

James Bond (1900-1989)

James Bond, the leading expert on West Indian avifauna and the author of "Birds of the West Indies," died on 14 February 1989. Bond, in his long association with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, first came to the West Indies in 1926, and from that trip began a series of life-long expeditions that took him to almost every island in the West Indies and established him as the authority on the region's avifauna.

Bond's "Checklist of Birds of the West Indies" (1940, 1950, 1956) and annual supplements (which he continued to publish through his later years) are among the most important references on the avifauna in the Caribbean.

Annabelle Stockton de Dod Retires

Annabelle "Tudy" Stockton de Dod recently retired with her husband, Don Dod, to Berkeley, California. Don, a specialist in West Indian orchid biology, and Tudy lived in the West Indies since 1946, when they directed the project named "Centro de Servicio Cristiano" in Puerto Rico. In 1964, the Dods moved to the Dominican Republic, where Tudy became that country's leading expert on the local avifauna. Don and Tudy were instrumental in establishing the fine bird collections at the new Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, as well as developing the Museo's excellent public displays. Tudy was employed as the Museo's ornithologist for nine years before a three year stint with Parques Nacionales. Tudy was active in local conservation issues, and once she identified a problem, she untiringly labored to correct the situation with bulldog-like tenacity. Her role in regulating the formerly extensive bird trade in the Dominican Republic is legendary. The Dods produced a regular column in the local newspaper *Caribe*, entitled "Viajes en el Pais," which stimulated considerable interest in local conservation issues. In later years, Tudy published extensively on the avifauna of the Dominican Republic, including scientific papers and popular articles. Her books, "Las Aves de la República Dominicana," and "Guía a las Aves de la República Dominicana," contain the most up-to-date information on that country's birds.

Tudy and Don were made members of the Order of Cristobal Colon, Heraldica with the rank of Knight, by the President of the Dominican Republic in recognition for their contribution to the country's conservation program. Their energy and dedication will be missed by all us who have worked with the Dods for conservation of West Indian avifauna.

Third Annual Meeting of Society to be held in Santo Domingo

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology will host its third annual meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, August 16-19, 1989. In addition to the general sessions, three symposia will be featured: Ecology and Evolution of Introduced Birds in the Caribbean, Bird-Plant Interactions in the Caribbean, and Legislation and Education in the Caribbean. Field trips will follow the meeting. Discount airfares and hotel rates are available. For further information, contact Jorge A. Moreno, Scientific Research Area, Department of Natural Resources, Apartado 5887, Puerta de Tierra, Puerto Rico 00906.

Optimism Grows for Recovery of Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon

Optimism for the recovery of the endangered Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon (*Columba inornata wetmorei*), or Paloma Sabanera, has considerably increased within the past year, as the result of several successes in the program at the University of Puerto Rico. On April 22, 1988, a plain pigeon squab ("Gulliver") hatched from an egg incubated by a 4-year-old pair. The parents were also allowed to raise the squab through fledging. This was a first, as all other captive-produced plain pigeon chicks have been hand-raised by biologists or hatched and foster-raised by domestic ringed doves (*Streptopelia risoria*). Raul A. Perez-Rivera, Director of the Captive Program, and his associates believe this is a major achievement in the recovery of the race, since parent-reared birds are more desirable candidates for release into the wild than human- or surrogate-raised chicks, which are subject to imprinting on these inappropriate "parents." Another milestone in the program was the captive production of second-generation plain pigeons in 1988. Perez-Rivera feels these breakthroughs will now allow mass production of plain pigeons suitable for reintroduction into the wild.

Perez-Rivera's breeding program began in 1983 under a cooperative agreement among the University of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The first captive-produced squab hatched in 1984. A total of 47 plain pigeon squabs have been produced by the captive flock since then. The program has been so successful that the number of plain pigeons has outgrown the original aviary facility and a new, more modern facility will soon replace it. An additional aviary, at the Rio Abajo Forest release site in