

BIRD CHECKLIST GUÁNICA BIOSPHERE RESERVE PUERTO RICO.—Wayne J. Arendt, John Faaborg, Miguel Canals, and Jerry Bauer. 2016. Mizzou Publishing, Columbia, MO. 48 pp. + fold-out map. ISBN 978-161600-499-6. \$8.99.

Guánica Biosphere Reserve is of global significance—not only because it protects Guánica Commonwealth Forest, one of the largest remaining tracts of subtropical coastal dry forest in the world—but also because its birds have been the object of the longest-running constant-effort monitoring study in the Americas. Since 1973, Wayne Arendt and John Faaborg, two of the co-authors on this bird checklist, along with later collaborators, have documented changes in the permanent resident and over-wintering migratory birds at the Guánica Biosphere Reserve. Their finding of dramatic declines in migrants contributed to the development of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Plan and Partners in Flight (PIF). But it also led to a blossoming of field studies and theoretical models showing how the size of migratory bird populations could be regulated by factors occurring on the breeding grounds, the wintering grounds, during migration, or some combination of events throughout the annual cycle. As a result, management of migratory birds has evolved in complexity to include actions on a variety of spatial and temporal scales, across a variety of habitats and geographies.

Guánica has been on the radar of birdwatchers for many other reasons too, not least of which are the Reserve's biodiversity, and the fact that 15 of Puerto Rico's 17 endemic bird species can be found there. So a handy checklist of the Reserve's birds, their status, seasonal abundance, and habitat affinities, is a welcome tool for the casual visitor or the seasoned birdwatcher. The *Bird Checklist Guánica Biosphere Reserve Puerto Rico* fulfills this need nicely.

The full-color checklist begins with a short introduction to the history, extent, and biogeography of the Guánica Commonwealth Forest and the Guánica Biosphere Reserve, and then provides some helpful tips for birdwatching in the area. Care is taken to orient the visitor to not only the best walking trails for the endemic landbirds, but also suggestions for viewing waterbirds along the coast and in lagoons. Many birdwatchers will be particularly interested in the Critically Endangered Puerto Rican Nightjar (*Antrostomus noctitherus*), for which Guánica represents the stronghold for the population. The authors provide some excellent, detailed tips for how to best hear and see this

emblematic species. These birding tips are facilitated by a well-drawn fold-out map provided at the back of the booklet, which includes roads, walking trails, and even some tourist facilities.

The heart of the checklist is of course the checklist. Species accounts are spread across facing pages, which are easily spread flat because of its spiral binding, and include scientific name, common name in English and Spanish, the four-letter alpha code for the species, the breeding or residency status of the bird, and an indication of the relative abundance of the bird in each of the four seasons. Also provided is a list of habitats where each species can be expected, and space to check off your own observations. These accounts are easily read and interpreted, although one must remember the code abbreviations which can be a challenge when there are, for example, 10 habitat delineations. The booklet is also complemented by 50 photographs of the most commonly occurring birds at Guánica, and 7 habitat photos. Although not designed as an identification guide, I think these photos would be useful for the casual observer visiting the Reserve who might know few species but be curious about identifying some of the birds encountered.

I found the *Bird Checklist Guánica Biosphere Reserve Puerto Rico* to be a well thought-out and easily used checklist that should serve nicely both the casual and experienced birdwatcher. I like that the checklist includes even the vagrants recorded a single time, including the date and (usually) the location of these rarities. The spiral binding, color coding, and abundance estimates add visual appeal and also aid in interpretability. I would caution that the booklet is not printed on particularly durable paper, but then I assume that most visitors to the Reserve do not stay for more than a day or two, so the additional cost of more weather resistant materials would probably not be advised.

I would recommend that anyone considering a trip to Guánica would benefit from having a copy of this booklet. I also recommend that researchers and managers associated with other birdwatching sites consider having a look at the *Bird Checklist Guánica Biosphere Reserve Puerto Rico*; perhaps more of these sorts of checklists should be considered in the Caribbean region to help promote ecotourism, the Caribbean Birding Trail, and other important sites for birdwatching.

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