Journal of Caribbean Ornithology
jco.birdscaribbean.org ISSN 1544-4953 https://doi.org/10.55431/jco.2020.33.124-127
Recent Literature Vol. 33:124–127. 2020
Birds Caribbean
birdscaribbean.org

Recent ornithological literature from the Caribbean: 2020

An annual feature of the *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*, this column alerts readers to recent ornithological literature from the Caribbean basin that has appeared elsewhere. Most of these articles appeared in 2020, although a few that we previously missed are also summarized below. We would also like to include any unpublished theses or other reports that may be difficult to find in more universally available abstract services. We invite readers of the *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology* to alert our compiler, Steven Latta, to other articles that should be highlighted in this section. Our hope is that by providing these summaries we will increase the exchange of knowledge among Caribbean ornithologists and conservationists.

—Steven C. Latta
National Aviary, Allegheny Commons West, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, USA; e-mail: steven.latta@aviary.org

Aguilar Mugica, K., A. Llanes Sosa, A. Pérez Hernandez, and D. Ventura del Puerto. 2019. Segundo registro para Cuba del Escribano Ártico (*Calcarius lapponicus*) (Aves: Passeriformes: Calcariidae) (Second record of Lapland Logspur [*Calcarius lapponicus*] [Aves: Passeriformes: Calcaridae] in Cuba). Poeyana 509:22–23.—E-mail: alejandro@ecologia.cu.

Akresh, M.E., R.A. Askins, D.I. King, F.E. Hayes, P.E. Barry, and W.K. Hayes. 2020. Resilience in the aftermath of hurricanes: Fluctuations in a Critically Endangered population of West Indian Woodpeckers *Melanerpes superciliaris nyeanus* over two decades. Bird Conservation International 1–21. doi.org/10.1017/S0959270920000386.—Few studies have reported long-term impacts of hurricanes on avifauna. West Indian Woodpecker were surveyed on San Salvador, The Bahamas, from 1993–2018 to determine distribution, habitat use, and effects of hurricanes on abundance and population size. After hurricanes with >160 kph winds passed over San Salvador, woodpecker densities declined to 35–40% of pre-hurricane densities, but generally recovered to pre-hurricane densities within 2–3 years. This study shows that small, threatened bird populations can be resilient to the effects of hurricanes, but increased intensity of hurricanes may limit this resilience in the future. E-mail: makresh@antioch.edu.

Battle, K.E., K. Pacifici, J.A. Collazo, and B.J. Reich. 2020. Using biodiversity metrics to guide conservation planning in altered tropical landscapes. Caribbean Naturalist 77:1–17.—A rapid ecological assessment of resident avian species was conducted in a landscape dominated by coffee cultivation in the west-central mountainous region of Puerto Rico. The landscape included sun, shade-grown and restored shade-grown coffee plantations, and protected secondary forests (e.g., reserves). Species representativeness and redundancy among habitat types was high, possibly because plant communities were redundant and the avian community was dominated by species adept at exploiting altered habitats. Findings and available knowledge on avian community demographics suggest that conservation strategies could couple protected habitat (e.g., reserves) and restored habitat (e.g., coffee plantations) to enhance species diversity and persistence across human-modified landscapes. E-mail: jaime_collazo@ncsu.edu.

Cano, N., N.J. Bayly, and S. Wilson. 2020. Is there more than one way to cross the Caribbean Sea? Migratory strategies of Nearctic-Neotropical landbirds departing from northern Colombia. Journal of Avian Biology 51. doi.org/10.1111/jav.02394.—Fuel load and potential flight range was calculated for 9985 individuals of 16 species captured over 10 years at two stopover sites in northern Colombia to: 1) evaluate the likely migratory strategy of these species as they depart northern Colombia in spring, and 2) evaluate the influence of family, diet, morphology, and migratory distance on potential flight range. Non-stop flights >2,500 km were possible for the Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*, Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus*, Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*, and Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*. The remaining species were either capable of over-water flights to the Yucatan Peninsula or Cuba (>1,800 km), or shorter flights to middle Central America (>1,000 km), and likely required one or more stopovers to reach North America. E-mail: natalia.cano@selva.org.co.

Cawley, R., C. Wright, O. White, D. Rowe, and L. Gibson. 2020. New and increasing threats may have significant impact on Jamaica's Black-billed Parrot *Amazona agilis*. Oryx 54:441. doi.org/10.1017/S0030605320000265.—E-mail: lydia.gibson.14@ucl.ac.uk.

Cyr, M., K. Wetten, M.H. Warrington, and N. Koper. 2020. Variation in song structure of House Wrens living in urban and rural areas in a Caribbean small island developing state. Bioacoustics 1–14. doi.org/10.1080/09524622.2020.1835538.—Grenada's House Wren population (*Troglodytes aedon grenadensis*) was studied to understand song plasticity of this subspecies in response to urbanization. Wrens were recorded at five urban and five rural sites across Grenada. House Wrens used some unusual song alterations in urban environments, including shorter introductions, faster trills, and increased use of low frequencies in the song. E-mail: nicola.koper@umanitoba.ca.

Donegan, T., and B. Huertas. 2020. Providencia Island in the Colombian Caribbean: X marks the spot for a treasure of endemic, migrant and vagrant birds. Neotropical Birding 26:49–55.—E-mail: thomasdonegan@yahoo.co.uk.

García-Lau, I., M. Acosta, L. Mugica, A. Rodríguez-Ochoa, and A. González. 2018. Revisión de los estudios científicos sobre ornitología urbana de La Habana, Cuba (Review of scientific studies on urban ornithology in Havana, Cuba). El Hornero 33:29–44. drive.google.com/open?id=1MeNrouWrVvw_ktjgIRe-

Budn3heZfE8nu.—E-mail: ianela@fbio.uh.cu.

García-Quintas, A., D.F. Caballero, and A.P. Isada. 2020. Taxonomic nestedness based on guilds? Bird assemblages of the Jardines de la Reina National Park, Cuba, as study case. Animal Biodiversity and Conservation 43:43–54. doi.org/10.32800/abc.2020.43.0043.—E-mail: agquintas86@gmail.com.

Hernández, A.P., A. Llanes Sosa, and J.M. De la Cruz Mora. 2020. Migración del gavilán cola de tijera (*Elanoides forficatus*) en la Península de Guanahacabibes, Cuba (Migration of Swallow-tailed Kite [*Elanoides forficatus*] across the Península de Guanahacabibes, Cuba). Huitzil, Revista Mexicana de Ornitología 21:1–8. doi.org/10.28947/hrmo.2020.21.1.471.—E-mail: alina@ecovida.cu.

Izquierdo, K., R. Varela, A. Cáceres, and C.A. Márquez. 2020. Ensamblaje de aves en el encinar de Manuel Lazo, Sandino, Pinar del Río, Cuba (The assemblage of birds in the Manuel Lazo oak forests of Sandino, Pinar del Río, Cuba). Cotinga 42:39–43.—Results are presented from bird surveys in holm oak *Quercus sagrana* forest at Manuel Lazo, a 28-ha forest at the easternmost end of the Guanahacabibes Peninsula, Pinar del Río province, in western Cuba. E-mail: kizquierdomedero@gmail.com.

Jackson, J.D.,·M.W. Bruford, T. Székely, J.M. DaCosta,·M.D. Sorenson, I.M. Russo, K.H. Maher, M. Cruz Lopez,·D. Galindo Espinosa, E. Palacios, A.E. De Sucre Medrano, J. Cavitt,·R. Pruner, A.L. Morales, O. Gonzalez, T. Burke, and C. Küpper. 2020. Population differentiation and historical demography of the Threatened Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus* (Cassin, 1858). Conservation Genetics 21:387–404. doi.org/10.1007/s10592-020-01256-8.—Delineation of two traditionally recognized Snowy Plover subspecies (*C. n. nivosus* and *C. n. occidentalis*) was broadly supported by all data. In addition, data supported the recognition of Caribbean Snowy Plovers (*C. n. tenuirostris*) and Floridian populations (eastern *C. n. nivosus*) as distinct genetic lineage and deme, respectively. Thus, at least four Snowy Plover conservation units are warranted: subspecies *nivosus* and *occidentalis*, a third unit comprised of the Caribbean *tenuirostris* lineage, and a fourth unit of the distinct eastern *nivosus* deme. E-mail: josiedjackson@gmail.com.

Jais, M. 2020. Conversations from the field: interview with Melissa Murillo and Hana Weaver, biologists on the Puerto Rican Sharp-Shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus venator*) Conservation Project. Spizaetus: Neotropical Raptor Network Newsletter 30:50–56.—neotropicalraptors.org/newsletter/en.

Kramer, G.R., and J.L. Mortensen. 2020. Endangered White-breasted Thrashers (*Ramphocinclus brachyurus*) reject mimetic Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) eggs. Wilson Journal of Ornithology 132:104–112. doi.org/10.1676/1559-4491-132.1.104.—In Saint Lucia, active nests of the White-breasted Thrasher were experimentally parasitized with wooden eggs painted to look like Shiny Cowbird eggs. Thrashers ejected 83% of mimetic Shiny Cowbird eggs within 5 days of being parasitized. Results suggest that White-breasted Thrashers can detect foreign eggs and possess behavioral adaptations to counter brood parasitism. Brood parasitism by Shiny Cowbirds is unlikely to become a major threat to the White-breasted Thrasher in Saint Lucia. E-mail: gunnarrkramer@gmail.com.

Madden, H. 2020. Reproductive performance, mate fidelity and nest cavity fidelity in Red-Billed Tropicbirds *Phaethon aethereus mesonauta* on St. Eustatius, Caribbean Netherlands. Ardea 107:227–237. doi.org/10.5253/arde.v107i3.a2.—E-mail: hannah.madden@cnsi.nl.

Madden, H., and E. Eggermont. 2020. First evidence of plastic ingestion by Red-billed Tropicbirds *Phaethon aethereus* from St. Eustatius, Caribbean Netherlands. Marine Ornithology 48: 157–160. marineornithology.org/PDF/48_2/48_2_157-160.pdf.—E-mail: hannah.madden@cnsi.nl.

Madden, H., and A. van Zanten. 2020. Monitoring of terrestrial avifauna in six habitats on St. Eustatius, Caribbean Netherlands, 2009–2017. Caribbean Journal of Science 50:23–36. doi.org/10.18475/cjos.v50i1.a4.—E-mail: hannah.madden@cnsi.nl.

Martínez, T.M., and D.M. Logue. 2020. Conservation practices and the formation of vocal dialects in the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot, *Amazona vittata*. Animal Behaviour 166:261–271. doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2020.06.004.—Captive breeding can cause changes in cultural behaviors like vocal signals. Vocal divergence was tested in captive and wild populations of Puerto Rican Parrots. Evidence of vocal divergence was found in four parrot populations. Some parrots translocated between populations adopted new vocal signals. Dialects in this species may have resulted from rearing practices in captivity. E-mail: tmartinez@drna.pr.gov.

Mejías, M.A., D.B. Wingate, E. Hetzel, and I.C.T. Nisbet. 2020. Nesting of Roseate Terns (*Sterna dougallii*) in Bermuda after extirpation for nearly 150 years. Waterbirds 43:101–106. doi.org/10.1675/063.043.0111.—This paper reports two consecutive years of nesting data on the Roseate Tern, a historic breeder in Bermuda last recorded breeding in 1849. A pair was discovered incubating an egg on 7 July 2018 on Pearl Island, and the chick fledged on 18 August. In 2019, a two-egg clutch was found on 4 June, and two chicks were flying by 13 July. The two-year nest-site fidelity of Roseate Terns suggests that this species is potentially reestablishing itself as a breeder in Bermuda. E-mail: mmejias@mun.ca.

Méndez, S.N.D., and J.A. Aguiar-Escobar. 2020. Species distribution models as tools for conservation: a case study using Maxent and the West Indian Whistling Duck, *Dendrocygna arborea*, in Caño Tiburones, Puerto Rico. Life: The Excitement of Biology 8:54–69.—E-mail: sdiaz64@suagm.edu.

Mugica Valdés, L., and M. Acosta Cruz. 2020. Lista de las aves registradas en el Jardín Botánico Nacional de Cuba entre 1983 y 2019 (List of birds registered in the National Botanical Garden of Cuba between 1983 and 2019). Revista del Jardín Botánico Nacional 41:45–55.—E-mail: lmugica@fbio.uh.cu.

Ochoa, A.R., and M.A. Cruz. 2020. Comparison of prey availability for *Setophaga petechia gundlachi* (Aves: Parulidae) between two mangroves with different vegetation structure. Caldasia 43:28–38. doi.org/10.15446/caldasia.v43n1.83202.—E-mail: arodriguez@fbio.uh.cu; martin.acosta@fbio.uh.cu.

Powell, L.L., E.M. Ames, J.R. Wright, J. Matthiopoulos, and P.P. Marra. 2020. Interspecific competition between resident and wintering birds: experimental evidence and consequences of coexistence. Ecology e03208. doi.org/10.1002/ecy.3208.—Working in 15 ha of Jamaican black mangrove forest, removal experiments were used to test whether dominant resident Yellow Warblers compete interspecifically with subordinate wintering American Redstarts. Observational evidence of interspecific

territorial overlap was also used to understand whether this coexistence influences physical condition, spring departure dates or annual return rates. Results suggest that interspecific competition and the consequences of coexistence are age- and sex-specific and the product of intraspecific dominance hierarchy in redstarts. In addition, interspecific coexistence has measurable consequences, and these experiments support the long-held but previously untested belief that resident birds compete interspecifically with wintering migrants. E-mail: Luke.L.Powell@gmail.com.

Quintana, G.I.M., R.A.B. Pérez, and A.G.T. Cavalliery. 2020. Seabird monitoring in an important bird area of Puerto Rico. Revista [IN]Genios 7:1–7.—The size of the only subpopulation of White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaeton lepturus*) found on the mainland at the Guajataca cliffs was counted in 51 biweekly surveys from 2018 to 2020. A population of approximately 47 breeding pairs is reported. E-mail: adrianne.tossas@upr.edu.

Quiroga, M.A., T. Hayes, C. Hayes, H. Garrod, L. Soares, S. Knutie, S.C. Latta, and D.L. Anderson. 2020. More than just nestlings: incidence of subcutaneous *Philornis* (Diptera: Muscidae) nest flies in adult birds. Parasitology Research 119:2337–2342. doi.org/10.1007/s00436-020-06696-2.—Fieldwork in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Grenada, documented 14 instances of *Philornis* parasitism of adult birds of seven avian species. From a literature review and this fieldwork, adults of at least 15 bird species across 12 families and four orders of birds have been found to be parasitized by at least five *Philornis* species. E-mail: mquiroga06@hotmail.com.

Ricklefs, R. 2019. Birds and their malaria parasites in the West Indies. Vogelwarte 57: 278–279.—E-mail: ricklefs@umsl.edu.

Sánchez-Clavijo, L.M., N.J. Bayly, and P.F. Quintana-Ascencio. 2020. Habitat selection in transformed landscapes and the role of forest remnants and shade coffee in the conservation of resident birds. Journal of Animal Ecology 89:553–564. doi.org/10.1111/1365-2656.13108.—A multi-species, multi-measure framework to evaluate the role of habitat selection in the adaptation of species to transformed landscapes in Puerto Rico was generated. This was then used to demonstrate how we value the contribution of native forest remnants and shade coffee plantations in biodiversity conservation. E-mail: sanchezc.linam@gmail.com.

Sanz D'Angelo, V. 2020. Historical records and increasing trends of Caribbean flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) on Margarita Island, Venezuela. Studies on Neotropical Fauna and Environment 55:10–22. doi.org/10.1080/01650521.2019.1700602.—E-mail: vsanzd@gmail.com.

Satgé, Y., E. Rupp, A. Brown, and P. Jodice. 2020. Habitat modelling locates nesting areas of the Endangered Black-capped Petrel *Pterodroma hasitata* on Hispaniola and identifies habitat loss. Bird Conservation International 1–18. doi.org/10.1017/S0959270920000490.—To focus nest-search efforts more efficiently, a habitat model was used to create maps of predicted suitability for petrels on Hispaniola. In addition to areas of known petrel activity, the model identified possible nesting areas for Black-capped Petrels in sites not previously considered suitable. Based on model results, the total area estimate of suitable nesting habitat for Black-capped Petrels on Hispaniola was found to have severely decreased between 2000 and 2018 due to hurricanes, forest fires, and encroachment from agriculture. E-mail: ysatge@g.clemson.edu.

Soares, L., S.C. Latta, and R.E. Ricklefs. 2020. Neotropical migratory and resident birds occurring in sympatry during winter have distinct haemosporidian parasite assemblages. Journal of Biogeography 47:748–759. doi.org/10.1111/jbi.13760.—Sampling birds from a single site over five years in the Dominican Republic, 505 infections by 32 haemosporidian parasite lineages were identified. These came from 37 resident species and 14 overwintering migratory species. Infection prevalence varied among migratory species from zero to 13%, whereas infection prevalence among resident species ranged up to 77%. Four hypotheses are discussed to explain the rarity of haemosporidian infections in migratory birds during winter, focusing on physiological adaptations associated with avian seasonal migration. E-mail: leticiassoares@gmail.com.

Soares, L., E.I. Young, and R.E. Ricklefs. 2020. Haemosporidian parasites of resident and wintering migratory birds in The Bahamas. Parasitology Research 119:1563–1572. doi.org/10.1007/s00436-020-06646-y.—Infection prevalence was low and comparable between migratory and resident individuals, and did not differ significantly among islands. Resident birds mostly carried lineages endemic to the Caribbean region. Findings suggest that haemosporidian parasites of migrants shift resource allocation seasonally, minimizing the production of gametocytes during winter, with low risk of infection spillover to resident birds. E-mail: leticiassoares@gmail.com.

Solana, J.L.G., and D.B. Valdés. 2020. Registro de nidificación de *Lonchura malacca* (Aves: Estrildidae) en un ecosistema agrícola de Mayabeque, Cuba (Record of a nesting colony of *Lonchura malacca* (Aves: Estrildidae) in an agroecosystem of Mayabeque, Cuba). Novitates Caribaea 16:187–192. doi.org/10.33800/nc.vi16.239.—E-mail: guerra@ecologia.cu.

Steadman, D.W., and J. Franklin. 2020. Bird populations and species lost to Late Quaternary environmental change and human impact in the Bahamas. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 117:26833–26841. doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2013368117.—E-mail: dws@flmnh.ufl.edu.

Suárez, W. 2020. The fossil avifauna of the tar seeps Las Breas de San Felipe, Matanzas, Cuba. Zootaxa 4780:1–53. doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4780.1.1—The fossil avifauna from Las Breas de San Felipe is reviewed, increasing the diversity of Cuban fossil birds to 36 species. Additions include a New World vulture, *Coragyps seductus* sp. nov.; three accipitrids, including *Gigantohierax itchei* sp. nov., *Buteogallus royi* sp. nov., and *Buteo sanfelipensis* sp. nov.; a small caracara, *Milvago diazfrancoi* sp. nov., plus *Buteogallus fragilis*, which is recorded for the first time in Cuba and the Antillean Subregion. E-mail: ornimegalonyx@gmail.com.

Suárez, W. 2020. Remarks on extinct giant owls (Strigidae) from Cuba, with description of a new species of *Ornimegalonyx* Arredondo. Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club 140:387–392. doi.org/10.25226/bboc.v140i4.2020.a3.—A revision of large extinct members of Strigidae described from Quaternary cave deposits in Cuba reduces the number of valid taxa from five to three. E-mail: ornimegalonyx@gmail.com.

Suárez, W., and S.L. Olson. 2020. A new fossil vulture (Cathartidae: *Cathartes*) from Quaternary asphalt and cave deposits in

Cuba. Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club 140:335–343. doi.org/10.25226/bboc.v140i3.2020.a6.—A new small fossil species of vulture from Quaternary asphalt and cave deposits in western Cuba is described. Some specimens of this taxon are the smallest known in the genus *Cathartes*. The extinction of the Cuban megafauna, coupled with loss of open habitats once dominated by grassland savannas, contributed to the population decline and final extinction of endemic vultures in Cuba during the Holocene. E-mail: olsons@si.edu.

Suárez, W., and S.L. Olson. 2020. Systematics and distribution of the living and fossil small barn owls of the West Indies (Aves: Strigiformes: Tytonidae). Zootaxa 4830:544–564. doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4830.3.4.—A comprehensive review of the systematics and distribution of the living and fossil West Indian Tytonidae concluded: (1) the North American mainland subspecies is resident in the Bahamas, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico; (2) *Tyto furcata* of Cuba, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands is a different species and synonymous with "*T. alba niveicauda*" of Isla de la Juventud; (3) the distinct species *Tyto glaucops*, now endemic to Hispaniola, once occurred in Puerto Rico; (4) *Tyto insularis* of the southern Lesser Antilles is treated as a separate species, in which the nominate subspecies *T. i. insularis* (St. Vincent, Grenada, and the Grenadines) differs slightly but consistently in coloration from *T. i. nigrescens* of Dominica; (5) *Tyto maniola* is described as a new species of this group of small tytonids and inhabited Cuba during part of the Quaternary. E-mail: olsons@si.edu.

Torres-Cristiani, L., S. Machkour-M'Rabet, S. Calmé, H. Weissenberger, and G. Escalona-Segura. 2020. Assessment of the American Flamingo distribution, trends, and important breeding areas. PloS ONE 15:e0244117.—doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0244117.

Whitbeck, M.W. 2019. First record of Scarlet Ibis *Eudocimus ruber* in Puerto Rico. Cotinga 41:110–111.—E-mail: crex04@hotmail.com.

Wilkinson, B.P., A.M. Haynes-Sutton, L. Meggs, and P.G. Jodice. 2020. High spatial fidelity among foraging trips of Masked Boobies from Pedro Cays, Jamaica. PloS ONE 15:p.e0231654. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0231654.—Foraging of Masked Boobies breeding on Middle Cay, Jamaica were analyzed using GPS loggers. According to the movements of tracked individuals, this population of boobies shows a high degree of spatial fidelity in foraging site selection, concentrated on the northern edge of Pedro Bank. Results suggest that this feature is an important location for marine conservation in the region. E-mail: asutton@cwjamaica.com.

Williams, R. 2020. Distribution, diversity, abundance, and richness of Grenadian terrestrial birds, including endemic and restricted-range species. Masters Thesis, Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba.—mspace.lib.umanitoba.ca/bitstream/handle/1993/34576/Williams_Ramon.pdf?sequence=4

Wilson, M., and J.R. Walters. 2020. Cavity use and breeding biology of Endangered Bahama Swallows (*Tachycineta cyaneoviridis*): implications for conservation. Journal of Field Ornithology 91:118–129. doi.org/10.1111/jofo.12332.—Bahama Swallows rely most on woodpecker-excavated cavities in pine snags and utility poles. Swallows nesting in cavities in pine snags had higher fledging success (92%) than those nesting in cavities in utility poles (50–62%), which were concentrated in non-pine habitat that may expose swallows to predation and increased competition for nest cavities from other species. The high reproductive success of Bahama Swallows in the pine forest indicates that the decline in population cannot be attributed to poor productivity on southern Great Abaco. However, results suggest that the dependence of Bahama Swallows on cavities excavated by Hairy Woodpeckers (*Dryobates villosus*) for nesting sites may be a factor in their decline, and highlight the potential importance of the protection and management of pine forests. E-mail: mayaw@vt.edu.

Zelenkov, N.V., and S.F. Gonzalez. 2020. The first fossil tody (Aves: Todidae) from Cuba. Paleontological Journal 54:414–419. doi.org/10.1134/S0031030120040164.—E-mail: nzelen@paleo.ru or sory@mnhnc.inf.cu.