

UNUSUAL BIRDS FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, INCLUDING THREE NEW SPECIES OF NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS

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WE RECORDED SEVERAL UNUSUAL birds while mist-netting in dry forest near Cabo Rojo, Pedernales, Dominican Republic in October and November 1997. These birds included the first substantiated record of the Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), Bay-breasted Warbler (*D. castanea*), and Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) in the Dominican Republic, and several captures and sightings of the rarely reported Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) and the Golden-winged Warbler (*V. chrysoptera*).

On 14 October 1997 Latta was the first to see the Chestnut-sided Warbler foraging in a buttonwood tree (*Conocarpus* sp.). The bird immediately appeared unique because of its habit of cocking its tail. The bird was generally greenish-yellow above with two broad, yellowish wingbars. The underparts were grayish-white, becoming lighter towards the rear with whitish undertail coverts. The cheeks were gray and a grayish-white eyering was present. On 15 October we mist-netted this bird and confirmed the identification as a juvenile female Chestnut-sided Warbler. In addition to the above field marks we noted light streaking on the back. The bill, legs, and feet were dark. The bird was also seen in the hand by Mia Sondreahl and Danilo Mejias, and was photographed by Brown. Keith et al. (in prep.) show no records of this species from the Dominican Republic, and a single record (Bartsch 1917) from Haiti.

We captured a juvenile male Bay-breasted Warbler on 23 October 1997. The bird appeared similar to the numerous Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*), except the legs and feet were blue-gray rather than the unique orange of the blackpoll. The upperparts were greenish-gray with black streaks formed by black patches to the centers of the feathers. The head was a similar grayish-olive and did not contrast with the upper back, but only minute black streaks were present on the head. The cheeks and lores were dusky. The rump was also grayish-olive, as was the tail which had white in the outer three rectrices. Two bold whitish wingbars were also present. The underparts were generally whitish and unstreaked, but the sides of the upper breast were stained yellowish-green to very light gray. The flanks were buffy gray and a very few chestnut-colored feathers were found on each flank. The bird was also seen by Mia Sondreahl, Kate Wallace, Bolivar Cabrera, and Danilo Mejias, and was photographed by Brown. Keith et al. (in prep.) list a single, unsubstantiated record of the Bay-breasted Warbler from the Dominican Republic.

We mist-netted an adult female Nashville Warbler on 14 November. The upperparts of the bird were generally greenish-olive, including the tail, and no white was present on the wings or tail. The crown, auriculars, and nape were gray and

blended into the green back. The bird had a prominent white eyering. A rufous patch was concealed in the crown, which extended about 10 mm. The upper breast and throat was yellowish, but the throat less so. The lower breast and belly were whitish, the undertail coverts yellow. The bird was also seen by Bolivar Cabrera and Danilo Mejias, and was photographed by Brown. This appears to be the first Dominican record of the Nashville Warbler.

Although not new species for Hispaniola, two other records are worth noting. First, a juvenile Connecticut Warbler was mist-netted on 16 October. The bird was uniformly brownish-green above, including the back, rump, and uppertail coverts, with the head, nape, and auriculars greenish-gray to gray. The gray hood extended to the upper breast, but the throat was buffy-gray. The bird had a prominent white eyering, which had a slight break in it behind the eye. The rest of the underparts, including the undertail coverts, were yellow, but the contrast between the gray bib and the yellow breast was not sharp. The sides were greenish-yellow. Two additional individuals were netted on the same day, both of which had a complete eye ring, and one of which had a more olive-brown bib without the gray wash. All birds were also seen by Mia Sondreahl and Danilo Mejias, and were photographed by Brown. Although these birds were banded, we did not resight them. In the following days, however, we did see unbanded Connecticut Warblers on several occasions, suggesting that additional individuals were moving through this area. We continued to see unbanded Connecticut Warblers until 21 October. Whereas Connecticut Warblers have been rarely reported from Hispaniola (Keith et al. [in prep] show two birds collected and two additional sight records), the concentration of so many sightings at one site suggests that this species may be more common, at least on migration, than previously suspected.

A second sight record is that of two Golden-winged Warblers seen by Danilo Mejias on 14 October 1997 about 1.5 km north of the above mist-netting locations, but in similar dry forest habitat. These birds were well seen and identified by the gray upperparts, whitish underparts, the blackish throat and ear patch, and yellow wing patch.

LITERATURE CITED

- BARTSCH, P. 1917. Additions to the Haitian avifauna. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 30:131-132
KEITH, A., J. W. WILEY, J. A. OTTENWALDER, AND S. C. LATTA. In prep. An annotated checklist of the birds of Hispaniola.