

Far younger in spirit than his years, Bud had a puckish sense of humor and was well known for his practical jokes, which invariably topped those of his student "adversaries." He was a caring, perhaps ideal professor. His love of scholarship and science were contagious. Never aloof, he always had time to talk with his students, who he expertly guided through the academic and political hoops of graduate school. Each student was treated as an individual; those needing extensive nurturing were given this attention, whereas others, more advanced in their training and abilities, were allowed to develop in the University setting with only the requisite guidance. Dr. Owre showed great interest in all of his students' research projects, from vulture behavior to the biology of introduced species to the ecology of waders, and loved to participate in the collection of field data. But then, there were the dreaded two to four hour practical exams administered one-on-one in Dr. Owre's office, and consisting of trays of selected bird specimens from which an endless string of thought-provoking questions arose. Those were long afternoons.

Dr. Owre retired from active teaching at the University of Miami in the mid-1980s, thereby giving him more time to work on his book on the birds of Lake Rudolph and continue his research.

Although he performed little field work in the West Indies, through his teaching and association with that region's ornithologists, he significantly contributed to the knowledge of Caribbean ornithology.

Dr. Owre is survived by his wife, Lydia Rose, his daughter Caroline Owre-Cicco, and three step-children, Lisa, David, and Lanea Eschmeyer.

The Tropical Audubon Society has voted to establish the Oscar T. Owre Memorial Fund, a scholarship to assist undergraduate students interested in a career in ornithology. Contributions to this fund may be addressed to: Tropical Audubon Society, Inc., 5530 Sunset Drive, Miami, Florida 33143.

My lasting image of Dr. Owre is of that gentle, fatherly man, sitting amid his extensive library-office, with a pot of potent Ethiopian coffee percolating, beckoning me with a youthful smile into his office for a chat with a "Yes, yes! ... and what can I do for you..."

Jim Wiley

News of the Río Abajo Aviary for the Puerto Rican Parrot

Although not officially inaugurated, the Río Abajo Aviary, located in Utuado, Puerto Rico, has started operations. The aviary will serve as a second facility for the captive propagation of the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*).

On 26 August 1990, a group of 30 Hispaniolan Parrots (*A. ventralis*) was placed in outdoor cages at the Río Abajo Aviary. These birds will serve as both disease sentinels and will provide the aviculturists with the opportunity to make any adjustments needed to assure the proper functioning of the aviary. If all goes well, an estimated 12 Puerto Rican Parrots will be transferred from the Luquillo Aviary in eastern Puerto Rico to the Río Abajo Aviary in the summer of 1991.

The Río Abajo Aviary will be operated in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through Section 6 funds, the Department of Natural Resources of Puerto Rico, and the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico (a private organization). José Rodríguez Vélez and Anne M. Smith are the aviculturists in charge of the new facility.

Job Opportunity

The Department of Natural Resources of Puerto Rico is actively seeking interested candidates to fill the role of Assistant Aviculturist for the Río Abajo Aviary, located in Utuado, Puerto Rico. The aviary will be a second propagation site for the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*). Applicants must have a Bachelor of Science degree and/or several years experience working with birds, preferably psittacines, and must be willing to live on-site. Government housing will be provided. If interested in the position, send a cover letter and resumé to the address below. To request more information, send request and a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

José Rodríguez Vélez
Head Aviculturist
Río Abajo Aviary
Box 439
Arecibo, Puerto Rico 00613-0439

Macaw Conservation and Management Workshop

A workshop on the conservation and management of macaws in Mexico and Central America organized by The Center for the Study of Tropical Birds (CSTB) and the Honduran National Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) will be held 4-7 January 1991 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Topics to be discussed include: status and distribution within the region, ecology, censusing techniques, management alternatives

Macaw Management Workshop (continued)

(nestboxes, habitat enrichment, captive breeding), public education, and ethology. The workshop is being sponsored by the Department of the Interior, the Office of International Affairs, and the Panamerican Section of the ICBP. For additional information, contact: Macaw Management Workshop, CSTB, 218 Conway, San Antonio, Texas 78209-1716, U.S.A. Telephone: 512-828-5306; Fax: 512-828-5911.

Request for Information on Caribbean Populations of Roseate Terns

Joanna Burger, Michael Gochfeld, Jorge Saliva, and others are developing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recovery plan for the Caribbean Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougalli*). Anyone able to provide information on this species in the Caribbean should contact one of the above individuals. Information needed include (1) present and local colony sites with estimate numbers of nests and habitat information, (2) estimates of reproductive success, (3) human intrusion or exploitation, such as eggging, (4) types and impact of predators, (5) feeding areas, food availability, and food types, (6) distribution outside the breeding season, and (7) management successes or failures. Joanna Burger can be reached at:
Biological Sciences
Rutgers University
Piscataway, New Jersey 08855
U.S.A.

Larus Competition in Caribbean

Graduate students in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Caribbean Division area (West Indies and countries in or bordering the Caribbean Sea) may submit abstracts of dissertation research for consideration in the competition for the Robert I. Larus Award. The Larus Award pays for the winning student's costs to attend the national AAAS annual meeting.

The submissions will be screened by a scientific review committee that will select semi-finalists to present their papers at a special meeting in the Caribbean region (probably in Puerto Rico) to be held December 1990 or January 1991. Faculty members whose students are in the competition must sign the abstracts and have them sent by 1 November to Lucy Gaspar, Puerto Rican Resource Center for Science and Engineering, UPR Station, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico 00931-3334, telephone 809-765-5170, Fax 809-751-0625.

Abstracts of Selected Papers Presented during the Annual Meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology, Kingston, Jamaica, August 1990

G. Thomas Bancroft and Reed Bowman. AGE AND SEASONAL DIET OF NESTLING WHITE-CROWNED PIGEONS. Ornithological Research Unit, National Audubon Society, 115 Indian Mound Trail, Tavernier, Florida 33070 U.S.A. We studied the diet of nestling White-crowned Pigeons by collecting regurgitation samples from live chicks in south Florida. We examined 207 samples collected from chicks 3 through 15 days old from 1986 to 1989. Crop milk was found in 99% of the samples. Fruits of 12 plant species were found in 202 samples. *Metopium toxiferum* was the most important fruit, making up over 60% of the diet by weight and volume. *Guapira discolor* (19%) was second in importance, followed by 2 native *Ficus* species (9%) and *Erithalis fruticosa* (7%). *Avicennia germinans* represented 1% of the diet. The percentage of crop content composed of fruit increased from less than 20% at day 3 to more than 50% at day 15. Total weights of crop contents did not vary significantly with age indicating that adult pigeons were gradually shifting the diet of nestlings from crop milk to fruit. Nestling diet showed a distinct seasonal shift, with *Ficus* and *Guapira* being most important in June and early July, whereas *Metopium* and *Guapira* were most important during late July through September.

Kelly Brock and Bradley N. White. THE ROLE OF MOLECULAR GENETICS IN THE CONSERVATION OF CARIBBEAN AMAZON PARROTS. Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 3N6. Captive breeding has become a valuable tool in the conservation of endangered species, but many programs are developed after wild populations dwindle below some self-sustaining level. At that point, problems associated with inbreeding increases as the proportion of related individuals in the population increases. With recent advances in molecular technology it is possible to estimate how closely related individual animals are to each other and use this information to guide breeding programs. DNA was extracted from the blood of 24 captive Hispaniolan Parrots (*Amazona ventralis*), and digested with the restriction enzyme *Alu I*. The resultant fragments were separated according to size by gel electrophoresis and transferred to a nylon membrane by Southern blotting. Minisatellite DNA probes, Jeffreys' 33.15 and *per* locus, were used to generate DNA fingerprints. Similarity coefficients, \bar{D} , were estimated for the founder base individuals ($\bar{D} = 0.17$), first degree relatives ($\bar{D} = 0.58$), second degree relatives ($\bar{D} = 0.47$), and inbred first relatives