

of just "Hummingbirds."

Welcome evidence of editorial generosity pervades the text. The editor has been especially generous with eye-relieving white space, such as blank lines between table of contents items and between topics in the species accounts. Such breaks are especially helpful in allowing the eye to quickly locate section headings. In the same vein, almost all of the figures, maps, and photographs have been printed larger than in the first edition. Moreover, the resolution of the photographs has been enhanced. Finally, the type is set more tightly than in the first edition, which makes for easier reading.

Besides being technically accurate, the author has performed a valuable service by pointing out, in the species accounts, species that have been decimated by human disturbance and hunting. He calls for additional protection for species that, as everywhere, are being threatened by unrestricted clearing of land and unenforced restrictions or bans on hunting.

All books described as "field guides" should be portable. This edition meets that criterion, being midway in size between the National Geographic Society's Field Guide to Birds of North America and Stiles and Skutch's A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica. It fits comfortably into a belt-strap book pouch. Those who balk at the weight of the hardcover version (suggested list price US\$72.50) will welcome the availability of a rugged softback version (about US\$35).—William L. Murphy, 7202 Mathew Street, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770, U.S.A.

## 1992 MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology will hold its Fifth Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 31 July to 5 August 1992. The meeting will take place at El Convento Hotel, which offers exceptional accommodations for members' and Society activities. El Convento Hotel is centrally located for the scheduled field trips to the rain forest in the Sierra de Luquillo and the Cambalache Forest. This year, the meeting will feature two field trips, two workshops, meetings of the working groups (pigeons and doves, parrots, conservation, technical), as well as the scientific sessions. Forms for advanced registration, room reservation, and abstracts for papers to be presented will be mailed directly to members. Others can obtain these forms from:

Dr. Rosemarie Gnam  
23 Mount Vernon Ave.  
Alexandria, Virginia 22301  
U.S.A.

### Preliminary Schedule

Friday 31 July:	
2:00—6:00 P.M.	Registration
7:00 P.M.	Reception
7:30 P.M.	Board Meeting

Saturday 1 August:	
9:00 A.M.	Opening

### Saturday 1 August (Continued):

10:00 A.M.—4:30 P.M.	Paper sessions
5:00 P.M.	Business meeting

### Sunday 2 August:

Morning—evening	Field Trips
	Evening open for meetings

### Monday 3 August:

9:00 A.M.—4:30 P.M.	Paper sessions
8:00 P.M.	Plenary session

### Tuesday 4 August:

9:00 A.M.—4:30 P.M.	Papers/Workshops
7:30 P.M.	Banquet

### Wednesday 5 August:

All day	Parrot workshops/Field
Evening	Open

### Field Trips:

1. *Sierra de Luquillo, Caribbean National Forest*—Trip to the spectacular rain forest in eastern Puerto Rico. This 28,000 acre montane forest (elevation to 1,000 m) is the home of the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*), recently discovered Elfin Woods Warbler (*Dendroica angelae*), and many other endemics.

Cost—U.S. \$10

2. *Cambalache Forest*—The Cambalache Forest, near the north coast of Puerto Rico, is one of the finest examples of tropical karst in the world. The terrain appears as clusters of haystack hills ("mogotes"), separated from one another by rounded depressions. The 380 ha Forest, ranges from 5–50 m in elevation, and contains 3 vegetation life zones. Approximately 45 bird species are common in the Forest. Among these, 8 are endemic to Puerto Rico, 34 are breeding residents, and 11 are migratory.

Cost—U.S. \$10

### Workshops:

1. *Methods of Parrot Conservation*, including surveying methods, habitat management, captive management, and veterinary aspects—Francisco Vilella and Ernesto Garcia, co-leaders. [See additional information on page 6.]  
2. *Neotropical Migrant Land Birds of the Caribbean*—Joe Wunderle, Leader.

The deadline for room reservations and advanced registration is 15 May 1992. Abstracts for papers should be sent by 15 June 1992.

Hope you can make it!



## PSITTACINE WORKSHOP

A workshop on methodology in psittacine conservation will be conducted during the 1992 meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology. The workshop will be held in the Caribbean National Forest, home of the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*), and will consist of the following:

### Day 1, Morning [August 4].—ESTIMATING PSITTACINE POPULATIONS

1. Opening and Welcoming Remarks  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Supervisor  
Caribbean National Forest District Ranger
2. Psittacine Census Methodology  
(F.J. Vilella and J.M. Meyers)
  - a. Lowland areas (Meyers)
  - b. Montane areas (Vilella)
  - c. Ground level (Meyers)
  - d. Canopy level (Vilella)
  - e. Roost counts (Meyers)
  - f. Some possible differences between counting parrots and parakeets (Vilella and Meyers)

### Day 1, Afternoon.—HABITAT MANAGEMENT

1. Management Support Structures
  - a. Observation blinds
  - b. General principles of climbing safety and equipment
  - c. Observation platforms (canopy level)
2. Cavity Improvement
  - a. Cavity surveys
  - b. Cavity evaluation
  - c. Cavity improvement

### Day 2, Morning [August 5].—PSITTACINE VETERINARY MEDICINE (A.B. Arnizaut, D.V.M., and J. Torres, D.V.M.)

Topics to be announced

PUBLIC EDUCATION (Paul Butler)

CLOSING REMARKS (Workshop scheduled to end by noon)

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE 1992 MEETING OF THE COLUMBID WORKING GROUP

Frank F. Rivera-Milan  
Scientific Research Area  
Terrestrial Ecology Section  
Department of Natural Resources  
Apartado 5887, Puerta de Tierra  
Puerta de Tierra, Puerto Rico 00906

The 1992 meeting of the Working Group was held August 6, 1991, in St. Lucia. Frank F. Rivera-Milan was "elected" as Chairman of the Working Group. The following people were present at the meeting: Thomas Bancroft, Joanna Burger, Alexander Cruz, Michael Gochfeld, Simone Guerrero, Catherine Levy, Frank Rivera, Alexander Sprunt, and Jim Wiley.

The main theme discussed at the meeting was the Special

### Columbid Working Group Report (continued)

Symposium on Columbids to be held during 1993, probably in Cuba. The consensus reached by the members was the following:

1. The Symposium should be held at least two days before the beginning of the 1993 meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology.
2. The presentations should include columbids in the Caribbean region (i.e., as delineated by David Lack, 1976, *Island Biology*; and James Bond, 1983, *Birds of the West Indies*).
3. If possible, the presentations will cover the following topics:
  - a. Status, distribution, and abundance
  - b. Habitat use
  - c. Foraging and nesting ecology
  - d. Behavioral studies
  - e. Banding and telemetry studies
  - f. Taxonomy and ecomorphology
  - g. Captive breeding
  - h. Hunting statistics and regulation
  - i. Conservation biology

4. The members of the Working Group will contact agencies, universities, and local groups to encourage the participation of people doing research in the Caribbean region.
5. The members of the Working Group will contact the Chairman as soon as possible (say, early 1992) to help in the integration of all the available information.
6. The announcement of the Symposium (and the information received) will be published in newsletters, such as "El Pitirre" early in 1992.
7. The Symposium agenda should be announced early in 1993 together with the agenda for the 1993 annual meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology.

### Membership

A list of 41 active Working Group members was produced.

### Problems and Constraints

Ann M. Haynes-Sutton (1991 Chairperson) correctly identified the major problem faced by the Columbids Working Group when she wrote that "The Columbids Working Group itself seems to lack focus. There seems to be general agreement that everyone would like to know more, but the specific issues which need to be addressed have not been identified."

The two most important human-induced environmental problems affecting columbids in the Caribbean region are (1) habitat loss and deterioration, and (2) legal and illegal hunting.

As a first step, the Working Group can initiate efforts to standardize counts of columbids in several of the Caribbean islands (using the sampling scheme developed in Puerto Rico by the Department of Natural Resources as an example). These basic data, although not without technical problems, are probably the most cost-effective sampling alternative for the long-term study of columbid populations over broad spatial scales, such as life zones. This first step, however, is an expensive one. Hence, the first issue that we must address is related to funding. As a Working Group, we must identify and