

**New Conservation Initiatives in the Cayman Islands**

Dace Ground and James Wiley  
*National Trust for the Cayman Islands*

**Local Captive Breeding Programme of the St. Vincent Amazon**

Lennox Quammie  
*St. Vincent*

**The Montserrat Oriole: Its Present Status**

Gerard Grey  
*Montserrat*

**Brief Notes on Dominica's Ornithological Efforts**

Adolphus Christian  
*Forestry Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Roseau, Dominica*

**Update on the West Indies Field Guide**

Herbert Raffaele  
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.*

***Amazona versicolor* – The Environmental Education Aspect**

Lyndon John  
*Forestry Department, Ministry of Agriculture, St. Lucia*

*The following abstracts were submitted, although the authors were unable to attend the meeting:*

**Resultados Preliminares del Proyecto Nacional para la Conservación de la Cotorra Cubana (*Amazona leucocephala*)**

Xiomara Gálvez Aguilera, Vicente Berovides Alvarez, Alejandro Llánes Sosa, and Rosendo Martínez Montero  
*La Habana, Cuba*

En el presente trabajo se exponen los primeros resultados del proyecto nacional para la conservación de la cotorra cubana (*Amazona l. leucocephala*) que comenzó a desarrollarse en 1988 y que abarca el estudio en 11 localidades del país, manejo y cría en cautiverio de la misma. Se presentan en detalle los resultados del trabajo efectuado entre 1988 y 1990 en la localidad de Los Indios, Isla de la Juventud que es un área formada por sabanas arenosas con palmas barrigonas (*Colpothrinax wrightii*) único sustrato que utiliza la cotorra para anidar. A éstos, junto con palmas sembradas para aumentar los sitios de nidificación, se le midieron ocho variables del propio nido y cinco de la vegetación circundante. Las cotorras prefieren los nidos sembrados para anidar por la mayor profundidad de la cavidad, menor altura de la entrada y menor densidad de otras palmas barrigonas. Con este método de siembra, la población se incrementó a una tasa 1.21/individ./año. La profundidad del nido fue el componente estructural que más influyó en el número de pichones que volaron. Se exponen además los datos preliminares relativos a abundancia y datos reproductivos en las localidades de Mil

Cumbres, Cayo Potrero, Hato Milián y Loma de Cunagua. Por último se presentan datos relativos a la cría en cautiverio de 15 pichones y el diseño elaborado para el establecimiento de criaderos artificiales.

**Nesting Habits of the Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*) in Haiti**

J.O. Keith  
*USDA, Box 25266, Denver, Colorado, U.S.A., and*

M. Rimpel  
*Ministry of Agriculture, Damien, Haiti*

Features of Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*) nesting biology in Haiti were studied from 1981 to 1984. In 1981 and 1983, location, size, and status of colonies were noted for those found between Cap Hatien in the north and Les Cayes and Jacmel in the south (>600 km of road). Of 100 colonies found in the 2 years, most were active in May and June, some in August and September, and a few during both periods. In 62 colonies where nests were counted, numbers varied from 8 to 200 and averaged 75. In 1983 and 1984, observations were made weekly from May to September at 10 nesting colonies near Damien. Numbers of new nests, total nests, adult males, adult females, and fledglings were counted during each visit. We recorded activities, such as chasing, fighting, male displays, nest building, foraging, and loafing. In 1983, the greatest number of nests occurred in June (7 early colonies) and September (3 late colonies), and averaged 195 nests per colony (range 37-468). The greatest number of males seen in colonies averaged 35, indicating that each male built about 5.6 nests. In 1984, birds nested at only 5 of the 10 colonies. The reproductive effort was also much lower in other ways; the greatest number of males and nests in the 5 colonies averaged only 19 and 81, respectively. The aging and disappearance of old nests was monitored during the winter of 1983-84. The Village Weaver was introduced into Haiti over 200 years ago. Possible adaptations to Haitian environments were considered by comparing our findings with those of recent African nesting studies.

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**SUMMARY OF THE 1991 PSITTACINE WORKING GROUP MEETING, ST. LUCIA**

A meeting of the Society's Psittacine Working Group was held on 6 August, during the 1991 annual meeting in St. Lucia. Present were Rosemarie Gnam, Martha Walsh, Sara Cross, Martin Kelsey, Michael Marsden, Dace Ground, Francisco Vilella, Wylie Barrow, and Jim Wiley. Because the Group had not met since the 1989 Society meeting and none of the objectives agreed on then had been attained, the Group decided on the following, rather than developing additional objectives:

1. Francisco J. Vilella was named Chairperson of the Group.

2. The Group agreed to produce a document on West Indian psittacids, to be published through the Society of Caribbean Ornithology. This publication will be organized by sections for each island having parrot populations, with each section prepared by resident Group members. It will be compiled and edited by the Chairperson, with assistance from other Group members. For each island, three topics will be covered: present status of the native psittacines (*Amazona* and *Aratinga*), major recent (last 4-5 years) accomplishments, and present conservation and research needs. This document will serve not only as a source of information for persons interested in Caribbean psittacines, but will also help to identify needs that can be presented to government and non-government organizations for funding. The document will be published in early 1992.

3. A three-day workshop will be held next year following the annual meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology, which will be held in Puerto Rico. The workshop will be conducted in the Caribbean National Forest and will be sponsored by the Society of Caribbean Ornithology, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. The workshop will cover the following:

- a. Psittacine census methodology
- b. Habitat management techniques
- c. Psittacine veterinary medicine
- d. Public education

More detailed information on the workshop will be provided at a later date.

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NOTICE

Dr. Joe Wunderle has assumed the duties of the Editor of the Society's journal, *Ornitología Caribeña*. Jorge Moreno and Joe are now putting together an edition of the journal. If not contacted by Joe, all authors who have submitted manuscripts to *Ornitología Caribeña* should contact him at:

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Institute of Tropical Forestry  
P.O. Box B  
Palmer, Puerto Rico 00721  
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NOTICE

At the 1989 annual meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology, several members pre-paid for copies of Herb Raffaele's "A guide to the birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands" at a special rate. Unfortunately, the list of those who purchased the books has been lost. If you paid for the Guide at the Santo Domingo meeting, please advise Ms. Catherine Levy at:

Society of Caribbean Ornithology  
2 Starlight Ave.  
Kingston 6, Jamaica

Field Assistants (1-2) needed from March 1-July 15, 1992, at the El Verde Field Station in Puerto Rico. Successful candidates will participate in long-term banding studies in mature forest and second growth and will also assist in a study of the reproductive biology of the Puerto Rican Tody (*Todus mexicanus*). Salary is \$500/month plus free housing. Applicants should demonstrate previous field experience, including the use of mist nets. To apply, send a letter of interest detailing experience and the names and telephone numbers of three references to Robert B. Waide, GPO Box 363682, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936.

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MEETINGS OF INTEREST

4-18 January 1992 - **American Birding Association Conference**, McAllen Airport Hilton Inn, McAllen, Texas. Attendance limited to ABA members and accompanying spouses. (American Birding Association Lower Rio Grande Conference, P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80934-6599, U.S.A.).

2-5 March 1992 - **Fifteenth Vertebrate Pest Conference**, Newport Inn, Newport Beach, California. (Terrell Salmon, Business Manager, c/o DANR-North Region, Research Park Facility, University of California, Davis, California 95616, U.S.A.. Telephone: 916-757-8623; fax: 916-757-8866).

27 March - 1 April 1992 - **57th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference**, Charlotte, North Carolina, U.S.A.

27-29 March 1992 - **Eastern Bird Banding Association**, annual meeting, Keller Conference Center, Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. (Janet Shaffer: 814-356-3553).

9-12 April 1992 - **The Wilson Ornithological Society** will meet with **The Florida Ornithological Society** at the Hilton Inn Gateway West, Kissimmee, Florida, U.S.A. (Roberta Geanangel and Herbert W. Kale will co-chair the Local Committee. Keith L. Bildstein, Department of Biology, Winthrop College, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29733, U.S.A., will chair the Scientific Program Committee).

20-26 April 1992 - **American Birding Association Convention**, Mobile, Alabama. (ABA Convention '92, P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80934-6599, U.S.A.; telephone: 800-835-2473).

10-15 May 1992 - **International Symposium on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections**, Madrid, Spain. (Information available from: Cesar Romero-Serra, Department of Anatomy, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6, Canada; or Julio Gisbert & Fernando Palacios, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Jos Gutierrez Abascal 2, 28006 Madrid, Spain).