

TWO NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS FROM HISPANIOLA: WOOD THRUSH AND BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE

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RECENT WORK IN SOUTHWESTERN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC has resulted in the addition of two new species to the list of birds reported from Hispaniola. The first bird, a Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), was caught on 15 November 1996 while I was mist-netting in transitional broadleaf forest as part of a larger study of birds along an altitudinal gradient in the Aceitillar sector of the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park near Las Mercedes, Pedernales Province. The site is at an elevation of approximately 333 m and contains vegetation typical of both dry forest and moist broadleaf forest. The bird was readily identified as a Wood Thrush by the olive-brown back, rump and tail, contrasting with the reddish-brown crown and nape of neck. The throat and breast were whitish with large dark spots throughout. The face was also whitish streaked dark, and a white eye-ring was prominent. The Wood Thrush was observed in the hand by Chris Brown of the University of Missouri, and by Eduardo Vásquez and Bolívar Cabrera of the Club de Observadores de Aves Annabelle Dod, as well as by the author, and was photographed by Brown.

Despite many hours of searching for other color-banded birds at this site, and several additional days of mist-netting in January and March, the Wood Thrush was not seen again. Though this represents the first record of the Wood Thrush in Hispaniola, it is not unexpected. This species has been previously recorded in the Bahamas and Cuba (Bond 1979), as well as Puerto Rico (Raffaele 1983).

A second new species of bird for Hispaniola, a Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) in winter second-year adult plumage, was seen on 16 February 1997 at Bahía de Calderas, southwest of the city of Bani. The bird was first seen resting on the water only 15 m from the shore, but almost immediately flew toward the beach, passing low and nearly directly overhead before attempting to land on sand about 75 m away. After no more than a minute on the ground it then took off again, flying back across the beach then out into the bay. Five minutes later it was relocated perhaps 150 m offshore resting on the water. As we watched from shore the kittiwake was attacked by a Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*), which repeatedly picked the bird up by a wing,

sometimes several meters off the sea surface, before releasing the kittiwake to fall to the sea again. This form of aggression is well-known behavior for frigatebirds, but seemed remarkable in that the kittiwake made little effort to evade the frigatebird.

The bird was immediately recognized as a gull by its stouter, less-pointed bill, seemingly shorter, more rounded and robust wings, and unforked tail, all contrasting with the Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) and Sandwich Tern (*S. sandwicensis*), which commonly occur at this location. The bird was identified as a Black-legged Kittiwake by a combination of characters. The bird was mostly white with a contrasting gray mantle and entirely black wingtips. This black extended along the leading edge of the wing, formed by the outermost primary, suggesting this bird was a second-year adult. The nape and face had a very light gray patch; the bill was completely yellow. The legs and feet of the bird were entirely black and contrasted sharply with the white body.

Although this species commonly winters at sea, it is recorded as a vagrant in the West Indies by Bond (1979), with records from Andros, Cuba, and off the east coast of Jamaica. Some behavior of this individual suggests that it may not have been entirely well and was perhaps storm-driven to the coast. The bird managed only a crash-landing on the beach, seemed to be unwilling or unable to avoid repeated attacks by the frigatebird, and generally appeared to fly weakly.

The Black-legged Kittiwake was also observed by Francisco Rivas, Nicolás López, and Elvis Cueva of the Club de Observadores de Aves Annabelle Dod, and by Chris Brown of the University of Missouri and Jeanne Hammond of Point Reyes Bird Observatory. The Kittiwake was photographed by Nicolás López.

LITERATURE CITED

- BOND, J. 1979. Birds of the West Indies. Collins, London.
RAFFAELE, H. A. 1983. A guide to the birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Fondo Educativo Interamericano Inc. San Juan, Puerto Rico.