

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ORNITHOLOGY IN THE WEST INDIES.—James W. Wiley. 2000. Proceedings of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Volume 7. 817 pp. illustr. ISSN 0511-7550. US\$42.50, including postage (paper).

A perpetual problem for biologists, naturalists, and conservationists on many Caribbean islands is the difficulty of finding relevant biological information relating to one's home island, particularly when most of the information resides off-island. This problem is especially acute in a region of the world where many of the biological studies are (or were) conducted by visiting biologists who leave the island or region at the end of their study. Although reports summarizing the research findings are often provided to the local government and various NGOs, these are largely inaccessible to most folks who remain unaware of the relevant work. Local and regional publications may be helpful in "repatriating" some island research findings, but most Caribbean studies have been published in a staggering variety of North American and European books, magazines, and journals, partly reflecting the diverse colonial histories of the region. Even with access to a major university research library, finding the widely scattered Caribbean biological literature can be a frustratingly difficult task.

Given the difficulties of finding the relevant Caribbean literature, Wiley's bibliography of ornithology in the West Indies is an especially important contribution to ornithology and avian conservation in the region. The geographical scope of the bibliography includes the bird literature within Bond's classic West Indian avifaunal region — Bahamas, Greater and Lesser Antilles, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Swan Island, and islas San Andrés and Providencia. Excluded are citations specific to avian studies on the continental islands such as Cozumel, Trinidad and Tobago, the Venezuelan islands, and the Dutch Islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao. The literature from 1750 to 1994 has been summarized, although some more recent citations have been included. The bibliography includes titles gleaned from a diversity of books, journals (591 different journal titles), theses, and gray literature (e.g., government reports, reports to funding agencies, and newspaper and popular local magazine articles).

Each bibliographic entry contains the following: a sequential unique number for each reference arranged alphabetically by author; name(s) of author (s); publication date; title; English translation of French, German, and Spanish titles; journal, or if a chapter, book title; publisher and publication loca-

tion (or university location for theses); series, volume and/or number for journal articles; inclusive page numbers; and annotations on the information in the reference (brief abstract for titles involving more detailed studies). Three indices are included — taxonomic, geographic key words, and subject key words. Also, several appendices are included — serial titles, titles of serial literature by region, taxonomic list, geographic key words arranged by island groups, list of subject key words, libraries and other sources in the West Indies. Finally, a floppy disk or CD-ROM version of the bibliography will be available, which will greatly facilitate bibliographic searches.

Wiley's bibliography opens with the following quote from G. F. Mees (1969):

"Bibliography is a most unrewarding occupation, because one tends to get blamed for what one has overlooked, rather than praised for what one has accomplished"

With a noteworthy total of 11,648 titles in his bibliography, it is difficult to believe that Wiley overlooked much relating to West Indian ornithology. However, the author notes that he does not consider the bibliography to be comprehensive, but rather contains most of the published and much of the unpublished references to West Indian birds of which he was aware. What Wiley has found and summarized in the bibliography represents many years of dedicated, meticulous sleuthing in a variety of West Indian, North American, and European institutions. It is obvious that the bibliography was not put together by simply conducting key word computer library searches. Considerable shoe leather was lost in his search as evident in the numerous unpublished reports, theses, and limited edition books cited in the bibliography. He personally inspected 97% of the titles listed in the bibliography and designates "not seen" for those sources he was unable to inspect. In the introduction Wiley admits to being erratic and eccentric in his approach to some general publications that discuss West Indian birds — an apparently honest admission, for how else would anyone find information on West Indian birds in Pennants' (1784–1785) *Arctic Ornithology?* Obscure and nontraditional literature was routinely probed in his search, such as the 1879 volume of *Cronica Medico-Quirugica de la Habana* which contained a brief note on olfactory abilities of Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*). Wiley's bibliography will undoubtedly be remembered for the gems he has uncovered and not for any of the literature he overlooked.

These examples and the 11,648 titles make it abundantly clear that Wiley's literature search was remarkably thorough. Despite careful review of this bibliography, I could not find anything which Wiley missed. In fact, to my surprise, I discovered two titles for which I was an author or co-author and had not realized the work had been published!

In summary, Wiley's thorough, annotated bibliography is a significant contribution to West Indian ornithology which will be a fundamental reference for all interested in birdlife in this region. The bibliography belongs in the personal libraries of every student of West Indian ornithology and should be available in all institutional libraries in the region as well as those libraries with a focus on ornithology and/or the Caribbean. Finally, I would encourage those with the resources to consider donating copies of Wiley's bibliography to appropriate individuals and institutions in the West Indies to facilitate repatriation of this valuable ornithological knowledge.—JOSEPH M. WUNDERLE, JR., International Institute of Tropical Forestry, USDA–Forest Service, PO Box 490, Palmer, Puerto Rico 00721; e-mail: wunderle@coqui.net

THE BIRDS OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS. AN ANNOTATED CHECKLIST.—Patricia E. Bradley. 2000. BOU Checklist No 19. British Ornithologists' Union, Herts, UK. ISBN 0907446 23 X. xvi + 253 pp. 32 pp. of color photographs by Patricia Bradley and Yves-Jacques Rey-Millet. £35.00 (hardback).

The birds of several of the West Indies are the subject of recent and forthcoming check-lists, including St. Lucia (Keith 1997), Hispaniola (Keith *et al.*, in prep.), Cuba (Garrido and Kirkconnell, in prep.), and the subject volume by Patricia E. Bradley. What an excellent book Ms. Bradley has afforded us! Because she has for 20 years been studying the Cayman Islands' habitats and avifauna, Ms. Bradley is uniquely qualified for the task of compiling an extraordinary check-list. Among her earlier publications are *Birds of the Cayman Islands* (1985, 1995) and *The avifauna of the Cayman Islands: an overview* (1994), both full of new and useful information about the islands' bird life. Her research has focused on the Islands' parrots; breeding and migrant seabirds; migrant shorebirds, waterfowl, and warblers; the West Indian Whistling-Duck; and, perhaps her most important contribution, on defining the entire avifauna of the three Cayman Island and its relationship to habitats on each island. Our appreciation of the islands' avifauna is much the richer for

Ms. Bradley's efforts.

The detail and depth of Ms. Bradley's investigations into the birds of the Cayman Islands, both in the field and museum collections, are evident throughout her check-list. She traveled extensively, visiting all major collections in North America, as well as the British Museum of Natural History (Tring), in search of Cayman specimens. The presentation is enhanced through the author's use of tables (9), figures (8) and, especially, the 71 color plates, including relief and vegetation zone maps, habitat photographs, and splendid portraits of several species of birds photographed by the author and Yves-Jacques Rey-Millet. A special bonus is John O'Neil's beautiful painting of Cuban Bullfinches that dresses the cover of the book.

Ms. Bradley provides an excellent introduction to the Islands', including a general history of the Cayman Islands, sections on geology and geography, climate, vegetation types and habitats, a detailed history of ornithological work, paleornithology, migration, and introduced species. Of particular interest is the author's examination of West Indian and Cayman zoogeography, particularly the analyses of the origins of the Islands' avifauna, and landbird affinities and distribution within the Cayman Islands. Bradley also provides a meticulous analysis of population trends and status changes of Cayman breeding land and water birds, making effective use of tables to summarize her investigation. I was particularly pleased to see the author's detailed summary of conservation, including an enumeration of protected areas, discussion of threats to biodiversity and avifauna, and highlights of conservation efforts in the islands.

The main body (pp. 57–205) of the book consists of a comprehensive systematic list that summarizes what is known of the birds that have occurred in the three Cayman Islands from 1886 to 1999. In addition to extant species, included in the list are recently extinct species, species known only from sub-fossil remains, and introduced feral breeders. Each species account includes information on range, status, abundance, frequency, breeding (with clutch size), collected specimens, habitat preference, and distribution within the Islands. Data for the accounts were amassed from published records, unpublished field notes of visiting and resident observers, specimen labels, and Bradley's fieldwork. For those species for which large amounts of data are available (e.g., herons), Bradley has summarized the information in a general statement before giving samples of the records. All information is provided for species for which few data exist.

Ten appendices of associated materials, including a gazetteer of all localities mentioned in the text, further enhance the value and utility of the book. An extensive 21-page list of literature pertinent to the birds of the Cayman Islands provides the reader with an indispensable base for avian investigations. Finally, access to the information in the check-list is provided by indexes of scientific (including subspecies) and English names of bird species included in the volume.

This is an exceptionally useful volume for students of the subject islands' birds, as well as for our understanding of the avian distribution patterns in surrounding areas. With Bradley's extensive, thorough analyses of the Islands' avian origins and distribution patterns, we have a valuable tool for deciphering the puzzle that is the zoogeography of the West Indies. As with her *Birds of the Cayman Islands*, Patricia Bradley's check-list sets high standards as a benchmark by which other publications will be compared.—JAMES W. WILEY, Maryland Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, 1120 Trigg Hall, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD 21853, USA; e-mail: jwwiley@mail.umes.edu

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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE LESSER ANTILLES WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE TERRESTRIAL AND FRESHWATER ENVIRONMENT (1900-2000).—Georg Waldmann and Michael Stevens. 2001. *Acta Biologica Benrodis Supplement* 8. 209 pp. ISBN 3-927889-90-3. 14.3 x 21 cm paperback, one figure. ca. US\$13.00, including package and shipping.

With the publication of this fine bibliography, authors Georg Waldmann and Michael Stevens have provided workers with convenient and efficient access to the natural history literature of the Lesser Antilles. This region is particularly challenging to the bibliographer because of the complex history of discovery, exploration, colonization, and association with many nations, leading to the literature being widely scattered among the numerous publication outlets of those countries. The authors have done an admirable job of sifting through the conventional, as well as obscure, publications and archives of unpublished reports to compile an excellent bibliography for the Lesser Antilles.

The bibliography project began when the authors' fieldwork in Montserrat was interrupted by volcanic eruptions in 1999. In the short period since that interruption, Waldmann and Stevens amassed a total of 3480 entries, including books, journal articles, proceedings, symposia, reports, and unpublished Ph. D. dissertations. The authors include 27 islands or island groups in their bibliography, which is conveniently divided into 10 subject areas, as well as Basic Literature and other media sections. Each reference is assigned to one thematic section (although several appear in more than one section). Bird literature, included as a subsection under "Vertebrates," contains 138 references, although additional literature pertinent to birds is found among other sections (e.g., Biogeography, Veterinary Zoology). The references are arranged in alphabetical order within the sections. In addition to the expected thematic sections, the authors include chapters on Internet sources, bibliographies, and regional journals.

As Waldmann and Stevens acknowledge, no bibliography is ever complete. Commendably, they have pledged to supplement their bibliography at regular intervals. Their present contribution serves, however, as the starting resource for developing worthy investigations in the Lesser Antilles.—JAMES W. WILEY, Maryland Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, 1120 Trigg Hall, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD 21853, USA; e-mail: jwwiley@mail.umes.edu

BIRD SONGS IN JAMAICA.—George B. Reynard and Robert L. Sutton. 2000. Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY 14850. ISBN 0-938027-48-4. Two-CD set (US \$18.95 + \$1.87 postage and handling) or two cassettes (US\$18.95 + \$2.09 postage and handling), both with 15 pp. booklet.

This sound guide is another fine contribution in George Reynard's series that has included guides to the vocalizations of birds in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (1969), the Dominican Republic (1981), and Cuba (1988; with O. H. Garrido). *Bird songs in Jamaica* presents sound recordings of all the resident land birds and some water birds of Jamaica, a total of 119 species, the vocalizations of most of which have not been available before. Included are 28 endemic species (including 4 endemic genera) and 18 endemic subspecies, as well as migrant species. Except for the recordings of the Golden Swallow (made in the Dominican Republic), all were made of free-flying birds in Jamaica from 1960 to 1998. Most species have at least two, and some as many as 13, different examples of vocalizations. All species have a unique track number that allows rapid access, at least on the CD version.

The authors describe the recordings as an audio companion to *A field guide to the birds of the West Indies*, by Herbert Raffaele *et al.* (1998), and *Birds of Jamaica, a photographic field guide*, by Audrey Downer and Robert L. Sutton (1990). Included with the CDs and cassettes is a 15-page booklet, which has introductory information, as well as a species-by-species and track-by-track listing of the included recordings. Locations where each recording was made, as well as species recorded in the backgrounds of tracks, are identified. An alphabetized species list provides the compact disc and track number, and cassette side, thereby facilitating locating a desired species.

The Jamaica recordings and production of the CD and cassette versions meet the high standards set by the Library of Natural Sounds at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. I recommend *Bird songs in Jamaica* to all visitors to Jamaica interested in the island's birds. The CD version, particularly, when used with a portable player, provides a convenient means of learning vocalizations in the field. Reynard and Sutton, however, request conscientious use of the recordings, asking users to refrain from using playback near nesting birds or when a bird shows signs of agitation. Sadly, George Reynard has announced this will be the last of his compilations of West Indian bird songs. Nevertheless, Dr. Reynard

and his collaborators have provided us with an outstanding series of recordings from all of the major Greater Antilles. Thank you, George.—JAMES W. WILEY, Maryland Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, 1120 Trigg Hall, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD 21853, USA; e-mail: jwwiley@mail.umes.edu

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DOWNER, A., AND R. L. SUTTON. 1990. *Birds of Jamaica. A photographic field guide.* Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, UK.

RAFFAELE, H., J. WILEY, O. GARRIDO, A. KEITH, AND J. RAFFAELE. 1989. *A guide to the birds of the West Indies.* Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, New Jersey.

OISEAUX DES ANTILLES.—Jean C. Roché, Édouard Bénito-Espinal, and Patricia Hautcastel. 2000. *Guides Sonores CEBA (Centre Bioacoustique Alpin).* Réf. CA-17-18. Distributor: Frémeaux & Associés, 20 rue Robert Giraudineau, 94300 Vincennes, France. Two-CD set with 34 page illustrated booklet. 199.00 FF - 30.34€.

This two-CD set consists of the sounds of birds, amphibians, and insects from several of the Lesser Antilles, and is a fine successor to the authors' earlier recordings, *Oiseaux des Antilles, les Petites Antilles de Grenada à la Guadeloupe* (1971; vinyl disk), and *A l'écoute des oiseaux de Guadeloupe et de Martinique* (1987, 1 audio cassette; 1988, 2 audio cassettes and guide). The team's latest effort, *Oiseaux des Antilles*, includes additional recordings, made in Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Dominica in 1999 and 2000. In total, recordings are included from 22 islands (mainly Guadeloupe, Martinique, Dominica, St. Vincent, Grenada, and St. Lucia), with 78 bird species represented. Disk One (67 min) includes 90 tracks of bird vocalizations, some of which are recordings of subspecies or populations in different islands. Accompanying the CD is a useful guidebook, with a table of the French common name of each recorded bird, along with a description of the call or song in each entry. The main body (25 pp.) of the guidebook consists of information on each of the species included on the CD. The species are arranged by family, with an index to the recorded track, a long and useful list of local names, and valuable natural history and distributional information. A two-page insert of Bénito-Espinal's lovely photographs of seven bird species is also included.

Disk Two (64 min 31 sec) is a natural concert of Antillean frogs, birds, and insects, arranged in 15 tracks of charming sunrise and night choruses in various forest and freshwater pond locations, including in Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Grenada, and St. Vincent. These natural symphonies, so appreciated especially by Édouard Bénito-Espinal, range in length from less than two minutes to passages as long as 13½ minutes.

The two-CD set is available through Frémeaux & Associés at the address listed above, or by contacting the distributor by telephone ([33] 01-43-74-9024) or

fax ([33] 01-43-65-2422).

Oiseaux des Antilles is well produced and useful as a guide to the vocalizations to the region's birds. The natural symphonies included on the second CD are to be enjoyed during moments of contemplation and recollection of visits to the islands by those of us who need a "fix" of island nature as we face a cold computer screen.—JAMES W. WILEY, Maryland Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, 1120 Trigg Hall, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD 21853, USA; e-mail: jwwiley@mail.umes.edu

REGIONAL SOCIETY

THE PUERTO RICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ADRIANNE G. TOSSAS AND LEOPOLDO MIRANDA

The Puerto Rican Ornithological Society (PROS) is a non-profit organization incorporated under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Our main interests are the study, protection, and enjoyment of the native avifauna. It is the only organization committed to the conservation of Puerto Rican birds. Founded in 1995, it comprises more than a hundred members of all backgrounds and ages.

The Board of Directors consists of the President (Leopoldo Miranda), Vice-President (Sergio Colón), Treasurer (Beatriz Hernández), Secretary (Sondra Vega), and two advisors (José Colón and Raúl Pérez-Rivera). The budget is based on annual membership fees and special activities, such as the sale of Mark Oberle's book, *Puerto Rico's Birds in Photographs*.

One of our main education tools is a bimonthly publication, *El Bien-te-veo* (Adrienne Tossas and Ramón Del Moral, Editors). This bulletin includes field observations of our members, summaries of research projects conducted in the island, short articles, announcements, recent ornithological literature, and a special section for kids. Also, the PROS has a list server and web page (<http://home.coqui.net/sopi/>), which is regularly visited by students, visiting birdwatchers, environmentalists, and nature lovers. It includes photographs and sounds of the island's birds, articles, past bulletins, and information on new memberships.

The PROS organizes symposia focusing on different subjects each year. This year's symposium was on hunting in Puerto Rico. Participants included researchers, environmental groups, hunters, representatives of the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER), and a politician. In addition, we regularly organize field trips to important bird sites, such as Cabo Rojo Salt Flats, Tiburones Swamp, and shade coffee plantations in the central mountain range. Rare, accidental, and new species have been recorded in these field trips. At present, we are actively monitoring shorebird populations. A recently created Shorebird Monitoring Network includes 17 volunteers who conduct monthly surveys at 12 locations.

Among the activities planned for this year are two workshops: one on ducks and the other on shorebird monitoring. The duck workshop will be organized by the PROS, along with personnel of the DNER. With these activities, we intend to improve the identification skills of our members so they can participate in existing monitoring programs, as well as to promote avian conservation.

Any person interested in Puerto Rican birds can become a member of the PROS. To join, send your annual membership fee (\$15.00 individual membership, \$6.00 student, \$25.00 family, \$50.00 institution) to: PROS, PO Box 1112, Ciales, Puerto Rico 00638.