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Recent ornithological literature from the Caribbean: 2015

A regular feature of the *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*, this column alerts readers to recent ornithological literature from the Caribbean basin that has appeared elsewhere. We would also like to include any unpublished theses or other reports that may be difficult to find in more universally available abstract services.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

National Aviary, Allegheny Commons West, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, USA; e-mail: steven.latta@aviary.org

Abrahamczyk, S., D. Souto-Vilarós, J.A. McGuire, and S.S. Renner. 2015. Diversity and clade ages of West Indian hummingbirds and the largest plant clades dependent on them: a 5–9 Myr young mutualistic system. Biological Journal of the Linnean Society 114:848–859.—Results imply that hummingbirds colonized the West Indies at least five times, from 6.6 Mya onwards, coming from South and Central America. The oldest of the dated hummingbird-pollinated plant groups diversified 9.1, 8.5, and 5.4 Mya, simultaneous with or slightly before the extant West Indian bird radiations. E-mail: sabraham@uni-bonn.de.

Akresh, M.E., and D.I. King. 2015. Observations of new bird species for San Salvador Island, The Bahamas. Caribbean Naturalist 26:1–10.—E-mail: makresh@eco.umass.edu.

Almonte-Espinosa, H. 2015. Contribución al conocimiento de las aves en Hoyo de Pelempito, Sierra de Bahoruco, República Dominicana. [A contribution to the knowledge of the birds of the Hoyo de Pelempito, Sierra de Bahoruco, Dominican Republic.] Novitates Caribaea 8:138–141.—E-mail: h.almonte@mnhn.gov.do.

Claessens, O., B.B. Conde, and N. Laurent. 2015. Un programme de suivi des oiseaux communs pour les departments d'Outre-Mer: Adaptation du protocol STOC-EPS aux environnements tropicaux. [A large-scale common birds monitoring scheme for French overseas departments: adaptations of the STOC-EPS protocol to tropical environments.] Alauda 83: 273–284.—Neotropical overseas departments of France involved include French Guiana, Lesser Antilles, and Martinique. An English translation of the complete paper is available. E-mail: olivier.claessens@gepog.org.

Denis Ávila, D. 2015. Variación en el tamaño de los huevos en garzas (Aves: Ardeidae) que anidan en la ciénaga de Birama, Cuba. [Variation in the size of eggs of herons and egrets that nest in the Ciénaga de Birama, Cuba.] International Journal of Tropical Biology and Conservation 63:235–248.—The size of 3,142 eggs from 1,875 nests of Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), Great Egret (*Ardea alba*), Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), and four species of *Egretta* are described. E-mail: dda@fbio.uh.cu.

Farnsworth, A., F.A. La Sorte, and M.J. Iliff. 2015. Warmer summers and drier winters correlate with more winter vagrant Purple Gallinules (*Porphyrio martinicus*) in the North Atlantic region. Wilson Journal of Ornithology 127:582–592.—Using 77 eBird reports of vagrant Purple Gallinules from 1957–2014, occurrences are correlated with environmental conditions and population trends. Average temperature anomalies showed significant correlations with patterns of records, with warmer late summer temperatures in Florida and Puerto Rico, and drier conditions in eastern Mexico, correlating with more vagrants. E-mail: af27@cornell.edu.

Feo, T.J., J.M. Musser, J. Berv, and C.J. Clark. 2015. Divergence in morphology, calls, song, mechanical sounds, and genetics supports species status for the Inaguan Hummingbird (Trochilidae: *Calliphlox "evelynae" lyrura*). Auk 132:248–264.—E-mail: teresa.feo@yale.edu.

Ferrer-Sanchez, Y., and R. Rodriguez-Estrella. 2015. Man-made environments relationships with island raptors: endemics do not cope with habitat changes, the case of the island of Cuba. Biodiversity and Conservation 24:407–425.—Raptor distribution showed strong variation in relation to habitat transformations, with lower richness, abundance, and density in areas more extensively transformed by human activities. Under insular conditions, land use changes can pose major threats for endemic and specialist raptors, seriously compromising their conservation. E-mail: estrella@cibnor.mx.

Gala, M., and A. Lenoble. 2015. Evidence of the former existence of an endemic macaw in Guadeloupe, Lesser Antilles. Journal of Ornithology 156:1061–1066.—The discovery of a bone referred to the genus *Ara* from a Pleistocene fossil-bearing deposit on Marie-Galante demonstrates macaws to have been present in Guadeloupe before any Amerindian settlement. This contradicts the hypothesis that macaws described in historical records were introduced by native peoples from South America. The fossil bone found on Marie-Galante can be attributed to an endemic large macaw (Lesser Antillean Macaw [*Ara guadeloupensis*]) presumed to have inhabited the Guadeloupe Islands. E-mail: arnaud.lenoble@u-bordeaux.fr.

Graves, G.R. 2015. A primer on the hybrid zone of Jamaican streamertail hummingbirds (Trochilidae: *Trochilus*). Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 128:111–124.—The endemic hummingbirds *Trochilus polytmus* and *T. scitulus* hybridize in a narrow zone of secondary contact in eastern Jamaica. This study is the first direct examination of skeletal size variation

across any avian hybrid zone. E-mail: gravesg@si.edu.

Graves, G.R., and B.K. Schmidt. 2015. Distribution, abundance, and conservation status of the Jamaican Crow, *Corvus jamaicensis*. Caribbean Naturalist 27:1–18.—E-mail: gravesg@si.edu.

Grieves, L.A., D.M. Logue, and J.S. Quinn. 2015. Vocal repertoire of cooperatively breeding Smooth-billed Anis. Journal of Field Ornithology 86:130–143.—A vocal repertoire of 11 call types of cooperatively breeding Smooth-billed Anis (*Crotophaga ani*) was recorded in Puerto Rico. This relatively large vocal repertoire, and the association of distinct call types with different functions and contexts, supports the social complexity hypothesis that species with more complex social systems will have more complex communication systems. E-mail: lagrieves@gmail.com.

Levy, C. 2015. An early description and illustration of Blue Mountain Vireo *Vireo osburni*. Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club 135:342–347.—E-mail: bluequit@gmail.com.

Marra, P.P., C.E. Studds, S. Wilson, T.S. Sillett, T.W. Sherry, and R.T. Holmes. 2015. Non-breeding season habitat quality mediates the strength of density-dependence for a migratory bird. Proceedings of the Royal Society B 282:20150624.—Survival of overwintering American Redstarts (*Setophaga ruticilla*) in high-quality mangrove habitat in Jamaica appears to be regulated by a crowding mechanism based on density-dependent resource competition. Survival of individuals in lower quality scrub habitat appears to be limited by density-independent environmental factors and not regulated by crowding. The contrasting effects of density and food limitation on individuals overwintering in adjacent habitats illustrate the complexity of processes operating during the non-breeding period. E-mail: marrap@si.edu.

Olson, S.L. 2015. History, morphology, and fossil record of the extinct Puerto Rican Parakeet *Psittacara maugei* Souancé. Wilson Journal of Ornithology 127:1–12.—The extinct Puerto Rican Parakeet has been known with certainty only from Mona Island and is usually regarded as a poorly defined subspecies of Hispaniolan Parakeet (*Psittacara chloropterus*) of Hispaniola. Examination of skin specimens and comparison of skeletons with fossil and archaeological material from Puerto Rico show that the Puerto Rican Parakeet is a fully distinct species from the Hispaniolan Parakeet, differing in plumage and bill morphology. E-mail: olsons@si.edu.

Parada Isada, A., A. García-Quintas, and D. Hernández Álvarez. 2015. The avifauna of sandy coastal vegetation during migration in the Laberinto de las Doce Leguas sub-archipelago, southern Cuba. Cotinga 37:45–55.—E-mail: sepulturascream@hotmail.com or antonio@ciec.cu.

Parashuram, D., S. Oppel, C. Fenton, G. James, J. Daley, G. Gray, N.J. Collar, and P.M. Dolman. 2015. The Forest Thrush *Turdus lherminieri* prefers mature mesic forest with dense canopy. Bird Conservation International 25:503–513.—This 'Vulnerable' species, endemic to four islands in the Caribbean, prefers mature mesic and wet forests on Montserrat. The species' long-term future depends on good protection of these natural forests. E-mail: devathip@gmail.com.

Peele, A.M., P.M. Marra, T.S. Sillett, and T.W. Sherry. 2015. Combining survey methods to estimate abundance and transience of migratory birds among tropical nonbreeding habitats. Auk 132:926–937.—Results illustrate how unmarked and marked survey methods for American Redstart in Jamaica can be used jointly to establish the number and identity of transients from neighboring areas. The unmarked survey method was sufficient for estimating population size among different habitats, but marked survey methods were necessary to identify and quantify transient individuals. Combined, these methods provide a powerful tool for assessing the range and variation of space-use strategies deployed by nonbreeding individuals. E-mail: ashpeele25@gmail.com.

Powell, L.L., R.C. Dobbs, and P.P. Marra. 2015. Habitat and body condition influence American Redstart foraging behavior during the non-breeding season. Journal of Field Ornithology 86:229–237.—American Redstarts in scrub habitat that maintained body condition were better able to use energetically expensive aerial maneuvers and wing-powered search movements to exploit large, calorie-rich flying arthropods. As the scrub dried over the course of the winter, a shift in foraging tactic may have allowed some birds to forage more efficiently, likely facilitating maintenance of good body condition. E-mail: Luke.L.Powell@gmail.com.

Rivera-Milán, F.F., P. Bertuol, F. Simal, and B.L. Rusk. 2015. Distance sampling survey and abundance estimation of the critically endangered Grenada Dove (*Leptotila wellsi*). Condor 117:87–93.—E-mail: frank_rivera@fws.gov.

Sanz, V., and S. Caula. 2015. Assessing bird assemblages along an urban gradient in a Caribbean island (Margarita, Venezuela). Urban Ecosystems 18:729–746.—E-mail: scaula@uc.edu.ve.

Soanes, L.M., J.A. Bright, M. Bolton, J. Millett, F. Mukhida, and J.A. Green. 2015. Foraging behaviour of Brown Boobies *Sula leucogaster* in Anguilla, Lesser Antilles: preliminary identification of at-sea distribution using a time-in-area approach. Bird Conservation International 25:87–96.—E-mail: louise.soanes@liv.ac.uk.

Steadman, D.W., N.A. Albury, B. Kakuk, J.I. Mead, J.A. Soto-Centeno, H.M. Singleton, and J. Franklin. 2015. Vertebrate community on an ice-age Caribbean island. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 112:E5963–E5971.—Vertebrate taxa, including 63 birds, are reported from late Pleistocene bone deposits in Sawmill Sink, Abaco, The Bahamas. Of these, 31 no longer occur on Abaco, and 17 of the losses are linked to changes during the Pleistocene–Holocene Transition, with the remaining losses likely related to the presence of humans on Abaco for the past 1,000 yr. E-mail: janet.franklin@asu.edu.

Steadman, D.W., and J. Franklin. 2015. Changes in a West Indian bird community since the late Pleistocene. Journal of Biogeography 42:426–438.—Using a collection of fossils from Great Abaco Island, Bahamas, the authors compare the resident bird communities from the Pleistocene and the Holocene, and they contrast patterns of extinction, extirpation, and persistence. E-mail: dws@flmnh.ufl.edu.

Stott, R.D.E. 2015. First record of Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* for Cuba. Cotinga 37:107.—E-mail: richarddestott@gmail.com.

Wolfe, J.D., and E.I. Johnson. 2015. Geolocator reveals migratory and winter movements of a Prothonotary Warbler. Journal of Field Ornithology 86:238–243.—E-mail: jdw@klamathbird.org.

Woolaver, L.G., R.K. Nichols, E.S. Morton, and B.J.M. Stutchbury. 2015. Breeding ecology and predictors of nest success in the Critically Endangered Ridgway's Hawk *Buteo ridgwayi*. Bird Conservation International 25:385–398.—The two significant predictors of nest success and fledging rate were related to human persecution: nest height and territory disturbance index. Pairs were able to tolerate human activity in their territory if there was no direct disturbance to the immediate nest area. E-mail: lancewoolaver@hotmail.com.