

AMERICAN COOT (*FULICA AMERICANA*) ON NEVIS

JULIAN FRANCIS

65 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1HS, England

Abstract.—American Coot (*Fulica americana*) was seen on Nevis on 16 April 2001. As far as the author is aware, this is the first published sighting of American Coot on Nevis.

Resumen.—FOCHA AMERICANA (*FULICA AMERICANA*) EN NEVIS. Mientras vacacionaba en Nevis en la primavera de 2001, observé una focha en Nelson Spring (un pequeño lago justo detrás de la playa Pinneys en el noroeste de la isla) el 16 de abril. Usando binoculares, la identifiqué como una Focha Americana (*Fulica americana*) gracias a su coloración general gris negruzco (con la cabeza más oscura) y la región subcaudal blanca, el pico blanco (sin el escudete blanco – de esta forma excluyendo a la Focha Caribeña *F. caribbaea*) y el color rojizo en la frente. Hilder (1989) no registró a la Focha Americana en Nevis. Mi avistamiento, sin embargo, probablemente no resulta sorprendente si se recuerda el rango de distribución de la Focha America según Raffaele *et al.* (1998).

Key words: American Coot, distribution, *Fulica americana*, Lesser Antilles, Nevis

WHILE ON HOLIDAY in Nevis in Spring 2001, I observed a coot on Nelson Spring (a small lake just behind Pinneys Beach in the northwest of the island) on 16 April. Through binoculars, I identified it as an American Coot (*Fulica americana*) because of its gray-black overall coloration (with darker head) and white undertail-coverts, a white bill (with no white frontal shield – thereby excluding Caribbean Coot *F. caribbaea*) and red coloration on the forehead. Hilder (1989) did not record American Coot for Nevis. My sighting, however, is perhaps not surprising bearing in mind the range given for American Coot by Raffaele *et al.* (1998).

LITERATURE CITED

- HILDER, H. 1989. The birds of Nevis. Charlestown: The Nevis Historical and Conservation Society.
RAFFAELE, H., J. WILEY, O. GARRIDO, A. KEITH, AND J. RAFFAELE. 1998. Birds of the West Indies. London: Helm.



Mimocichla ardesiaca (nest and eggs) [Red-legged Thrush *Turdus plumbeus*] – Plate 3 in Cory, C. B. (1885) The birds of Haiti and San Domingo.