

FIRST RECORD OF EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE, *CONTOPUS VIRENS* (AVES, TYRANNIDAE),  
IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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On 9 October 1986, in a small mangrove swamp north of Frederiksted, St. Croix, I observed a flycatcher quietly perching on a dead branch about 2.5–3 m above the ground, occasionally flitting out to capture an insect, and then returning to the branch in typical pewee fashion. After retrieving a camera from my car, I was unable to relocate the bird.

On 12 October, Roland Wauer joined me in looking for this bird. It was relocated at the same location in a stand of white mangroves at about one hour past sunrise. Wauer confirmed that the bird was an Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*). This individual perched quietly in an erect posture and had a "crested" appearance. The throat, lower belly, and undertail coverts were white, whereas the breast and sides were dusky. The upper belly was pale yellow where the dusky of the sides almost met. There was no eye-ring and the wing bars were pale buffy. The tail was moderately forked. The bill was black with a pale area at the base of the lower mandible. The legs and feet were black and the iris dark.

Two *Contopus* species are found in the region. The Greater Antillean Pewee (*Contopus caribaeus*), found in the Bahama Islands, Cuba, Isle of Pines, Jamaica, Hispaniola, and Gonave Island (Bond 1985), is accidental on Mona Island, Puerto Rico (Raffaele 1989). Plumage differences between *caribaeus* and *virens* are (1) *virens* has wing bars, whereas *caribaeus* does not; (2) *virens*' underparts are white to yellow, whereas the underparts of *caribaeus* are gray with a buffy wash; and (3) the sides of *caribaeus*' breast and flanks are less dusky than those of *virens*. The Lesser Antillean Pewee (*C. latirostris*), an endemic resident in the western two-thirds of Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, and St. Lucia (Bond 1985), has ochraceous underparts and no wing bars.

Eight species of the family Tyrannidae have been recorded in the Puerto Rico–Virgin Islands region (Philibosian and

Yntema 1977). Only two species have been recorded on St. Croix: Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) and Caribbean Elaenia (*Elaenia martinica*). This occurrence of an Eastern Wood-Pewee is the first for the eastern part of the West Indies and brings the Puerto Rico and Virgin Island total of Tyrannidae species to nine.

Bond (1985) gives the winter range of the Eastern Wood-Pewee as chiefly limited to Central America, but also extending through the islands of the western Caribbean (i.e., Cuba, Isle of Pines, Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Swan Islands, Isla San Andres, and Albuquerque Cay) (24 August–4 November; 26 March–22 April), and the Bahama Islands (15 October–1 November). One record exists east of Cuba in Barbados (American Ornithologists' Union 1983), although no details are available. This is the first record for the Puerto Rico–Virgin Islands region and brings the regional total of Tyrannidae species to nine.

I thank Ro Wauer for his help in identifying this bird and for reviewing an earlier version of the manuscript.

LITERATURE CITED

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REVIEW

ENDANGERED & ENDEMIC BIRDS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, by Annabelle S. Dod. Cypress House Press, California. Illustrated. 207pp. ISBN 1-879384-12-4. Paperback: \$12.00. This volume is a product of Annabelle ("Tudy") Dod's observations of birds in the Dominican Republic over almost 20 years while she and her husband, Don, resided in that country. In her Introduction, Ms. Dod summarizes earlier ornithological work in the country. In a chapter entitled "The Origin of the Species," Tudy relates how she and Don moved

to the Dominican Republic in the fall of 1964 and some of the adventures they have had on their expeditions. The main body of the book consists of accounts of 39 rare or endemic birds species of the Dominican Republic. Several of these stories appeared in Ms. Dod's excellent series in the supplement section of the Santo Domingo newspaper, *El Caribe*. Each species is illustrated with a black-and-white drawing or photograph and information is presented on the species' status and distribution. However, the charm of these accounts