

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

FRED W. SLADEN

P.O. Box 706, New London, New Hampshire 03257, U.S.A.

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

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Check-list of North American birds, 6th edition. American Ornithologists' Union.
- Bond, J. 1985. Birds of the West Indies. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Massachusetts.
- Philibosian, R., and J. Yntema. 1977. Annotated checklist of the birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Information Services, Frederiksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Raffaele, H.A. 1989. A guide to the birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, New Jersey.

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

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comes from Tudy's recollections of her personal experiences with the species. Many of the Dod's adventures include their close friend and another expert on the avifauna of the Dominican Republic, Dr. George B. Reynard.

Tudy's ornithological accomplishments in the Dominican Republic are many, and her persistence as a pioneer and champion of conservation is evident throughout her stories. Here she tells of how she and Don relentlessly tracked down the elusive Stygian Owl (*Asio stygius*), their re-discovery of the Least Pauraque (*Siphonorhis brewsteri*), and the discovery of a new race of Chat Tanager (*Calyptophilus frugivorus neibae*). Through each of the accounts, Ms. Dod imparts new information on the little-known birds of the Dominican Republic. She tells of the apartment-style nesting of the Palm Chat (*Dulus dominicus*), the only representative of a family found nowhere else. She describes the interesting behavior of the little-known White-necked Crow (*Corvus leucognaphalus*), now extirpated from Puerto Rico and found only in the Dominican Republic. We learn of myths surrounding some of the country's birds, including the *campesinos'* prejudices against the Common Potoo (*Nyctibius gris*) and Stygian Owl, both of which are considered witches by country people. The final story is not of a bird at all, but of the strange Hispaniolan solenodon (*Solenodon paradoxus*). A glossary of terms (mostly Spanish) is followed by a list of birds of the Dominican Republic with their status in the country.

For those of us who have spent time in the field with the Dods, the book will bring back memories of the *long* rough drives in their Volkswagon bus to Zapotén and Sierra de Neiba, as well as the interesting working relationship of this unique couple. For others, it will allow them to accompany the Dods on their travels through the Dominican Republic in search of its little-known avifauna. I recommend it as much for these charmingly told tales as for the information presented on the country's birds.—James W. Wiley.

ANNUAL SCO MEETING

JULY 30—AUGUST 8, 1993

PLAYA GIRON, CUBA

The annual meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology will be held at Playa Giron, near Zapata Swamp, in Cuba from August 1-6, 1993. Travel dates from Florida to Cuba and back will be July 30 and August 8 or 9, 1993. All travel for United States citizens will be handled by Marazul Tours Inc. (250 W. 57 St., Suite 1311, New York, New York 10107; telephone 212-582-9570, outside NY state - 800-223-5334, FAX 212-541-6102).

The working languages for the conference will be English and Spanish. No simultaneous interpretation will be provided. Two workshops will be conducted, "Cuban and other Columbid Populations." and "Avian Conservation in the Caribbean." Abstracts for papers should be submitted to Jim Wiley, 2201 Ashland St., Ruston, Louisiana 71270, U.S.A. El Pitirre 6(2)

The format for abstracts is available on request.

The **travel and meeting schedule** is as follows:

July 30 Check-in at 6:00 A.M. at Haiti Trans Air ticket counter at Miami International Airport for charter flight which departs at 8:30 A.M. Arrive José Martí Airport, Havana, at 9:30 A.M. Charter carrier will collect \$28 (U.S. departure tax and Cuban landing fee) from each participant at check-in.

August 8 Scheduled check-in at 9:00 A.M. in Havana. Departs 11:30 A.M. Arrive Miami 12:30 P.M.

There are flights (except on Saturdays) in the morning from Miami to Havana and at mid-day from Havana to Miami. Marazul may be able to accommodate alternative arrangements.

Conference Schedule:

Friday, July 30 Arrival. Transfer to Havana hotel.

Saturday, July 31 Free day in Havana.

Sunday, August 1 Departure for Zapata Swamp.

Registration and Welcome Reception.

Monday, August 2 Opening Ceremony.

Presentations/Business Meeting.

Tuesday, August 3 Paper sessions/Business Meeting.

Video Session.

Wednesday, August 4 Paper sessions.

Plenary Session.

Thursday, August 5 Columbid and Avian Conservation Workshop.

Closing Ceremony and Farewell Dinner.

Friday, August 6 Optional Excursions.

Return to Havana.

Saturday, August 7 Free day in Havana.

Sunday, August 8 Departure.

Program Costs (paid to Marazul Tours, Inc.):

Arrangements include round-trip airfare from Miami to Havana, visa, accommodations in Havana and Playa Giron (Zapata Swamp), breakfast and one meal daily, transfers, and transportation to and from the Zapata Swamp.

\$720 per person in single room

\$650 per person in double room

Land arrangements only (excluding round-trip airfare from Miami and visa fee):

\$520 per person in single room \$450 per person in double room

Conference Registration Fee (to be paid on arrival in Havana): \$70 per person. There will be additional fees for the banquet and field trips. Presently, their costs are unknown, but should be similar to fees charged at past SCO meetings. Participants should be prepared to pay their registration fee and additional fees in cash. No personal checks or credit cards (from U.S. banks) will be accepted.

For registration forms, please contact Marazul Tours (address and telephone numbers above). Space is limited, so do not wait until the last minute.

We hope to see you in Cuba!