

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

sizes of the islands, geographical characteristics, and general habitat descriptions. There is a map of the Guadeloupe Archipelago and Martinique showing geographic features and sites mentioned in the text.

In a section entitled, "What is a bird?", the author details the unique characteristics of birds that set them aside from other animals, as well as some general classification information.

The main body of the guide consists of 84 accounts of the resident and some migrant species of the Lesser Antilles. Each species account includes French and English (following the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist) common names, various local names used among the islands covered, the scientific name, the species' length in centimeters and inches, and, for migrants, the period when they occur according to records. The main text for the accounts relates valuable description, status, and habitat information, although the reader is left wanting more on the natural history of each species. A map displays each species' distribution among the Lesser Antilles. In addition, each species' habitat distribution among the nine islands intensively covered (Martinique and the Guadeloupean Archipelago) is characterized in a table. Every species is illustrated with a color plate, of which all but two (one a painting) are photographs taken by the author. These photographs range from exceptional shots of wild birds in natural habitats to staged captives and hand-held birds. Some species are shown in several plumages, showing age and sex differences, and inter-island variation.

The species accounts are followed by an extremely useful "Check-list of birds spotted by Édouard Benito-Espinal in the Guadeloupean Archipelago and Martinique," a 5 page description of the status of 167 species in the islands of Guadeloupe, Marie-Galante, Les Saintes, Désirade, Petite Terre, Saint-Martin, Saint-Barthélemy, and Martinique.

Benito-Espinal has presented several useful indices, including an Index of Scientific Names, which are cross-indexed with French and English names, then separate indices for French, English, and "common" names for the 84 species covered in the main body of the book. Finally, the author provides the reader with a bibliography of 32 references.

A l'écoute des oiseaux de Guadeloupe et de Martinique.—Patricia Hautcastel and Max Guérin, under the direction of Édouard Benito-Espinal. Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe. 60 pp. booklet, 2 audio tapes, 40 color slides. Packaged in a plastic container with a color jacket. 500 French francs (~US\$83).—This companion package to M. Benito-Espinal's new guide to the birds of the Lesser Antilles is an equally impressive piece of work. The 60 page text of the companion booklet (in French) opens with an introduction by Benito-Espinal in

which he describes the scope of the effort, and includes a map of the Lesser Antilles, highlighting the islands of particular concern (Martinique and Guadeloupe and its dependencies). Sections on Guadeloupe and Martinique contain maps, characteristics of the archipelago, habitats, and a discussion of their avifaunas. The section, "Contenu des cassettes," lists the French common and scientific names of the species whose voices are presented on the audio tapes. Twenty-one species are on Cassette 1, side A, and 19 on side B. Each side has about 25 minutes of recordings. The recording quality is excellent for the most part, with the subject species clearly presented without distracting background "noise." The second tape (Cassette 2) presents lovely extended (22 minutes) "Concerts" of bird voices, including "Abiance columbidés" (3 species), the Lesser Antillean Flycatcher (*Myiarchus oberi*), the Rufous-throated Solitaire (*Myadestes genibarbis*), and the Forest Thrush (*Cichlherminia lherminieri*) on side A, and delightful choruses of 11 passerine and columbid species on side B.

The authors then give species accounts (following those of Benito-Espinal's new guide) of the 40 birds recorded. These accounts include measurements and the French, English and local names, as well as the scientific name of each species. Species are treated separately for each island group, if they occur on more than one island. The authors provide a map of distribution on those islands, showing sites of occurrence, a table of the species' distribution among the eight islands in the Guadeloupe archipelago, and a table of habitats used by the species. In addition, they present a chart displaying the period (by month) and level of vocal activity for each island group. Finally, in the section, "Quelques zones d'écoute et d'observation conseillées," they make suggestions where one can see and hear that species.

In the next section, "Partitions," the authors present musical scores for the songs of four species: Rufous-throated Solitaire (5 song types), Forest Thrush, Lesser Antillean Pewee (*Contopus latirostris*), and Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*). The following section includes sonograms of the vocalizations of 11 species: Zenaida Dove (*Zenaida aurita*), Bridled Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon mystacea*), Ruddy Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon montana*), Purple-throated Carib (*Eulampis jugularis*), Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*), Forest Thrush, Tropical Mockingbird, Trembler (*Cinlocerthia ruficauda*), Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*), Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), and Black-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris bicolor*).

The authors provide several tables of bird names, including cross-references of scientific names with common French names, local with French common names, and English with French common names.

The third part of this package is a splendid set of

40 color slides, which illustrate the species covered in the audio tapes. The slides are in a plastic fold-out sleeve, with a one-page sheet of vernacular (specific for Martinique and Guadeloupe) and scientific names. Each of the slides is attractively labelled with the species' scientific and local names. Most (30) of the slides are different from the plates in Benito-Espinal's guide, and again include a range of styles, from a painting to hand-held captives to beautiful photographs of birds in the wild. In addition to the species illustrated in Benito-Espinal's guide, the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) is included in this package.

A l'écoute des oiseaux de Guadeloupe et de Martinique.— Patricia Hautcastel, Max Guerin, and Eric Igabille, under the direction of Édouard Benito-Espinal. 1987. Produced by RMP Biological Ltd. and Canatron Electroics, Ontario. Audio tape 100 French francs (~US\$17).—This well-produced tape presents the calls and songs of 41 species of birds from Guadeloupe and Martinique. In addition to the vocalizations on the more recent package of two tapes (see above), the authors include vocalizations of the Caribbean Martin (*Progne dominicensis*). The tape comes with notes on the recordings, and a list of the species (French and English common, local, and scientific names) and a discussion of the islands' avifaunas by Édouard Benito-Espinal. Each species is announced with its scientific name and the number of the track for that species. Typically, more than one vocalization track is presented for each species. Recordings are crisp and clear for the most part, with only moderate background noise of insects and non-target bird species.

Each of these publications is an outstanding contribution to our knowledge and enjoyment of the birds of these poorly covered islands. The low cost makes them even more attractive. M. Benito-Espinal's fine publications, along with Peter Evans' new Book on the birds of Dominica and Allan Keith's forthcoming checklists for St. Lucia and Barbados, add up to something of an exciting renaissance of interest in the avifauna of the Lesser Antilles.—James W. Wiley.

1991 MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY IN ST. LUCIA

The 1991 Annual Meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology will convene in St. Lucia, 4-8 August. Accommodations for attendees have been arranged at the Saint Lucian Hotel. Registration and accommodations should be arranged through Allan Keith, P.O. Box 325, New Vernon, New Jersey 07976, U.S.A.

For air travel from the United States, the following is suggested: fly to San Juan, Puerto Rico, then use American Eagle from San Juan to VIGIE AIRPORT, St. Lucia. Although the flight arrives late in the evening at Vigie, this airport is only about 15 minutes taxi ride (~US\$10) from the Saint Lucian Hotel, rather than the 1-1/2 hour drive (and ~US\$30-40!) from the island's other airport. No official greeter will meet attendees, but there are plenty of taxis and everyone knows the way to the St. Lucian.

Daily Schedule

Sunday, August 4

Business Meeting during the day
Welcome cocktail in the evening

Monday, August 5

9:00 AM — Official opening
9:45-10:00 AM — Coffee Break
10:00 AM -12:00 noon— Scientific Sessions -
presentation of papers
14:00-16:00 PM— Scientific Sessions - presentation
of papers
17:00 PM — Working Groups

Tuesday, August 6

9:00 AM - 12:00 noon— Scientific Sessions -
presentation of papers
14:00-16:00— Scientific Sessions - presentation of
papers
17:00 PM— Working Groups

Wednesday, August 7

9:00 AM - 12:00 noon— Closing Session
14:00-17:00 PM— Workshops
19:00 PM— Banquet

Thursday, August 8

Field Trips:

1. Dry east coast at Ravine La Chaloupe and Anse Louvet to search for rare endemic White-breasted Thrasher (*Ramphocinclus brachyurus*) and St. Lucia Nightjar (*Caprimulgus otiosus*), as well as common species. (maximum — 7 persons)
2. Mahaut - Quillesse rainforest walk to search for St. Lucia Parrot (*Amazona versicolor*), Lesser Antillean Bullfinch (*Loxigilla noctis*), St. Lucia Oriole (*Icterus laudabilis*), Lesser Antillean Pewee (*Contopus latirostris*), and other forest birds. (maximum — 50 persons)

If enough people express interest, trips to St. Vincent or Dominica may be arranged.