

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

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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.