

AN APPARENT OUT-OF-SEASON BREEDING BY A PAIR OF BLACK-NECKED STILTS AND
ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS OF BIRDS ON LEE STOCKING ISLAND, EXUMAS, THE BAHAMAS

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Abstract.—We report winter breeding in Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*), as well as unusual winter occurrence records of this species, Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*), Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*), and 10 other common bird species on Lee Stocking Island, The Bahamas.

Resúmen.—Nosotros reportamos apareamiento durante el invierno de la Viuda (*Himantopus mexicanus*); sucesos invernales inusuales reportados para las siguientes especies, el Playerito Menudo (*Calidris minutilla*), y la Reinita Tigre (*Dendroica tigrina*); y otros 10 especies comunes de aves en Lee Stocking Island, Las Bahamas.

THE SENIOR AUTHOR visited Lee Stocking Island and made bird observations from 30 November to 7 December 1993 (Table 1). The number and species of birds observed were low because of the stormy weather during this period. Here we present details of these observations.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) — Raffaele *et al.* (1998) noted that the Black-necked Stilt was a common breeding resident from March to October in the southern and central Bahamas, sometimes became scarce outside of the breeding season, and was an uncommon to rare breeding resident in the northern-most Bahamas. Buden (1992) found no winter records of this species in the Exumas, but observed 11 individuals in Rolletown Pond, Great Exuma 3 February 1988 (Buden 1993). Dunham and Burnett (1989) found this bird only in May and June at Lee Stocking Island, Exumas, Bahamas.

We observed a pair of Black-necked Stilts in mating displays in a secluded saltwater lagoon on Lee Stocking Island at least daily from 30 November through 7 December 1993. These observations appear to document out-of-season breeding activities for this species. Buden's (1993) observation is the only other report of this species in the Exumas in the winter.

The only other observation we have made of the Black-Necked Stilt in the West Indies in winter was a solitary bird on Vieques Island [east of Puerto Rico], 18 December 1984. This bird had a broken wing and was apparently unable to fly.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) — Buden (1992) and Dunham and Burnett (1989) found the Least Sandpiper in flocks on Lee Stocking Island in

the spring and fall. Raffaele *et al.* (1998) reported this species occurs typically in flocks and is a common migrant from August to October and April to May, but an uncommon to rare resident from November to March through most of the West Indies. We observed a single individual on 6 December 1993 in Lee Stocking Island.

TABLE 1. Birds observed on Lee Stocking Island, Exumas, The Bahamas, 30 November to 7 December 1993.

Species	Status ¹
Killdeer <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	C
Black-necked Stilt <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	U
Least Sandpiper <i>Calidris minutilla</i>	U
Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	C
White-crowned Pigeon <i>Columba leucocephala</i>	C
Common Ground-Dove <i>Columbina passerina</i>	V
Mangrove Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus minor</i>	F
Bahama Mockingbird <i>Mimus gundlachii</i>	C
Thick-billed Vireo <i>Vireo crassirostris</i>	C
Cape May Warbler <i>Dendroica tigrina</i>	U
Palm Warbler <i>Dendroica palmarum</i>	C
Bananaquit <i>Coereba flaveola</i>	V
Greater Antillean Bullfinch <i>Loxigilla violacea</i>	C

¹C=common, F=fairly common, U=uncommon to rare, V=very common, in the northern Bahamas, *sensu* Buden (1992), Dunham and Burnett (1989), and Raffaele *et al.* (1998).

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) — The general literature suggests that the Cape May Warbler occurs only less commonly in the Lee Stocking-Great Exuma region in the winter as compared with other seasons, but Buden (1993) was only able to

substantiate a single winter record of several specimens on Great Exuma 3 February 1988. Our record on Lee Stocking Island is only the second winter observation.

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SECOND REPORT OF THE VEERY *CATHARUS FUSCESCENS SALICICOLA*
(AVES: TURDIDAE) FOR CUBA

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THE VEERY (*CATHARUS FUSCESCENS*) winters mainly in south-central Brazil, and breeds from eastern Canada to northern Georgia in the United States (American Ornithologists' Union 1998:504). In Cuba the Veery is considered a rare regular fall resident (Bond 1950, Garrido and García Montaña 1975). Eighteen specimens of the nominal race, *C. f. fuscescens*, have been collected in Cuba; a minimum of 14 of these were taken from the western part of the island (Table 1). Three of the 18 specimens lack locality data, whereas another was collected in Gibara, in the Oriente of Cuba.

A specimen of the subspecies *C. f. salicicola* (Ridgway) was collected by Rolando Fleitas at the Jardín Botánico of La Habana on 22 October 1968. Measurements of this female are: wing – 98.5 mm, tail – 70 mm, culmen – 14 mm, and tarsus – 32 mm.

In the morning of 19 April 1999, María Josefa Sánchez found a dead Veery at “Finca La Chata,” Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, La Habana. The specimen was prepared by taxidermist Marco Antonio Olcha and is deposited in the Instituto de

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Ecología y Sistemática (cat. # CZACC-6-2440). The individual is similar to the previous-mentioned specimen collected by Fleitas in Cuba, and all characteristics of this specimen agree in coloration and measurements with the race *salicicola*. Measurements are: wing – 99 mm, tail – 68 mm, culmen – 12.8 mm, and tarsus 29.3 mm. This specimen is the second record of *C. f. salicicola* in Cuba.

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