

"FELIPE POEY" MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES

FACULTAD DE BIOLOGÍA
UNIVERSIDAD DE LA HABANA

Established in 1842 by the noted Cuban naturalist Don Felipe Poe y Aloy, this is the oldest museum of natural sciences in Cuba. The Museum contains numerous fish described and prepared by Poe, as well as a wide variety of his original manuscripts on diverse aspects of our native fauna.

At present a magnificent collection of mollusk shells made by Dr. Carlos de la Torre, one of Poe's pupils, the butterfly collection of Dr. Salvador de la Torre, as well as other collections of marine invertebrates, insects, and more than 1700 bird skins are housed in the Museum.

In the exhibit hall, visitors can view a wide variety of fish, reptiles, birds and mammals collected in Cuba. Of particular interest is the bird exhibit, where all Cuban endemic birds are displayed, as well as threatened and endangered species, like the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*). The Museum also contains the world's only mounted specimen of the Zapata Rail (*Cyanolimnas cerverai*), a genus and species endemic to Cuba.

This museum, given its long history and content, constitutes an interesting institution for learning about our past and present faunal biodiversity.

Among the services offered by the Museum are:

- Consultants specialized in insect, mollusk, and bird collections.

- Permanent expositions of posters describing zoological research.
- Changing (quarterly) exhibits that demonstrate important biological problems that during 1995-96 include:
 - 1) Animal migration
 - 2) Man and the environment
 - 3) Endemism
 - 4) The threat of extinction
- Conferences
- Talks on zoological subjects

Hours: Monday to Friday
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Location: Poe Building
Universidad de La Habana

Entrance fee: US\$1.00

For more information, contact:

Lic. Martín Acosta Cruz

Director

Museo "Felipe Poe"

Facultad de Biología

Universidad de La Habana

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RESOLUTIONS FROM THE 1995 ANNUAL MEETING

The following resolutions were passed by the Society of Caribbean Ornithology at the August 1995 annual meeting in Trinidad:

1. The Society of Caribbean Ornithology resolves not to support the development of the Fairy Glade Trail in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica as proposed. The Society further urges that alternatives to the proposed trail be explored, such as the re-development of other existing trails, or the development of a new trail in less sensitive habitats.

Our position is taken recognizing that the potential effects of increased access, such as human disturbance and the introduction of exotic species, may adversely effect the unique flora and fauna of the area. We also recognize that the proposed trail would dissect a particularly critical area which serves as one of the last remaining refuges in this part of the island. This refuge supports numerous species of birds and other life forms which significantly contribute to Jamaica's biological richness.

2. The Society of Caribbean Ornithology strongly urges

authorities in the French Antilles to set bag limits, and change the opening date of the hunting season for columbids (pigeons and doves). Current studies indicate that Caribbean columbids, such as the Zenaida Dove (*Zenaida aurita*), are still breeding at the onset of the current hunting season. Such harvest prior to termination of the reproductive period can have detrimental effects on populations of game species not only in the French Antilles, but also on other Caribbean islands, due to the continual inter-island exchange. These effects include reproductive failure and reduction in the rate that juveniles are recruited into the harvestable population.

The application of a bag limit, and the establishment of an opening date for the hunting season in the latter part of September, would be consistent with the management of columbids on neighboring islands. It would also promote the conservation of columbids, and a sustainable harvest of this valuable resource in perpetuity.

3. The Society of Caribbean Ornithology resolves not to support the proposal to construct a dam within the National Park System in Guadeloupe. The proposed project would

SCO Resolutions (Continued)

coincide with a designated Biosphere Reserve, inundate 15 hectares of rainforest, and result in the destruction of an additional 20 hectares. The proposed construction of the dam is incompatible with National Park goals: to afford an aesthetic experience while protecting natural ecosystems. Construction of the dam would also establish a precedent which contradicts existing conservation policy.

4. Whereas the Grenada Dove (*Leptotila wellsi*) is recognized as an endangered species; whereas the Grenada Dove is endemic to the island of Grenada; whereas the Grenada Dove was named the National Bird of Grenada by the Government of Grenada; and whereas the Grenada Dove population has drastically declined since 1987.

Therefore be it resolved that the Society of Caribbean Ornithology:

- a. Encourages efforts to protect the Grenada Dove and its habitat;
- b. Urges the Government of Grenada to protect the remaining habitat of this species, particularly the wooded hillsides of the Mount Hartman estate;
- c. Encourages conservation education, public outreach, and continued research and management of the Grenada

Dove; and

- d. Is willing to offer technical assistance to work with the Government of Grenada on these items to whatever extent is possible.

5. Recognizing that the northeastern coast of St. Lucia, extending from the Marquis in the north to Dennery Knob in the south, contains an exceptionally high diversity of native flora and fauna; and recognizing that the last remaining populations of several species of birds now rare in St. Lucia (e.g., White-breasted Thrasher, *Ramphocinclus brachyurus*; St. Lucia Nightjar, *Caprimulgus otiosus*; St. Lucia House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*; and the Forest Thrush, *Cichlheminia lherminieri*) are now restricted to this area; be it resolved that the Society of Caribbean Ornithology fully supports the Grand Anse Advisory Committee in the establishment of the Grande Anse Estate as a National Park, to conserve these vital habitats and the viability of the unique species associated with them.

To submit resolutions for the next annual meeting please contact the chairman of the resolutions committee: Mr. Ernesto Garcia, Wildlife Biologist, Caribbean National Forest, USDA Forest Service, P. O. Box B, Palmer, Puerto Rico 00721.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Puerto Rican Ornithological Society has been activated. The Board of Directors consists of young and talented persons, including Carlos Rufz (President), and Marelisa Rivera (Vice-president). For information, contact Raúl A. Pérez-Rivera, Colegio Universitario de Humacao, Estación Postal 428, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Humacao, PR 00633.

A formal Trinidad and Tobago Rare Bird Committee has been formed. The charter members are Dr. Floyd Hayes (Secretary), Richard French, Ian Lambie, William L. Murphy, Victor Quesnal, and Graham White. For more information

contact The Secretary, Department of Biology, Caribbean Union College, P. O. Box 175, Port of Spain, Trinidad, WI. Tel.: 809-662-2241/2(w); 645-6223(h); Fax: 809-662-1197; e-mail: cuc1844@aol.com

The second edition of William Murphy's, *Birder's Guide to Trinidad and Tobago*, is just about ready to go to press. This new edition will have spiral metal binding that allows it to lie flat, yet will have a cover that provides a spine on the bookshelf.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

27-31 March 1996 - Cooper Ornithological Society, Bahia Hotel, San Diego, California. (Barbara Kus or Abby Powell, Department of Biology, San Diego State University, San Diego, California 92182, U.S.A.; Telephone: 619-594-4357/594-1685; Fax: 619-594-5676/594-2035; bkus@sunstroke.sdsu.edu/apowell@perl.sdsu.edu).

31 March-5 April 1996 - VI International Symposium on Avian Endocrinology, Chateau Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada. (Dr. Robert J. Etches, Department of Animal and

Poultry Science, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1; Telephone: 519-824-4120; retches@aps.uroguelph.ca).

11-14 April 1996 - Wilson Ornithological Society, Grand Hotel, Cape May, New Jersey. (Pete Dunne, local chair).

19-22 May 1996 - Annual Meeting of the Association of Systematics Collections, Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland. (Amy Y. Rossman; Telephone: 301-