

OBSERVATIONS OF AN AUDUBON'S [BLACK-HEADED] ORIOLE *ICTERUS GRADUACAUDA* IN PUERTO RICO, THE FIRST RECORD FOR THE CARIBBEAN

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We observed an adult male Audubon's [Black-Headed] Oriole *Icterus graduacauda* at an approximate distance of 15 m for 10 mins. beginning 15:13 hr, 12 June 1995 in the tree line off Jobos Beach, near Ramey, Puerto Rico. The following day, we identified the bird from the literature with the aid of our field drawings and notes. The bright yellow body (particularly the yellow back), and black head, wings, and tail of this adult male were distinctive and diagnostic. By reviewing the literature, we recognized that this oriole was not a species normally occurring in Puerto Rico (Biaggi 1983, Pérez-Rivera 1993, Raffaele 1989, Rivera-Cianchini and Mojica-Sandoz 1981).

The normal range for Audubon's Oriole is southern Texas to southern Mexico (Clements 1992), approximately 2200 km from the site of our observation. R. L. Norton (pers. comm.) informed us that no other reports of this oriole are known outside of its normal range. Audubon's Orioles almost always occur in pairs. Our observation of a solitary bird could suggest an escaped cage bird, or that at least low numbers of these birds are in Puerto Rico. The great distance from its normal range and lack of any records from islands between Central America and Puerto Rico suggest that we saw a formerly captive bird that had been transported to Puerto Rico. However, this bird was seen away from any human population center in its natural habitat (woodland near water), which is unlike the normal behavior of isolated, caged and released birds. Studies of released caged birds in Puerto Rico have shown that such birds do not leave cities (H. A. Raffaele, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pers. comm.), although many

exotics have eventually become established in rural areas. Audubon's Oriole is not a common cage bird in Puerto Rico, but some people have this species in captivity (R. A. Pérez-Rivera, pers. comm.). We have not been able to find records of recent sales of this animal, but no records would be expected because it can not be legally imported (Pérez-Rivera, pers. comm.). A range extension or wandering of this bird from Central America to Puerto Rico is unlikely, but is an alternate explanation.

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NUEVO RECORD DEL GORRIÓN DE CABEZA CARMELITA (*SPIZELLA PASSERINA*) Y NUEVO REPORTE DE FECHA PARA EL BOBITO DE CRESTA (*MYIARCHUS CRINITUS*) PARA CUBA.

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En el presente trabajo damos a conocer algunos resultados obtenidos de las observaciones y colectas de aves migratorias en el municipio Caimito, situado al noroeste de la provincia de La Habana durante el período comprendido entre los años 1990 y 1995.

Se colectó un ejemplar subadulto del Gorrión de Cabeza Carmelita (*Spizella passerina*), conocido con el nombre Inglés Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella p. passerina*) (Bechstein, 1798), el día 25 de noviembre de 1991, en un potrero de la zona

ganadera Quintana Arriba, al norte de la Meseta de Anafe. Estos potreros presentan una vegetación baja y escasa, formada fundamentalmente por varias especies de gramíneas con fines de pasto para el ganado vacuno.

El gorrión fue localizado en el suelo, alimentándose de semillas, posteriormente voló a una cerca próxima de un metro de altura, donde dejó oír un "chip" característico repetido varias veces. Durante esta actividad se mantuvo muy manso.