

## VAGRANT WHITE STORK *CICONIA CICONIA* (AVES: CICONIIDAE) FOUND IN ANTIGUA: A FIRST RECORD FOR THE WEST INDIES

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At 17:00 hr on 14 August 1993, I was scanning through waders on an open area of mud adjacent to mangroves at Cook's Dump, outside St. John's, Antigua, when I saw an adult White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) about 300 m from me. I immediately informed my companions, who also watched the bird. The stork stood close to a much smaller Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*). I approached and managed to take two photographs of the stork before it flew several meters away. It fed in small rills on the open mud, possibly on crabs. The stork's plumage appeared in good condition and the bird displayed no leg rings or wing tags. It was present when we left 40 minutes later, but it was not there the next morning and subsequently could not be found.

An Old World species, the White Stork occurs widely in the Palearctic region and tropical Africa. A small population breeds in South Africa, but the species summers and primarily breeds in northern continental Europe and central

Asia, to where it migrates in long flights. In Africa, it feeds in the sub-Saharan savannah grasslands, often in large numbers, whereas in the breeding region it seeks out meadows and marshes, frequently close to human habitation. The species faces a long-term threat from adverse changes in land-use and agricultural methods, as well as from pest control which kills one of its main prey items, the locust.

Intriguingly, a 'stork' was observed in Barbuda previous to my sighting in Antigua. However, the two observers did not get good views and dismissed it as possibly a Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*), itself a vagrant in the region.

The White Stork has not been previously recorded in the West Indies, nor other parts of the Americas. It is possible that the individual is a first for the New World. The bird was likely blown off-course during migration, as a ship-assisted passage is most improbable. For all those who saw the bird, it was a stunning discovery!

## CORROBORACIÓN DE ALGUNOS REGISTROS DE AVES PARA PUERTO RICO

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**Pampero Mayor *Puffinus gravis*.**—De acuerdo a Raffaele (1990), hay un informe de Pampero Mayor cerca de Puerto Rico y otro de un individuo varado en la Isla de Culebra. El 22 de junio de 1992, el Sr. Manuel Corbet encontró un Pampero Mayor muerto en las Playa Las Ochenta de Humacao. Las medidas de este espécimen son las siguientes: longitud total, 456 mm; pico expuesto, 44.5 mm, pico desde la parte anterior de los orificios nasales, 31.4 mm; arco del ala, 308 mm; y tarso 57.4 mm. El espécimen, provisto por Corbet, corrobora la presencia del Pampero Mayor en Puerto Rico.

**Págalo Pomarino *Stercorarius pomarinus*.**—De acuerdo con Raffaele (1990), el Págalo Pomarino es un visitante irregular de las aguas lejanas a las costas de Puerto Rico, aunque se acerca a estas luego de tormentas. Bond (1981) indica que el ave se aventura ocasionalmente al Caribe de octubre a abril. El colega José Colón, me hizo llegar un espécimen en contrado en la Laguna de Piñones el 27 de diciembre de 1990 por Cindy Ginés. El ave tiene las siguientes medidas: largo total, 56.2 cm; pico expuesto, 39.1 mm; pico desde orificios nasales, 16.5 mm; arco del ala, 34.4 cm; y tarso, 54.3 mm. El espécimen mencionado valida los informes hipotéticos de esta especie en Puerto Rico.

**Julián Chiví Gargantiamarillo *Vireo flavifrons*.**—De acuerdo con Raffaele (1990), hay dos avistamientos del Julián Chiví Gargantiamarillo para Puerto Rico y uno para la Isla de Vieques. El último es posible que se refiera al avistamiento hecho por Williams y Williams (1985) el 18 de diciembre de 1984 en Play Roja, Vieques. El 31 de octubre de 1992, el segundo autor observó y fotografió a una de estas aves en los manglares del Bosque Estatal de Aguirre. Se observó al ave en varias ocasiones ingerir frutas de *Laguncularia racemosa*. De ser válidos los informes anteriores, a este, se infiere entonces que esta ave es un raro visitante otoñal e invernal para Puerto Rico. Bond (1981) considera a la especie como un raro residente invernal de Cuba, Jamaica, San Vicente y Granada desde agosto 31 hasta el 8 de mayo. La presencia de esta ave en Cuba, Jamaica y Puerto Rico permite postular el que el ave haya pasado desapercibida en la Española.

Los especímenes de Pampero Mayor y de Págalo Pomarino, al igual que la fotografía del Julián Chiví Gargantiamarillo mencionada, se encuentran como referencias en la colección ornitológica del Colegio Universitario de Humacao.

**Agradecimiento.**—Agradecemos a los colegas José Colón y Manuel Corbet, el habernos presentado y donado los especímenes mencionados en este trabajo.

## LITERATURA CITADA

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intensively with schools from the different communities adjacent to the Caribbean National Forest, an area of montane rainforests in eastern Puerto Rico and home to the last population of parrots. Other strategies will be used to reach the public at large. We will present preliminary results on the materials and methods used, as well as the response these have generated among the Puerto Rican public.

### LA COTORRA PUERTORRIQUEÑA: SU POTENCIAL COMO UNA HERRAMIENTA PARA LA EDUCACION AMBIENTAL

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### ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE 1993 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY (CONTINUED FROM VOL. 6(3))

#### HABITAT USE BY NORTH AMERICAN LANDBIRD MIGRANTS ON ST. CROIX, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

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Forty-seven species of North American landbird migrants were observed on St. Croix from September 1981 to November 1988. Observations were made at random over the entire island throughout the seven years. The occurrence of landbird migrants was recorded for each of the major habitat types on the island. Over 50% of the species were found using no more than 3 types of habitat and more than half of these species were found in only a single habitat type. Species density was highest for mangrove forest, littoral forest, and wetlands, and was lowest for open habitat, urban habitat, and dry forest.

#### THE PUERTO RICAN PARROT: ITS POTENTIAL AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TOOL

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Recently, several education programs in the Lesser Antilles aimed at promoting the conservation of endemic West Indian amazon species (e.g., *Amazona versicolor*) have met with much success. Unfortunately, although the Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*) is the most studied and at present most intensively managed of all Caribbean parrots, little awareness exists among the public in Puerto Rico of its present status and of these restoration efforts. To the environmental community, its use as a symbol for conservation and education has been ignored. We have begun a project employing strategies proven in other Caribbean islands for promoting the conservation of our endemic parrot and, through it, all of Puerto Rico's natural resources. We aim to work

En años recientes, una serie de programas de educación dirigidos a promover la conservación de algunas especies de cotorras del género *Amazona* endémicas a la región del Caribe (e.g., *Amazona versicolor*) han tenido éxito a nivel local. Desafortunadamente, a pesar de que la Cotorra Puertorriqueña (*Amazona vittata*) es la cotorra que más se ha estudiado y que más intensamente se maneja, muy poco conocimiento sobre su estado y esfuerzos de restauración existe entre la público en Puerto Rico. A la comunidad ambientalista, su utilización como un símbolo para la conservación ha pasado mayormente desapercibido. Hemos comenzado un proyecto utilizando estrategias desarrolladas por la organización RARE y comprobadas en otras islas del Caribe para promover la conservación de nuestra cotorra endémica y a través de esta, los recursos naturales de Puerto Rico en general. Esperamos implementar una serie de estrategias que varien según la comunidad y su localización con respecto al bosque de El Yunque, lugar donde se encuentra la última población de cotorras en el estado silvestre. En esta ponencia discutiremos los materiales y métodos utilizados al igual que resultados preliminares sobre la respuesta generado entre el público puertorriqueño.

#### ROLE-CALL FOR INSULAR AVIAN EXTINCTIONS IN THE WEST INDIES

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Extinctions (e.g., Grand Cayman Thrush *Turdus caymanensis*) or extirpations (e.g., Puerto Rican Screech-Owl *Otus nudipes newtoni* from St. John, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rican Parrot *Amazona vittata gracilis* from Culebra Island) of forest-dwelling species occurred on small islands of the West Indies primarily as a result of forest fragmentation or habitat loss associated with colonial plantocracies. Other extinctions of insular species in the Lesser Antilles forced by similar processes of unchecked forest depletion and fragmentation are in progress. A review of the literature indicates that the possibility of another 21 species of birds becoming extinct in the Lesser Antilles is very real. The potential causes are 1)