

The Mexican Crow *Corvus imparatus* was recently divided into two species, based on vocalization differences. Our findings here lead us to suggest *Corvus palmarum* as the Hispaniolan Palm Crow, and *Corvus minutus* as the Cuban Palm Crow.

Los Cuervos de Palmas se encuentran en la Hispaniola y Cuba. En la última son raros, encontrándose únicamente en áreas específicas de las montañas de la Provincia de Camagüey, y una colonia en la Provincia de Pinar del Río -donde no han sido vistas recientemente- posiblemente está extinta. En la Hispaniola no son raros, estando ampliamente dispersos. Los Cuervos de Palmas han sido descritos varias veces como especies separadas, o subespecies de *Corvus palmarum*, o como una especie monotípica. Los especímenes en la mayoría de los Museos son escasos, haciendo los estudios difíciles. Johnson (Biosystematics of American Crows, 1961) reportó, como lo hacemos nosotros, una morfología similar en las poblaciones de ambas islas, con unas pocas diferencias. Tanto él como nosotros encontramos las aves cubanas con un tarso levemente más largo y a las hispaniolas con un pico más largo. El ala y la cola son más largos en las de Hispaniola, esto no es reportado por Johnson. Las diferencias en vocalizaciones son sorprendentes. En Cuba, incluyen unos chillidos roncós, ligando notas que suben y bajan, de 0.5 seg. de duración, incluyendo muchas armónicas. En Hispaniola, las frases son más cortas, de 0.3 seg. también en notas que suben y bajan, pero en frases más oscilantes y con mayor staccato, con poca armonía. Grabaciones y sonogramas serán presentados. El Cuervo Mejicano, *Corvus imparatus*, recientemente ha sido separado en dos especies basando esto en diferencias de vocalizaciones. Nuestros hallazgos aquí, nos llevan a sugerir a *Corvus palmarum* como el Cuervo de Palmas de la Hispaniola, y *Corvus minutus* como el Cuervo de Palmas de Cuba.

SEABIRDS NESTING IN EXUMA LAND AND SEA PARK, BAHAMAS (AVES MARINAS ANIDANDO EN EXUMA LAND Y SEA PARK, BAHAMAS)

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In May and early June of 1991, we inventoried the nesting sea birds of the 175 sq. mile Exuma Land and Sea Park in the Bahamas. We recorded 10 nesting and probable nesting species and 4 migrants and visitors. Two species (*Puffinus lherminieri*, *Sterna sandvicensis*) were not previously known to nest in the Exuma chain and *Larus artocilla* has expanded its range southward in the island chain. Several unreported nesting seabird colonies were discovered. The gulls and terns were in the early stages of colony establishment during our visit, so maximum colony size cannot be estimated for most of these species. In comparison to the reported population

size for the various species nesting in the Bahamas and the Caribbean it is clear from our brief survey that the seabird colonies in the Exumas are significant. Minimal colony size for each confirmed nesting species is as follows: *Puffinus lherminieri* - 500 (1,000-3,000 maximum) pairs; *Phaethon lepturus* - 30 (100 maximum) pairs; *Larus artocilla* - 50 pairs; *Sterna dougallii* - 50 pairs; *Sterna fuscata* - 2,000 pairs; *Sterna albifrons* - 25 pairs; *Sterna sandvicensis* - 10 pairs; *Anous stolidus* - 2,000 pairs.

En mayo y principios de junio de 1991 realizamos un inventario de las aves marinas anidando en las 175 millas 2 de Exuma Land y Sea Park en las Bahamas. Registramos 10 especies anidando y posiblemente anidando y cuatro especies migratorias y visitantes. Dos especies (*Puffinus lherminieri*, *Sterna sandvicensis*) no se sabía que anidaran en la cadena de Exuma y *Larus artocilla* ha expandido su territorio de anidaje hacia el sur de esta cadena. Un número no reportado de colonias de aves marinas anidando fue descubierto. Las gaviotas estaban en una etapa temprana de colonización por lo que el tamaño máximo de la colonia no pudo ser estimado para la mayoría de estas especies. En comparación al tamaño poblacional reportado para las varias especies anidando en las Bahamas y el Caribe es claro desde nuestro breve censo que las colonias de aves marinas en la Exumas son significativas. El tamaño mínimo de la colonia para cada especie anidando confirmada es como sigue: *Puffinus lherminieri* - 500 pares (1,000-3,000 máximo); *Phaethon lepturus* - 30 pares (100 máximo); *Larus artocilla* - 50 pares; *Sterna dougallii* - 50 pares; *Sterna fuscata* - 2,000 pares; *Sterna albifrons* - 25 pares; *Sterna sandvicensis* - 10 pares y *Anous stolidus* - 2,000 pares.

Additional abstracts will appear in the next issue of *El Pitirre*.

PROGRESS ON THE SOCIETY'S 1993 MEETING IN CUBA

Arrangements for next year's meeting of the SCO at the Ciénaga de Zapata, Cuba, are progressing well. Hiram Gonzalez has been named Chairman of the Local Committee, and Daisy Rodriguez is the Secretary. The local committee is arranging for field trips in and around the Ciénaga de Zapata. Further information on the meeting and a tour package will be provided in the next issue of the bulletin.

REPORT OF THE PSITTACINE WORKING GROUP

FRANCISCO J. VILELLA, CHAIRMAN

During 1991-1992, contact was maintained via correspon

Parrot Working Group (Continued)

dence with members of the Working Group. The plan for a status report of the West Indian psittacine fauna prepared by the local residents did not fare well. I received information only from correspondents in the Bahama Islands and Dominica. I plan to harass the Working Group members into fulfilling their commitments until we compile enough information to produce a meaningful document.

Most of 1992, however, was spent preparing the two-part workshop on parrot conservation which was part of the Society's annual meeting, held in Puerto Rico from 31 July to 5 August 1992. A total of 50 individuals, representing academic, non-government organizations, and government institutions, participated in the workshop. The Bahama Islands, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands), St. Lucia, Trinidad, Canada, United States, Mexico, Venezuela, and Brazil were represented. The first part of the workshop was a special symposium on parrot conservation held on Tuesday, 4 August, at El Convento Hotel in Old San Juan. A total of 11 papers were presented on Caribbean and South American psittacines.

The second part of the workshop was an all-day practical workshop held at the Caribbean National Forest on Wednesday, 5 August. Several presentations on psittacine census methods, management of breeding populations, habitat management, and forest planning were included. Additionally, a two-hour field demonstration in the western section of the Forest was conducted in which participants were able to observe the use of tools, safety techniques for climbing trees, observation blinds, and methods of improving natural cavities. Afterwards, a typical Puerto Rican luncheon was prepared for participants at La Mina House, adjacent to the captive facility for the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot. The aviary section of the workshop had to be shortened because of severe weather.

Because of the length of the workshop, we were forced to delay the meeting of the Working Group. However, I informed all Group members of my intention to publish the proceedings of the workshop. By mail, I will provide all the speakers who presented papers with the deadline and format for submitting either an extended abstract or a complete manuscript. A manuscript will also be prepared on the material presented in the practical demonstrations. The publication will probably be a cooperative effort of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Institute of Tropical Forestry (U.S. Forest Service). I hope to have the publication ready by next year's Society meeting in Cuba.

Finally, after consulting with our Cuban colleagues, we agreed that there will possibly be a half-day workshop on psittacines during the Society's 1993 annual meeting in Cuba. More information on this workshop will follow.

NOTICES

ROBERT L. NORTON CONTINUES AS REGIONAL EDITOR FOR *AMERICAN BIRDS*

Robert L. Norton is continuing as West Indies Regional Editor for *American Birds*. He would appreciate receiving observations and records at his new address:

817 Quince Orchard Blvd. #14
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20870, U.S.A.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

The West Indian island of Dominica is home to two endangered psittacines, the Imperial Parrot and the Red-necked Parrot. Recent conservation efforts have been successful in increasing the Red-necked Parrot population to about 500 individuals. However, the increased population is now posing a threat to the citrus crop in Dominica. Anyone with experience with or ideas on how to deal with parrot "depre-dations" on citrus crops is asked to immediately contact: Mr. Felix Gregoire, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Roseau, Dominica, West Indies. Telephone: 809-448-6105

OBSERVATIONS OF BLUE AND RED CATTLE EGRETS IN THE WEST INDIES

Several reports have been received of Cattle Egrets in the West Indies marked on the wings with light blue or red. These birds were intentionally marked with dye as part of a study of their movements among islands. Dr. Joe L. Corn of the University of Georgia is conducting a study of an introduced disease-carrying tick which may be dispersed through egret hosts. In 1991, Dr. Corn dyed egrets on Antigua light blue, and red on another island. He has received sighting reports from several islands, and even as far north as Florida. If you have observed such color marked birds, please contact Dr. Corn with full information at:

S.E. Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602
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OPPORTUNITIES

Two to four Field Assistants are needed 1 March or April to mid-August 1993 for a study of brood parasitism by the Shiny Cowbird in Guánica Forest, a dry subtropical forest in southwestern Puerto Rico. This research focuses on the effect of forest openings on parasitism rates within the forest, and the breeding ecology and impact of parasitism on the Puerto