

should be employed to ensure that hunting laws are enforced; and 5) inform the public (through educational programs) of

the decline of the White-cheeked Pintail in the West Indies to increase support for programs intended to reverse this decline.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

THE SCIENTIFIC SURVEY OF PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS: AN EIGHTY-YEAR REASSESSMENT OF THE ISLANDS' NATURAL HISTORY. Edited by Julio C. Figueroa Colon. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* Vol. 776. Papers originally presented at a symposium held Nov. 15, 1993 at Sacred Heart University, San Juan, P.R. 1996. ISBN 0-89766-949-5 (cloth), ISBN 089766-950-9 (paper). Illus. Subject and contributor indices. xi + 273pp. \$80.00.—At a council meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences in November 1912, Dr. Nathaniel Lord Britton proposed a rather bold long-term research project: a comprehensive survey of the physical and natural history of Puerto Rico. The Council approved that action and the Academy embarked on a project that eventually filled 19 volumes as the *Scientific Survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands*, which contained one of the most complete descriptions of the natural history of any tropical area. In November 1993, almost 81 years to the day since the Academy meeting, a commemorative one-day symposium was held at Sacred Heart University in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This volume is the product of that symposium.

Following an introduction and dedication (to Roy O. Woodbury, who has made important contributions to the study of the region's plants), 17 chapters examine most of the topics covered in the original Survey. Each of the presentations includes a summary of the work accomplished by the Survey, a review of work conducted in the region since, and an evaluation of research opportunities for the future. Simon Baatz provides a detailed history of the Survey, whereas Thomas W. Donnelly evaluates the history of the development of geology in Puerto Rico. Eight papers are devoted to several botanical topics, two to insects (J. Maldonado Capriles and Stuart J. Ramos), two others to other invertebrates (Sonia Borges), and one each to land mammals (Charles A. Woods), herpetology (Richard Thomas and Rafael Joglar), and ornithology (James Wiley). Ricardo E. Alegria examines archaeological research in the region.

The chapter on ornithological research (pp. 149-179) summarizes Alexander Wetmore's monumental field work in Puerto Rico (1911-1912), which stands today as among the finest conducted in the region. A brief overview is then provided on regional advances in ornithology since Wetmore's work, with sections on work in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico and its satellite islands of Mona, Monito, Vieques, Desecheo, and the Culebra Archipelago. An extensive bibliography of 234 references to the birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands is included.—*James W. Wiley.*

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS: NATURAL HISTORY AND BIOGEOGRAPHY, edited by M. A. Brunt and J. E. Davies. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, The Netherlands. 1994. 604 pp. 20 x 26.5 cm. 22 color plates, numerous black-and-white photographs and figures, in-text maps and 3 separate color maps. Bibliography. Index. ISBN 0-7923-2462-5. Hardbound. US\$230.—The original concept for the publication of a comprehensive treatise on the natural history of the Cayman Islands came to Dr. D. R. Stoddart during a visit to Grand Cayman in 1984. He followed through on that idea by securing the support of the many authors, along with the publisher and even the Cayman Islands Government. Indeed, the Cayman Islands Government made a substantial commitment to the project by sponsoring several special studies to fill gaps in the knowledge of the biogeography of the region. Twenty years after Stoddart's original concept of the work, this most impressive treatise was published. As stated in the Preface, the purpose of the book is to bring together scattered information and to present a coherent account of the biogeography and ecology of the Cayman Islands in an easily available reference that could serve as a foundation on which future work would be based.

The book contains 25 chapters contributed by 30 authors and co-authors. These chapters include an overview of the scientific studies in the islands, geology, climate and tides, ground water, reefs and lagoons (2 chapters), marine algae, marine invertebrates (3 chapters), marine fishes, vegetation (3 chapters), terrestrial invertebrates (3 chapters), birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, and Late Quaternary fossil vertebrates. Two chapters present information on environmental change and rare and endemic plant and animal conservation. The extensive (14 page) bibliography is a useful compilation of sources for the region. Three indexes (general, genera and species, and cited authors) provide convenient access to the text. A series of 22 beautiful color plates of marine and terrestrial subjects introduce the reader to the spectacular array of organisms inhabiting these islands.

Of particular interest to Society members is the fine chapter, "The avifauna of the Cayman Islands: an overview," by SCO member Patricia E. Bradley. Here the reader is provided a good history of the study of birds in the Cayman Islands, followed by detailed analyses of the derivation of the avifauna, landbird affinities, the present avifauna, migrant birds, breeding birds, and landbird ecology. Gary Morgan's chapter on fossil vertebrates provides a fascinating examination of the islands' former fauna, including birds.

The single volume comes with a handsome slip-case, and

three color maps (Grand Cayman west, Grand Cayman east, and Cayman Brac and Little Cayman). It is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Marco Enrico Clifton Giglioli (1927-1984), who founded the Mosquito Research and Control Unit in the Cayman Islands and was the stimulus for much of the research conducted in the islands.

This ambitious work certainly is a comprehensive account of the current knowledge of the subjects and will stand as the starting point for future research on the islands' resources. Unfortunately, the staggering price of US\$230 puts it out of reach for most of our private libraries. Nevertheless, this is an essential reference for those working in the Caymans and surrounding islands.—James W. Wiley

AVES DE LA ISLA DE CUBA, by Juan Lembeye. 1850. Edición facsímil. Presentación de Manuel Fraga Iribarne. Introducción de Francisco Díaz-Fierros Viqueira. Madrid: Xunta de Galicia. 1995. xlvii + 139 pp. 20 plates. softbound. ISBN 84-453-1357-6.—At long last this important publication is available at a decent price. After searching for years for an original 1850 copy of Lembeye's book, I located a tattered copy at a book fair in La Habana last year. This year I was pleasantly surprised to find this splendid facsimile edition at the same fair. In addition to the facsimile of Lembeye's *Aves*, Francisco Díaz-Fierros Viqueira has provided an excellent history of Lembeye life and work, with important material from his time in Cuba.

Lembeye, who apparently began work in Cuba in the 1830s, made substantial contributions to the knowledge of Cuba's birds. In his *Aves* he provided synonymys, measurements, and distribution, status, and natural history data for those species known to him. Lembeye's *Suplemento* and *Indice de las aves descriptas* (with common and

scientific names) are included as in the 1850 issue. Also, D'Orbigny's (in La Sagra 1839) *Catalogo de las aves observadas en la isla de Cuba hasta octubre de 1850* is appended.

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of Lembeye's work is its illustrations — hand-colored line cuts, nicely reproduced in the facsimile edition. These illustrations "borrow" liberally from John James Audubon's famous bird art. Almost all of the 20 plates in Lembeye's *Aves* were lifted, in one form or another, from Audubon's *The Birds of America*. Several of these are near-exact copies of the source, right down to the prey item and background; e.g., Osprey (Audubon's Pl. 15, No. 3), American Oystercatcher (Pl. 324, No. 65), Northern Pintail (Pl. 390, No. 78). Some plates depict birds in temperate zone vegetation; e.g., hemlock (Lembeye's Lam. No. 8) and tulip tree (Lam. No. 9). In other illustrations, various species from several of Audubon's plates are arranged within one of Lembeye's plates. One non-breeding resident (Baltimore Oriole, Lam. No. 9) from Audubon's *Birds* is shown with a nest. Some are original illustrations, like Lembeye's Bare-legged Owl and Black-and-white Warbler (which is nevertheless in the same black larch branch as the warbler illustrated by Audubon). The Green Heron illustration is taken from Audubon, but the bird's colors and plumage patterns are modified to illustrate the island's *brunnescens* form. In Lam. No. 3, Audubon's Red-shouldered Hawk has been used as a form for Lembeye's Common Black-Hawk; only the plumage has been changed.

The owner of the original copy from which the facsimile was made has made a few pen and ink notes in the *Catalogue*, but otherwise the presentation is crisp and easily read. This is an important work for the student of Cuban ornithology. Now that it can be had at a reasonable price, the contributions of Lembeye can be more widely appreciated.—James W. Wiley.

NOTICES

SCO ELECTIONS

Members are advised that election of SCO officers will be conducted in 1997. Nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer should be submitted to Dr. Marcia Mundle by 1 January 1997. Each nomination must be accompanied by a letter demonstrating the candidate's willingness to stand for election. The list of candidates will be published in the first 1997 issue of *El Pitirre*.

Send nominations to:

Dr. Marcia Mundle
c/o Gosse Bird Club
93 Old Hope Road
Kingston 6, Jamaica, West Indies
Telephone and fax: 809-978-5881

1997 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SCO

The next Society meeting will be held in Aruba, 1-6 August 1997. Further details will appear in the next issue of *El Pitirre*.

SCO T-SHIRTS

T-shirts with the Society's logo are available in Large and X-large at US\$15 each (including shipping) from Rosemarie Gnam, Treasurer SCO, 13 East Rosemont Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301, U.S.A. Send your order and a check or postal money order made payable to the Society of Caribbean Ornithology. Please don't miss out on this opportunity to promote the Society!