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BOOK REVIEW

A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF ANGUILLA.— Steve H. Holliday, Karim V. D. Hodge, and Damien E. Hughes. 2007. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. 122 pp. ISBN: 1-905601-10-7. \$20.00; available from Anguilla National Trust (www.axanationaltrust.org).

The most recent in a series of regional guides that have been designed to appeal to birdwatchers, tourists, teachers and students, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in partnership with the Anguilla National Trust, the Anguilla Government, and the UK Government has produced this nicely designed and informative book. Following a fairly standard format, the book presents 60 commonly occurring species from Anguilla.

Anguilla, located in the extreme north-eastern corner of the Lesser Antilles, consists of the main island of Anguilla as well as several other offshore islets or cays. These dry, low-lying islands, with a maximum elevation of only 65 m, are dominated by dry forest and scrub habitats, but also contain mangroves, brackish and freshwater ponds, and coastal and marine environments. Some 132 species of birds have been recorded here since 1990, and all are listed in this book. Many are migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and Neotropical migratory songbirds. There are no endemic species, but three Lesser Antillean specialties are commonly found, including Green-throated Carib (*Eulampis holosericeus*), Pearly-eyed Thrasher (*Margarops fuscatus*), and the Lesser Antillean Bullfinch (*Loxigilla noctis*), while a fourth regional specialty, the Antillean Crested Hummingbird (*Orthorhynchus cristatus*), is a scarce resident. The islands are also known for their important seabird nesting colonies, most notably the Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) and Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) colonies on Dog Island, Roseate Tern's (*Sterna dougallii*) on Scrub Island, and Bridled Tern's (*Onychoprion an-*

aethetus) on Sombrero. For some readers, Sombrero will be familiar as it was briefly in the conservationist's spotlight when it was proposed as a privately developed rocket launch site several years ago. But that proposal was later withdrawn and the island has since been designated a protected area.

This guide begins with a brief introduction to Anguilla and its history, culture, economic pressures, wildlife habitats, and biodiversity, plus conservation threats and opportunities. There follows a short chapter on the Anguilla National Trust, the statutory body established in 1988 as the nation's "custodian on matters of natural, cultural, archaeological, and environmental importance." Four important bird areas have been identified for Anguilla, and these are described. The introductory chapters conclude with a habitat-based description of the bird species one might expect to see at different seasons of the year on the islands.

Species accounts are divided among three main habitats, including seabirds, waterbirds, and landbirds. For each species, identifying characteristics, similar species, seasonality, and locations where one might expect to see the bird are described. Local notes of interest from observations of the species in Anguilla are also included, as is a unique small box where observers might add their own notes. The guide is illustrated with very nice photographs of each of these 60 common species. Although usually only a single image of the species in its most typical plumage is presented, unlike many similar guides these photographs are of high quality with excellent color and definition. In a few cases, both a male and a female are shown, and in one case—the Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*)—a juvenile is shown though not identified as such. Following each set of species accounts, less common species that have been recorded in Anguilla are listed with a very brief mention of their status. These are helpful for more experienced birders with access to more

complete field guides.

Following the species accounts, detailed directions for accessing 16 birdwatching sites are provided. Easily followed maps are accompanied by written directions, as well as descriptions of the sites, the habitats, and birds that may be expected throughout the year and during migration. An additional 12 sites are also described in less detail and without maps.

Finally, the book concludes with a complete checklist of the 132 species of birds recorded since 1990 on Anguilla. The status of each species is given on a monthly basis, as well as an estimation of its status year-round.

I found this guide to the birds of Anguilla to be a pleasing and attractive book with few errors or typographic mistakes. The book is much better written than many of this sort, with some sections hav-

ing an almost poetic quality—unique for a bird guide! For example, in Anguilla, “Laughing Gulls with their dark heads, smoky grey wings with black wingtips, dance in attendance on the true fish-catchers, hoping to gather scraps or steal prey.” The authors have done a nice job of balancing the need for an introductory guide for students and visitors, while still presenting at least some information on all of the species known to occur. Although I was disappointed records prior to 1990 were not included (and I assume such records exist), I commend its authors and recommend the book for all visitors to Anguilla, and for any others who have an interest in bird distributions in the Caribbean.—
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RECENT ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE FROM THE CARIBBEAN

Readers are invited to submit literature citations that should be highlighted in this section to STEVEN C. LATTA, *National Aviary, Allegheny Commons West, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, USA*; e-mail: steven.latta@aviary.org.

ACEVEDO, M. A., AND C. RESTREPO. 2008. Land-cover and land-use change and its contribution to the large-scale organization of Puerto Rico's bird assemblages. *Diversity and Distributions* 14:114-122.—Using Puerto Rican Breeding Bird Survey data and land-cover and land-use data extracted from Landsat images, we ask how island-wide changes in land cover and land use has influenced the large-scale organization of bird assemblages. Land use followed by climate explained most of the variation observed among routes in terms of species composition and abundance. E-mail: miguel_a_acevedo@yahoo.com.

BEISSINGER, S. R., J. M. WUNDERLE, J. M. MEYERS, B. E. SAETHER, AND S. ENGEN. 2008. Anatomy of a bottleneck: diagnosing factors limiting population growth in the Puerto Rican Parrot. *Ecological Monographs* 78:185-203.—Analyzes the relative importance of genetic, demographic, environmental, and catastrophic processes that maintain a prolonged population bottleneck for *Amazona vittata* despite intensive conservation efforts. Reduced hatching success due to inbreeding, failure of

adults to nest, nest failure due to non-genetic causes, and reduced survival of adults and juveniles are responsible for maintaining the bottleneck. E-mail: wunderle@coqui.net.

COSGROVE, P. 2008. Grenada Dove *Leptotila wellsi* response to non-native ground predators. *Cotinga* 30:72-73.—E-mail: pcosgrove@envirocentre.co.uk.

CRUZ, A., J. W. PRATHER, J. W. WILEY, AND P. F. WEAVER. 2008. Egg rejection behavior in a population exposed to parasitism: Village Weavers on Hispaniola. *Behavioral Ecology* 19:398-403.—Introduced *Ploceus cucullatus* existed without parasitism for at least two centuries until the arrival of the Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) in the 1970s. In this study, egg rejection increased as experimental eggs became increasingly different from the host eggs. Rejection rates for mimetic eggs, different color eggs, different-spotting eggs, and cowbird eggs was 23%, 33%, 61%, and 85%, respectively, with higher rejection of cowbird eggs in areas where cowbirds were observed. E-mail: alexander.cruz@colorado.edu.

FAABORG, J., K. M. DUGGER, AND W. J. ARENDT. 2007. Long-term variation in the winter resident bird community of Guánica Forest, Puerto Rico: lessons for measuring and monitoring species richness. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 78:270-278.—Results suggest that sampling for at least 3 consecu-