

THE CHARLES-EUGÈNE JEANNERET COLLECTION OF CUBAN BIRDS

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The bird collections of Charles-Eugène Jeanneret are a lost chapter in Cuba's natural history. Jeanneret, born in 1824, was a friend of Juan Cristobal Gundlach and a disciple of Felipe Poëy. Using the taxidermy and collecting skills he

learned from Gundlach, Jeanneret collected Cuban birds in the nineteenth century. He amassed a large collection of Cuban birds, which is housed at the Museum of Natural History, Neuchâtel (Table 1).

TABLE 1. Summary of the specimens of Cuban birds in the Charles-Eugène Jeanneret collection in the Museum of Natural History, Neuchâtel.

Family	No. of specimens	No. of species	Family	No. of specimens	No. of species
Pelicanidae	1	1	Trochilidae	7	2
Anhingidae	1	1	Trogonidae	4	1
Fregatidae	2	1	Alcedinidae	2	1
Ardeidae	3	2	Todidae	2	1
Anatidae	8	6	Picidae	11	3
Accipitridae	10	7	Tyrannidae	5	3
Rallidae	5	4	Hirundinidae	2	1
Jacaniidae	1	1	Mimidae	3	2
Charadriidae	4	2	Sylviidae	2	1
Recurvirostridae	3	1	Bombycillidae	1	1
Scolopacidae	2	2	Turdidae	1	1
Laridae	2	2	Vireonidae	4	2
Columbidae	4	2	Parulidae	26	13
Psittacidae	2	2	Coerebidae	1	1
Cuculidae	3	2	Thraupidae	3	1
Strigidae	3	2	Icteridae	17	5
Caprimulgidae	2	1	Fringillidae	11	4

For each specimen in the collection we have extracted information on gender and age, as well as bill, wing, tarsus, and tail measurements. In addition, Jeanneret's notes on some

species are available. We are in the process of developing a more detailed description of the Jeanneret collection.

TROPICAL ORNITHOLOGY COURSE

The Instituto de Ecología, A. C. Graduate Program and the Departamento de Ecología y Comportamiento Animal at Xalapa, Veracruz, México will be offering its first course in Tropical Ornithology 24 June–28 July 1996. The course is field oriented and will last five weeks (two weeks at Xalapa City and surroundings, and three weeks at La Mancha Field Station, Veracruz). Course objectives include (1) to expose students to avian studies in the tropics, (2) to integrate evolutionary ecology theory with field research, (3) to use ecological criteria in conservation and sustainable

management of natural resources, and (4) the training of young researchers. Participants will be trained to design and execute field research projects. Lectures and seminars will be given by several professors. Course participation is limited to 15 persons and the cost will be \$650.00 USD. For more information, contact Dr. Juan Francisco Ornelas, Departamento de Ecología y Comportamiento Animal, Instituto de Ecología, A. C., Apdo. 63, Xalapa, Veracruz 91000, México. Telephone: 52-28-18-6000; fax: 52-28-7809; e-mail: ornelasj@sun.ieco.conacyt.mx.

THE REGIONAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR MESOAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The mission of the Regional Wildlife Management Program for Mesoamerica and the Caribbean (PRMVS), coordinated by Costa Rica's National University in Heredia, is to train wildlife and natural resource professionals to effectively conserve the fauna and habitats of tropical America. As in all countries, the leaders of Central American, Mexican, South American and Caribbean nations must answer complex socio-ecological questions involving wildlife. The PRMVS is committed to educating the growing cadre of dedicated and regionally trained professionals who will be faced with these decisions.

During their two-year course of study, graduate students receive intensive training in wildlife management, animal population ecology, rural sociology, computer science, and environmental education. They also chose from a range of elective courses, including biological conservation, environmental impact assessment, and wildlife diseases. Nearly half of the student's time is spent in the field. Ongoing PRMVS research projects in Costa Rica include GIS, Gap Analyses, and Biodiversity; Mammals and Dry Tropical Forest Conservation; Scarlet Macaw Survival; and Waterfowl and Marshland Restoration.

Since 1987, more than 60 students from 15 Latin American countries have received training at PRMVS. Student's thesis projects have significantly added to wildlife management

and conservation in the region. Graduates of the program now hold a wide variety of positions in wildlife conservation. PRMVS graduates work in research institutions, natural science agencies and other government departments; they head conservation groups and teach at universities throughout Latin America.

The PRMVS is also home to the Wildlife Documentation Center (BIODOC). Established in 1988, BIODOC is an extensive collection of books, scientific journals, reprints, bulletins, theses, and unpublished literature about wildlife worldwide, with an emphasis on neotropical species. PRMVS itself contributes to the growing body of scientific information on tropical wildlife by publishing *Neotropical Wildlife (Vida Silvestre Neotropical)*, a quarterly technical journal that presents research results of scientists and wildlife managers working in the American tropics.

PRMVS receives funding from organizations including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the German Academic Exchange Program, the World Wildlife Fund-U.S., the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, and the Organization of American States. For further information about PRMVS, contact Claudette Mo, M.Sc., Directora, Programa Regional en Manejo de Vida Silvestre, Apartado 1350 - 3000 Heredia, Costa Rica, Telephone 506 237-7039, FAX 506 237-7036, E-mail clee@irazu.una.ac.cr

PROPOSED CHANGE FOR SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY CONSTITUTION

The Society's Executive Committee proposes the following change to the SCO constitution.

Article III

B. Section 4 reads "The representatives of a territory/nation/state who are elected to the Board of Governors shall serve a two-year term."

Proposed change:

B. Section 4. The representatives of a territory/nation/state who are elected to the Board of Governors shall serve a four-year term. Should a territory/nation/state need to hold an election for a Board of Governor representative they can request the President to call for an election in that territory/nation/state.

Justification: The Executive Committee feels this change is needed to enhance the effectiveness of the Board of Governors and allow for a period of continuity in island/territory representation. Currently, elections for some positions (Executive Committee or Board of Governors) are held every

year at the Annual Meeting. Elections are time consuming and have costly mailings associated with them. Therefore, the Executive Committee feels the goals of the SCO could be better served if the Board of Governors serves a four-year term.

The constitution may be amended by mail ballot by two-thirds majority, or at any regular general meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that the amendment has been proposed at the preceding general meeting or has been recommended by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee, and a copy has been sent to every member of the Society at least four months prior to the date of action.

This proposed change to Section 4 of the constitution has been recommended by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee. It is being sent to every member of the Society via this issue of *El Pitirre*. A vote will be taken during the SCO business session at the Society's Annual Meeting in Nassau, Bahamas in August.

SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING

2-7 AUGUST 1996

NASSAU, BAHAMAS

The 1996 Annual Meeting will be held at South Ocean Beach Hotel, Nassau, Bahamas. South Ocean Beach Hotel will accept most major credit cards. The costs for accommodation are as follows: oceanfront luxury US \$80, standard garden view US\$60 for single, double and family occupancy. There is a government room tax of 8%, a porter charge one time per person, and a US\$2.35 per person daily maid service charge. Persons sharing a double occupancy room will each pay 50% of the room cost, plus tax and maid service charge.

Children sharing a room with a parent stay and eat free. A kid's camp is supervised daily from 09:00 - 22:00 hr, including lunch, games, and educational activities. Full day camp (08:30 - 17:00 hr) costs US\$25, a half day costs US\$16, whereas evening camp (17:00 - 22:00 hr) costs US\$18.

There is an 18-hole golf course which costs US\$40 net per person per day, including green fees and mandatory share cart, four tennis courts and pro. A 2-tank dive is US\$65 per person including weights & belts; other equipment will cost extra. A snorkel trip including gear costs US\$25 per person. Other hotel sporting activities include beach games.

Breakfast, lunch, and morning and afternoon coffee breaks together will cost US\$20 per day per person, plus a 15% service charge. Conference participants will have to make their own arrangements for dinner. The SCO Banquet on Tuesday, 6 August, will cost US\$35 per person. The cash bar will cost extra.

The price for the field trip, on Sunday 4 August, has not yet

been determined. The price will be payable upon arrival. The trip will begin in the morning and an afternoon boat trip will follow lunch. If you are interested in field trips to Abaco or Inagua before or after the conference, please call for further details.

For conference participants to receive a group discount on American Airlines' flights to Nassau, bookings must be made through Marazul Tours. Please contact Ramon Hernandez from Marazul at 1-800-223-5334 or (201) 319-9670 to purchase your ticket. When making reservations please identify yourself as an SCO member.

Airport transfers are US\$16 per person round-trip. The hotel should be advised of flight arrival and departure times. The meeting registration fee is US\$75 or \$35 for students with identification.

CONFERENCE EVENTS:

Thursday 1 August - Delegates arrive, registration

Friday 2 August - Opening ceremony, conference begins, welcoming reception 18:30 - 19:30 hr.

Sunday 4 August - All day field trip

Tuesday 6 August - Evening banquet

Thursday 8 August - Delegates depart

For further information please call Rosemarie Gnam at (703) 739-9803 (evenings only).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCO ANNUAL DUES REMINDER

If you have not already done so, please pay your 1996 dues. Individual memberships are \$15.00 (US). Please make your check or postal money order payable to the Society of Caribbean Ornithology and mail to Dr. Rosemarie Gnam, 13 E. Rosemont Ave., Alexandria VA 22301, USA.

ELECTIONS

1996 is an election year for territory/nation/state representative to the Board of Governors for the Society of Caribbean Ornithology. Dr. Joseph Wunderle Jr., President of the Society will be contacting the current territory/nation/state (island) representative regarding the procedures for the election. Please take the time to vote in your country!

US REPRESENTATIVE ELECTED

Jerry Jackson has been elected as the Society's US

Representative.

AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY WILLIAM BELTON GRANTS PROGRAM

The Project Council of the American Bird Conservancy is reviewing proposals for research projects. Priorities include conservation actions for threatened species, research on threatened habitats and training and environmental education for the Caribbean or Latin America. Applications are due by 30 September for the December proposal review. To receive an application package and receive more information, please contact: William Belton Grants Program, American Bird Conservancy, 1250 24th St., NW, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20037, USA; Tel. (202) 467-8348; e-mail abc@mnsinc.com.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

19-22 May 1996 – **Annual Meeting of the Association of Systematics Collections**, Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland. (Amy Y. Rossman; Telephone: 301-504-5364; Fax: 301-504-5810; amy@fungi.ars-grin.gov).

3-7 June 1996 – **Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution**, Washington, D.C. [Storrs Olson, NHB MRC 116 (Birds), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.; Telephone: 202-357-2031; Fax: 202-786-2328].

2-7 August 1996 – **Society of Caribbean Ornithology**, Nassau, Bahama Islands. (Jim Wiley, 2201 Ashland St., Ruston, Louisiana 71270, U.S.A.; Telephone: 318-274-2499; Fax: 318-274-3870).

13-17 August 1996 – **American Ornithologists' Union**, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho. (Peter Lowther, Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road at Lakeshore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60605, U.S.A.; lowther@fmnh.org).

20-24 August 1996 – **2nd International Symposium and World Congress on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural Science Collections**, St. Johns College, Cambridge, United Kingdom. (Chris Collins, Natural Sciences Congress '96, Geological Conservation Unit, Department of Earth Sciences, Downing St., Cambridge, CB2 3EQ, United Kingdom; Telephone: 0223-62522; Fax: 0223-60779).

29 September - 4 October 1996 – **6th International Behavioral Ecology Congress**, Australian National University, ACT, Australia. [Andrew Cockburn, Botany and Zoology, Australian National University, ACT, 0200, Australia (e-mail: isbe6@anu.edu.au)].

2-5 October 1996 – **2nd Raptor Research Foundation International Conference on Raptors**, University of Urbino, Urbino, Italy. (Dr. Massimo Pandolfi, Istituto di Scienze Morfologiche, Via Oddi 21, 61029 Urbino, Italy; Telephone: 39-722-328033; Fax: 39-722-329655).

5-9 October, 1996 — **Southern Hemisphere Ornithological Congress**, Western Australia. For information contact the President of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, Professor Brian Collins, School of Environmental Biology, Curtin University of Technology, GPO Box U 1987, Perth, Western Australia 6001 (Tel: 619-351-7041; fax: 619-351-2495).

16-22 August 1998 - **XXII International Ornithological Congress**, Durban, South Africa. (Dr. Aldo Berruti, Department of Ornithology, Durban Natural Science Museum, Durban, South Africa; Fax: 27-31-262-6114; berruti@superbowl.und.ac.za).



PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

Media Publishing (Nassau, Bahamas) wishes to announce publication of the educational coloring book, *Let's Get to Know the Bahama Parrot*. Society of Caribbean Ornithology Treasurer Rosemarie Gnam authored the book and Franklin Rojas Suarez (Venezuela) did the artwork.

Media Enterprises hopes the book will be a delight to Bahamians as well as tourists. The book is available for US \$3.50, plus postage, from Neal Sealey, Media Enterprises, P. O. Box N-9240, Nassau, Bahama Islands. Sales will help conservation efforts for this endangered Caribbean parrot. Hopefully, the book will serve as a model for other educational projects with parrots.

CARIBBEAN POSTERS AVAILABLE

The CITES Conservation Treaty Support Fund (CTSF) has published a beautiful poster entitled "Wild Treasures of the Caribbean," depicting sea turtles, birds, coral, and other endangered species of the Caribbean. The poster ties in with a brochure published by World Wildlife Fund/TRAFFIC USA as part of the "Buyer Beware" campaign that urges tourists and others not to buy endangered species or their products. The poster is beautiful and depicts Caribbean wildlife in a natural setting. Its design was done by the renowned wildlife artist, Mary Helsaple.

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology helped fund the production of this poster as part of the Society's public education effort. The idea for the poster and brochure was conceived at the 1992 CITES Training Workshop for English-speaking Caribbean nations.

Posters will be made available for free to the CITES

Management Authorities on each Caribbean island. SCO Island Representatives can contact the CITES Management Authority on their island to help with distribution of the posters. A limited number of posters is available to the public to help raise funds for CITES and our Society. The Society of Caribbean Ornithology will receive a 10% profit from sales of the poster. SCO members can obtain the poster by sending a check or postal money order for \$25 (U.S.) to the Conservation Treaty Support Fund (CTSF), 3705 Cardiff Road, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815 U.S.A. Please indicate that you are a SCO member on your order. Discounts are available for wholesale purchases (20 posters or more). For further information, contact George Furness, Jr. at (301) 654-3150 or by fax at (301) 652-6390. PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE SCO IN THIS FUND-RAISING PROJECT!!!!

SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

The SCO has produced a T-shirt to promote the Society and help raise much needed funds toward the Society's annual operating costs. The T-shirt depicts the Society's logo, the Pitirre (Gray Kingbird), on a light blue shirt. Large and X-large shirts are available. The cost of the shirt is \$15 (U.S.), which includes shipping costs. Please purchase a shirt today

and help support the Society! The shirt makes a great gift for Caribbean birdwatchers. Send your order and a check or postal money order made payable to the Society of Caribbean Ornithology to Rosemarie Gnam, Treasurer SCO, 13 East Rosemont Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301, U.S.A. Please don't miss out on this opportunity to promote the Society!

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