

## Society to Hold 1990 Meeting in Kingston, Jamaica

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology will be held at the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica. Scientific paper sessions will be from 13-15 August 1990. In addition, three workshops will be presented: "Funding Sources in the Caribbean," by Dr. Herbert Raffaele (12 August); "Conservation Education Techniques in the Caribbean," by Paul Butler (16 August); and "Columbid Populations," by Frank F. Rivera Milán (date to be determined). Detailed information on the meeting, including registration and a call for papers, and available accommodations will soon be sent directly to members.

## A Profile of Jamaica and its Birdlife

Jamaica, the third largest island in the West Indies archipelago, is 230 km long east to west and 80 km across at its widest, with an area of about 11,400 sq. km. Jamaica is an oceanic island; i.e., it was never connected with the mainland or any large neighboring island. Jamaica lies 180 km west of Hispaniola, 150 km south of Cuba, and 650 km northeast of Honduras, the nearest mainland. An extensive cordillera extends east to west, beginning with the John Crow mountains (over 1,000 m elevation) near the eastern coast, followed by the Blue Mountains (including the 2290 m Blue Mountain Peak), then a series of lower limestone hills, Mount Diablo, Bull Head, the Cockpit Country, and Dolphin Head near the west coast.

Jamaica has a subtropical climate. The mean monthly temperature at Kingston, along the southeastern coast, varies between 23° and 27°C, with the lowest temperatures generally in January and February, and the highest means in July and August. Temperatures in the higher mountains are substantially cooler. Rain falls year-round, but averages heaviest in May and October. With the prevailing easterly winds, highest rainfalls are recorded from the John Crow Mountains, where the annual average exceeds 500 cm. High annual rainfall also occurs in the northeastern lowlands, the Blue Mountains, Dolphin Head, and the higher parts of the Cockpit Country. With an average of less than 75 cm of rain per year, the Hellshire Hills region, southwest of Kingston, is the driest area of the island.

Jamaica has three main kinds of natural forest: montane forest (Blue Mountains), wet midlevel limestone forest (especially in the Cockpit Country

## Jamaica (Continued)

and John Crow mountains), and lowland arid limestone forest (e.g., parts of the southern lowlands). Approximately 24% of Jamaica is still covered with forests. However, natural forests are rapidly being replaced with plantations of pine and other fast-growing species (e.g., eucalyptus), so that only about 7% of the island's natural forest is moderately intact and only small parts of these areas are virgin forests.

About 106 extant native birds have been reported breeding in Jamaica, including 41 waterbirds and 65 land birds. About 235 species of birds occur in Jamaica. The land birds display a high degree of endemism, especially in the highlands, with 19 subspecies, 22 species, and 5 genera unique to the island. Outstanding among these are the Jamaican owl (*Pseudoscops grammicus*), streamertail (*Trochilus polytmus*), yellow-shouldered grassquit (*Loxipasser anoxanthus*), orangequit (*Euneornis campestris*), and Jamaican blackbird (*Nesopsar nigerrimus*; Table 1).

Most Jamaican land birds were probably derived from the North American avifauna in Central America. Two species are likely from South American genera, possibly after they had spread into Central America, whereas six species probably arrived from the south via the Lesser Antilles.

Conservation efforts important to the island's avifauna include protection of habitat and control of shooting. The Forestry Acts of 1937 and 1973 provide protection to some habitat, such as the Cockpit Country Forestry Reserve. Other areas have been established as game sanctuaries. Some of the lands important to native birds (Blue Mountains, John Crow Mountains, Portland Ridge, "cockpit country," and major swamps) have been designated as potential national parks under the National Physical Plan for Jamaica (1971-1980).

The Jamaican Natural Resources Conservation Department is responsible for wildlife protection. Birds are protected under the Jamaican Wild Life Protection Act, administered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources. Stringent gun control has been instituted by the Jamaican government. These policies have resulted in a general awareness of the legal status of wildlife among Jamaicans. A decrease in meat hunting has been a by-product of the control.

The Gosse Bird Club, which had its beginning in the nineteenth century, is an active group of amateur and professional ornithologists. The Club's *Broadsheet* has served as its publication vehicle since 1963, and has included papers on the distribution, status, ecology, and behavior of Jamaican birds. Another journal, *Natural History Notes of Jamaica*, preceded the *Broadsheet* and also carried papers on Jamaica's avifauna.

Table 1. Endemic genera, species, and subspecies of Jamaican landbirds.

Family	Common <sup>1</sup>	Name	Scientific	Level of endemism		
				Genus	Species	Subspecies
COLUMBIDAE - Pigeons						
		Plain pigeon	<i>Columba inornata</i>			X
		Ringed-tailed pigeon	<i>Columba caribaea</i>		X	
		Common ground-dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>			X
		Caribbean dove	<i>Leptotila jamaicensis</i>			X
		Crested quail-dove	<i>Geotrygon versicolor</i>		X	
PSITTACIDAE - Parrots						
		[Olive-throated parakeet	<i>Aratinga nana</i> <sup>2</sup> ]		[X]	
		Yellow-billed parrot	<i>Amazona collaria</i>		X	
		Black-billed parrot	<i>Amazona agilis</i>		X	
CUCULIDAE - Cuckoos						
		Mangrove cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>			X
		Jamaican lizard-cuckoo	<i>Saurothera vetula</i>		X	
		Chestnut-bellied cuckoo	<i>Hyetornis plumialis</i>		X	
STRIGIFORMES - Owls						
		Jamaican owl	<i>Pseudoscops grammicus</i>	X		
CAPRIMULGIDAE - Nightjars						
		Jamaican pauraque	<i>Siphonorhis americanus</i>		X	
NYCTIBIIDAE - Potoo						
		Common potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>			X
TROCHILIDAE - Hummingbirds						
		Jamaican mango	<i>Anthracothorax mango</i>		X	
		Streamertail	<i>Trochilus polytmus</i>	X		
		Vervain hummingbird	<i>Mellisuga minima</i>			X
TODIDAE - Todies						
		Jamaican tody	<i>Todus todus</i>		X	
PICIDAE - Woodpeckers						
		Jamaican woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes radiolatus</i>		X	
TYRANNIDAE - Tyrant Flycatchers						
		Jamaican elaenia	<i>Myiopagis cotta</i>		X	
		Greater Antillean elaenia	<i>Elaenia fallax</i>			X
		Greater Antillean pewee	<i>Contopus caribaeus</i>			X
		Sad flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus barbirostris</i>		X	
		Rufous-tailed flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus validus</i>		X	
		Stolid flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus stolidus</i>			X
		Loggerhead kingbird	<i>Tyrannus caudifasciatus</i>			X
		Jamaican becard	<i>Pachyramphus niger</i>		X	
HIRUNDINIDAE - Swallows						
		Golden swallow	<i>Tachycineta euchrysea</i>			X
CORVIDAE - Crows						
		Jamaican crow	<i>Corvus jamaicensis</i>		X	
MUSCICAPIDAE - Muscicapids						
		Rufous-throated solitaire	<i>Myadestes genibarbis</i>			X
		White-eyed thrush	<i>Turdus jamaicensis</i>		X	
		White-chinned thrush	<i>Turdus aurantius</i>		X	

Table 1 (Concluded).

MIMIDAE - Mockingbirds			
Bahama mockingbird	<i>Mimus gundlachi</i>		X
VIREONIDAE - Vireo			
Jamaican vireo	<i>Vireo modestus</i>	X	
Blue Mountain vireo	<i>Vireo osburni</i>	X	
EMBERIZIDAE - Emberizids			
Arrow-headed warbler	<i>Dendroica pharetra</i>	X	
Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>		X
Jamaican euphonia	<i>Euphonia jamaica</i>	X	
Stripe-headed tanager	<i>Spindalis zena</i>		X
Yellow-shouldered grassquit	<i>Loxipasser anoxanthus</i>	X	
Greater Antillean bullfinch	<i>Loxigilla violacea</i>		X
Orangequit	<i>Euneornis campestris</i>	X	
Grasshopper sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>		X
Jamaican blackbird	<i>Nesopsar nigerrimus</i>	X	
Greater Antillean grackle	<i>Quiscalus niger</i>		X
Jamaican oriole	<i>Icterus leucopteryx</i>		X

<sup>1</sup>Names follow American Ornithologists' Union, 1983, Check-list of North American Birds, 6th edition. Allen Press, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.

<sup>2</sup>Considered by some as conspecific with *Aratinga astec* of Central America.

Profile of Jamaica (Continued from Page 2).

Publications on birds you might want to consider carrying with you on your visit to Jamaica:

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- Jeffrey-Smith, M. 1956. Bird-watching in Jamaica. Pioneer Press, Kingston, Jamaica. xvi + 159 pp.
- Lack, D. 1976. Island Biology, Illustrated by the Land Birds of Jamaica. Univ. California Press, Berkeley. 445pp.
- Steffee, N.D. 1983. Field checklist of the birds of Jamaica. [1 page list, with status, distribution, and common English and scientific names. Available from Russ's Natural History Books, Inc., 119 North Lakeview Drive, P.O. Box 1089, Lake Helen, Florida 32744-1089, USA].
- Taylor, Lady R.G. 1955. Introduction to the birds of Jamaica. Inst. Jamaica. London, MacMillan and Co., Ltd. xiv + 114 pp.

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- Cruz, A. 1980. Feeding ecology of the black-whiskered vireo and associated gleaning birds in Jamaica. *Wilson Bull.* 92(1):40-52.
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- Downer, A. 1978. Cattle egret study. *Gosse Bird Club Broadsheet* 30:10-11.
- Downer, A. 1989. Post-hurricane observations. *Gosse Bird Club Broadsheet* 52:8.
- Downer, A., and R. Sutton. 1972. Birds of the Cockpit Country. *Gosse Bird Club Broadsheet* 19:12-14.
- Fletcher, J. 1980. Some historical notes on the extension of range of saffron finch in Jamaica. *Gosse Bird Club Broadsheet* 35:8-9.
- Gochfeld, M. 1985. Numerical relationships between migrant and resident bird species in Jamaican woodlands. Pp. 654-662 in Buckley, P.A., M.S. Foster, E.S. Morton, R.S. Ridgely, and F.G. Buckley [eds.] *Neotropical Ornithology*, AOU Monogr. No. 36.
- Goodbody, I. 1964. The breeding seasons of Jamaican birds. *Gosse Bird Club Broadsheet* 2:3-4.
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- Wingate, D.B. 1964. Does the blue mountain duck of Jamaica survive? *Gosse Bird Club Broadsheet* 2:1-2.
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### Rocklands Wildlife Sanctuary

Society members attending this summer's meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, may be interested in visiting the Rocklands Wildlife Sanctuary at Anchovy, near Montego Bay on the northwest coast of Jamaica. Ms. Lisa Salmon, long-time bird lover and conservationist, opens her bird feeding station on her patio for public viewing daily from 3 p.m. to half-hour before sunset. Admission is about US\$3.00. Visitors will be treated to endemic white-chinned thrushes, Jamaican orioles, streamertails, and orangequits, among others. For further information, write Lisa Salmon, Rocklands Wildlife Sanctuary, Scarlett Road, P.O. Box 48, Anchovy, Jamaica.

### Second Symposium on Forests of Puerto Rico, University of Puerto Rico - Ponce, 2-3 November 1989 By Francisco J. Vilella

During the first week of November 1989, a symposium was held at the Ponce campus of the University of Puerto Rico to celebrate the 70 years since the establishment of the Guánica Forest and to present research findings of projects conducted at Guánica over the years. A total of 20 papers was presented during the course of the symposium. The sessions were held in one of the main auditoriums of the University and audience attendance was excellent throughout the Symposium.

The tone of the symposium was set by Miguel Canals' outstanding presentation on the present threats and development trends at Guánica in a paper titled "Development Pressures and the Future of the

Guánica State Forest as an Effective Conservation Unit." Among the most interesting papers presented were several on the work conducted over a number of years. Peter Murphy presented a paper titled "Dry Forests of the Tropics; Guánica in Context," which gave a good perspective of how the Guánica Forest compares with other dry tropical forests around the world. John Faaborg and Wayne Arendt presented an excellent summary of their work with bird populations at Guánica in a paper titled, "Rainfall Correlates of Bird Population Fluctuations in a Puerto Rican Dry Forest: Summary and Update of a 15 Year Study." A most illuminating paper on the historical aspects of land use at the Guánica Forest and its impact on the present distribution of plants was presented by Frank Wadsworth in a paper titled, "Algunas Plantaciones Forestales en el Bosque Estatal de Guánica."

Other papers presented preliminary results on several aspects of the community and population ecology of plants and animals at Guánica Forest. Examples of these were Enrique Hernández-Prieto's paper on the ecological aspects of the bird community at Guánica Forest, and a joint paper presented by Vincente Quevedo and Susan Silander on the endangered plant species at Guánica. Two papers on the habitat use and nest site selection of the Puerto Rican nightjar were presented by Francisco Vilella. The symposium ended on an optimistic tone and the audience gave a standing ovation to the organizers, particularly to Professor Migdalia Alvarez, for a job very well done.

### Workshop on Wildlife Biology Microcomputers

A workshop on the use of microcomputers in wildlife biology will be held at Colorado State University (Fort Collins), 30 July-3 August 1990. Aspects covered will include statistical analysis using SAS and the use of spreadsheets for population modeling. Enrollment is limited to 20 and tuition is US\$500 for the week. Contact: Gary C. White, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523 U.S.A. Telephone: 303-491-6930.

### Tudy Dod Now Living in California

Annabelle "Tudy" Stockton de Dod, 1989 recipient of the Society's Distinguished Ornithologist Award, and Donald Dod recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at Berkeley, California, where they retired from the Dominican Republic in