuba; and* [2]*Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Carr. Varona Km 3-1/2, AP 8010, CP 10800, Habana 8, Ciudad Habana, Cuba*

Las poblaciones de Torcaza Cabeciblanca (*Columba leucocephala*) en la Isla de la Juventud, no han sido evaluadas desde el final de la década de los años 70. Aunque no existen registros de estudios recientes, hay evidencias de que la especie aún se mantiene en la Isla y posee perspectivas de incrementarse sus poblaciones. En el presente proyecto, se desarrollará un estudio evaluativo integral de las poblaciones existentes con vistas a obtener los elementos científico-técnicos necesarios para la protección y manejo adecuado de este recurso. La situación general de las colonias reproductivas y zonas de alimentación, los cruces de torcazas entre ambas áreas, períodos y éxitos reproductivos, depredadores y otros aspectos biológicos, serán estudiados en el presente proyecto.

EFFECTS OF HURRICANE HUGO ON MONTSERRAT'S FOREST BIRDS AND THEIR HABITAT

Wayne J. Arendt

USDA Forest Service, IITF/CWC, P. O. Box B, Palmer, PR 00721

As a result of Hurricane Hugo, damage sustained by Montserrat's forests was severe. Throughout the island's three interior mountain ranges (Centre, Soufriere, & South Soufriere Hills) from lower-to mid-elevations, 52% (n=203) of the moist- and wet-forest trees sampled suffered loss or damage to their primary branches. Trunks, often stripped of all branches, were left standing. Six months following Hugo, many of the surviving tree trunks showed extensive generation of primary branches and foliage via adventitious budding and epicormic growth. Damage was more severe at higher elevations in hygrophytic forest and especially in elfin woodland on the upper slopes of the South Soufriere Hills, the hardest hit by Hugo. Of 369 trees sampled, 63% suffered trunk snap or throw (including uprooting and "trunk lean" > 45 degrees). A combination of mist-net, transect, and fixed-radius point count census methods showed that six months

following disturbance: (1) Avian populations in general, but especially frugivorous and nectarivorous species, had not obtained pre-disturbance sizes. (2) Many species, including the endemic Montserrat Oriole (*Icterus oberi*), had emigrated from montane forest seeking habitat refugia in the more protected, steep-sided arroyos (ghauts) and more advanced regenerated forest belts found at lower-to-mid elevations. (3) Whereas most species were sparser in dry forest and hard-hit elfin woodland, nectarivores were more plentiful in these habitats, aggregating around the abundant, flowering epiphytes and ground-cover plants. (4) Most forest birds observed foraging in montane habitats were forced to feed within 1-2 m of the ground. (5) Six species (3 of which were mimids), all habitat and food generalists, were common in every area sampled. (6) The most abundant species was the Pearly-eyed Thrasher (*Margarops fuscatus*), a major agricultural pest, predator, and general pest. (7) The Caribbean Elaenia (*Elaenia martinica*) showed extreme population fluctuations over the past 50 years, occurring in large numbers following major hurricanes, then all but disappearing during the interims.

EVALUATION OF THE MICROBIAL FLORA FOUND IN NESTS AND CHICKS OF WILD AND CAPTIVE PUERTO RICAN PARROTS (*AMAZONA VITTATA*)

A. B. Arnizaut[1], D. Cepeda[2], C. Betancourt[2], and F. J. Vilella[1]

[1]*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Luquillo, Puerto Rico;* [2]*Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico*

Five natural cavities in palo colorado (*Cyrilla racemiflora*) and one in tabonuco (*Dacryodes excelsa*) trees in the rain forest of the Luquillo Mountains, Puerto Rico, were sampled for the presence of bacteria and fungi. Samples were also collected at the Luquillo aviary from nest boxes made of plywood and PVC plastic. In the wild, samples were collected during the nesting season of Puerto Rican Parrots and included collection of wood chips from the nest bottoms and swabs of the nest walls. Additionally, swabs of the egg surface and of the choana and cloaca of wild and captive parrot chicks were collected. The preliminary results presented will include approximate number of colonies detected as well as the specific composition of the most prevalent microorganisms identified from the samples collected. Management recommendations derived from the database generated for the captive parrot population at the Luquillo Aviary will be discussed.

INTER-ISLAND SONG DIFFERENTIATION AND MEME FLOW IN WEST INDIAN BLACK-WHISKERED VIREOS (*VIREO ALTILOQUUS* SSP.)

Jon C. Barlow

Dept. Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum and Dept. Zoology, Univ. of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2C6

Black-whiskered Vireos are migratory (*Vireo a. altiloquus, V. a. barbatulus*) or sedentary (*V. a. barbadensis, V. a. canescens, V. a. grandior*) and inter-island differences in song are reflected in the migratory habit. Some song syllables are shared among subspecies and within subspecies of the 10 populations examined in this study (St. Vincent, Guadeloupe, and Montserrat, *barbadensis*; Puerto Rico, New Providence, Andros, and Cuba, *barbatulus*; Jamaica, *altiloquus*; San Andrés, *canescens*; Providencia, *grandior*). A population of the Yucatan Vireo (*V. m. magister*) from Cozumel Island is used as an outgroup. Numbers of syllables shared diminish as a function of the transition from migratory to sedentary habit in these vireos and also as a function of the degree of isolation of populations. There is substantial syllable similarity between *magister* and the large sedentary *canescens* and *grandior*. Bottlenecking and subsequent drift may also be a factor in the inter-island cultural evolution of song in *V. altiloquus* ssp.

CARACTERIZACION ECOLOGICA DE LA AVIFAUNA CUBANA EN PELIGRO DE EXTINCION

Vicente Berovides y Xiomara Gálvez

Empresa Nacional para la Protección de la Flora y la Fauna, Ministerio de Agricultura, Cuba

En este trabajo se reconocen 20 especies de aves residentes urbanas en peligro de extinción (4 géneros endémicos, 6 especies endémicas, 4 subespecies endémicas y 6 especies no endémicas). De este grupo solo dos son acuáticas y el resto es de bosques y arboledas. Una especie, el Carpintero Real (*Campephilus principalis*) aparentemente ya está exinguido, tres especies se encuentran confinadas a una sola área geográfica y las restantes se encuentran en poblaciones dispersas por toda la isla de Cuba. La causa principal de amenaza para todas las especies es la destrucción del habitat, y para algunas además la caza y colecta de sus pichones. Ocho especies poseen rareza natural, por lo que deben ser priorizadas para la conservación, junto con las de nicho ecológico especializado (trece especies).

ESTUDIO DE LOS HUMEDALES DE MAYOR IMPORTANCIA PARA LAS AVES ACUATICAS EN LA PROVINCIA DE MATANZAS, CUBA

Pedro Blanco

Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Ministerio de la Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente, Ciudad de La Habana, Cuba

El creciente desarrollo industrial-turistico y el aumento del nivel del mar a consecuencia del calentamiento global advierten el peligro que corren los ecosistemas costeros del Caribe de disminuir en numero y extensión territorial. Este fenómeno engendra una seria y alarmante amenaza que atenta contra la dinamica, belleza y biodiversidad de los humedales costeros tropicales por lo que nuestros esfuerzos deben estar prioritariamente dirigidos hacia la ubicación,

estudio y conservación de estas áreas y sus valores naturales. En el trabajo se exponen los principales resultados obtenidos durante los censos y la evaluación de las comunidades de aves acuáticas residentes y migratorias neárticas asociadas a cuatro humedales de importancia en la provincia de Matanzas en el período de 1989-1992. Se ofrece una relación de 51 especies de aves censadas en la provincia pertenecientes a 5 ordenes, 11 familias y 30 géneros, destacándose por su abundancia relativa *Phoenicopterus ruber, Himantopus mexicanus, Calidris mauri, C. pusilla, C. minutilla* y *Pluvialis squatarola* entre otros, así como una breve caracterización de la ornitofuana y los valores ornitológicos registrados en cada uno de los humedales estudiados, entre los que se encuentran las especies *Charadrius melodus, C. alexandrinus, Phalaropus tricolor* y *Haematopus palliatus*. Se presenta finalmente un mapa con la ubicación de los humedales de mayor importancia para las aves acuáticas evaluados en la provincia de Matanzas y las áreas potenciales propuestas para continuar éste tipo de estudio en otras regiones del Archipiélago cubano en un futuro.

DISTRIBUCION Y ESTIMADO POBLACIONAL ACTUAL DE CUATRO AVES ACUATICAS NATIVAS EN PUERTO RICO

G. Bonilla, M. Vásques y E. Derrios
División de Ecología Terrestre, Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales, San Juan, P.R. 00906

Desde 1878 varios autores hacen mención de la distribución y el estimado poblacional para aves acuáticas nativas en Puerto Rico. A partir del 1991 hemos estudiado la distribución, uso del habitat a través de la isla, y factores que afectan las poblaciones de cuatro aves acuáticas nativas. Este estudio presenta la reducción en la distribución de la Chiriría Nativa (*Dendrocygna arborea*), el Pato Quijada Colorada (*Anas bahamensis*), el Pato Chorizo (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) y el Gallinazo Nativo (*Fulica caribaea*). Se detecta una reducción en el estimado poblacional de la Chiriría Nativa (100 ind. a partir 1986) y el gallinazo nativo (4,600 ind. a partir del 1931). El Pato Quijada Colorada y el pato chorizo presentan un ligero aumento en su estimado poblacional de (400-500 ind.) y (700-800 ind.) respectivamente, a partir de los ultimos ocho años. Varios problemas han afectado las poblaciones de estas aves acuaticas, como por ejemplo: la destrucción de su habitáculo y la sobrecacería, entre otros. Se discute la protección dada a estas aves por las agencias estatales y las recomendaciones de manejo para sus habitáculos.

THE HUMMINGBIRDS OF MARTINIQUE

Marcel Bon Saint Come
Beleme - Lamentin, Martinique

The four species of hummingbirds resident in Martinique will be described, along with discussions of their flight, diet, and plumage characteristics.

BIRD SPECIES INTRODUCED TO MARTINIQUE IN THE PAST 40 YEARS

Marcel Bon Saint Come
Beleme - Lamentin, Martinique

Among the escaped cage and other exotic or non-native birds that have been observed in Martinique in the past 40 years are: Estrildidae—*Amandava amandava, Lonchura malacca, Uraeginthus* sp.; Ploceidae—*Euplectes orix, Ploceus cucullatus*; Icteridae—*Molothrus bonariensis*; Fringillidae—*Sicalis luteola*; Turdidae—*Turdus nudigenis*; and Anatidae—*Dendrocygna arborea*. The status of these species and their potential impact on native populations will be discussed.

L'AVIFAUNE SÉDENTAIRE DE LA MARTINIQUE: UN PROGRAMME PÉDAGOGIQUE INFORMATISÉ

Beatriz Conde
Fort de France, Martinique

Présentation d'un support pédagogique multi-média, destiné à la connaissance de l'avifaune sédentaire de la Martinique dans le cadre d'un programme d'éducation de l'environnement.

USO DE NIDOS ARTIFICALES POR GUACAMAYA BANDERA Y LORO REAL EN LA RESERVA PRIVADA DE FLORA Y FAUNA MATACLARA, BAUL, ESTADO COJEDES, VENEZUELA

Elena Del Conte Ayala y Antonio J. González-Fernández
Universidad de los Llanos "Ezequiel Zamora", UNELLEZ, Guanare, Estado Portuguesa, Venezuela

Con el objeto de evaluar la utilidad de los nidos artificiales para mejorar el hábitat de poblaciones silvestres de Guacamaya Bandera (*Ara macao*) y Loro Real (*Amazona ochrocephala*) afectadas por las deforestaciones y explotaciones madereras, se realizó durante 1993 y 1994, un estudio en la Reserva Privada de Flora y Fauna MATACLARA ubicada en la región del macizo rocosa de El Baúl en el estado Cojedes, Venezuela. En marzo de 1993 se colocaron 18 nidos artificiales de madera, colgados en los troncos de algunos árboles de la vegetación natural. Los nidos fueron visitados frecuentemente por guacamayas y loros, siendo la exitosa la reproducción de varias parejas de Pato Güirirí (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) y Halcón Primito (*Falco sparverius*). Se concluye que los nidos artificiales pueden ser una medida eficiente para recuperar poblaciones afectadas por la destrucción del hábitat. Por último, se agradece el financiamiento otorgado por la asociación EcoNatura y el apoyo logístico suministrado por las organizaciones no gubernamentales MANFAUNA, ASOMUSEO y la Reserva Privada de Flora y Fauna MATACLARA.

THE CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGY OF THE ST. LUCIA PARROT: A PRELIMINARY REPORT

J.W. Dawson[1], D. Anthony[2], and N. Snyder[3]
[1]*The Wildlife Preservation Trusts, U.S.A.;* [2]*Forest and Lands Department, Government of St. Lucia;* [3]*Wildlife Preservation Trust International, U.S.A.*

We studied the St. Lucia Parrot (*Amazona versicolor*) from March to July, 1994, as part of a cooperative research effort among the Government of St. Lucia, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, and Wildlife Preservation Trust International. We initiated an active field program of locating nests and obtaining detailed observations of nesting behavior. Fifteen nest cavities were located. Of these, further observations indicated that six nests were active and contained eggs or young during the study. Three others were the primary cavities of non-breeding pairs, and the remainder were cavities that were visited occasionally by pairs. In one instance, we found a post-fledgling area with 2 offspring present, but were not able to locate the nest. We used an ethogram code, data forms, scan sampling, and all occurrences sampling to record behavior of adults and nestlings. Over 800 hours of observation at active nests were accrued during the study. We report on the progress of the study and discuss preliminary findings concerning parental care at the nest, conflict with the Pearly-eyed Thrashers (*Margarops fuscatus*), possible nest site limitations, and feeding observations. We also discuss the initiation of a more comprehensive study to begin in 1995.

CONSERVING BERMUDA'S ENDANGERED EASTERN BLUEBIRD POPULATION

Steven De Silva
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Parks, P.O. Box HM 834, Hamilton HM CX, Bermuda

Bermuda supports the only disjunct, non-migratory population of the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialia*) outside of eastern North America. Both populations share similar conservation problems and both are in need of management. As a cavity nester, the bluebird has suffered serious nest site competition from the introduced cavity nesting House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Both populations have suffered from indirect pesticide poisoning and habitat change, which reduced availability of nesting cavities. In Bermuda, the loss of the once dominant endemic cedar (*Juniperus bermudiana*) forest, which provided most of the nesting cavities, has made the species almost totally dependent on artificially provided nest boxes. Progressive urbanization has reduced availability of suitable feeding habitat in favor of the sparrow and starling. By 1993 the bluebird population was estimated at less than 500 pairs. Responding well to manipulative intervention on its behalf, the bluebird has made an ideal candidate for a community-based conservation project. Research conducted by the Conservation Division of the Department of Agriculture in the 1960s and 1970s (Wingate) revealed 2 major factors limiting the bluebird population in Bermuda: availability of competition-free nesting cavities and mortality from House Sparrow aggression. The tropical fowl mite (*Ornithonysus bursa*) was also revealed to be a common nest parasite, causing high mortality of chicks under certain circumstances. Accordingly, nest box provisioning and management, in conjunction with House Sparrow control, has been promoted with the objective of persuading private land owners or managers with suitable habitat to erect and manage their own nest boxes. As a result, Bermuda has succeeded in arresting the earlier trend of rapid decline. Currently, a cooperative research program is being undertaken with Dr. Patricia Adair Gowaty (University of Georgia) to analyze comparative demography and breeding biology of the bluebird.

DIFERENCIACION SEXUAL EN LA COTORRA CUBANA (*AMAZONA LEUCOCEPHALA LEUCOCEPHALA*)

Xiomara Gálvez y V. Berovides
Empresa Nacional para la Protección de la Flora y la Fauna, Ministerio de Agricultura, Cuba

Los psitácidos en general no presentan demorfismo sexual, y esto es un gran problema para su estudio. Nosotros analizamos 12 machos y 8 hembras de Cotorra Cubana (*Amazona leucocephala leucocephala*) provenientes de todo el país, para analizar las diferencias sexuales en 10 medidas morfométricas y cinco de coloración del plumaje, midiendo tanto las diferencias de valores medios en términos absolutos y relativos, así como el grado de sobrelapamiento de esos valores. Los patrones de coloración no diferencian los sexos, pero se presentó un polimorfismo del patrón de color abdominal, con dos morfos que siempre se encontraron en un 98% en la naturaleza emparejados de forma heterogámica, lo que se interpretó como un caso de apareamiento disociativo. Los grados de sobrelapamiento entre las variables relativas ancho cabeza/largo del pico y ancho cabeza/largo del torso fueron extremadamente bajos (cerca de un 35%) y al parecer pueden separar los sexos con un error de entre el 15-20%.

THE STATUS OF THE KEY WEST QUAIL-DOVE (AVES: COLUMBIDAE) IN "CAYO HUESO" (KEY WEST), FLORIDA, UNITED STATES AND ITS MORPHOLOGICAL VARIATION THROUGHOUT ITS RANGE

Orlando H. Garrido
Museo Nacional De Historia Natural, La Habana, Cuba

A total of 212 specimens of Key West Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon chrysia*) were examined to determine the morphological variation among the West Indian populations: Cuba, including the Isle of Youth (formerly Isle of Pines) and Cayo Coco; Hispaniola, including Haiti and the islands of Gonave and de la Tortue; Puerto Rico; Bahamas; and Florida (Fort Lauderdale to Key West). However, only 188 specimens were considered

for the statistical analysis because many specimens had worn plumage or were not fully adults. I concluded that the nest with two white eggs reported by Audubon belonged to *Starnoenas cyanocephala* rather than to *G. chrysia*. The quotations of Audubon and other 19th century authors, as well as the finding of 3 specimens collected in 1897 by John Atkins (probably remnants of a relict population) and another by Audubon at Key West, gave support to the existence of a population of *G. chrysia* inhabiting Key West and perhaps other Florida Keys in the past, despite the sporadic arrival of stragglers to Florida in years after the deforestation of Key West. An analysis of the populations of all the islands showed no significant variation in pattern and color, but substantial variation in size. The single male from Puerto Rico and the 4 birds from Key West seem to be smaller than birds in other populations. No significant geographical variation was found among Cuban populations segregated by provinces or among Hispaniolan populations. No suitable habitats for *Starnoenas* or *G. chrysia* were found at Key West, but in some of the other southern Florida keys considerable suitable habitat was found to harbor *G. chrysia* and *Zenaida aurita*. Therefore, the reintroduction of these two species in some of the empty habitats of the southern Florida Keys is recommended.

ANALYSE STATISTIQUE DE CHASSE DANS LES ANTILLES FRANÇAISE

Raymond Garrigues

Office National de la Chasse, Martinique

Analyse statistique de tableau de chasse chez la Tourterelle (*Zenaida aurita*) de 1986 à 1993, dans les Antilles Française et également la manière d'illustrer la différentiation des âges par la coloration des pâtes chez la Tourterelle en période de chasse.

LA PHENOLOGIE DE LA REPRODUCTION CHEZ LE TOURTERELLE A QUEUE CARREE (*ZENAIDA A. AURITA*) DETERMINEE A L'AIDE DES ANALYSES DE TABLEAUX DE CHASSE

R. Garrigues[1], E. Terouanne[2], D. Reudet[3], M. Anseline[4], and G. Taylay[4]

[1]*Ministére de l'Environment, Office national de la chasse;* [2]*Université Montpellier III;* [3]*Parc national de la Guadeloupe; and* [4]*Fédération départementale des chasseurs de Martinique*

L'Office national de la chasse effectue depuis 1986 des analyses de tableaux de chasse avec le concours de la Fédération départementale des chasseurs de la Martinique. Environ 150 à 200 tourterelles ont été examinées par an quand au sexe, à l'age et à l'activité de reproduction. L'étude de la période de reproduction, mal cernée dans les Antilles françaises, se fonde sur la détermination de la date d'éclosion des juvéniles, estimée en fonction de la mue des rémiges primaires. D'autres mesures effectuées sur les adultes (activité sécrétrice du jabot, dimensions des gonades mâles ou activité des ovaires) concourent à situer la période de chasse par rapport à la période de reproduction. L'ouverture de la chasse a eu lieu en fin juillet de 1986 à 1990 et expérimentalement en fin aout de 1991 a 1993. La comparaison des dates d'éclosion de ces deux périodes montre que:

1° - L'ouverture fin juillet intervenait en pleine période de reproduction;

2° - La production des jeunes était affectée tant par l'ouverture en fin juillet qu'en fin août.

L'analyse de la sécrétion du jabot confirme l'importance de l'activité de reproduction pendant les périodes de chasse de 1986 à 1992. Cependant, en 1993, contrairement aux autres années, l'activité de reproduction était en phase décroissante a la date d'ouverture. Il semblerait donc que la fin de la période de la reproduction puisse se situer, bon an mal an à la mi-septembre, ce qui reste à confirmer.

ESTUDIO DE RADAR SOBRE CORREDORES DE AVES MIGRATORIAS ENCIMA DE LA HABANA, CUBA

Esteban Godinez

Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Carr. Varona Km 3-1/2, AP 8010, CP 10800, Boyeros, Habana 8, Cuba

El uso de las técnicas de radiolocalización en investigaciones ornitológicas en Cuba, fue iniciado, de forma experimental en 1988, lográndose los primeros registros ornitológicos a través de un radar meteorológicos al año siguiente, lo que permitió ampliar las perspectivas futuras de su utilización con propósitos de estudios fundamentales y de aplicación a la aviación. Los objetivos principales de este estudio en ejecución, consisten en el análisis y características de las ecoseñales de aves, con respecto a su ubicación, velocidad, dirección y altitud de las mismas. Así como, detectar y precisar los corredores migracionales de las aves que atraviesan los territorios de las provincias habaneras. Para la detección de las aves migratorias, se utiliza un radar de vigilancia meteorológica (MRL-5), ubicado en la Estación de Casablanca (Ciudad de La Habana). Este, siempre se emplea en la longitud de onda de 10 cm y a una escala de trabajo con alcance máximo de 50 km. Los ecos de aves en los indicadores del radar, son registrados por observación directa y/o mediante tomas fotográficas. Se han determinado las distribuciones preliminares de los ecos de aves en cuanto a su altitud, localización, trayectorias y velocidades de los desplazamientos. La altitud media de las señales de aves se registró a 1,32 km durante la migración primaveral (1989) y a 2,81 km en la migración otoñal (1991). De acuerdo con la distribución de las trayectorias seguidas por las aves, la mayor cantidad de estas se mueven hacia el interior de la Isla con un rumbo predominante hacia el SE-S (56,2%) mientras que en su salida los desplazamientos principales indican que buscan las rutas del Mississippi (71%) y el Atlántico (20%). Tal información, constituye un resultado de importancia

fundamental en la caracterización de los corredores y patrones migracionales que pasan por nuestro territorio. Al mismo tiempo, permite valorar la posible coincidencia de las aves migratorias, con las aeronaves que realizan su tráfico aéreo.

The use of radar techniques in ornithological research in Cuba was experimentally begun in 1988, with the first ornithological records using a meteorological radar obtained the next year. This permitted us to extend the use of radar in fundamental bird studies and for applied purposes. The principal objectives of this study were to characterize and analyze birds with respect to their position, speed, track direction, and altitudes. Also, objectives included detecting and estimating with precision the bird migration flyways that cross over the territories of Havana provinces. A meteorological surveillance radar (MRL-5) in the Meteorological Station of Casablanca (Havana City) used to detect migrant birds. The bird echoes in the radar indicators were recorded by watching and/or photographing the screens. Preliminary distributions of bird echoes were estimated with regard to altitude, position, track direction, and ground speed of the movements. The mean altitude of bird signals was recorded at 1.32 km during the spring migration (1989) and 2.81 km in the fall migration period (1991). According the bird track distribution, the majority of migrant birds moved toward the interior of Cuba, mostly to the SE-S (56.2%), whereas the birds moved to Mississippi (71.0%) and Atlantic (20.0%) routes in their departure. This information is important to the knowledge of migrant bird flyway patterns crossing the Cuban territory. At the same time, it could be used to estimate the probable coincidence of migrant birds with aircraft traffic.

COMPOSICION Y ABUNDANCIA DE LA AVIFAUNA TERRESTRE EN SEIS LOCALIDADES DEL AREA PROTEGIDA MIL CUMBRES, P. DEL RIO, CUBA

Hiram González[1], A. Llanes[1], M. McNicholl[2], E. Godinez[1], P. Blanco[1], J. McCracken[2], y R. Oviedo[1]

[1]Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Carr. Varona Km 3-1/2, AP 8010, CP 10 800, Boyeros, Habana 8, Cuba; and [2]Long Point Bird Observatory, Port Rowan, Canadá

La investigación se desarrolló en seis localidades del Area Progegida Mil Cumbres, Pinar del Río, Cuba entre el 30 de enero y el 11 de febrero de 1993 y entre el 26 de enero y el 9 de febrero de 1994. Se determinaron las características cuali- y cuanti-tativas de la flora y vegetación de las 6 localidades al aplicar el método de James y Shugart (1970) con modificaciones propuestas por Wallace (1991) a 56 parcelas de vegetación. Se determinó la composición y abundancia relativa de la avifauna por los invertarios, conteos por parcelas circulares y capturas con redes ornitológicas. Se capturaron y anillaron 715 aves correspondientes a 17 especies migratorias neárticas neotropicales y 22 especies residentes permanentes. Los mayores valores de abundancia relativa y tasa de captura correspondieron a los habitats cuya vegetación predominante era el Pinar. Se relacionaron las características de la vegetación con la composición y abundancia de la avifauna.

UPDATE ON MIGRANT AND NATIVE BIRD SPECIES OF GRENADA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE GRENADA DOVE (*LEPTOTILA WELLSI*), AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

Aria Johnson

Zoology Department, University of the West Indies, Jamaica

An update on the status of the migrant and native bird species of Grenada is presented, including times of migration and conditions of habitats. An overview of the conservation efforts for the endangered Grenada Dove is given.

ECOLOGICAL NOTES ON THE STYGIAN OWL (*ASIO STYGIUS SIGUAPA*) IN CUBA

Arturo Kirkconnell[1], Douglas Wechsler[2], and Christine Bush[2]

[1]Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Cuba, La Habana, Cuba; [2]Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, U.S.A.

The Stygian Owl is widely distributed in Cuba and the Isle of Pines. The owl is typically found in forested areas, including deciduous woods and pine forest. Morphological variation related to sex and breeding data are presented, including: nest shape and clutch size. Also, some aspects of its diet, as well as its behavior, are discussed.

PROBLEMS IN JAMAICAN ORNITHOLOGY

Catherine Levy

Gosse Bird Club, 2 Starlight Avenue, Kingston 6, Jamaica, W.I.

In 1965, James Bond proposed three subjects that needed research in Jamaican ornithology. The disappearance of the Jamaican Petrel and the Jamaican Pauraque, and the study of waterfowl in the southwestern section of the island. After nearly 30 years, research on these subjects is still lacking. This paper describes the situation today and re-examines information on these and other problems. The lack of progress in research appears to be due to: 1) use of secondary, inaccurate or incomplete information; 2) lack of both Jamaican personnel and the necessary resources to undertake research projects; and 3) short-term and sometimes inconclusive studies, especially by foreign researchers. Attempts to correct the misinformation and to establish a reliable records system will at least solve one of the problems plaguing research on birds in Jamaica.

CHANGES IN THE BIRD SPECIES LIST FOR ANTIGUA-BARBUDA

Kevel Lindsay
Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), Box 103, St. John's, Antigua-Barbuda

Mr. Nathan Gricks initiated a regular programme of bird watching in Antigua-Barbuda. From 1992 to spring 1994, over 40 new species were added to the local list, bringing the final list to over 180 species.

ESTUDIO DE LA GOLONDRINA DE CUEVAS (*HIRUNDO FULVA*) EN AGRAMONTE, PROVINCIA DE MATANZAS, CUBA

Alejandro Llanes[1] y Eduardo Abreu[2]
[1] *Instituto de Ecología y Sistemático, Cuba; y* [2]*EMA, Victorio de Girón, Cienaga de Zapata, Cuba*

De las aves migratorias de primavera que arriban a nuestro territorio, la Golondrina de Cuevas (*Hirundo fulva*) es una especie común que se encuentra distribuida en Cuba e Isla de la Juventud. La misma utiliza para su nidificación cuevas y casas aisladas en el campo, pero además construye sus nidos en edificios habitados e instalaciones fabriles de nuestras ciudades. Este trabajo se realizó en las cuevas de Berovides y Sebastián situadas a 1.5 km al este del pueblo de Agramonte en la provincia de Matanzas. Se dan aspectos relacionados con la reproducción de esta especie entrelos que se destacan: dimenciones y altura de los nidos, tamaño de los huevos, entre otros. Se meuestran algunas de las medidas morfométricas de la especie tales como: largo del pico, tarso, ala plegada y cola. Se analiza además la utilización del parche de cria y la protuberancia cloacal para el sexado de las aves capturadas durante la etapa reproductiva. Por ultimo se ofrecen datos preliminares acerca de la muda de esta ave migratoria.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE POSSIBLE MORTALITY FACTORS FOR POPULATIONS OF NEARCTIC MIGRATORY SONG BIRDS DUE TO DEFORESTATION IN THE NEOTROPICS

Marcia Mundle
Gosse Bird Club, 2 Starlight Avenue, Kingston 6, Jamaica

Data from the Breeding Bird Survey (Robbins *et al.*, 1986) have shown that there are significant declines in the populations of breeding birds in North America. This is especially significant for species which winter south of the United States - Mexico border. Among the reasons cited for this decline is deforestation in the neotropics. I analyzed the possible mortality factors, which could be associated with deforestation, on populations of non-breeding, migrant insectivorous birds in the neotropics. Some of the factors investigated were predation, destruction of stop-over sites, competition for food, space, shelter, and other effects which may be manifested on the breeding grounds. I also provide suggestions for integrating the monitoring of local and migrant species in Jamaica, so that species and habitat management plans can be devised which are complementary both to migrants and residents, and especially the endemics.

PARC NATUREL REGIONAL DE LA MARTINIQUE

José Nosel
Directeur, Réserve Ornithologique des Ilets de Sainte-Anne, Martinique

En 1983, le Parc Naturel Regional de la Martinique entreprend le projet de mise en réserve de quatre îlots situés à Sainte-Anne, Commune du Sud de la Martinique, dont la population est composée d'espèces migratrices: *Sterna fuscata*, *Sterna anaethetus*, *Anous stolidus*, *Sterna hirundo*, et *Puffinus lherminieri*.

A SUMMARY OF CARIBBEAN BIRD SPECIMENS IN CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Kenneth C. Parkes
Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213, U.S.A.

For the benefit of workers doing specimen-based research on Caribbean birds, the history and scope of the Caribbean bird collections in Carnegie Museum of Natural History are summarized. This will alert workers who may not be aware of our strong holdings from some areas, and will save others the trouble of writing to us for loans or information regarding birds from areas lacking or sparsely represented in our collections.

VOCALIZATION DIFFERENCES IN THE LESSER ANTILLEAN PEWEE

G.B. Reynard
105 Midway St., Riverton, New Jersey 08077, U.S.A.

In "Birds of the West Indies" (Bond 1985), the Lesser Antillean Pewee (*Contopus latirostris*) consists of three subspecies, *C. l. latirostris* in St. Lucia; *C. l. brunneicapillus* in the islands of Dominica, Guadeloupe, and Martinique; and *C. l. blancoi* in Puerto Rico. Bond earlier (1936) had some uncertainty in the classification, stating, e.g., that the St. Lucia bird "..is so different from the other two races that it might well be regarded as a distinct species"; in 1965, "of the three forms of this species the nominant race of St. Lucia is the most distinctive in plumage and in voice"; and finally, in 1980 (23rd Supplement to 1956 *Check-list*) "vocalizations of the three forms of Contopus...of Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles are as distinctive as those of *Myiarchus* from Puerto Rico and to St. Lucia." Plumage and morphometric data, color slides, and tape recordings, many from other SCO members, are being studied to reconsider the classification. Information to date tends to support return to three species.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Bermuda

In October 1993, we recorded our first **Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*), which wintered in Bermuda. Also, the first **Tufted Ducks** (*Aythya fuligula*) were recorded in December 1993. Our Christmas Bird Count was held on 29 December, with a total of 89 species observed. David B. Wingate, *Department of Agriculture, Fish & Parks, P.O. Box HM 834, Hamilton HM CX, Bermuda.*

Additional Records for Antigua-Barbuda

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*).—A Wilson's Phalarope in winter plumage was observed on 8 March 1994 at McKinnons salt pond. From its size, I determined the bird was a male. It was with a flock of several hundred Stilt Sandpipers (*Calidris himantopus*). The phalarope remained at the salt pond at least until 14 March. This is the first record of this species for Antigua-Barbuda.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) — A second record (see *El Pitirre* 7(1), 1994, for first record) for Antigua-Barbuda was attained on 19 February 1994 when a female was observed at Potworks reservoir. The same individual was seen at McKinnons salt pond on 14 and 19 March 1994.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*).—On 14 March 1994 at McKinnons salt pond, I struggled to identify a winter plumage bird which was with a group of several hundred Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*). The unknown bird was active and fed along a narrow mud bar by stopping to pick every three or four paces. It only occasionally entered the shallow water.

The bird displayed the characteristic decurved bill, white uppertail coverts, and "necky" jizz (the latter at least when standing alert). It was dumpy and did not exude grace as per several bird guides' descriptions. It seemed less "leggy" than those same guides suggested. But my main problem was that the bird had a cold gray-brown plumage, including the wash of color over the breast. My experience with the species in the Old World is nearly exclusively from May to September (brick red breeding plumage shown all or partially). I did not hear its call. The sole previous record of two birds at Jolly Harbour was made in 1976 (Holland and Williams, *Am. Birds* 32(6):1095-1105. 1978).

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) again in Antigua.—The same White Stork reported from August 1993 (*El Pitirre*, 7(1):2. 1994) was re-located on 31 March 1994 near the original observation site. It appeared to be faring well and paraded in paddocks on a fenced estate, drawing a crowd of three admirers. Nathan P. Gricks, *P.O. Box 672, St. John's, Antigua, West Indies.*

III SIMPOSIO DE ZOOLOGIA

The following papers on West Indian birds were presented at the June 1994 Simposio de Zoología in La Habana Cuba.

Situación poblacional de la Grulla Cubana (*Grus canadensis nesiotes*). Vincente Berovides y Xiomara Gálvez

Ecología trófico de la avifauna de un matorral xeromorfo costero durante la estación de seca. García Nidia y Vincente Berovides

Ecología alimentaria y uso del hábitat en el Yaguasín (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) en la arrocera de Sur del Jíbaro. Lourdes Mugica, Martín Acosta y R. Ydenberg

Abundancia y diversidad de la avifauna de Cayo Coco, Archipiélago Sabana-Camagüey, en tres hábitats deferentes. Arturo Kirkconnell y Vincente Berovides

Hábitos alimentarios del Sabanero (*Sturnella magna*) (Aves: Emberizidae) en un agroecosistema cubano. M. E. García y I. Fernández

Estructura espacial de una comunidad de aves acuáticas. Martín Acosta, Lourdes Mugica y C. Mencina

Distribución y composición de las aves acuáticas de Cayo Coco. Barbara Sánchez y Daysi Rodríguez

Incidencia de las migraciones de aves con las rutas de aviación en La Habana. Esteban Godinez

Estructura y composición de la ornitocenosis de bosque semideciduo de la Península de Guanahacabibes. Alina Pérez, R. Varela y F. Delgado

Inventario y anillamiento de aves en manglares de San Miguel de Parada, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. Luís O. Melián y M. Ayarde

Evaluación mensual de la comunidad de aves del humedal Punta Sal, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. Luís O. Melián y M. Ayarde

Estudio electroforético de dos especies en simpatría: el caso de los Estorninos (*Sturnus* sp.) (Aves: Sturnidae). P. de la Cruz, J. E. Roselló y S. J. Peris

Estudio del origen y reuso de cavidades para anidar, por la Cotorra de Cuba (*Amazona leucocephala*). Xiomara Gálvez y Vincente Berovides Alvarez

Estudio de la Golondrina de Cuevas (*Hirundo fulva*) en Agramontes, provincia de Matanzas, Cuba. Alejandro Llanes

Humedales de importancia para las aves acuáticas en la provincia de Matanzas, Cuba. Pedro Blanco

Ornidiv: base de datos informática para estudios de diversidad en aves cubanas. Esteban Godinez y J. L. González

Análisis de la información de los ejemplares depositados en la colección de aves del Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática. Rafaela Aguilera y Laredo González Sánchez

Biodiversidad de la avifauna en la Isla de la Juventud, Cuba. Tomás R. Escobar Herrera y Vincente Berovides

REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR PARROT CONSERVATION, GUADALAJARA, MEXICO, 7–11 JUNE 1994

Donald Anthony
P.O. Box 1438, Castries, St. Lucia, W.I.

The meeting of the Association for Parrot Conservation [APC] was held in Guadalajara, Mexico, together with the annual meetings of the Society for Conservation Biology and the Association for Tropical Biology. These were international meetings, with conservatists, biologists, zoo directors, professors, aviculturists, students, funding agencies, and job seekers participating.

The Association of Parrot Conservation was dwarfed when compared to the attendants of the other two associations. However, when discussions took place and arguments ensued, our voices were heard. Several topics and issues dealing with the conservation of parrots were discussed; for example, habitat destruction, trade, captive breeding, and trafficking in pet birds.

Three draft APC policy statements on reintroduction, sustainable use and trade of birds, and captive breeding were discussed, with disagreements and many heated arguments. At one time, it was like being among sharks and barracudas. Time did not permit for full discussion and amendments of the draft documents, so participants were asked to send in their comments to various authors by 15 July 1994.

At this meeting, I met a new breed of conservationist: people who have never been in the field or worked with a species, but seem to know all about the species and how best to conserve it, and are tenacious in their conviction.

I did not agree with all that was said, and voiced my disagreement, especially on the issue of captive breeding. Some participants said that captive breeding is extremely important for the conservation of parrots. I am sure we all know otherwise.

The meeting was very informative. I met many experienced people, especially those who work with parrots. I would like to thank the Society of Caribbean Ornithology for sponsoring me and look forward to seeing the amended APC policy statements soon.

CREATION OF A NATIONAL PARK IN THE BAHAMA ISLANDS

Rosemarie S. Gnam
Friends of the Abaco Parrot, 13 East Rosemount Ave., Alexandria, Virginia 22301, U.S.A.

I know that many of you share my joy in announcing that the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, Hon. Hubert Ingraham, has declared the creation of a national park on southern Abaco for the endangered Bahama Parrot (*Amazona leucocephala bahamensis*). When I began my research project on the breeding biology of the parrot on Abaco in 1985, the overall objective was to develop a biological understanding of the Bahama Parrot upon which a conservation program could be based. In 1985, the national park was a dream, but today it is a reality.

I applaud the Bahama Parrot Education Committee, the Bahamas National Trust, and The RARE Center for Tropical Conservation for their efforts to increase conservational awareness for the parrot's plight, and their educational campaign in the Bahamas, which they initiated in 1992. The diligent efforts of these groups have helped achieve the desired results — the national park on Abaco.

I thank all of you who played a role in this research project. My field assistants worked enthusiastically to collect data that helped to conserve the parrot. In addition, this project would not have been possible without the many other persons who supported the project.

With most of the Bahama Parrot's nesting habitat now protected on Abaco, attention can be focused on the management of this parrot population and plans for its recovery can be implemented. The future now looks brighter for one of the world's endangered parrots. More importantly, this development demonstrates that parrot conservation can succeed in the wild! Too often, we give up hope. So, for today, let us congratulate the Bahamas and celebrate with them!

ARUBA SEABIRDS THREATENED

The government in Aruba, Dutch West Indies, intends to develop an area near sensitive coral reefs and seabird nesting colonies for watersports, including for jet-skis and water-scooters. This plan seriously endangers 10,000 pairs of 9 species of nesting seabirds, including Sandwich and Roseate terns. Aruba conservationists are greatly alarmed by these prospects. More information is available from Foundation Stimaruba, Urataka 6, Sta. Cruz, Aruba, Dutch West Indies. [from *U.S. Birdwatch*, 1994]

FUNDS FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS

BirdLife International and the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, with support from British Petroleum, hold an annual competition for conservation exploration projects. Projects entering the competition are judged especially on the level of host country involvement and the global importance of the conservation issues on which the project is focused. Proposals for 1995 expeditions must be entered no later than 31 December 1994.

For further information, contact: Michael K. Poulsen, BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge, CB3 ONA, United Kingdom; Telephone: (44-223) 277318, Fax: (44-223) 277200.

GRUPO ECOLOGISTA TINGLAR

Santo Domingo, República Dominicana
Fundado el 28 de octubre de 1985

El grupo Ecologista *TINGLAR* es una organización sin fines de lucro inspirada en la Declaración de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Humao, de Estocolmo, 1972, y cuyo objectivo es trabajar en la defensa del medio ambiente, los recursos naturales y la calidad de vida del pueblo dominicano por medio de una estrategia de *Educación Ambiental a través de la Acción Comunitaria*.

TINGLAR es el nombre vulgar de la tortuga marina *Dermochelis coriacea*, muy amenazada en nuestro país, debido a la depredación humana, alteración de su habitat y contaminación del mar. Tomamos ese nombre para llamar la atención sobre hechos como estos.

Groupo Tinglar está constituido por un equipo multidisciplinario de voluntarios. Por acuerdo con Grupo Jaragua, Inc. estamos ubicados en la calle El Vergel #33, Reparto El Vergel, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana.

Nuestras acciones al presente se concentran en trabajos en cuatro barrios en la ciudad de Santo Domingo, en los que estamos vinculados a organizaciones de base, tratando de animar un enfoque ecologista en la solución de los diversos problemas que enfrentan esas comunidades, generalmente de condiciones socio-económicas insuficientes.

En relación a la educación para la conservación de la biodiversidad, realizamos continuamente actividades, tomando como base particularmente la población escolar con la que ejecutamos acciones en coordinación y asesoría de otras entidades, generalmente en áreas protegidas.

Para contactos y mayor información, favor de dirigirse a Teodoro Lara y/o Rafael Lorenzo, *GRUPO ECOLOGISTA TINGLAR*, calle El Vergel #33, Reparto El Vergel, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana; teléfono: (809) 472-1036, Fax: (809) 472-1235 y 472-1728.

LATIN AMERICAN LIBRARY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Dear Colleague:

Several years ago, we initiated the LATIN AMERICAN LIBRARY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (LALEP) with the goal of increasing the exchange of information among Western Hemisphere scientists interested in natural history. Its first activity was to survey research natural history libraries in Middle and South America and the Caribbean (for convenience, "Latin America") to determine who their primary users are and what their needs might be.

After the results of the survey were published, LALEP began distribution of scientific journals and other publications produced by institutions in the United States to research natural history libraries in Latin America. Nearly 100 Latin America institutions have participated in the program so far. We are now initiating another phase of the project that will focus on scientific journals produced by institutions in Latin America.

This phase of the project has two goals. The first goal is to facilitate the distribution of Latin American scientific journals to libraries and individuals in countries throughout Latin America, in the United States, and elsewhere. The second goal is to inform investigators about Latin American scientific journals that may serve as publication outlets for reports on their research. We hope that this will encourage scientists from all countries to publish results from their studies in journals produced in the country in which the research was carried out.

As a first step toward achieving these goals, LALEP is conducting a survey of Latin American scientific journals oriented toward ecology, evolution, behavior, systematics, and other aspects of natural history. Survey forms are available for forwarding information to me. Also available is a list of publications by country which you may want to examine for completeness. Your assistance with both these activities is greatly appreciated.

Mercedes S. Foster
Coordinator, LALEP
National Biological Survey
National Museum of Natural History
Washington, D.C. 20560-0111
Telephone: (202) 357-1970
Fax: (202) 357-1932
e-mail: MNHVZ067@SIVM.SI.EDU

[Note: copies of the survey form are being enclosed with this newsletter to selected members. Others can obtain copies from Dr. Foster or from me. Editor]

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

I thank those of you who earlier provided slides, tapes, or other data on *Contopus caribaeus* . I would appreciate similar information for a study of the Lesser Antillean Pewee, *C. latirostris*. Also, I would appreciate receiving tape recordings of the black-hawk (*Buteogallus*) group in the Caribbean region, and *Nyctibius* from anywhere in Central America.

George B. Reynard, 105 Midway St., Riverton, New Jersey

1995 SCO MEETING IN TRINIDAD

The 1995 annual meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology will be held from 27 July through 3 August 1995 in Trinidad. Details and a call for abstracts will appear in a future edition of the bulletin.

24–28 October 1994 – **III International Conference of Ecological Economics**, Costa Rica. (Organizing Committee, III ICEE, P.O. box 555, 3000 Heredia, Costa Rica; FAX: 506–37–6868).

2-6 November 1994 – **The 18th State Meeting of the Colonial Waterbird Society**, Shell Island Resort Hotel, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. (James Kushlan, Department of Biology, University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi 38677, U.S.A.; Telephone: 601-232-7203; FAX: 601-232-5144).

3-6 November 1994 – **Raptor Research Foundation Annual Meeting**, Flagstaff, Arizona, U.S.A. (Patricia A. Hall, Local Chairperson, 436 E. David Dr., Flagstaff, Arizona 86001, U.S.A.; Telephone: 602-774-0041).

21-22 November 1994 – **Limnology and Waterfowl** (Monitoring, modeling, and management), Sopron, Hungary. (J. Kerekes, Canadian Wildlife Service, Bedford Insitute of Oceanography, P.O. Box 1006, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada; Telephone: 902-426-6356; FAX: 902-426-7209).

5-8 January 1995 — **The American Society of Zoologists**, St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A. (American Society of Zoologists, 401 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611-4267, U.S.A.; Telephone: 312-527-6697; FAX: 312-527-6640).

11 April 1995 — **Paragigms in Transition: Natural Resources Management in the New Century**, Fort Collins, Colorado, U.S.A. [Rick Knight (303-491-6714); Dan Brinkley (303-491-6519); or Joyce Berry (303-491-5405)].

21-23 April 1995 — **Eastern Bird Banding Association**, Cape May, New Jersey, U.S.A. (Barbara M. Ross, 308 Thornhill Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212).

4-7 May 1995 — **Wilson Ornithological Society/Virginia Society of Ornithology** joint meeting, Williamsburg, Virginia, U.S.A. (Ruth A. Beck, Department of Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, U.S.A.

7-11 June 1995 — **Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology**, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, U.S.A. [Richard L. Knight, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523, U.S.A.]

mid-June 1995 — **Second Mesoamerican Workshop on the Conservation and Management of Macaws**, Costa Rica. [Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, Inc., 218 Conway Dr., San Antonio, Texas 78209-1716; Fax: 512-828-5911].

5–11 August 1995 – **V Neotropical Ornithological Congress**, Asuncion, Paraguay. (Nancy Lopez de Kochalka, c/o Comité Organizador Local del V CON, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural del Paraguay, Sucursal 19, Campus, Central XI, Paraguay, South America; Telephone: 595-21-505075).

13-20 August 1995 — **American Ornithologists' Union**, Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A.

12-17 September 1995— **The Wildlife Society Second Annual Conference**, Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. (The Wildlife Society; Telephone: (301) 897-9770; FAX: (301) 530-2471.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

NOMINATING AND VOTING PROCEDURES FOR SCO OFFICERS

Executive Officer posts for the 1995 election are the Society President, Vice-President, and Secretary. The incumbent President and Vice-President are ineligible for re-election to their present offices, but the present Secretary can stand for re-election. Members should send nominations for these Executive Offices by mail to The Secretary (Ms. Patricia E. Bradley, P.O. Box 907, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, B.W.I.; Fax and telephone: 809-947-5925), by 31 December 1994. The nominations must be signed and dated, and must be accompanied by a **signed acceptance** of the nominee. Members will be informed of candidates' names in a ballot that will be distributed to members. The deadline for returning completed ballots will be 30 April 1995. The following persons have been nominated to date:

President:	Simon Guerrero (Dominican Republic)
	Joe Wunderle (Puerto Rico)
Vice-President:	Roeland De Kort (Aruba)
	Christopher Cox (St. Lucia)
Secretary:	Marcia Mundle (Jamaica)
	Patricia Bradley (Cayman Islands)

Nominees are asked to send a brief curriculum vitae as soon as possible to the Editor of *El Pitirre* so that this may be included in the ballot.

Dr. James W. Wiley
2201 Ashland St.
Ruston, Louisiana 71270, U.S.A.

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