

Report of the Society's 1990 Annual Meeting in Kingston, Jamaica

The annual meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology was convened at the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica, 12-16 August 1990. Approximately 80 people, from 14 Caribbean islands and the United States, attended. Thirty seven papers were presented in the scientific program (selected abstracts appear later in this issue). Workshops were conducted on "Funding sources for Caribbean ornithologists" and "Columbids in the Caribbean." Robert and Esther Tyrrell presented their spectacular color slides of hummingbirds of North America and the West Indies. Several field trips were made, including one to the Blue Mountains. Lisa Salmon was honored with the Society's Achievement Award for her outstanding contributions to the ornithology of Jamaica. Kelly Brock (Queen's University, Ontario, Canada) was presented the Student Award for the best paper, "The role of molecular genetics in the conservation of Caribbean amazon parrots."

The Society's next meeting will be held in St. Lucia, Lesser Antilles, 3-7 August 1991.

Notes on Conservation in the Turks and Caicos Islands and in the Cayman Islands

by Patricia Bradley

Turks and Caicos Islands: Announcement of the first Ramsar site in the British West Indies: 11,000 ha of intertidal wetlands on the Caicos Banks have been accepted as a Ramsar site by the IUCN meeting in Switzerland in July. The site is a valuable feeding area for migrating shorebirds as well as marine wildlife. In 1987, Norton and Clarke found an estimated 8,000 abandoned Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) nests which date from about 1940, after which this large colony on North Caicos moved from the region. In 1990, 1,000+ flamingos wintered in Flamingo Pond and the shorebirds remained throughout the summer. They will be monitored in 1991 for signs of breeding. Norton and Clarke also found the Ramsar site contains breeding West Indian Whistling-Ducks (*Dendrocygna arborea*).

The Turks and Caicos Islands governments have recently declared 33 terrestrial and marine national parks. Of these, 13 sites are given special protection as nature reserves and sanctuaries. All the uninhabited cays in the Turks Banks and on the South Caicos Banks with breeding seabird colonies are protected. The species include 25-30 pairs of Roseate Terns (*Sterna dougalli*), and also Sooty

Turks & Caicos Islands Conservation (continued)

Terns (*S. fuscata*), Sandwich Terns (*S. sanvicensis*), Royal Terns (*S. maxima*), Least Terns (*S. anillarum*), Bridled Terns (*S. anaethetus*), Brown Noddys (*Anous stolidus*), and Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*).

The Protection of Birds Ordinance has been revised to remove all species from the list of game birds, except the Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*). The Cuban Crow (*Corvus nasicus*) is now protected and an education campaign for North and Middle Caicos is planned for 1991. The whistling-duck, flamingo, and Roseate Tern have been given special protection status. Fines for violation of this law extend to \$5,000.

British Overseas Development have agreed to fund an experienced post-graduate officer to get the infant Park system operating and to draft legislation for a National Trust for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Cayman Islands: The two subspecies of the Cuban Parrot (*Amazona leucocephala caymanensis* of Grand Cayman and *A.l. hesterna* from Cayman Brac and, formerly, Little Cayman) have been removed from the list of game birds. It is to be hoped that the other recommendations in the *Amazona leucocephala* census (Bradley, Cayman Islands Gov. Tech. Publ. No. 1, 1986) will be adopted, especially in preventing the removal of young birds from the wild.

Laguna Cartagena National Wildlife Refuge Restoration, Development and Management Plan

The following is the abstract of Hilda Díaz-Soltero's Master of Science thesis (1990), University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez:

This document is a restoration, development and management plan for the Laguna Cartagena National Wildlife Refuge. Laguna Cartagena was the most important breeding habitat for resident waterfowl and the most important refuge for migratory species in Puerto Rico. It had the largest number and diversity of birds with a cumulative list of 163 species, and a rich flora of 178 species. This study compiled historic data on the biota of Cartagena since the beginning of the century. The lagoon has been modified by man since the 1920s. Exotic plants, decreased water level, effects of fertilizers, pesticides and sediments from surrounding farms, and untreated sewage from the Maguayo community contributed to the accelerated eutrophication and degradation of Laguna Cartagena as wildlife habitat.