

COMMENTS ON KIRWAN'S FIRST RECORD OF THE ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET (*PSITTACULA KRAMERI*) IN THE WEST INDIES

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*Abstract.* – Kirwan (2000) considered his observations of a pair of Rose-ringed Parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) in Cuba to be the first record of the species for the West Indies. The author, however, overlooked records of the species from Puerto Rico.

*Resumen* – COMENTARIOS SOBRE LA PRIMERA OBSERVACIÓN DEL PERICO COLLARINO (*PSITTACULA KRAMERI*) EN LAS INDIAS OCCIDENTALES SEGÚN KIRWAN. Kirwan (2000) considera que la observación que hizo de dos pericos collarinos (*Psittacula krameri*) en Cuba es el primer informe de la especie en las Indias Occidentales. Sin embargo, el autor pasó por alto el hecho de que la especie ya había sido informada en Puerto Rico.

*Key words:* exotic, introduced, *Psittacula krameri*, Rose-ringed Parakeet, record, Puerto Rico

KIRWAN (2000) REPORTED his sighting of a pair of Rose-ringed Parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) in Cuba as the first record for the species in the West Indies. But the species had been reported earlier from Puerto Rico (Raffaele 1983, Pérez-Rivera 1993). In November 1984, I was informed of the presence of two Rose-ringed Parakeets near Lago Cidra in east-central Puerto Rico. In February 1985, I observed a pair of parakeets, which by August were associating with a third individual (two adults and an apparent juvenile [no ring collar and bill paler than other two birds]), at km 7 of road 172 near Cidra (Pérez-Rivera 1992). Thus, the pair had apparently bred. The three parakeets roosted with Puerto Rican Plain Pigeons (*Columba inornata wetmorei*) and were observed by several individuals participating in Plain Pigeon censuses. By December 1989 (about three months after Hurricane Hugo), only one parakeet was observed, and after the Plain Pigeon census in April 1990, the remaining bird was not observed.

A pair of Rose-ringed Parakeets was observed almost daily at the Humacao Campus of the University of Puerto Rico, 35 km east of the Cidra site, from July to October 1990. Carlos Ruiz photographed the parakeets. The photographs are part of the ornithological collection of the University at Humacao. The

origin of these birds was traced to an exotic parrot breeder nearby the university campus. The species was imported into Puerto Rico in the 1970s through the pet shop trade. The birds observed in Cidra, Humacao, and other localities of Puerto Rico (e.g., Cabo Rojo, where a bird was captured by Mr. Pedro Claudio) should be considered accidental escapes.

Thus, the first records of the Rose-ringed Parakeet in the West Indies clearly are from Puerto Rico and predate Kirwan's (2000) record by about 17 years.

LITERATURE CITED

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