Meeting of the Society for Caribbean Ornithology

The Third Annual Meeting of the Society for Caribbean Ornithology was held at the Hotel Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 19-23 August 1989. Ninety-two people attended the four days of meetings, field trips, and symposia, including 60 from outside the Dominican Republic. Forty papers were presented (see abstracts of selected papers in this and future issues of "El Pitirre"). The meeting opened with Dr. Herbert Raffaele's workshop, "Proposal Writing and Funding Sources for Caribbean Ornithologists," which was attended by 30 participants.

Papers were presented in eight sessions: I. "Habitat Characteristics and Avian Population Responses," II. "Conservation Overviews in the Caribbean," III. "Status of Some Parrot Species in the Caribbean," IV. "Avian Taxonomy/Exotic and Colonizing Species Biology," V. "Aspects of Avian Captive Propagation," VI. "Biology of Seabirds and Shorebirds," VII. "General Ecology," and VIII. "Legislation and Conservation." Ten resolutions were submitted and voted on by the attendees; all were approved. Three subgroups were formed: Caribbean parrots, Caribbean columbids, and technical assistance. Ms. Annabelle ("Tudy") Stockton de Dod, who was unable to attend, was given the Society's Distinguished Ornithologist Award.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the Society will be in Jamaica in 1990.

Hurricane Hugo

On September 18, 1989, Hurricane Hugo, savaged the Virgin Islands and the eastern end of Puerto Rico, where, with sustained winds of 155 mph (gusts to 200 mph), it was considered a Class IV storm. Forest habitat in the Luquillo Mountains, the last stronghold of the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*), was particularly hard-hit by the hurricane. Some sections of the forest were completely stripped of leaves and fruits, although some protected slopes sustained very little damage. All 38 captive Puerto Rican Parrots survived the storm within the indoor aviary facilities in the forest. A forest-wide count of the wild population held 1 week after the storm yielded a minimum of 22-23 Puerto Rican parrots. Pre-hurricane surveys showed a minimum of 47 parrots in the Luquillo Mountains.

The area of Cidra, east-central Puerto Rico, home of the endangered Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon

(*Columba inornata wetmorei*), sustained only light-to-moderate storm damage. Post-hurricane counts of the Cidra plain pigeon population yielded a minimum of about 200 pigeons.

The outlook for the very small (<15 birds in recent years) population of the endangered Yellow-shouldered Blackbird (*Agelaius xanthomus*) at Ceiba is less optimistic. The hurricane apparently passed directly over this area, and severely damaged the remnant blackbird habitat. Post-hurricane surveys failed to reveal surviving blackbirds.

Bird Banding on Andros Island, Bahamas

By Joanne Dewey
(Reprinted from *The Ottawa Banding Group Newsletter*, 1989, Vol. 6[2])

In February 1989, several Ottawa Banding Group members, including myself, went south to visit our feathered friends of summer on Andros Island, Bahamas. We stayed, as before, at Forfar Field Station, run by International Field Studies, Inc., of Columbus, Ohio. The purpose of the trip was to do some exploratory banding and to further examine the possibility of studying North American migrants on their wintering ranges. We first banded on Andros in 1983 (March 20 to 25) and again in 1984 (March 10 to 17), and later Tracey Dean banded whenever she had spare time while working at the field station from April 1984 to March 1985 [1,2]. [A total of 1,251 individuals (474 in 1989) of 51 species have been banded on Andros by the Ottawa Banding Group.] In the future, we would like to band more regularly on the island. Below, I have summarized the results of each banding site and the banding highlights of the trip.

Our main interest in banding on Andros is the capture of North American migrants and, in the future, we would like to establish two, maybe three, sites where we would realize the greatest number of these birds. The number of birds banded and the percentage of migrants caught at each site varied considerably. It is difficult to evaluate the data comparatively as the number of nets used varied and the time of day when banding took place is also variable. We will have a set pattern for our work in the future.

When selecting the potential banding sites, location and availability of transport must be taken into consideration. More distant locations obviously dictate an earlier start in the morning especially, as nets must be put up each time. Station vehicles may only be driven by station personnel, therefore a staff