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Recent ornithological literature from the Caribbean: 2025

An annual feature of the *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*, this annotated guide alerts readers to recent ornithological literature from the Caribbean basin that has appeared elsewhere. Most of these articles appeared in 2025, although a few that were 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 We would also like to include any unpublished theses or other reports that may be difficult to find in more universally available abstract services.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
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Acosta, M., K. Aguilar, and L. Mugica. 2025. Diversidad del color de los ojos de *Todus multicolor*: un aporte de la ciencia ciudadana (Eye color diversity of *Todus multicolor*: a contribution from citizen science). Revista Cubana de Ciencias Biológicas 13.
E-mail: martin.acosta@fbio.uh.cu.

Brewer, P.J. 2025. Evolutionary Influences on Oceanic Islands Parasites: Phylogeography, Genetic Structure, and the "Island Rule" of Common Ground Doves (*Columbina passerina*) and their Lice. M.S. Thesis, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas, USA.
E-mail: paige.brewer.j@gmail.com.

Cañizares-Lara, C.M., S. Espín, A.J. García-Fernández, J. Martínez, I. Navas, M. García-del Río, and S. Merino. 2025. Bioaccumulation of organochlorine compounds and infection by blood parasites of birds from Hermanas Mirabal Province, Dominican Republic. Ardeola 72:311–327.
E-mail: carmencanizareslara@gmail.com.
The presence of organochlorine pesticides in feathers of several bird species was studied at three different sampling areas. In addition, potential interactions between pesticides and blood parasites were analyzed. Species included *Dulus dominicus* (Palmchat), *Melanerpes striatus* (Hispaniolan Woodpecker), *Turdus ardosiaceus* (Eastern Red-legged Thrush), *Columbina passerina* (Common Ground Dove), *Coereba flaveola* (Bananaquit), and *Anthracothorax dominicus* (Hispaniolan Mango). Eleven different organochlorine pesticides were found, and five different blood parasite types were detected by molecular analyses. There was no significant interaction between pesticide accumulation and blood parasite infection.

Cox, A.R., E. Gallo-Cajiao, F. Tremblay, F. Rateau, K. Urvoy, B. Laliberté, P. Boniface, D. Euphrosine, T. Lavanne, and C. Roy. 2025. Legal harvest of shorebirds and resident game birds on a Caribbean island: a Martinique case study. bioRxiv 2025.06.17.660260.
E-mail: christian.roy@ec.gc.ca.

Cummings, W.J., D.D. Goodman, C.D. Layne, K.I. Singer, and M.W. Thomas. 2025. Vitelline Warbler (*Setophaga vitellina*) songs, calls, and habitat preferences: novel acoustic descriptions of a range-restricted Caribbean songbird. PLoS One 20: e0312636.
E-mail: Wyatt.Joseph.Cummings@dartmouth.edu.

De Ruyck, C.C., and N. Koper. 2025. Ecological drivers of molt–breeding overlap, an unusual life-history strategy of small-island birds? Ecology and Evolution 15:e70607.
E-mail: ccdr_sc@hotmail.com.
With data from 10 commonly occurring Grenadian bird species, this study evaluates how seasonal patterns in diet niche breadth and diet overlap among species relates to the high rates of molt–breeding overlap. Results suggest that widespread overlap in small-island tropical communities may be the result of generalist foraging adaptations and restricted time periods of sufficient invertebrate availability for successful breeding and molt to occur.

Dossman, B.C., A.D. Rodewald, and P.P. Marra. 2024. Hidden space use behaviors of a nonbreeding migratory bird: the role of environment and social context. Movement Ecology 12: 82.
E-mail: bd618@georgetown.edu.
Using an automated telemetry array, variation in and drivers of space use was quantified for a nonbreeding population of the migratory *Setophaga ruticilla* (American Redstart). Two distinct and common behaviors—territoriality and floating—were governed primarily by resource availability. This study demonstrates that these birds exhibit a high degree of plasticity in space use that is driven primarily by resource availability, but also influenced by the dominance hierarchy within an individual's environment.

Exantus, J.M., C. Cambrone, E. Bezault, and F. Cézilly. 2025. Avian conservation value of two small protected areas in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Ornithology Research 33:34.
E-mail: jeanmary.exantus@yahoo.fr.

Faust, L.J., T.M. Martínez, A.W. Parsons, T.H. White, Jr., R. Valentin, J. Vélez-Valentín, B. Ramos-Güivas, S.S. Nelson, and M. Lopez. 2025. Assessing population viability and management strategies for species recovery of the critically endangered Puerto Rican Parrot. Animal Conservation 28:104–118.
E-mail: lfaust@lpzoo.org.

The authors developed a population viability analysis for the critically endangered *Amazona vittata* (Puerto Rican Amazon) to evaluate current status and potential future management strategies to reach goals set in the Recovery Plan.

Garcia-Quintas, A., T. Figueredo-Martín, L. Espinosa, T.A. Clay, and F. Pina-Amargós. in press. Distribution and density of seabirds at sea around Cuba. Bulletin of Marine Science.
E-mail: agquintas86@gmail.com.

Garcia-Quintas, A., D. Denis, C. Barbraud, and S. Lanco. 2025. Breeding phenology and reproductive success of larid species nesting in Cuba. Marine Ornithology 53:243–249.
E-mail: agquintas86@gmail.com.

González-Alonso, H.J., J.C. Daguerre, and C. Hernandez-Peraza. 2025. Diversidad de aves y nuevos registros para la Península de Hicacos, Matanzas, Cuba (Diversity of birds and new reports for Peninsula de Hicacos, Matanzas, Cuba). Revista Cubana de Ciencias Biológicas 13.
E-mail: gonzalezalonsohiram@gmail.com.

Grieves, L.A., A. Grew, L. Iftikhar, and J.S. Quinn. 2025. Offspring provisioning is affected by begging and hatch order but not relatedness in a communally breeding bird. Animal Behaviour 228:123311.
E-mail: leanne.grieves@usask.ca.
Offspring provisioning in communal breeding *Crotophaga ani* (Smooth-billed Ani) was studied with videos from 13 breeding groups at the Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge, Puerto Rico. Adult anis did not preferentially feed their own offspring, and anis did not provision based on their contribution to communal broods. Caregivers were more likely to feed nestlings that begged earlier and harder and that hatched first. *Crotophaga ani* do not preferentially feed their offspring but do attend to signals and cues of nestling condition and need.

Grieves, L.A., S. Hing, J. Tabh, and J.S. Quinn. 2025. Offspring sex ratio in a communal breeding bird is male-biased when pre-breeding rainfall is low. Journal of Avian Biology 2025:e03262.
E-mail: leanne.grieves@usask.ca.
The authors tested for sex ratio bias in *Crotophaga ani* (Smooth-billed Ani).

Hillman, B. 2025. First observation of an American Barn Owl (*Tyto furcata*) in eastern Puerto Rico. Caribbean Naturalist 105:1–5.
E-mail: brett.hillman@usda.gov.

Iznaga-Maletá, Y., Y. Segurado-Gil, M.I. Leyva-Miguel, and Y. Peña-Arías. 2025. Captura y comercio ilegal de aves canoras y ornamentales en el municipio El Salvador, Guantánamo, Cuba (Illegal capture and trade of songbirds and ornamental birds in the municipality of El Salvador, Guantánamo, Cuba). Hombre, Ciencia y Tecnología 29:13–26.
E-mail: yemicer@cug.co.cu.

Jean-Pierre, A., F. Cézilly, L.J. Saint-Louis, and G. Loranger-Merciris. 2025. Diurnal Forest Thrush abundance positively covaries with both prey availability and small Indian mongoose abundance. Avian Conservation and Ecology 20:4.
E-mail: aureliej-p@hotmail.fr.
Spatial variation in the diurnal abundance of the near-threatened *Turdus lherminieri* (Forest Thrush), a Caribbean-endemic and secretive ground-dwelling species, was studied in the dry season on Guadeloupe, French West Indies. *Turdus lherminieri* abundance was significantly higher in tropical rainforest compared to other habitats, and co-varied positively with both invertebrate biomass and the abundance of *Urva auropunctata*, the small Indian mongoose.

Johnson, O., S.M. Billerman, B.E. Hernández-Baños, D.F. Lane, P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen, Jr., K. Winker, and R.T. Chesser. 2024. Comments on the species limits of certain North American birds, part 1. Bulletin of the British Onithologists' Club 144:367–414.
E-mail: chessert@si.edu.
As part of the work of the North American Classification Committee (NACC) of the American Ornithological Society, species limits are assessed in 11 species complexes of North American birds. Of relevance to the Caribbean are discussions of *Anthracothorax dominicus* (Hispaniolan Mango), *Chondrohierax uncinatus* (Hook-billed Kite), *Accipiter striatus* (Sharp-shinned Hawk), and *Eupsittula nana* (Olive-throated Parakeet).

Judy, C.D., G.R. Graves, J.E. McCormack, K.F. Stryjewski, and R.T. Brumfield. 2025. Speciation with gene flow in an island endemic hummingbird. PNAS Nexus 4:pgaf095.
E-mail: caroline.duffie@gmail.com.
Speciation in endemic *Trochilus polytmus* and *Trochilus scitulus*, the Jamaican streamertail hummingbirds, was examined, challenging the rule that bird speciation cannot progress in situ on small islands. This analysis shows that divergent selection acting on male bill color, a sexual ornament that is red in *T. polytmus* and black in *T. scitulus*, acts as a key reproductive barrier.

Mejias, M.A., and B. Misiuk. 2025. Territoriality and site fidelity of an island endemic subspecies, the Bermuda White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus bermudianus*). Journal of Field Ornithology 96:4.
E-mail: miguelmejias.birds@gmail.com.
This study concludes that *Vireo griseus bermudianus, the* Bermuda White-eyed Vireo, strongly defend small, year-round territories from con-subspecifics, and sheds light on how Bermuda Vireos utilize wooded space.

Mignucci-Giannoni, A.A., S.M. Escobar-Torres, L.J. Cabrias-Contreras, S. Jiménez-Rivera, Y. Pagán-Benítez, R.R. Rafols-Segarra, B. Rivera-Marchand, C.I. Rivera-Pérez, and D.L. Richardson. 2025. Sexual dimorphism in Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) from Puerto Rico: biometric evidence corroborated by molecular and necropsy techniques. Waterbirds 48:1–11.
E-mail: mignucci@manatipr.org.

Moyer, M.J., M.D. Ocasio, E.F. Lehnert, N.A. Nieves Colón, E. Osorio, E.K. Bare, A.P. de León Laguna, B.A. Molake, M.J. Costas Sabatier, B.S. Evans, A.L. Morales Pérez, and K.E. Omland. 2025. Acoustic features, syllable usage, and song rates of male and female songs in a tropical island songbird, the Puerto Rican Oriole. Ethology 131: e13534.
E-mail: mmoyer1@umbc.edu.

Noa Romero, E., C.L. Perera, R. Castaño, A. Rodríguez, H. Martinez, L. Machado, M. Paneque, D. Carillo, M. Bkanco, A. Mesa, O. Cruz, M.T. Peréz, M. Dubed, N. Montes de Oca, and M. Rodríguez. 2025. Aislamiento de virus de influenza aviar H5N1 de alta patogenicidad en aves diagnosticadas con influenza aviar en Cuba (Isolation of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus in birds diagnosed with avian influenza in Cuba). Veterinaria (Montevideo) 61 (Suplemento 1):81.

E-mail: unavailable.

Oswald, J.A., B.M. Boyd, A.R. Szewczak, M.J. LeFebvre, B.J. Stucky, R.P. Guralnick, K.P. Johnson, J.M. Allen, and D.W. Steadman. 2025. Genomic data reveal that the Cuban Blue-headed Quail-dove (*Starnoenas cyanocephala*) is a biogeographic relict. Biology Letters 21:20240464.

E-mail: oswaldj3@gmail.com.

On Caribbean islands, no other columbid has generated more phylogenetic interest and uncertainty than the endangered, endemic *Starnoenas cyanocephala* (Blue-headed Quail-Dove). Whole genome sequencing from *Starnoenas* and other newly sequenced columbids is used here, in combination with sequence data from previous publications, to investigate relationships. Phylogenomic analyses representing 35 of the 51 genera currently comprising the Columbidae, reveal that the Blue-headed Quail-Dove is the sole representative of a lineage diverging early in the radiation of columbids. *Starnoenas* is sister to the species-rich subfamily Columbinae, which is found worldwide.

Ramos-Güivas, B. 2025. Integrating physiological stress, vocal communication and parental care behaviors to assess reproductive success in the Endangered Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*): a comparative study in wild and captive populations. Ph.D. Dissertation. New Mexico State University, La Cruces, New Mexico, USA.

E-mail: brianrg@nmsu.edu.

Ramos-Güivas, B., and T.F. Wright. 2025. Biparental care and reproductive success in reintroduced and captive populations of the Critically Endangered Puerto Rican Parrot *Amazona vittata*. Bird Conservation International 35:e31.

E-mail: brianrg@nmsu.edu.

This study examines the relationship between parental care behaviors and reproductive success in *Amazona vittata* (Puerto Rican Amazon), specifically investigating how these behaviors may differ between captive and reintroduced populations and female and male parents. Findings indicate that parental care behaviors are independently influenced by both sex and population, with no evidence of an interaction between these factors. Furthermore, parental care behaviors are associated with reproductive success. Males spent less time inside the nest than females, while captive birds exhibited fewer and shorter feeding bouts, suggesting that captivity influences parental care strategies.

Rebolo-Ifran, N., N.A. Lois, and S.A. Lambertucci. 2025. Wind energy development in Latin America and the Caribbean: risk assessment for flying vertebrates. Environmental Impact Assessment Review 112:107798.

E-mail: nlois@ege.fcen.uba.ar.

The impact of wind farms on birds and bats in Latin America and the Caribbean is reviewed, but results indicate that research is lacking, with just 22 available articles focusing on only six countries.

Rivera-Milán, F.F., A.J. Martínez, A. Matos, D. Guzmán, R.F. Ramos-Rodríguez, M. González-Rosado, C.R. Ruiz-Lebrón, E.A. Ventosa-Febles, J. Gutiérrez, J.A. Valentín, and F. Simal. 2025. Puerto Rico Plain Pigeon *Patagioenas inornata wetmorei* population assessment after Hurricanes Irma and María. Bird Conservation International 35:e16.

E-mail: frank_rivera@fws.gov.

The population of this subspecies has not recovered from the hurricanes. The population may reach self-sustainability levels, but currently is undergoing a prolonged bottleneck and may become extinct, particularly if reproduction continues to be mostly unsuccessful, anthropogenic disturbances remain unabated, and another devastating hurricane makes landfall during the next 10 years.

Rivera-Milán, F.F., J. Gerbracht, and F. Simal. 2025. Barbuda Warbler *Setophaga subita* and Yellow Warbler *S. petechia bartholemica* population assessment after Hurricane Irma. Bird Conservation International 35:e26.

E-mail: frank_rivera@fws.gov.

Hurricane Irma devastated the island of Barbuda in September 2017. Distance sampling was used to assess the population status of the endemic *Setophaga subita* (Barbuda Warbler) and the resident *S. petechia bartholemica* (Yellow Warbler).

Rodríguez-Rivera, K.X., A.R.P. Rolón, and J.A. Collazo. 2025. Being loud to find a quiet bird: surveying a secretive tropical avian species. Caribbean Journal of Science 55:54–64.

E-mail: kenneth.rodriguez5@upr.edu.

Presented here is a sampling period and method that yields the most reliable estimates of population numbers of secretive *Coccyzus vieilloti*, the Puerto Rican Lizard-Cuckoo.

Stevens, H.C., C.A. France, and P.P. Marra. 2025. The breeding distribution of a migratory bird fluctuates with nonbreeding season rainfall over the last century. Global Change Biology 31:e70553.

E-mail: henrycstevens@gmail.com.

Stable hydrogen isotopes occurring in tail feathers of nonbreeding populations of *Setophaga ruticilla* (American Redstart) were measured from three time periods (dating back to the turn of the 20th century) and from five regions (Andean, Greater Antillean, Isthmian, Pacific Slope, and Yucatan) to estimate changes in breeding origins. *S. ruticilla* experiencing a drying trend in rainfall showed a corresponding southward shift in their mean breeding origin (and vice versa) in subsequent years. The link between nonbreeding rainfall and mean breeding origin was most pronounced in the modern time period, where nonbreeding rainfall has decreased across most of their nonbreeding range. Findings illustrate how complex mechanistic drivers operate over space and time to help shape breeding range dynamics for a migratory bird, and emphasize how climate affects species distributions throughout the annual cycle.

Tarazona-Tubens, F.L., A.L. Morales-Pérez, and C.A. Searcy. 2025. Seed predator or seed nurturer? The critically endangered Puerto Rican Parrot increases germination of large-fruited Caribbean plants. Biological Conservation 311:111421.

E-mail: fabio.tarazonao8@gmail.com.

The potential of Critically Endangered *Amazona vittata* (Puerto Rican Amazon) to restore lost mutualistic interactions with native Caribbean plants was investigated. Captive parrots were used to assess if fruit size influences whether parrots destroy or depulp seeds of consumed fruits, and whether germination success was higher after parrots depulped fruits. Results indicate that fruit size traits dictate how parrots interact with consumed fruits and that depulping actions provided by the parrots significantly increase germination success of native large-fruited plants, highlighting the conservation value of this threatened avian group within the Caribbean.

Turner, S.A., C.M. Tonra, B.C. Dossman, M.R. Shaikh, I.A. Ciaburri, C.R. Robinson, P.P. Marra, and M.W. Reudink. 2025. Prealternate molt intensity and timing in six Nearctic–Neotropical migratory warblers. Journal of Field Ornithology 96:1.

E-mail: mreudink@tru.ca.

Head and body feather molt is common for *Parkesia noveboracensis* (Northern Waterthrush), *Mniotilta varia* (Black-and-white Warbler), *Setophaga ruticilla* (American Redstart), *Setophaga americana* (Northern Parula), and *Setophaga discolor* (Prairie Warbler). *Mniotilta varia* and *Setophaga ruticilla* demonstrated age-specific differences in molt intensity, with greater molt intensity exhibited by first-cycle than definitive-cycle birds. In addition, the occurrence of a prealternate molt in *Seiurus aurocapilla* (Ovenbird) is demonstrated.

Valdés Ramos, J.R., Y. Alonso Torrens, S. Hernández González, Y.J. Muñoz Labrador, and I. de la Milián Cabrera. 2025. Riqueza y abundancia del ensamblaje de aves acuáticas asociadas a manglares del sector Coloma-Las Canas (Richness and abundance of the aquatic bird assemblage associated with mangroves in the Coloma-Las Canas sector). Revista Cubana de Ciencias Forestales 13:e862.

E-mail: yatsunaris@upr.edu.cu.

Velázquez Román, L.E. 2025. Using eBird to Assess Avian Resistance and Resilience After Hurricanes Irma and María in the San Juan Metropolitan Area. M.S. Thesis. University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

E-mail: unavailable.

Ventura del Puerto, D., and E.A. Buckmire. 2024. Inaugural Caribbean flyway review. North American Bird Bander 49:13.

E-mail: dvpuerto19@gmail.com.

Vollstädt, M.G., R.D. Jensen, P.K. Maruyama, M. Schleuning, F.P. Araújo-Hoffmann, M. Sazima, J. Sonne, T.S. Schrøder, F. Møller-Stranges, S. Abrahamczyk, and M.B. Ramírez-Burbano. 2025. The role of insularity: plants have few ornithophilous traits but are visited by morphologically more distinct hummingbirds in the Caribbean islands. Functional Ecology 39:1678–1692.

E-mail: bo.dalsgaard@sund.ku.dk.

While hummingbird-visited plants in the Caribbean displayed floral traits that support island theory, predicting less specific pollination systems on oceanic islands, the functional diversity of plant–hummingbird interactions in the Caribbean communities was higher than on the mainland, possibly driven by competition over resources.

Zelenkov, N. 2025. A new duck (Aves: Anatidae) from the Upper Pleistocene of Cuba. Zootaxa 5633:139–150.

E-mail: unavailable.

This fossil duck represents an extinct form and is here described as a new species of the genus *Amazonetta*, with its closest living taxon being *A. brasiliensis*, the South American Brazilian Teal.