

Tórtola en Cuba (Continued)

los tres nidos reportados, se puede inferir, que la pareja debe tener un mínimo de tres sacas al año. El 18 de diciembre estaban de nuevo preparándose para anidar en el cocotero anteriormente mencionado. Los dos pichones permanecían entre el follaje de la mata de mango ya completamente emplumados. Por otro lado, es evidente que existen varias parejas establecidas en diferentes barrios; lo que indica que la especie está en pleno período de asentamiento aunque nunca se hayan observado más de tres individuos juntos; como es el caso de otros territorios no tan recientemente colonizados como los del sur del estado de la Florida

(Homestead, Miami y Cayo Hueso).

El primer record oficial para Cuba lo constituye una hembra adulta depositada en el Museo Nacional de Historia Natural (MNHN 607) obtenida viva con una jaula de trampa en La Virgen del Camino, San Miguel del Padrón, provincia Habana, el 23 de septiembre de 1995 y traído al Museo por Emilio Alfaro.

Queremos agradecer la cooperación brindada por Luis Otero, Guillermo Ceballos, Carlos Yera y Alexander Garrido en la observación y localización de estas tórtolas.

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS SUBMITTED FOR PRESENTATION AT THE 1995 ANNUAL SCO MEETING, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ESTUDIOS PRELIMINARES SOBRE LA NIDIFICACION DE LA COTORRA DE LA HISPANIOLA *AMAZONA VENTRALIS* EN EL PARQUE NACIONAL JARAGUA, REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

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Amazona ventralis es una especie endémica de La Hispaniola y considerada como especie vulnerable por el Departamento de Vida Silvestre de la República Dominicana, debido a presión que se ejerce sobre las poblaciones silvestres, la destrucción de su hábitat y el tráfico de polluelos para el mercado de mascotas. El decreto de veda que regula la caza y comercialización de la fauna del país sitúa a esta especie en la categoría de "veda permanente." *Amazona ventralis* esta incluida además, en el apéndice II de la Convención CITES de la cual la República Dominicana es signataria. Sin embargo, la captura y comercialización de esta especie es frecuente en todo el territorio nacional. El presente trabajo es el resultado de estudios realizados desde 1993 a 1995 en un área de anidamiento ubicada en el "Parque Nacional Jaragua", en el suroeste del país. Se ofrecen datos sobre los árboles seleccionados como lugares de anidamiento y la vegetación asociada a los mismos. Se presentan también datos sobre la altura, profundidad, diámetro de la entrada de los nidos, número de nidos activos y proporción de nidos saquacados. Se ofrecen resultados sobre densidad poblacional de la especie usando diferentes métodos.

PRELIMINARY STUDY ON THE NESTING OF THE HISPANIOLAN PARROT *AMAZONA VENTRALIS* AT JARAGUA NATIONAL PARK, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

JESÚS M. ALMONTE AND BRÍGIDO HIERRO

The endemic Hispaniolan Parrot, *Amazona ventralis*, is considered vulnerable by the Dominican Republic's Wildlife Department due to the destruction of its habitat and the trade of nestlings for the pet market. The decree that regulates the hunting and trade of the fauna in the country includes this species in a "permanent ban." *Amazona ventralis* is also included in appendix II of CITES, a convention to which the Dominican Republic is a signatory. Nevertheless, the capture and trade of this species is common through out the Dominican Republic. The present paper is the result of field studies from 1993 to 1995 on a nesting area at Jaragua National Park, in southwestern Dominican Republic. Data on trees selected as nest sites and the associated vegetation are presented, as well as height, depth and diameter of the nesting cavity's entrance, and the number of active nests and those robbed by poachers. Density of the population in the area was estimated based on methods discussed here.

VARIATION IN SONG AND SIZE IN CIRCUM-CARIBBEAN RUFOUS-BROWED PEPPERSHRIKES

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Rufous-browed Peppershrikes, *Cyclarhis gujanensis*, vary in size and song type in their circum-Caribbean range - which extends from southern Tamaulipas to Trinidad. Island populations have simpler songs (Isla Margarita) and are larger in size (Margarita and Isla Cozumel) than are mainland populations (Belize, Costa Rica, Venezuela). Mass varies from 20 to 40 grams (Venezuelan mainland versus the peppershrikes of Isla Margarita) and variation in number of syllable types (15 vs. 6) occurs similarly between the sites representing size differences in Venezuela. This peppershrike has 20-25 described races - many of which differ substantially in phenotype and song. Genetic assay may show, as with

other vireos, that several species are, in fact, involved.

**EL GUARAGUAO DE BOSQUE Y LA
CONSTRUCCIÓN DE LA PR #10: CONFLICTO DE
USO POR TERRENOS FORESTALES ENTRE LA
AUT. DE CARRETERAS Y UNA ESPECIE EN
PELIGRO DE EXTINCIÓN**

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El Guaraguao de Bosque *Buteo platypterus brunescens* es una subespecie endémica, una de 2 especies de guaraguao en Puerto Rico. Existen poblaciones en los bosques de Rio construcción de la Carr, PR #10 a terrenos forestales en el Bosque de Rio Abajo, representa un claro conflicto por uso de espacio entre la Aut. de Carreteras y una especie en peligro de extinción. El conflicto de uso de terrenos forestales entre la Aut. de Carreteras y el Guaraguao de Bosque surge de un desconocimiento de los requisitos biológicos y de espacio previo a la fase de planificación y diseño y ahora de construcción de la PR #10. Sabemos que este conflicto se ha resuelto en detrimento de esta especie. Esto es así, ya que los 2.10 kms. de carretera en construcción irrumpen sobre al menos 2 territorios en habitat preferido de esta especie, inevitablemente destruyéndolo. El desalojo forzado levanta incertidumbre sobre la reubicación de parejas en otras áreas de bosque.

**NESTING SITE HABITAT DESCRIPTION AND
SPACE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PUERTO RICAN
BROAD-WINGED HAWK**

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The nesting site and space requirements of the Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus brunescens* were assessed in Rio Abajo, Puerto Rico during the breeding season of 1994. The habitat of nine pairs was described according to the nest tree variables and to forest type (plantation and secondary forest). The hawks chose nest trees taller than the canopy, with a large diameter and crown. Nesting sites in plantations and secondary forest had similar vegetation structure. There were only significant differences in two structural variables (basal area of canopy trees and number of stems >32.1 cm dbh). Broad-winged Hawk nesting range averaged 41.0 ha. This range size was similar to home range estimates of the Ridgway's Hawk (*Buteo ridgwayi*), its ecological counterpart in Hispaniola, but smaller than Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*) home range in Puerto Rico and other *Buteo* species in North America. The smaller Broad-winged Hawk range could be related to its smaller body size, strong intra-specific competition for available space, high

population density, and more abundant food resources. The ranges were aggressively defended against conspecifics, resulting in little or total absence of overlap.

**JAMAICA DRY FOREST CONSERVATION: AN
INVENTORY OF THE AVIFAUNA OF THE
HELLSHIRE HILLS, PORTLAND RIDGE, AND
BRAZILLETTO MOUNTAINS, JAMAICA,
WEST INDIES**

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A total of 16 weeks was spent working in the dry limestone forest of the Hellshire Hills, Portland Ridge, and the Brazillette Mountains. To create an inventory of bird species, we found point counts more appropriate, as it gave a higher species diversity than did mist netting. No transect counts were performed as the terrain was sometimes impassable. Totals of 49, 34, and 42 species have been recorded in the Hellshire Hills, Portland Ridge, and Brazillette Mountains, respectively. Also, totals of 22 and 11 species (mainly shore birds) were recorded within 200 m of the Hellshire Hill and Portland Ridge, respectively. The number of points needed to detect all species varied between habitat and may be a function of habitat size. Percentage detection and mean detection were calculated for all bird species recorded during point counts in all three habitats. Approximately four weeks were used for preparation and execution of educational activities. Slide and audio shows were given at three locations. Culminating activities for these presentations came in the form of bird-watches, games or craft.

**LISTE DES OISEAUX DE GUADELOUPE,
MARTINIQUE ET DE LEURS DEPENDANCES**

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Au cours des 50 dernières années, 238 espèces d'oiseaux ont été répertoriées en Guadeloupe et en Martinique. Cette liste ajoute 35 nouvelles espèces non mentionnées dans la littérature. Seize d'entre elles sont des espèces rares ou accidentelles. Dix huit d'entre elles sont des espèces introduites, principalement exotiques ou Psittacidés. La trentième est une nouvelle espèce de Trembleur *Cinlocerthia gutturalis* qui a été séparée du *Cinlocerthia ruficauda*. Cette accroissement de plus de 15% du nombre d'espèces résulte principalement de l'augmentation du nombre d'ornithologues et de la prise compte d'espèces introduites.

CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF GUADELOUPE, MARTINIQUE, AND THEIR OFFSHORE ISLANDS

PHILIPPE FELDMANN, ARNAUD LE DRU, PIERRE-JOSEPH BULENS, CLAUDIE PAVIS AND PASCAL VILLARD

In Guadeloupe and Martinique, 238 bird species have been recorded in the past 50 years. This checklist adds 35 species not recorded in previous publications. Sixteen of them are rare, vagrant or accidental. Eighteen are introduced species, mainly exotics and Psittacidae. The 35th species is a new species of Trembler, *Cinlocerthia gutturalis*, that has been separated from *C. ruficauda*. This increases by more than 15% the number of bird species for these islands. More birdwatchers and the addition of introduced species are the main reasons for this change.

RARE CENTER PROVIDES GRANT TO SCO

The RARE Center for Tropical Conservation has again provided the Society with a substantial grant to allow production and distribution of *El Pitirre* to Associate Members residing in the Caribbean. We gratefully acknowledge this important contribution and the continuing support from RARE.

BOOK REVIEWS

COMMON BIRDS OF SAN SALVADOR ISLAND, BAHAMAS, by Brian White. Bahamian Field Station, Ltd., San Salvador, Bahamas. With illustrations by David W. White. 57 pp. Color cover photograph, 33 black-and-white line drawings, 1 map. ISBN 0-935909-34-6.

This birding guide was primarily written for the Bahamian Field Station but is suitable for use all over San Salvador Island. This handbook helps to fill the gap of information concerning common birds of the San Salvador Island. White does not define "common" as birds occurring in large numbers but rather as birds that will be present in suitable habitat at the right time of the day (or night). Of the roughly 100 birds that White has observed, only 45 of the more common birds have been included in the guidebook. The guide gives tips on how to use clues such as habitat, time of day, and bird behavior to help identify birds in the field. The author encourages birdwatchers to take time to appreciate bird behavior as well as to take notes and make sketches. White also encourages the use of "pishing" to draw birds closer to the observer. He makes note in the individual species accounts of how responsive each bird is to "pishing."

Several sites are described and a useful map is provided to aid in locating those places. The Catchment Area Pond of the Bahamian Field Station is reported as having birds present "almost always." There are three possible routes that one can take to get to the catchment area, each of which is related in the guide. The Reckley Hill Pond Trail is characterized by mangroves, small labeled bushes and trees and Reckley Hill Pond! The author recounts how to get to the trail and, most importantly, how to return to the Bahamian Field Station campus. Cut Cay, in Grahams Harbor, can be accessed by boat or by wading through shallow water from North Point Peninsula. The author cautions wading across during high

tide. In addition, general precautionary notes on speeding cars, dangerous precipices, and hostile plants are provided.

Generally speaking, White arranges the birds in the sequence used in Peterson's "A field guide to birds east of the Rockies" and Brudenell-Bruce's "The birds of New Providence and the Bahama Islands." White uses only common names and classifies birds as "resident," "winter visitor," or "summer visitor." Where possible he indicates whether a species breeds on San Salvador. The birds described include the Least Grebe, White-tailed Tropicbird, Antillean Nighthawk, Bahama Woodstar, Bahama Mockingbird, and the Indigo Bunting. Line drawings, by David White, accompany most descriptions of birds.

White does not offer his guide as a comprehensive field guide. As is the case in several other Caribbean islands, birders have to tote several field guides. Peterson's "A field guide to the birds east of the Rockies" and Brudenell-Bruce's "The birds of New Providence and the Bahama Islands" are recommended by Brian White as supplements.—Garfield A. Brown, *Grambling Cooperative Wildlife Project, P. O. Box 4290, Grambling State University, Grambling, Louisiana 71245, USA.*

VIEQUES Y SU FAUNA/VIEQUES WILDLIFE MANUAL, by Jorgé E. Saliva. United States Department of the Interior, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Boquerón, Puerto Rico. 1994. 243 pp. 14 x 21.5 cm. 115 color plates. Bibliography. Index (English, Spanish, and Latin names). Softcover.

With this manual the author hopes to encourage a local appreciation of the most commonly encountered wild fauna of Vieques Island, which lies just east of Puerto Rico. Jorgé Saliva is particularly qualified for that undertaking, as he has