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TALLER EXPERIMENTAL DE ESTUDIOS DE AVES MIGRATORIAS EN CUBA

Hiram Gonzalez Alonso

Laboratorio de Aves Migratorias, Carretera de Varona km. 3.5, Capdevilla, Boyeros, La Habana, Cuba

Algunos resultados obtenidos en Cuba en cuanto a diseños experimentales sobre técnicas de captura de aves con redes ornitológicas, anillamientos, métodos de conteos, medición de vegetación y detección de rutas migratorias a través de radares fueron analizados y discutidos entre ornitólogos cubanos, canadienses y estadounidenses. Estos intercambios se vienen realizando desde 1988 en localidades de la Ciénaga de Zapata. Los especialistas cubanos han desarrollado estos trabajos en Península de Hicacos, Gibara, Guanahacabibes y Cayo Paredón Grande. Como continuación de estos intercambios, especialistas de estos tres países aplicaron estas técnicas y llevaron a cabo investigaciones sobre las comunidades de aves entre el 4 y el 15 de febrero de 1991 en áreas boscosas de la Ciénaga de Zapata, obteniéndose resultados experimentales de gran valor ornitológico y conservacionista para la región del Caribe. Este Taller fue auspiciado por el Laboratorio Cubano de Aves Migratorias (Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, A.C.C.), la Facultad de Biología (Universidad de la Habana) y el Ministerio de Agricultura, Cuba; el Servicio Canadiense de la Vida Silvestre (Environment Canada) y el Observatorio de Aves de Long Point (Ontario).

Para información adicional, pregunta Hiram Gonzalez Alonso, o George Wallace, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0, Canada.

FIELD STUDIES OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN CUBA

Hiram Gonzalez Alonso

Since 1988, Cuban, Canadian, and United States ornithologists have collaborated in capture and banding techniques, counting methods, vegetation sampling, and monitoring bird migration in winter at several study sites in the Zapata Swamp, Matanzas Province, Cuba, since 1988. Cuban participants have developed additional studies in Hicacos Peninsula, Gibara, Guanahacabibes Peninsula, and Grand Paredon Cay. Biologists from the three countries continued their joint investigations of bird communities from 4-15 February 1991 in 2 additional forested sites in the Zapata Swamp.

Results obtained in 1991 will be both interesting ornithologically and useful for the conservation of birds in the Caribbean region. The joint work in 1991 was made possible by the Cuban Laboratory of Migratory Birds of the Institute of Ecology and Systematics of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, the Faculty of Biology of the University of Havana, the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture, the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada, and the Long Point Bird Observatory of Ontario, Canada. For further information, contact: Hiram Gonzalez Alonso, or George Wallace, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0, Canada.

REPORT FROM THE COLUMBID WORKING GROUP

Ann M. Haynes-Sutton

Marshall's Pen, P.O. Box 58, Mandeville, Jamaica

The objective of the Columbid Working Group is to promote an integrated Caribbean approach to columbid research, conservation, and management in the region, and to facilitate the exchange of information between those concerned with columbids in the Caribbean. The group has met twice so far, in Santo Domingo in 1989, and in Jamaica in 1990. People who have expressed interest in working with the group include Ann M. Haynes-Sutton (Chairperson), Alexander Cruz, Wayne Hoffman, Carlos Ruiz, Peter Vogel, Davide Ramos, Oscar Díaz, Frank Rivera Milan, Joanna Burger, and Audrey Downer.

The immediate task which the group set for itself was to collect information on the following topics:

1. Species distribution, biogeography, population status, and trends of Caribbean columbids.
2. Laws affecting management of columbids, especially concerning game species, seasons, dates, bag limits, data collection by hunters, issuance of licenses (including hunter proficiency tests), and systems of enforcement and their effectiveness.
3. Sources of published and unpublished information concerning columbids in the Caribbean.
4. Sources of local and international funding and technical support for research (including the possibility of intra-regional transfer of skills and standardization of programs).
5. People working on columbids in the Caribbean (including researchers, resource managers, and representatives from hunter's organizations, etc.) and their projects.

An international banding program may be necessary to enable researchers to attempt to determine patterns of migration among the islands of the

Caribbean. Consideration would have to be given to how a unified program could be established in the region. This project would be expensive and time consuming and has to be considered a long term commitment. In the meanwhile, banding efforts could be concentrated on certain migrants, such as the White-crowned Pigeon (*Columba leucocephala*), White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), and Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*).

The next meeting of the Working Group will take place during the August 1991 annual meeting of The Society of Caribbean Ornithology in St. Lucia. It is hoped that a symposium on the status and distribution of columbids in the Caribbean will be included in the meeting schedule.

Any other persons who are interested in working with the Group or who have suggestions about its focus should contact Ann M. Haynes-Sutton, Marshall's Pen, P.O. Box 58, Mandeville, Jamaica.

NEW BIRD PUBLICATIONS FROM THE FRENCH WEST INDIES

M. Édouard Benito-Espinal, renowned resident ecologist and ornithologist in Guadeloupe and Martinique, has announced the availability of several new publications on the birds of the Lesser Antilles. These valuable contributions to the knowledge of the region's birds are available as follows:

Oiseaux des Petites Antilles/Birds of the West Indies, by Édouard Benito-Espinal, (1990). Les Editions du Latanier, Guadeloupe. A guide book of birds of the Lesser Antilles, focusing on those of Martinique and the Guadeloupe Archipelago. Available at 100 French francs (about US\$17) from: Editions du Latanier, Anse des Lézards, 97133 Saint-Barthelemy, French West Indies.

A l'écoute des Oiseaux de Guadeloupe et de Martinique [Songs of the birds of Guadeloupe and Martinique], by Patricia Hautcastel and Max Guerin, under the direction of Édouard Benito-Espinal. Guidebook, 2 audio tapes, and 40 color slides of resident birds. Available at 500 French francs (about US\$ 83) from I.G.E.R.O.C., B.P. 795, 97173 Pointe-à-Pitre cédex, Guadeloupe, French West Indies.

A l'écoute des Oiseaux de Guadeloupe et de Martinique [Songs of the birds of Guadeloupe and Martinique], by Patricia Hautcastel, Max Guerin, and Eric Igabille, under the direction of Édouard Benito-Espinal. Single audio tape, with printed notes on species covered.

Available at 100 French francs (~US\$ 17) from I.G.E.R.O.C. (as above).

Informative 40 x 60 cm color posters produced by the Institut Guadeloupéen d'Etude et de Recherche Ornithologique de la Caraïbe (I.G.E.R.O.C.). One of the "Gligli," or American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), the other of the "Grive Gros-bec," or Streaked Saltator (*Saltator albicollis*) of Martinique.

For further information, see the following reviews of these products.

REVIEWS

Oiseaux des Petites Antilles/Birds of the West Indies.—Édouard Benito-Espinal. 1990. Saint-Barthelemy, Guadeloupe, French West Indies, Faune & Flore des Tropiques, Les Editions du Latanier. 128 pp., 74 color plates, 3 maps, numerous tables and black-and-white line drawings of bird distribution. ISBN 2-9502284-5-3. Cloth 100 French francs (~US\$17).—This small (11 x 22 cm), attractive volume is packed with valuable information on the birds of the Lesser Antilles. The text is presented in bilingual form, with each section or species account having an English translation (by Sandy Schopbach) of the original French text. In his foreward, Benito-Espinal notes that until this volume arrived, the Lesser Antillean avifauna has been largely neglected, aside from James Bond's *Birds of the West Indies*, and Father F.R. Pinchon's *Les Oiseaux* (1976). This volume fills the void with its extensive coverage of the region's avifauna. In a preface, Dr. Fortuné Chalumeau describes the value of the volume to our knowledge of birds in the region, and to conservation efforts. Benito-Espinal then gives an overview of the birds of the region, as well as suggestions for bird-watching. The species covered include most of those nesting in Martinique and the Guadeloupean archipelago, as well as many that migrate to or through these islands. The author states that, "although this book essentially refers to the birds of Guadeloupe and Martinique, it may be used throughout most of the West Indian archipelago where, on the whole, the same species live." Presented in the Introduction are conventions used through the guide and a presents a map of the Lesser Antilles, including the islands from Anguila south to Grenada. This is followed by a section on the islands of Guadeloupe and its dependencies, and Martinique, wherein Benito-Espinal discusses the