

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY
SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

KATE WALLACE

THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN Ornithology (SCO) held its twelfth annual meeting at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 30 July to 4 August 1999, with the financial support from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and the Society of Caribbean Ornithology (SCO). The meetings and workshops were well attended with 140 registrants representing 25 countries, including Anguilla (BWI), Antigua, Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Canada, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, French Guyana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Tortola (BVI), Trinidad, Turks and Caicos, United Kingdom, and the United States. Among the governmental and non-governmental institutions represented were U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RARE Center, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, American Bird Conservancy, RAMSAR, The Nature Conservancy, BirdLife International, and Ducks Unlimited.

The theme of the event was *Creating a Community Framework for Avian Conservation*. The meeting was preceded by a special workshop organized by the West Indian Whistling-Duck Working Group and featured the presentation of activities from the educational workbook being developed by that commit-

tee. The workshop was held in the National Zoo and was attended by representatives of many of the groups involved in environmental education in the Dominican Republic, as well as by members of the SCO.

A Saturday workshop focused on Environmental Education directed at community groups, as well as schools. Other workshops included: "Introduced and Exotic Species," led by Dr. Rosemarie Gnam; Colonial Waterbird Society Goals and Objectives; and BirdLife International and their preparation of a threatened species book. At the formal technical sessions, more than 45 papers and 12 posters were presented.

The various working groups of the Society held meetings for reports and to present plans for the future. Following the meeting, 14 persons participated in a field trip to the Sierra de Bahoruco to view many of the island endemics. Fourteen people participated. Finally, a workshop for 10 island representatives, supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was held on the GIS system of computer mapping.