

Research Projects (Continued)

North American migrants which overwinter in the Caribbean. This involves surveys of migrants to determine the types of habitats used by the migrants and the future of these habitats. The work has involved surveys in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Cuba, and the Bahama Islands. This work is done in collaboration with Robert B. Waide and is supported by the World Wildlife Fund.

2. Population biology and sexual habitat segregation of Black-throated Blue Warblers overwintering in Puerto Rico.

3. An analysis of the impact of Hurricane Gilbert on bird populations in Jamaica. The results of this work will be useful for reserve design and conservation of threatened and endangered wildlife species. This work is done in collaboration with Robert B. Waide and D. Jean Lodge.

4. Study of the development of foraging behavior in captive Hispaniolan Parrots to determine the optimal time for release of captive-produced parrots into the wild. This work is in collaboration with Marcia Wilson.

University of Puerto Rico

1. Population consequences of song learning by the Bananaquit. This three year study focuses on song and singing behavior of individuals and populations to understand the development and maintenance of song dialects by Bananaquits. Presently, two students, William Carronero and Rafael Cortes, are involved in the project.

2. Master's thesis supervision of a dissertation project by Iris Velazquez on observational learning in the Shiny Cowbird.

Requests for Information on Seabirds

Joanna Burger, Jaime Collazo, Michael Gochfeld, Jorge Saliva, and Kelly Wolcott are developing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recovery plan for the Caribbean Roseate Tern. 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 estimated 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.

Joanna Burger and Michael Gochfeld are preparing a report on management of seabirds in the Caribbean for the 1990 I.C.B.P. meetings. Persons

Requests for Information (Continued)

interested in participating on and co-authoring the report should contact Joanna Burger.

Abstracts of Selected Papers Presented at the Third Annual Meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology

Is the Pearly-eyed Thrasher a True Supertramp Species? Wayne J. Arendt. The results of an 11-year study of the ecology of the Pearly-eyed Thrasher (*Margarops fuscatus*) show that this widespread Caribbean bird is a prime example of a superior colonizer, but poor competitor and is a classic example of Jared Diamond's "supertramp" species. The Pearly-eyed Thrasher (1) is a strong flier, showing excellent dispersal and homing abilities, (2) is a habitat generalist, (3) is omnivorous, (4) occupies multiple spatiotemporal foraging niches, (5) obtains high population densities, (6) is sexually dimorphic, and (7) shows intra- and inter-island morphological variation, possibly as a result of ecological release.

Subspecific Taxonomy of the Mangrove Cuckoo, *Coccyzus minor*. Richard C. Banks and Robert Hole, Jr. Up to 13 subspecies of the Mangrove Cuckoo are currently recognized, depending on which authority is followed. Taxonomic confusion started early, when only two of the names had been proposed. Descriptions of most of the subspecies were based on only a few individuals, and there has never been a thorough study of variation in the species. Variation within populations is extensive and encompasses variation supposed to occur between populations. We believe that only three subspecies should be recognized. Birds on Dominica, Monserrat, and St. Vincent (*C. m. dominicae*) are consistently large and the ochraceous color is usually pronounced; Bahamas (*maynardi*) have extensive gray over the breast and are generally pale. We assign all other populations, including those on the mainland of South and Central America, to the nominate form, *minor*. We believe that the spread of the species has been from east to west, probably the result of storms like last year's Hurricane Gilbert.

Response of Young Terns to Human Handling Joanna Burger and Michael Gochfeld. Seabird young are exposed to predators and people as nestlings, and their behavior when handled may affect whether they are subsequently eaten, harmed or escape. We examined the behavior of young of several terns (Sooty, Roseate, Royal, Sandwich terns and Brown Noddies) on Culebra since 1983 to determine species