

TWO BIRD SPECIES NEW FOR HISPANIOLA

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Abstract: In January 2007 we observed a small group of Eurasian Collared-Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*) and trapped a male Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The collared-dove was expected given its rapid range expansion since its introduction in the Bahamas.

Key words: Dominican Republic, Hispaniola, *Passerina ciris*, *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resumen: DOS ESPECIES DE AVES NUEVAS PARA LA ESPAÑOLA. En enero de 2007 fue observado un pequeño grupo de tórtolas de collar (*Streptopelia decaocto*) y fue atrapado un macho de *Passerina ciris* en Punta Cana, República Dominicana. La llegada de las tórtolas era esperada producto de la rápida expansión de su rango de distribución desde su introducción en las Bahamas.

Palabras clave: Española, *Passerina ciris*, República Dominicana, *Streptopelia decaocto*

Résumé : DEUX NOUVELLES ESPÈCES D'OISEAUX POUR HISPANIOLA. Nous avons observé en janvier 2007 un petit groupe de Tourterelles turques (*Streptopelia decaocto*) et avons capturé un mâle de Passerin nonpareil (*Passerina ciris*) à Punta Cana, en République Dominicaine. La Tourterelle turque était attendue en raison de son expansion rapide depuis son introduction aux Bahamas.

Mots-clés : Hispaniola, *Passerina ciris*, République Dominicaine, *Streptopelia decaocto*

DURING OUR VISIT to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, hosted by the Punta Cana Ecological Foundation (at the Punta Cana Resort and Club) in December 2006 and January 2007, we regularly observed Eurasian Collared-Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*) and mistnetted one male Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*). Because these records represent species previously unrecorded from Hispaniola (Raffaele *et al.* 1998, Keith *et al.* 2003, Latta *et al.* 2006), we provide details on our observations.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE

The Eurasian Collared-Dove was introduced in the Bahamas in 1974 and has since spread to Cuba and the USA in the 1980s (Romagosa 2002). It is also common on the Cayman Islands and in some of the Lesser Antilles (Raffaele *et al.* 1998). Although Keith *et al.* (2003) considered it to be expected in Hispaniola, Latta *et al.* (2006) did not mention it in their field guide.

On 28 December 2006 we observed three Eurasian Collared-Doves perched on electric wires along the road at the ranch of Punta Cana Resort and Club, opposite from the access road to the hotel. On 1 January 2007 we counted nine at the ranch, perched on wires and on paddock fences. One of us is familiar with the species from Europe (Dhondt 1969). The typical three-syllable call was unmistakable, distinguishing it from African Collared-Dove

(*Streptopelia roseogrisea*). One of the observed birds did not show the black ring in the neck, indicating that it was a juvenile, and suggesting the species breeds at this site. According to one ranch worker the dove was a new species that had been around for a while. AAD did not observe it in January 2006 nor in any of his previous annual visits since 2000. Eurasian Collared-Doves were observed regularly at the same location in the following weeks.

Although this is the first formal report of Eurasian Collared-Dove for the island, a web search revealed an earlier report by Gareth Jones in July 2005 at Bavaro, about 20 km from Punta Cana (www.birdtours.co.uk/tripreports/dom-rep/dom3/Dominican-republic-05.htm), suggesting that the species had reached Hispaniola earlier.

PAINTED BUNTING

According to Lowther *et al.* (1999), western breeding populations of the Painted Bunting overwinter in Mexico and farther south, whereas eastern breeders winter in the Florida Keys and throughout much of the Florida peninsula, in the Bahamas, and in Cuba. Raffaele *et al.* (1998) report that this species is fairly common on the Bahamas during migration (November and March) and uncommon during winter (December-February). On Cuba it is uncommon during migration and rare during Decem-



Fig. 1. Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) trapped on 3 January 2007 at Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Photo by André and Keila Dhondt.

ber-February. In Jamaica and the Cayman Islands it is a vagrant. The species has not been recorded on other islands of the West Indies. The recapture of a Painted Bunting in Haiti mentioned by Thompson (1991) appears to be erroneous (Keith *et al.* 2003). Painted Buntings are typically found in “thickets, bush, and grassy areas, particularly in semi-arid areas” (Raffaele *et al.* 1998).

We trapped one male in fresh multi-colored adult plumage on 3 January 2007 in the lowest shelf of a mist net that had been placed along a narrow path inside a small patch of semi-dry forest on the hotel grounds (Fig. 1). It was trapped inside a forest patch

with bushy undergrowth. The bunting’s wing length was 70 mm and its body mass was 16.6 g at 0945. This is well within the range for a multi-colored male belonging to either the eastern breeding population (wing, 69.1 mm \pm 1.34 SD; mass, 15.6 g \pm 1.57) or the western population (wing, 71.1 \pm 1.70; mass, 16.6 \pm 1.50; Lowther *et al.* 1999).

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