

FIRST RECORD OF DARK-EYED JUNCO (*JUNCO HYEMALIS*) FOR CUBA AND SOME OTHER INTERESTING RECORDS

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Abstract: I document the first record of Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) for Cuba. A bird was observed on Cayo Guillermo, part of the Jardines del Rey group off the north coast, on 7 November 2002. I also include other records of rarely seen species on the island.

Key words: Cuba, Dark-eyed Junco, distributional record, *Junco hyemalis*

Resumen: PRIMER REGISTRO DEL CHINGOLO PIZARROSO (*JUNCO HYEMALIS*) Y ALGUNOS OTROS REGISTROS INTERASANTES EN CUBA. Se documenta el primer registro del Chingolo Pizarroso (*Junco hyemalis*) para Cuba. La especie fue observada en Cayo Guillermo el 7 noviembre 2002. También se incluye otros registros de especies raramente observadas en la isla.

Palabras clave: Chingolo Pizarroso, Cuba, *Junco hyemalis*, registro distribucional

Résumé : PREMIÈRE OBSERVATION DU JUNCO ARDOISÉ (*JUNCO HYEMALIS*) À CUBA ET AUTRES DONNÉES INTÉRESSANTES. Je présente des informations sur la première observation de Junco ardoisé (*Junco hyemalis*) à Cuba. Un individu a été observé sur 7 novembre 2002 à Cayo Guillermo, Jardines del Rey sur la côte nord. Des données sur des espèces rarement observées sur l'île sont également présentées.

Mots-clés: aire de répartition, Cuba, Junco ardoisé, *Junco hyemalis*

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) is one of the most common and familiar North American passerines, occurring across the continent from northern Alaska south to northern Mexico. It winters from southern Canada to northern Mexico and northern Florida (Nolan *et al.* 2002). It has previously been reported as a vagrant in the Caribbean in the northern Bahamas, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands (Raffaele *et al.* 1998). It is therefore probably not a surprising addition to Cuba's avifauna.

OBSERVATION

On 7 November 2002, I was leading a birdwatching group on Cayo Guillermo, Ciego de Avila Province, Cuba, searching particularly for Bahama Mockingbird (*Mimus gundlachi*) in the roadside coastal scrub. It was clear from the numbers of birds present that there had been a fall of migrants. My co-leader, Dave Cotteridge, drew my attention to a particular bush about 25 m away as he could see a bird skulking in it. I moved slightly closer and a bird flew a short distance to a branch in the open. I recognised it immediately as a Dark-eyed Junco and called it out. It stayed only momentarily and only the two of us saw it. We later confirmed the identification by consulting National Geographic Society, (1987). This constitutes the first and only record of the species for Cuba.

OTHER RECORDS

The following records are of interest based on the status notes in Garrido and Kirkconnell (2000).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*ARCHILOCHUS COLUBRIS*)

On 8 November 2002, I saw a male with a partial red throat on Cayo Guillermo. Another male with a complete red throat was seen by I. S. Williams and me on 12 February 1991 in the orange grove at Hotel Laguna Grande, Pinar del Rio Province. Garrido and Kirkconnell (2000) list this species as a rare transient to western Cuba. Both records also extend Garrido and Kirkconnell's (2000) range of dates (22 November and 15 February-15 May).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO (*COCCYZUS ERYTHROPTALMUS*)

On 7 November 2002, one was seen on Cayo Guillermo by most of the tour group. Garrido and Kirkconnell (2000) list this species as a very rare fall transient (15 September to 15 November and 11 May).

CHIMNEY SWIFT (*CHAETURA PELAGICA*)

On 5 November 2002, an individual flew over a pool on the outskirts of San Diego de los Baños, Pinar del Rio Province, and was seen by D. Cot-

teridge and me. Garrido and Kirkconnell (2000) list this species as a rare transient (10 October to December and March).

VEERY (*CATHARUS FUSCESCENS*)

On 1 May 1995, I saw an individual on one of the numerous tracks through the woodlands of the Zapata Swamp, just west of the area known as La Majagua, Matanzas Province. Garrido and Kirkconnell (2000) list this species as a rare transient (12 September to 22 October and April to 4 May).

GRAY-CHEEKED / BICKNELL'S THRUSH (*CATHARUS MINIMUS* / *BICKNELLI*)

These thrushes are listed together because they are virtually indistinguishable in the field. I saw an individual on 29 April 1995 on one of the numerous tracks through the woodlands of the Zapata Swamp, just east of the area known as La Majagua, Matanzas Province. Garrido and Kirkconnell (2000) list Gray-cheeked Thrush as a rare transient (14 September to 28 November and 19 March to 13 May) and Bicknell's Thrush as a very rare transient with just two records and a small wintering population on Pico Turquino, Oriente Province.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*VIREO SOLITARIUS*)

On 16 February 1991, A. O'Mahony and I saw an individual in the grounds of Hotel Los Jazmines, Pinar del Río Province. Garrido and Kirkconnell (2000) list this species as a very rare winter resident (18 November to 19 April).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*VERMIVORA CHRYSOPTERA*)

On 10 March 1989, I. S. Williams, T. Dolan, and I saw a male at Los Canales in the Zapata Swamp, Matanzas Province. Garrido and Kirkconnell (2000)

list this species as a very rare transient (1-24 September and February to 7 May).

WILSON'S WARBLER (*Wilsonia pusilla*)

On 26 February 1989, P. Butterworth and I saw a male at Cabanas los Pinos, near San Diego de los Baños, Pinar del Río Province. Garrido and Kirkconnell (2000) list this species as a very rare transient (2 September to 12 November and February to 12 April).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to my fellow birders and clients on the various trips to Cuba mentioned in the text, especially Ithel Williams and Terry Dolan who accompanied me on the first trips. Thanks to Arturo Kirkconnell for his knowledge (and his friendship) over the years and to Guy Kirwan for comments and suggestions on this paper in an earlier form. And thanks to Julie Craves and George Wallace for reviewing the manuscript.

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