

matado un ejemplar no muy lejos de la Habana y en 1866 me regalaron un par (ambos aún vivos con el ala rota), cazados al este de la Habana, donde había muchos volando sobre una laguna." Más tarde, Gundlach (1893) repite lo mismo que en 1873, solo que agrega los hábitos alimenticios de la especie, que los ignoraba en 1873.

En la colección histórica de las aves de Gundlach, obran tres ejemplares montados por el mismo, pero sin localidad precisa, aunque las etiquetas dicen Cuba. En la colección básica del Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática se hallan dos pieles de estudio, una reportada por Garrido y García Montaña (1975) y la segunda colectada por G. Alayón, en Tumbadero, San Antonio de los Baños, Provincia Habana, en Septiembre de 1974.

El autor de estas líneas ha observado o ha recibido testimonios de varios ejemplares volando sobre Cuba en los últimos 50 años. El primer ejemplar fue visto por R. Hernández Martell y el autor en 16 Febrero 1951, en la Península de Hicacos, Varadero Matanzas, volaba a unos 35 m de altura con rumbo N. En el Jardín Zoológico de la Habana, se han exhibido tres ejemplares. Uno entró en el Zoológico en 16 Septiembre 1982, fue capturado en la Korea, cerca del Puente Almendares, Ciudad de la Habana, tenía un ala rota, vivió solo nueve días (D. Legón Boada, com. pers.). Otro entró en 12 Septiembre 1984, fue capturado en Santa Fe, Ciudad de la Habana, vivió hasta Marzo de 1985, soportó el cautiverio por seis meses. El tercero fue colectado dentro de una casa en el Malecón, Ciudad de la Habana, en 14 Septiembre 1985; lleva como residente del zoológico más de nueve años. M. Acosta (com. pers.) observó un ejemplar en octubre de 1988, a las 09:00 hr en el Calvario, Ciudad de la Habana, a la altura de 30 m.

El autor observó, en 22 Enero 1990, un ejemplar en la Costa Sur del Cayo Santa María, Cayería de Caibarién, Provincia de Villa Clara, llevaba rumbo ENE iba a 40 m de altura; también en 16 Marzo 1993 a las 17:45 hr observó tres ejemplares sobre el Reparto La Coronela, Lisa, Ciudad de la Habana. Ilevaban rumbo NE. J. P. Soy Cayhuelas (Com. pers., en prensa) observó en 9 Marzo 1995, nueve ejemplares que volaban a más de 100 m de altura sobre el área infantil y la micropresa del Parque Zoológico Nacional, a las 10:30 hr con rumbo N iban emitiendo sonidos. A. Llanes, C. Mancina, E. Reyes, A.

Hernández y el autor vieron en 9 Marzo 1995 a las 11:35 hr dos bandadas de 21 y 17 individuos respectivamente; la primera sobrevolaba el monte central de la Finca La Chata, sede del Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, en Boyeros, Ciudad de la Habana, a una altura de 30 m; la segunda volaba sobre el edificio de Colecciones Zoológicas del propio Instituto, a unos 40 m de altura. Las dos bandadas se dirigían hacia el N planeando pausadamente, contra las fuertes rachas de viento. El día estaba nublado y lluvioso. Ese mismo día 9, a las 13:00 hr, A. Llanes, observó un ejemplar, volando a 40 m de altura, con rumbo, sobre la propia Finca La Chata y el día 10 a las 08:30 hr en la misma localidad A. Llanes, C. Mancina y el autor observaron un individuo volando a 30 m de altura, sobre el edificio de colecciones, con rumbo N.

En éste siglo se han registrado 62 ejemplares de ésta especie en Cuba. Tres de ellos por Garrido y García Montaña (1975) y 59 por el autor y colaboradores. La especie ha sido observada en Cuba en los meses de Enero, Febrero, Marzo, Agosto, Septiembre y Octubre, pero solamente en Marzo la hemos visto asociada en bandadas volando con rumbo Norte, de retorno a sus cuarteles de primavera, verano y otoño, en los Estados del Sur y Suroeste de Estados Unidos, después de haber pasado el invierno en Suramérica. Los individuos observados en los restantes meses andaban solitarios, descarriados, explorando. La amplitud geográfica de las observaciones abarca desde Hahía Honda (Gundlach 1873) hasta Cayo Santa María, Villa Clara (presente trabajo). Garrido (com. pers.) considera la probabilidad del establecimiento de dicha especie en Cuba.

#### LITERATURA CITADA

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GUNDLACH, J. 1893. Ornitología cubana ó catálogo descriptivo de todas las especies de aves tanto Indígenas como de paso anual ó accidental observadas en 53 años. Archivos de la Policlínica ed., Imprenta "La Moderna," La Habana.

### A SUMMARY OF CARIBBEAN BIRD SPECIMENS IN THE CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

KENNETH C. PARKES

*Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4080, USA*

Like all curators of museums with large collections of bird specimens, I receive many requests each year from colleagues for loans of or data on specimens in our collection. Sometimes the letter is a preliminary request to determine how extensive our material may be, either of the taxon or from the area being

studied. This will give the person an idea as to whether, for example, we have enough specimens to justify their trip to Pittsburgh to examine them, or to ask to borrow key specimens.

There are only two museums in the world, to my knowledge, that come close to having specimens of every species and

subspecies of bird in the world, the British Museum in Tring and the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Smaller museums, such as ours, have definite strengths and weaknesses in our holdings, and these are usually geographic. The bird collection at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History was founded at the end of the last century by W. E. Clyde Todd, and like many other bird collections, its contents reflect the particular geographic interests of its long-term curator. Mr. Todd was primarily interested in birds of the Western Hemisphere, especially those of north-central and north-eastern Canada, and those of the neotropics. Todd directed more than 20 expeditions to Canada, and accompanied many of them, from 1901 to 1955. He did not, however, take part in any neotropical field work. Before he came to Carnegie, he had a job with the old Bureau of Biological Survey, the predecessor of today's U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in Washington, D. C. During his residence in Washington, he picked up a case of malaria. His doctor at the time told him that after he recovered, he should never visit a tropical country for fear of a recurrence. Modern antimalarial drugs would undoubtedly have made it possible for Todd to have ventured to the tropics, but he had undying faith in the advice of his 19th Century doctor, and never got farther south than the western panhandle of Florida.

This meant that he had to turn to other collectors to get neotropical specimens for our museum. Some collections were made by Carnegie staff members, but the majority of our neotropical specimens were obtained from professional collectors, such as Samuel Klages in Venezuela, French Guiana and Brazil, and the Steinbachs, father and son, in Bolivia and Argentina. The late Melvin A. Carriker, Jr., who also collected for the museums in Philadelphia and Washington, was of a different sort. He collected birds under contract for a living, but was a scientist in his own right, and published many papers; one, co-authored with Mr. Todd, "The Birds of the Santa Marta Region of Colombia," won the prestigious Brewster Award of the American Ornithologists' Union. The majority of Carriker's specimens at Carnegie came from Costa Rica, Colombia, and Venezuela, but of interest to the Society of Caribbean Ornithology is the fact that he also collected birds in Trinidad and Tobago and in Curaçao.

Our specimens from the Caribbean islands came to us in various ways. Some were collected during expeditions of Carnegie Museum itself. Some were obtained from professional collectors. The Cuban collection was obtained from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History when that museum divested itself of many of its scientific collections around 30 years ago. Several islands are represented in our holdings only by small numbers of birds obtained in specimen exchanges with other museums.

In order to help colleagues who may be thinking of either visiting us or writing for loans or data, I present here a summary of our holdings. These figures refer only to study

skins, not skeletons or alcoholic specimens, for which published inventories are available.

One of our major collections consists of birds of the Bahama Islands, with 954 specimens. Most of these were taken by the well-known professional collector W. W. Worthington, with additional specimens taken by Arthur C. Twomey, a former curator of ornithology at Carnegie. Some years ago we planned a major expedition to the Bahamas, led by Dr. Mary Clench, then Associate Curator of Birds at the Carnegie, and her late husband, Herry Clench, an authority on the Lepidoptera of the Bahamas. We had chartered a boat, and Mary Clench's objective was to visit as many islands as possible to try to find wintering Kirtland's Warblers. Although it was known that this endangered species winters in the Bahamas, the actual records were few and scattered, and we had a theory that there might be a core island in the Bahamas where the majority of the warbler population concentrated in winter. Mary had permits to obtain a general collection of Bahamian birds, and we already had requests from some colleagues for specimens of particular species that we could exchange with them. One of the expedition members was Christopher Fichtel, who had been our bird preparator for some years. Unfortunately, Chris turned out to have ear problems that made life absolutely impossible for him on a boat at sea, so had to go back to Pittsburgh. Mary collected a few birds, and those were kept frozen and not prepared until the expedition returned.

One of our most important Caribbean collections is that from Cuba, totaling 1058 bird skins. Of these, 800 were collected by Gustav A. Link, Senior, a Carnegie taxidermist, in 1912-1913, on the Isle of Pines, now the Isle of Youth. Data from these and all previously known specimens were included in a paper by W. E. Clyde Todd, "The birds of the Isle of Pines," published in the *Annals of Carnegie Museum* in 1916. Most of the specimens from mainland Cuba were collected by W. H. Comins, R. J. Kula, and P. N. Moulthrop in 1941 for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and obtained by us in a major exchange whereby we sent them exhibit materials in exchange for scientific specimens.

Our only other major collection from the Greater Antilles is from Puerto Rico. These total 604 specimens, of which most were obtained from the professional collector W. W. Worthington in 1912. Among those not collected by Worthington are the two paratypes of *Dendroica angelae* Kepler and Parkes, the Elfin Woods Warbler.

The specimens collected by M. A. Carriker, Jr., in Trinidad and Tobago in 1909 and 1910 are especially valuable because, like most Carriker specimens, the labels are carefully annotated with the soft part colors — eyes, bills, feet, and any naked skin. Such annotations are all too rare in museum collections. We have 522 specimens altogether from Trinidad and Tobago. Our 236 specimens from Curaçao have the same careful Carriker labeling.

The avifauna of the islands on the east coast of the Yucatán

Peninsula of Mexico have a significant Caribbean element. Arthur Twomey obtained a few birds on Isla Cozumel, although I understand that these were brought to him while he was aboard a yacht in the harbor; the specimens have only the basic information of sex, date, and collector, and the locality for all is given just as "Cozumel Island." I participated in 4 collecting trips on Isla Cozumel; 4 days in January 1965, 15 days in November 1965, 3 days in April 1968, and 11 days in November 1971. We also spent one day collecting on Isla Mujeres in January 1965. Except for the November 1965 visit, these were joint expeditions; specimens collected by other participants have been widely dispersed and are now in the collections at Cornell University, the University of Minnesota, the National Museum of Canada, the Royal Ontario Museum, and the Delaware Museum of Natural History. These specimens carry full information on gonad size, skull pneumatization, molt, fat, and weight, as well as the exact locality on Cozumel where they were collected.

From the rest of the islands in the Caribbean, we have only representative specimens obtained by exchange with other museums in order to have examples of endemic species and subspecies, so it is a forgone conclusion that any specimens we have from these islands come from larger series in other

museums such as the U. S. National Museum, the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Field Museum, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. I would expect that most workers would need to borrow such specimens from us only if they wanted to put together the largest possible series for their studies.

Localities represented by such exchange specimens include Anguilla (3 specimens), the Cayman Islands (25 specimens), Dominica (7 specimens), the Dominican Republic (108 specimens), Grenada (8 specimens), the Grenadines (3 specimens), Guadeloupe (10 specimens), Haiti (45 specimens), Jamaica (62 specimens), Martinique (11 specimens), St. Kitts and Nevis (6 specimens), St. Lucia (11 specimens), St. Vincent (11 specimens), and the Virgin Islands (6 specimens).

With this information I hope that anyone doing specimen-based research will avail themselves of the material housed in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and by the same token, will know when not to write us because our holdings represent just a few birds extracted from larger series at other museums.

## COMMENTARY

### BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: IDEAS FOR EXPANDED SOCIETY COLLABORATION

HERBERT A. RAFFAELE

*Office of International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

The theme of partnerships was discussed by the Society membership at the annual meeting held in Trinidad. The focus was on how the Society might expand collaboration with other institutions and individuals both through modifying elements of the annual meeting and by other means. No attempt was made to reach a consensus on specific steps to be taken. Rather, this brainstorming exercise served to explore ideas for future consideration and possible action by the executive committee. Suggested actions from the discussion are presented in two categories — those associated with the annual meeting and those independent of it.

#### COLLABORATION ASSOCIATED WITH ANNUAL MEETING

- Allow local students and conservationists to attend meeting for free.
- Have a specific day of the annual meeting that incorporates local participation.
- Conduct more outreach to involve local students and institutions.
- Conduct a contest on the island where the annual

meeting is to take place and have appropriate officials attend to present awards.

- Have selected Society of Caribbean Ornithology (SCO) meeting participants give presentations to local schools and organizations during or following the annual meeting.
- Piggyback the SCO meeting with that of other groups. Suggestions included CCA, CANARI, UNICA, NAAEE.
- Assign someone to handle public relations to better involve the media and other groups.

#### COLLABORATION APART FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

- Create an inventory of bird conservation organizations in the Caribbean.
- Become a member of the Caribbean Conservation Association and attend meetings.
- Take our resolutions to the CCA.
- Develop technical exchanges between SCO members.