

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY IN CUBA

The sixth annual meeting of the SCO was held at Playa Girón, Ciénaga de Zapata, Cuba, from 1–6 August 1993. Birders, as well as hard-core meeting attendees, were well-satisfied with the setting and accommodations. Some parties of birders racked up more than 90 species, including most of the endemics, during their stay on the island. [A partial list of species observed will appear in the next issue of *El Pitirre*.]

A total of 97 people registered for the event. Cuba was well-represented, with 44 biologists and enthusiasts from all of the countries' resource agencies, universities, and organizations. Twenty-three delegates from the United States attended the meeting. Other countries represented included Puerto Rico (9 delegates), Jamaica (3), Canada (3), Dominican Republic (2), Bahamas (2), St. Lucia (2), Mexico (2), Martinique (2), Aruba (1), Dominica (1), Trinidad (1), and Antigua-Barbuda (1).

Several additions and changes were made to the Society's Board of Directors. Christopher Russell (Bahamas), Arlington James (Dominica), and Roeland De Kort (Aruba) were named as new Board members, whereas Francisco Vilella replaced Frank Rivera from Puerto Rico.

A total of 55 scientific papers were presented. In addition, an excellent series of poster sessions were presented. The two workshops were well-attended. Joe Wunderle and Patricia Bradley presented a workshop on development of projects, writing proposals, and seeking funding for projects. Frank Rivera presented a workshop on columbids and chaired a scientific session on this group of birds. In addition, several informal slide and video shows were given in the afternoons and evenings.

Attendees were able to keep track of their many "life-list" birds with an advance copy of Orlando Garrido and Arturo Kirkconnell's "Checklist of Cuban Birds," which is from their forthcoming book, "How, When and Where to Find Birds in Cuba."

The Society would like to thank the Organizing Committee for an excellent job, particularly: Daysi Rodríguez Batista, Vincente Berovides Alvarez, Martin Acosta Cruz, Bárbara Sánchez Oria, Esteban Godínez Suárez, Orlando H. Garrido, Orlando Torres Fundora, Laredo González Sánchez, Rolando Ambrón Tolmo, María E. García Romero, Carlos Arredondo Antunez, Teresa Huerta, Antonio Perera Puga, Arturo Kirkconnell, Alejandro Llanes Sosa, Pedro Blanco Rodríguez, Xiomara Gálvez Aguilera, Alfredo Nieto, and Loudes Laureiro Egea. The Society extends a special thank you to the President of the Organizing Committee, Hiram González Alonso.

SOCIETY'S 1994 MEETING TO BE HELD IN MARTINIQUE

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology has selected Martinique as the site of the 1994 annual meeting. Marcel Bon St. Côme will chair the Local Organizing Committee. Tentative plans include two workshops: surveying methodology and hunting regulations for columbids. Excursions will include at least one all-day trip to the rain forest, with another half-day trip scheduled. The meeting is planned for 1-5 August 1994. Details will appear in the next issue of the bulletin.

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE 1993 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

PROYECTO ATLAS ORNITOLÓGICO DE CUBA

SALVADOR J. PERIS
Universidad de Salamanca, España

Los Atlas de distribución de aves en particular tienen una larga tradición en Europa: Gran Bretaña e Irlanda, Francia, Dinamarca, Alemania Occidental, Portugal, o en otros países debido a su amplio plantel de investigadores (Australia, Canadá) o al interés intrínseco de su avifauna (Kenya, Marruecos). No existe este tipo de información para la región neotropical, que contiene el 40% aproximadamente de las especies de aves actuales y de las cuales hay en Cuba 158 especies aproximadamente, 23 de ellas endémicas. Hoy día existen suficientes obras de identificación de especies para la región (Bond, 1990: *Birds of the West Indies*; Scott, 1988: *Birds of North America* y un Catálogo (Garrido y García, 1975) que permiten enfocar el presente proyecto. La importancia de la realización de un trabajo de "Atlas" estriba en que:

- a) Permite conocer la distribución y demografía del grupo estudiado.
- b) Establecer su relación con la vegetación y uso agrícolaganadero del suelo.
- c) Comprobar como los medioambientales influyen en la distribución y abundancia de animales.
- d) Comparar los cambios históricos que han habido en la avifauna cubana en el presente siglo, aprovechando la documentación y colecciones con los datos actualizados.
- e) Dado que muchas aves son migradoras, sus fluctuaciones poblacionales pueden estar marcadas por cambios paisajísticos en regiones de invernada/reproducción, lo que infiere un carácter internacional al proyecto.

Por último, los Atlas nos indican cuales son las áreas geográficas con mayor o menor abundancia de especies, el mayor número de individuos dentro de una especie y la relación fisiogeografía con la presencia de endemismo, lo cual es de interés en el caribe. Estos datos son cruciales para que determinada región geo-política pueda establecer las pautas más correctas para establecer una política efectiva de