

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

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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

Book Reviews (Continued)

worked on the seabirds of Vieques and Culebra islands for many years and is intimately acquainted with the ecosystems of these islands. The value of this well-designed and beautifully illustrated book goes far beyond the community of Vieques. It will be of interest to all students of West Indian birds.

The main body of the book is divided into four sections: Birds (96 species), Reptiles (15), Amphibians (3), and Mammal (1). Birds occupy the bulk of the book with 191 pages devoted to this group. An additional section ("General Information") includes a bibliography and index of English, Spanish, and Latin names. For each species the bilingual text includes taxonomic information and a description of the species, along with its status, habitat, and additional comments. On the facing page, a full-color photograph of the subject is displayed. Most of these are lovely shots of wild birds.

Unfortunately, only a limited number of copies were produced through an arrangement with the U. S. Navy whereby they would be distributed free of charge to schools, government agencies, and private organizations primarily in

Vieques. Those interested in obtaining a copy should contact Mr. Winston Martínez, U. S. Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Box 3021, FPO Miami, Florida 34051-3021; telephone: 809-865-4429.—JWW.

CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF GUADELOUPE, MARTINIQUE AND THEIR OFFSHORE ISLANDS/ LISTE DES OISEAUX DE GUADELOUPE, MARTINIQUE ET DE LEURS DEPENDANCES by **Philippe Feldmann, Arnaud Le Dru, Claudie Pavis, and Pascal Villard**. A.E.V.A., Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe, French West Indies. 16 pp.—This checklist adds 37 species to the 240 forms recorded in the subject area in the past 50 years. Scientific, French, Creole, and English names are provided for each species, as well as notes on status and distribution in the French West Indies (including St. Barthelemy and St. Martin). Copies can be obtained by contacting A.E.V.A.—Le Toto bois c/o M. Barré, Belair Desrozières, 97170 Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe, French West Indies. Tel./Fax: 590-95-08-19.—JWW.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The recently formed Neotropical Bird Club publishes its journal, *Cotinga*, twice annually. The West Indies are included in the region covered by the journal, with a section entitled "Neotropical Notebook" devoted to recent records from the Caribbean and other neotropical areas. Recent issues have included reports on the status of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*; by Martjan Lammertink) in Cuba and the threatened birds of Cuba project. Each issue contains many color photographs, and a color painting of the Cuban Trogon (*Priotelus temnurus*) appeared on the February 1995 cover. Membership is open to all, and costs US\$24/£12 per year (US\$10 reduced rate for nationals resident in neotropical countries). To join or for further details contact the

Membership Secretary, NBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, United Kingdom.

KEY AREAS FOR THREATENED BIRDS IN THE NEOTROPICS, by D. C. Wege and A. J. Long. £22.00. A unique site-based guide to the major threatened bird conservation hotspots in the neotropics, with concise information on the region's priority areas for globally threatened birds. Data are presented site-by-site for each country in a highly accessible format, which includes maps and tables. Available from BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge, CB3 0NA, United Kingdom.

ISLAND REPORT

REPORT FROM THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

BY PATRICIA E. BRADLEY
SCO Representative

The new Minister and government officers in the Department of the Environment are cooperating fully with the National Trust of the Cayman Islands in their efforts to secure and protect Crown land to the Trust. Due to the human population increase in Grand Cayman (18,000 in 1984 to an estimated 33,000 in 1995) terrestrial avian habitats are increasingly being developed into urban areas and this building boom is not expected to slow in the foreseeable future. The Trust, as the foremost NGO in conservation, has therefore directed its efforts to acquiring and protecting areas of pristine terrestrial and wetland habitat. Some of our recent accomplishments

include:

- 240 acres of dry limestone woodland in central Grand Cayman, the Mastic, have been purchased by the Trust and protected under Trust Laws; further areas will be bought as funds allow and owners are prepared to sell. The Mastic Reserve is breeding habitat for all the endemic species of terrestrial birds. Money has been received from RARE to re-open an historic right-of-way as a walking path through the reserve which, with a trained guide, is revenue-raising with tourists and is an area used to expose young people to