

maps which are conveniently placed on the same plate as the illustration of the species. Maps cover the entire region and are enhanced with river systems and political boundaries. Arrows are sometimes used to highlight very small or isolated populations, but unfortunately these arrows are so small as to be largely ineffective. General ranges of each subspecies are also indicated, although the authors caution that in most cases these are not well known.

In summary, this guide is extremely well thought out. I find that the book combines some of the best elements from a wide variety of field guides, while

leaping forward with its recognition of the importance of subspecies and regional diversity, and its outstanding depictions of variation in plumages. This clearly represents a new generation of bird guides. I congratulate the authors, especially the senior author and illustrator Robin Restall, on a landmark publication that will advance ornithology and conservation in our region and beyond.—STEVEN C. LATTA, *National Aviary, Allegheny Commons West, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, USA*; e-mail: [steven.latta@aviary.org](mailto:steven.latta@aviary.org).

#### RECENT ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE FROM THE CARIBBEAN

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With this issue of *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology* we are introducing a new column that will summarize recent ornithological literature from the Caribbean basin. Each article that appears in this column will include a full citation, usually a short summary of the main theme of the paper, and when possible, an e-mail address or website where a pdf of the article can be requested. We invite readers of the JCO to alert our compiler, Steven Latta, to other articles that should be highlighted in this section. We would also like to include here any unpublished theses, or other reports that may be difficult to find in more universally available abstract services. 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](mailto:steven.latta@aviary.org).

BENZ, B. W., M. B. ROBBINS, AND A. T. PETERSON. 2006. Evolutionary history of woodpeckers and allies (Aves: Picidae): placing key taxa on the phylogenetic tree. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 40: 389-399.—Uses a variety of genetic data to construct a phylogeny, and suggests a possible New World origin of the Picinae based on the sister relationship between the Antillean Piculet (*Nesocittes micromegas*) and the true woodpeckers. E-mail: [bwbrenz@ku.edu](mailto:bwbrenz@ku.edu).

DUBEY, J. P., M. I. BHAIYAT, C. DE ALLIE, C. N. L. MACPHERSON, R. N. SHARMA, C. SREEKUMAR, M. C. B. VIANNA, S. K. SHEN, O. C. H. KWOK, K. B. MISKA, D. E. HILL, AND T. LEHMANN. 2005. Isola-

tion, tissue distribution, and molecular characterization of *Toxoplasma gondii* from chickens in Grenada, West Indies. *Journal of Parasitology* 91:557-560.—Fifty-two percent of Grenada chickens (*Gallus gallus*) tested positive for antibodies to *Toxoplasma gondii*, and genotyping of *Toxoplasma gondii* isolates revealed Types I, II, and III. E-mail: [jdubey@anri.barc.usda.gov](mailto:jdubey@anri.barc.usda.gov).

ENGEMAN, R., D. WHISSON, J. QUINN, F. CANO, P. QUINONES, AND T. H. WHITE, JR. 2006. Monitoring invasive mammalian predator populations sharing habitat with the critically endangered Puerto Rican Parrot *Amazona vittata*. *Oryx* 40:95-102.—Tracking plates, monitoring blocks, and trapping were used to index populations of introduced mammal predators, whose abundance and pervasiveness posed a significant threat to nesting parrots. E-mail: [thomas\\_white@fws.gov](mailto:thomas_white@fws.gov).

FALLON, S. M., R. E. RICKLEFS, S. C. LATTA, AND E. BERMINGHAM. 2004. Temporal stability of insular avian malarial parasite communities. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London Series B: Biological Sciences* 271:493-500. E-mail: [ricklefs@umsl.edu](mailto:ricklefs@umsl.edu).

GARRIDO, O. H., G. M. KIRWAN, AND D. R. CAPPER. 2002. Species limits within Grey-headed Quail-Dove *Geotrygon caniceps* and implications for the conservation of a globally threatened species. *Bird Conservation International* 12:169-187.—Support separation of *G. caniceps* of Cuba and *G. leucometopus* of Hispaniola based on coloration, tail length, and characteristics of primaries.

RECENT ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

- HALEY, M. 2006. Length and asymmetry in naturally and sexually selected bilateral traits in *Mellisuga* hummingbirds. *Caribbean Journal of Science* 42:144-146.—No relationship between wing and tail lengths, and asymmetry were found for *M. minima* and *M. helenae* males and females. The results are discussed in the context of sexual selection theories. E-mail: michael.haley@liu.edu.
- HAYES, F. E. 2004. Variability and interbreeding of Sandwich Terns and Cayenne Terns in the Virgin Islands, with comments on their systematic relationship. *North American Birds* 57:566-572. E-mail: floyd\_hayes@yahoo.com.
- HOLMES, R. T. 2007. Understanding population change in migratory songbirds: long-term and experimental studies of Neotropical migrants in breeding and wintering areas. *Ibis* 149 (suppl. 2):2-13. E-mail: richard.t.holmes@dartmouth.edu.
- HUNT, J. S., E. BERMINGHAM, AND R. E. RICKLEFS. 2001. Molecular systematics and biogeography of Antillean thrashers, tremblers, and mockingbirds (Aves: Mimidae). *Auk* 118:35-55.—A phylogenetic hypothesis for mimids is used to explain avian radiation within the Lesser Antilles. E-mail: eb@naos.si.edu.
- JOHNSON, M. D., T. W. SHERRY, R. T. HOLMES, AND P. P. MARRA. 2006. Assessing habitat quality for a migratory songbird wintering in natural and agricultural habitats. *Conservation Biology* 20: 1433-1444.—Comparing demographic indicators of habitat quality for the American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) wintering in Jamaican citrus orchards, shade coffee plantations, mangrove, coastal scrub, coastal palm, and dry limestone forests, the authors conclude that local density may be useful as an approximation of winter habitat quality. E-mail: mdj6@humboldt.edu.
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- LAHTI, D. C. 2003. Cactus fruits may facilitate Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*) breeding in atypical habitat on Hispaniola. *Wilson Bulletin* 115:487-489.—The ability of *P. cucullatus* to breed in the dry desert may be a function of the availability of fruit of the columnar cactus which provide carbohydrates and water to the birds. E-mail: lahti@bio.umass.edu.
- LAHTI, D. C. 2005. Evolution of bird eggs in the absence of cuckoo parasitism. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA)* 102:18057-18062.—Using introduced populations of Village Weavers (*Ploceus cucullatus*) in the Dominican Republic as a comparison, the author finds support for the hypothesis that egg appearance in *P. cucullatus* has been maintained by natural selection as a counter-adaptation to cuckoo brood parasitism. E-mail: lahti@bio.umass.edu.
- LAHTI, D. C. 2006. Persistence of egg recognition in the absence of cuckoo brood parasitism: pattern and mechanism. *Evolution* 60:157-168.—Using experimental parasitism of nests of introduced populations of Village Weavers (*Ploceus cucullatus*) in the Dominican Republic and at other sites, author finds support for the hypothesis that there has been no significant decline in the birds' ability to recognize foreign eggs at sites devoid of egg-mimicking brood parasites. E-mail: lahti@bio.umass.edu.
- LATTA, S. C., AND K. C. PARKES. 2002. A possible *Dendroica kirtlandii* hybrid from Hispaniola. *Wilson Bulletin* 113:378-383. E-mail: steven.latta@aviary.org.
- LEWIS, A. R. 2007. Hurricane-related vagrancy of Swainson's Thrush and Veery in Puerto Rico. *Caribbean Journal of Science* 43:150-154.—Low pressure associated with a hurricane in the Western Caribbean brought unprecedented numbers of vagrants to Puerto Rico in October 2005. E-mail: lewis@uprm.edu.
- McNAIR, D. B., E. B. MASSIAH, AND M. D. FROST. 2002. Ground-based autumn migration of Blackpoll Warblers at Harrison Point, Barbados. *Caribbean Journal of Science* 38:239-248.—The Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) is a generally infrequent and uncommon migrant at this site. The arrival of large numbers of grounded birds in 1997 was associated with a low barometric air pressure system. E-mail: dbmcnair@gmail.com.
- OLSON, S. 2005. Refutation of the historical evi-

- dence for a Hispaniolan Macaw (Aves: Psittacidae: *Ara*). *Caribbean Journal of Science* 41:319-323.—Concludes that there is no credible evidence for the existence of a macaw species on Hispaniola in historical times. E-mail: olsons@si.edu.
- OVERTON, L. C., AND D. D. RHOADS. 2004. Molecular phylogenetic relationships based on mitochondrial and nuclear gene sequences for the Todies (*Todus*, Todidae) of the Caribbean. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 32:524-538.—The *Todus* group is monophyletic and most closely related to the motmots (Motmotidae). The Hispaniolan *T. subulatus* and *T. angustirostris* are not sister species, and *T. angustirostris* appears to be separated into two genetically distinct subpopulations.
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- RICKLEFS, R. E., S. M. FALLON, S. C. LATTA, B. L. SWANSON, AND E. BERMINGHAM. 2005. Migrants and their parasites: a bridge between two worlds. Pp. 210-221 in *Birds of two worlds—the ecology and evolution of migratory birds* (R. Greenberg and P. Marra, eds.). Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London. E-mail: ricklefs@umsl.edu.
- RICKLEFS, R. E. AND E. BERMINGHAM. 2008. Likely human introduction of the Red-legged Thrush (*Turdus plumbeus*) to Dominica, West Indies. *The Auk* 125:299-303.—The weakly differentiated population on Dominica is 600 km and many suitable islands from the nearest conspecific population. Mitochondrial DNA sequences show that the Dominican population is practically indistinguishable genetically from that of Puerto Rico. This indicates a recent derivation of the Dominican population from Puerto Rico, likely the result of human introduction. E-mail: ricklefs@umsl.edu.
- RIMMER, C. C., L. G. WOOLAVER, R. K. NICHOLS, E. M. FERNANDEZ, S. C. LATTA, AND E. GARRIDO. 2008. First description of nests and eggs of two Hispaniolan endemic species: Western Chat-tanager (*Calyptophilus tertius*) and Hispaniolan Highland-tanager (*Xenoligea montana*). *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 120:190-195. E-mail: crimmer@vtceco-studies.org.
- SMITH, J. A. M., L. R. REITSMA, L.L. ROCKWOOD, AND P. P. MARRA. 2008. Roosting behavior of a Neotropical migrant songbird, the Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*, during the non-breeding season. *Journal of Avian Biology* 39:460-465.—Waterthrushes roost in red mangrove, traveling up to 2 km to selected sites. Most individuals roosted alone, but others were in loose aggregations. E-mail: smithjam@gmail.com.
- STEADMAN, D. W., R. FRANZ, G. S. MORGAN, N. A. ALBURY, B. KAKUK, K. BROAD, S. E. FRANZ, K. TINKER, M. P. PATEMAN, T. A. LOTT, D. M. JARZEN, AND D. L. DILCHER. 2007. Exceptionally well preserved late Quaternary plant and vertebrate fossils from a blue hole on Abaco, the Bahamas. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science USA* 104:19897-19902.—Vertebrate fossils from a water-filled sinkhole on Great Abaco Island included Caracara (*Caracara creightoni*), Cooper's or Gundlach's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii* or *A. gundlachi*), an undescribed rail species (extinct; the first Bahamian flightless rail), a flicker (*Colaptes* spp.), Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*), and Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*). E-mail: dws@flmnh.ufl.edu.
- TOSSAS, A. G. 2006. Effects of hurricane Georges on the resident avifauna of Maricao State Forest, Puerto Rico. *Caribbean Journal of Science* 42:81-87.—Studies with mist nets and point counts document initial increase in capture rates of birds in the understory, and longer term declines of most species after passage of the hurricane. Two species were not observed after the hurricane, including one of the five most abundant, *Geotrygon montana*. E-mail: agtossas@caribe.net.
- TOWNSEND, A. K., C. C. RIMMER, S. C. LATTA, AND I. J. LOVETTE. 2007. Phylogeographic concordance of nuclear and mitochondrial gene genealogies in the single-island avian radiation of Hispaniolan Chat-anagers (Aves: *Calyptophilus*). *Molecular Ecology* 16:3634-3642.—Genetic analyses support separation into two distinct species. E-mail: at256@cornell.edu.

WHITE, T. H., JR., G. G. BROWN, AND J. A. COLLAZO. 2006. Artificial cavities and nest site selection by Puerto Rican Parrots: a multiscale assessment. *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 1(3):online.—Nest sites selected by *Amazona vittata* were characterized by greater horizontal and vertical visibility from the nest entrance, greater density of mature sierra palms, and a more westerly and leeward orientation of nest entrances than unused sites. Our results suggest that nest site selection in this species is an adaptive response to predation pressure, to which the parrots respond by selecting nest sites offering advantages in predator detection and avoidance at all stages of the nesting cycle. [www.aceeco.org/viewissue.php?id=3#Research\\_Papers](http://www.aceeco.org/viewissue.php?id=3#Research_Papers).

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AND S. A. GUERRERO. 2005. Effects of hurricane Georges on habitat use by captive-reared Hispaniolan Parrots (*Amazona ventralis*) released in the Dominican Republic. *Ornitologia Neotropical* 16: 405-417.—Radio-tagged parrots used larger home ranges after the passage of the hurricane, and parrot activity was concentrated in areas with a taller broadleaf forest than was used prior to the hurricane. Large sinkholes were seen as a “resource refugia” and were of particular importance. E-mail: [thomas\\_white@fws.gov](mailto:thomas_white@fws.gov).

WUNDERLE, J. M., JR., AND S. C. LATTA. 2000. Winter site fidelity of Nearctic migrant birds in isolated shade coffee plantations of different sizes in the Dominican Republic. *Auk* 117:596-614. E-mail: [wunderle@coqui.net](mailto:wunderle@coqui.net).

#### NEOTROPICAL BIRDS ONLINE—A NEW RESOURCE FOR CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGISTS AND BIRDERS

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The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is pleased to announce the release of Neotropical Birds Online ([neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/home](http://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/home)), a new online resource for life history accounts of Neotropical birds. The scope of Neotropical Birds Online is all bird species that regularly occur in the Western Hemisphere, from Mexico and the Caribbean south to southernmost South America. The emphasis is on species that breed within this region, but the long term goal is to provide accounts for all species that occur regularly in the region.

The format for Neotropical Birds Online is a series of life history species accounts similar to that of the Birds of North America series ([bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna](http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna)), but with one important difference: access to Neotropical Birds is free. Topics covered in each online account include appearance and identification, distribution, habitat, diet, foraging behavior, nesting biology, conservation status, and priorities for future research on that species.

Each species of Caribbean bird will be the subject of a separate account in Neotropical Birds Online, and each account is treated as a separate online publication. The online format allows authors to revise their species accounts to keep pace with new research and new findings. It also allows the incorporation of rich media such as sound recordings and video in the account. Neotropical Birds Online is a

collaborative project. Not only will it be useful to researchers, birders, and managers who are interested in birds of the Neotropics, but it will be “created” by that same community of specialists.

That means that we need your help. Currently we have completed accounts for only a few species of Caribbean birds. More accounts are in the pipeline, but we still are in need of authors for many species. The readers of the *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology* are just the people who have the expertise on Caribbean birds that we need to tap into. If you study any Caribbean birds or would like to author a species account, please contact the Neotropical Birds Online editors ([neotropicalbirds@cornell.edu](mailto:neotropicalbirds@cornell.edu)). You can contribute to this project not only through authoring a species account, but also by providing photographic images, sound or video recordings. Learn more about how to contribute at [neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/contribute](http://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/contribute).

Many thanks for your support of Neotropical Birds Online—we look forward to hearing from you.—TOM SCHULENBERG, *Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14817, USA; e-mail: [tss62@cornell.edu](mailto:tss62@cornell.edu)*; and JEFF GERBRACHT, *Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850, USA; e-mail: [jag73@cornell.edu](mailto:jag73@cornell.edu)*.