

FURTHER RECORDS OF THE NORTHERN POTOO (*NYCTIBIUS JAMAICENSIS*) IN CUBA, AND A CORRECTION TO MARTÍNEZ *ET AL.* (2000)

GUY M. KIRWAN

74 Waddington Street, Norwich NR2 4JS, UK

MARTÍNEZ *ET AL.* (2000) report the first official observations of the Northern Potoo (*Nyctibius jamaicensis*) in Cuba, detailing observations from the Santa Clara, Santo Tomás (Ciénaga de Zapata), and Sierra de Anafe (La Habana) regions, principally in the late 1990s. The authors also mention that “Most recently, Guy Kirwan heard and saw a potoo near Baconao, in eastern Cuba.” As this latter statement is only partially correct, clarification of my observations of this species in the Cuban Oriente is worthwhile.

In January 2001, G. M. Flieg and I conducted nocturnal surveys in eastern Cuba. Just before sunset on 5 January, a potoo was observed, briefly, atop a telegraph pole beside the road east of Siboney, Santiago de Cuba province. The bird then flew across the road into an area of xerophytic vegetation on a hillside, characterized by tall columnar cacti, emergent palms,

and 1-3 m-tall scrub. It was lost from sight and no further observations were made at this site. Further, on 10 January 2001, Kirwan heard the distinctive song of the potoo in a similar area of xerophytic scrub on the coast, south of Baitiquirí, Guantánamo province. This individual was not seen. The habitat in which these two records were collected is similar to that in which the species is most frequently encountered in Hispaniola (Kirwan, pers. obs.).

LITERATURE CITED

MARTÍNEZ, O., O. H. GARRIDO, G. B. REYNARD, W. SUÁREZ, A. KIRKCONNELL, AND J. W. WILEY. 2000. A new family and genus of bird (Aves: Caprimulgiformes: Nyctibiidae) for Cuba. *Pitirre* 13 (3): 65–67.

A LEUCISTIC YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT (*TIARIS OLIVACEA*) IN CUBA

GUY M. KIRWAN

74 Waddington Street, Norwich NR2 4JS, UK

ON 20 JANUARY 2001, a group of birdwatchers and I observed a wholly leucistic Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*) on Cayo Guillermo, Archipiélago de Sabana-Camagüey, Cuba. Robin Restall (*in litt.* January and February 2001) reports that leucism is unknown within the genus *Tiaris*, having examined specimens of this genus within all of the world's major collections, with the exception of some possible records among captive individuals of Cuban Grassquit *T. canora*. Arturo Kirkconnell (*in litt.* February 2001), however, reported a leucistic specimen, collected by J. H. Bauza in Trinidad, Cuba in 1952, within the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Cuba, La Habana, collection. That speci-

men retained normal coloration only in the primaries.

The observed individual consorted with a group of approximately 10 normal-plumaged individuals of the same species by the roadside at the northwestern end of the cay. The individual was creamy white, although the throat patch was still evident as a pale yellow spot, and the belly and undertail-coverts were faded to grayish-white. The eyes were dark and the legs normally colored. Peter Edwards took several photographs of the aberrant individual.

I am grateful to two excellent colleagues, Robin Restall and Arturo Kirkconnell, for their assistance in the preparation of this note.