

ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF CUBA, NUMBER 2  
—Nils Navarro Pacheco. 2018. Ediciones Nuevos Mundos, Saint  
Augustine, FL. 64 pp. ISBN 978-1-7906086-9-0. \$12.00.

In a tremendous work of detail and authority, Nils Navarro has published his second *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Cuba*. As stated in the introduction, the main objective of this now annual checklist is to provide up-to-date listings of Cuban birds and information about changes that affect birds in the Cuban archipelago, as well as to provide a platform for ornithological studies in the country.

This second annotated checklist addresses 394 species and includes names (English, Spanish, and scientific), threat status, region of endemism, abundance status, breeding status, and resident status. In addition, for species that have been introduced, Navarro provides information on the type of introduction and the current distribution of the species. Importantly, Navarro also addresses known subspecies in this checklist where appropriate, and in some cases includes multiple subspecies.

Following the annotated checklist, subsequent sections list 11 “Hypothetical Forms” which have an uncertain confirmation status, 33 exotic or introduced species that are not thought to be self-sustaining and are therefore not included in the main list, and numbers and percentages for Cuban birds. This section shows, for example, the percentage of Cuban birds that are threatened (11%), how many species are considered “breeding species” (156), and what percentage of all species are winter

residents and transients (25%).

In some ways the heart of the publication—or at least the most interesting part for the casual reader—is a 14-page section of “General Comments.” These accounts, referenced by superscripts in the checklist itself, provide details on changes in status, new understandings of the origin or treatment of a species, and sometimes fascinating historical accounts of a species. These comments are all very well referenced by a comprehensive list of nearly 120 citations, some of which are derived from more difficult-to-access “gray literature” published internally by Cuban or other institutions.

I do not know how many other countries in the Caribbean have the number of changes in bird occurrence and status to merit such a publication on an annual basis, let alone the expertise and dedication of an ornithologist like Navarro to track these changes, but this annual checklist is (and will continue to be) an extremely important resource for ornithologists with an interest in the birds of Cuba, the Greater Antilles, and the Caribbean. This checklist will also be valuable to tourists visiting Cuba (although it will not replace a field guide!). And it will be indispensable to researchers and conservationists because of its ability to document changes in Cuban birds that result from scientific advances (e.g., field research, molecular studies, and taxonomic decisions) or local and global environmental changes.

—Steven C. Latta

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