La presencia en Cuba de varios géneros de aves extintas con poca especialización en el vuelo quizás se deba a la inexistencia de depredadores terrestres del orden Carnívora antes del arribo del hombre aborigen hace unos 10,000 años ap.

La abundancia de *Nesotrochis* en depósitos de dieta aborigen en el área antillana, es un indicio de que su carne era tenida en alta estima como recurso alimenticio, asi como de la amplia distribución geográfica y abundancia que tuvo en tiempos pre y post colombinos, hasta su extinción ocurrida entre los siglos XVIII y XIX (Parajón 1967).

Localidades Y Materiales De *Nesotrochis picapicensis* Examinados

Pinar del Río.—Caverna de Pío Domingo (localidad tipo), Sumidero, Minas. Depósito no cultural. Pleistoceno superior. No se examinaron huesos.

Cueva de José Brea, Pan de Azúcar, Viñales.—Sitio arqueológico. Tarso derecho OA. 3171. Cueva del Mono Fósil, Sierra de Galeras, Viñales; deposito no cultural. Pleistoceno superior. Tibia derecha GEPAB. 163.

La Habana.—Cueva de Paradones, Ceiba del Agua, Caimito, deposito no cultural, Pleistoceno superior. Tarso derecho OA. 688.

Cueva del Caracol, Siete Cuevas Bejucal. Sitio arqueológico. Fémur derecho GEPAB 229.

Cuevas Blancas, Quivicán. depósito no cultural. Pleistoceno superior. Tibia derecha GEPAB 340.

Cueva del Indio, Tapaste, San José de las Lajas, depósito no cultural.. Pleistoceno superior. Cráneo 317; pelvis 318, 319, 320; tarsos derechos 321, 322; húmero derecho 323; fémures izquierdos 325, 326, 327, 328, derechos 329, 330; tibias izquierdas 331, 332, 333, 339, derechas 334, 335, 336, 337, 338. Todas piezas del GEPAB.

Abreviaturas:

OA. Colección Oscar Arredondo.

GEPAB. Colección Grupo Espeleológico "Pedro A. Borrás." Sociedad Espeleológica de Cuba.

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AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR OF A GRAY KINGBIRD (*TYRANNUS DOMINICENSIS*) TOWARD A BAT (*MOLOSSUS MOLOSSUS*) IN LA HABANA, CUBA

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At 20:20 hr on 2 June 1996 I observed a Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) perching on the television antenna of a house in Vedado, La Habana City. Suddenly the bird flew down with an irregular flight, as if it was trying to catch a small bird. After the acrobatics, the kingbird returned to perch on the same antenna. At 20:30 hr I observed another such erratic flight, but this time I verified that the kingbird was attacking a flying bat. The kingbird made four more such attacks on passing bats in the next 30 mins. I observed the same aggressive behavior by a Gray Kingbird in the same area on 18 June, at 20:25 hr, when a kingbird attacked bats twice in 30 mins of observation. The bats effectively evaded the kingbirds' attacks and I did not observe the kingbirds touching any of bats. Because of their crepuscular habit in foraging for insects during the summer season, the attacked bats were most likely *Molossus molossus*.

I did not observe nests of Gray Kingbirds around the area, and I do not think the birds were trying to catch the bats for food. Instead, I believe that the aggressive behavior was territorial defense toward the bat, which is at the same time a competitor for the insects on which both species feed. Gundlach (1876) reported the Gray Kingbird's aggressive behavior against hawks, vultures, herons, and other birds that approach its nest. García (1987) also noted the defensive behavior of the kingbird in protecting its nest. Vaurie (1957) considered this species "extremely aggressive," and Pough

(1949) characterized the kingbird's aggressive behavior as a territorial defense against all larger birds and mammals, including man.

Although I do not consider the behavior I observed as predation attempts, Gray Kingbirds have been reported capturing large prey items, including flying vertebrates. Dathe (1971) reported an American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) catching bats in La Habana. Although Dathe reported the bat species as *Artibeus jamaicensis* (identified in flight), Silva (1979) suggested that this bat should be *Molossus molossus*. In addition, Seutin and Apanius (1995) reported a case of hummingbird (*Eulampis*) predation by the Gray Kingbird.

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STATUS OF WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRDS (*PHAETHON LEPTURUS*) NESTING IN CUBA

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DESPITE THE FACT THAT White-tailed Tropicbirds (*Phaethon lepturus*) are known to nest throughout the Bahamas, the Turks and Caicos, and the Greater Antilles (American Ornithologists' Union 1983, Sprunt 1984, Buden 1987), in the interval between the early part of this century and 1975 no reports of this species nesting in Cuba were published. Barbour (1943) noted that on a visit to Cabo Cruz in 1913 the breeding colony of tropicbirds reported by Gundlach in the 19th century was still in existence. Gundlach referenced White-tailed Tropicbirds in 10 publications dating from 1859 to 1893. Wiley (ms.) shows 80 references to these tropicbirds in Cuba in his bibliography of West Indian seabirds. Fifty-three of these references are pre-Barbour (1943) and, with one exception (Cruz and Alayo 1984), the remaining references contain no additional information on the distribution of breeding colonies or the size of nesting populations in Cuba. Garrido and García (1975) listed White-tailed Tropicbirds as breeders on the southeastern coast of Oriente Province, but gave no population estimates. van Halewyn and Norton (1984) reported this species breeding along the entire southeastern coast of Cuba, but gave no indication of the source of this information or of the size of the Cuban population. In 1993, Garrido and Kirkconnell categorized this species as a rare breeder on the southeastern coast of Oriente Province. Morales and Garrido (1996) included White-tailed Tropicbirds in a list of birds of Cayo Sabinal (Archipiélago de Sabana-Camagüey) with no indication of their nesting status. Whereas it is possible that they nest there, González (under review) made no reference to these tropicbirds in his summary of seabirds breeding on the northern coast of Cuba.

Small numbers of White-tailed Tropicbirds continue to nest along the southeastern coast of Cuba between Cabo Cruz and ca. 50 km west of Santiago de Cuba. However, they are apparently absent as a breeding species elsewhere in Cuba and occur only sporadically along a coastal area smaller than that indicated by van Halewyn and Norton (1984). The area along this coast occupied by nesting White-tailed Tropicbirds may have been more extensive in the past. For example, Cory (1891) noted a pair flying about near the entrance to the harbor of Santiago de Cuba in the spring of 1891.The only recent report is from Cruz and Alayo (1984) who reported about 80 nesting pairs at Punta El Inglés, a few kilometers east of Cabo Cruz. The nesting areas are confined to steep or vertical cliffs rising from the ocean. Viña (pers. obser.) estimates the remainder of the Cuban population along this portion of the coastline to be about 10 active pairs. Another colony of no more than 12 pairs is known from the southern coast of Guantánamo at Loma de los Chivos. It is not productive in all years and the site is used irregularly (Jorge de la Cruz, pers. comm.). Thus, the total Cuban population numbers approximately 100 pairs.

We attribute this small population size to limited availability of predator-free nesting sites. The small population size may, in part, also be explained by the construction of a coastal road between villages at the base of the Sierra Maestras. This road was widened and improved in the early- to mid–