

A review of plant inventories, maps and aerial photographs shows that the flora has changed from that of a diverse freshwater lagoon to an impoverished marsh. Cattails now cover most of the lagoon. An inventory of flora and avifauna found 189 plants in six associations and 65 species of birds in 1990. This represents 50% of the plant species found in the 1950s and 40% of the cumulative list of birds since the 1920s.

Restoration of Laguna Cartagena for 13 target species is proposed using the conditions prevailing in the 1920s as the habitat restoration goal. A detailed list of actions needed to restore and manage the lagoon is presented. To accomplish the proposed restoration, it is essential to manage water levels and eradicate most of the cattails. Monitoring and research actions are included.

Este documento es el Plan de Restauración, Desarrollo y Manejo para el Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre de Laguna Cartagena. Laguna Cartagena fue el lugar de anidamiento más importante para aves acuáticas residentes, así como el refugio más importante en Puerto Rico para especies migratorias. Poseía la mayor diversidad y cantidad de aves, con una lista cumulativa de 163 especies, y una rica flora compuesta por 178 especies. Este estudio recopiló datos históricos sobre la biota de Cartagena desde principios de siglo. Encontró que la laguna ha sido modificada por el hombre desde los 1920. La introducción de plantas exóticas, las disminuciones en los niveles de agua, los efectos de abonos, pesticidas y sedimentos provenientes de fincas aledañas, y los efluentes de la comunidad de Maguayo han contribuido a la eutrofización acelerada y a la degradación de Laguna Cartagena como hábitaculo de vida silvestre.

La revisión de los inventarios de plantas, mapas y fotos aéreas demostró que la flora ha cambiado de la característica de una laguna diversa a la de una ciénaga empobrecida. Actualmente las eneas cubren la mayor parte de la laguna. Un inventario de flora y avifauna en 1990 encontró 189 plantas en seis asociaciones y 65 especies de aves. Esto representa el 50% de las plantas presentes en la década de 1950 y el 40% de las aves en la lista cumulativa de avistamientos desde la década de 1920.

El estudio propone la restauración de la Laguna Cartagena dando atención a 13 especies y usando como el objetivo para la restauración las condiciones prevalecientes en la década de 1920. Se presenta una lista detallada de acciones necesarias para restaurar y manejar la laguna. Para lograr la restauración propuesta es esencial manejar los niveles de agua y erradicar la mayoría de las eneas. El plan incluye propuestas de investigación y acciones de seguimiento al proyecto de restauración.

Oscar T. "Bud" Owre
1917-1990

Dr. Oscar T. Owre, beloved teacher and associate of many West Indian ornithologists, passed away on August 9, 1990, at his Minnesota cabin.

Oscar Owre was born on October 10, 1917, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He earned his Bachelor's degree at the University of Miami in 1941, then served during World War II in the South Pacific as a pilot in the U.S. Naval Air Corps (1941-1945). Wounded in action, he was awarded a battle citation with the rank of Lieutenant Commander, the Navy Air Medal, and two gold stars. After the war, Oscar Owre resumed his academic career at the University of Miami, where he received his Master of Science degree in 1949. His Ph.D. was earned at the University of Michigan in 1959. Thereafter, Dr. Owre returned to the University of Miami's Department of Biology. This association continued for the rest of his life.

From 1958-1959, Dr. Owre served as Scientist-in-charge of the University of Miami Maytag Zoological Expedition to Lake Rudolph in East Africa. From the close friendship formed between Dr. Owre and Robert Maytag, the endowed Maytag Chair of Ornithology was established at the University of Miami. Dr. Owre became the first occupant of the prestigious Chair. Also established was the Maytag Fellowship Endowment, which has funded the graduate studies of numerous students of biology at the University.

Dr. Owre was an excellent observer and scientist, and produced many publications describing the results of his diverse ornithological work. However, those of us who had the privilege of studying under him, will best remember Bud for his boyish enthusiasm for the study of birds. He had a unique ability to enchant his students with the wonders of birds and science. His undergraduate and graduate courses were consistently filled with enrollees and auditors, eager for exposure to the teachings of this scholarly and gentle professor. Dr. Owre's classes were regularly visited by other ornithologists (including his former graduate students) passing through the Miami area; all delighted in participating in his "Birds of the World" seminars. A special attraction to attending Dr. Owre's courses was the opportunity of working through the extensive, well-curated bird collection, the result of Bud's long career of field work in Africa, India, Australia, and South America.

Far younger in spirit than his years, Bud had a puckish sense of humor and was well known for his practical jokes, which invariably topped those of his student "adversaries." He was a caring, perhaps ideal professor. His love of scholarship and science were contagious. Never aloof, he always had time to talk with his students, who he expertly guided through the academic and political hoops of graduate school. Each student was treated as an individual; those needing extensive nurturing were given this attention, whereas others, more advanced in their training and abilities, were allowed to develop in the University setting with only the requisite guidance. Dr. Owre showed great interest in all of his students' research projects, from vulture behavior to the biology of introduced species to the ecology of waders, and loved to participate in the collection of field data. But then, there were the dreaded two to four hour practical exams administered one-on-one in Dr. Owre's office, and consisting of trays of selected bird specimens from which an endless string of thought-provoking questions arose. Those were long afternoons.

Dr. Owre retired from active teaching at the University of Miami in the mid-1980s, thereby giving him more time to work on his book on the birds of Lake Rudolph and continue his research.

Although he performed little field work in the West Indies, through his teaching and association with that region's ornithologists, he significantly contributed to the knowledge of Caribbean ornithology.

Dr. Owre is survived by his wife, Lydia Rose, his daughter Caroline Owre-Cicco, and three step-children, Lisa, David, and Lanea Eschmeyer.

The Tropical Audubon Society has voted to establish the Oscar T. Owre Memorial Fund, a scholarship to assist undergraduate students interested in a career in ornithology. Contributions to this fund may be addressed to: Tropical Audubon Society, Inc., 5530 Sunset Drive, Miami, Florida 33143.

My lasting image of Dr. Owre is of that gentle, fatherly man, sitting amid his extensive library-office, with a pot of potent Ethiopian coffee percolating, beckoning me with a youthful smile into his office for a chat with a "Yes, yes! ... and what can I do for you..."

Jim Wiley

News of the Río Abajo Aviary for the Puerto Rican Parrot

Although not officially inaugurated, the Río Abajo Aviary, located in Utuado, Puerto Rico, has started operations. The aviary will serve as a second facility for the captive propagation of the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*).

On 26 August 1990, a group of 30 Hispaniolan Parrots (*A. ventralis*) was placed in outdoor cages at the Río Abajo Aviary. These birds will serve as both disease sentinels and will provide the aviculturists with the opportunity to make any adjustments needed to assure the proper functioning of the aviary. If all goes well, an estimated 12 Puerto Rican Parrots will be transferred from the Luquillo Aviary in eastern Puerto Rico to the Río Abajo Aviary in the summer of 1991.

The Río Abajo Aviary will be operated in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through Section 6 funds, the Department of Natural Resources of Puerto Rico, and the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico (a private organization). José Rodríguez Vélez and Anne M. Smith are the aviculturists in charge of the new facility.

Job Opportunity

The Department of Natural Resources of Puerto Rico is actively seeking interested candidates to fill the role of Assistant Aviculturist for the Río Abajo Aviary, located in Utuado, Puerto Rico. The aviary will be a second propagation site for the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*). Applicants must have a Bachelor of Science degree and/or several years experience working with birds, preferably psittacines, and must be willing to live on-site. Government housing will be provided. If interested in the position, send a cover letter and resumé to the address below. To request more information, send request and a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

José Rodríguez Vélez
Head Aviculturist
Río Abajo Aviary
Box 439
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00613-0439

Macaw Conservation and Management Workshop

A workshop on the conservation and management of macaws in Mexico and Central America organized by The Center for the Study of Tropical Birds (CSTB) and the Honduran National Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) will be held 4-7 January 1991 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Topics to be discussed include: status and distribution within the region, ecology, censusing techniques, management alternatives