

Sociedad para el Estudio de la Ornitología Caribeña

# EL PITIRRE

Society for the Study of Caribbean Ornithology

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## EL PITIRRE

El Pitirre is the bimonthly newsletter of the Society for the Study of Caribbean Ornithology.

El Pitirre es el boletín informativo de la Sociedad para el Estudio de la Ornitología Caribeña.

### EDITOR

James W. Wiley, 1863 Ciprian Avenue, Camarillo, California 93010.

News, comments or requests should be mailed to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter.

Noticias, comentarios o peticiones deben ser enviadas al editor para inclusión en el boletín.

The Society for the Study of Caribbean Ornithology is a non-profit organization whose goals are to promote the scientific study and conservation of Caribbean birds and their habitats, to provide a link among island ornithologists and those elsewhere, to provide a written forum for researchers in the region (refereed journal-Ornitología Caribeña, published in conjunction with the Puerto Rico Ornithological Society) and to provide data or technical aid to conservation groups in the Caribbean.

This is the first issue of the Society's newsletter, *El Pitirre*. Its primary function will be to keep members abreast of events and issues relating to Caribbean ornithology. In addition, comments, requests and notices from members will be printed.

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La Sociedad para el Estudio de la Ornitología Caribeña es una organización sin fines de lucro cuyas metas son promover el estudio científico y la conservación de la avifauna caribeña, auspiciar un simposio anual sobre la ornitología caribeña, publicar una revista profesional llamada *Ornitología Caribeña* (publicada en conjunto con la Sociedad Ornitológica de Puerto Rico), ser una fuente de comunicación entre ornitólogos caribeños y en otras áreas y proveer ayuda técnica o datos a grupos de conservación en el Caribe.

Esta es la primera edición del boletín informativo de la Sociedad, *El Pitirre*. Su función primaria será mantener los socios al día sobre eventos pertinentes a la ornitología caribeña. En adición, se publicaran comentarios, noticias y peticiones de los socios.

## *Tyrannus dominicensis*



Pitirre, Gray Kingbird, Pestrige, Petchary

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## ST. CROIX'S SALT RIVER BAY THREATENED BY DEVELOPMENT

Salt River Bay is a unique ecosystem in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Because it is the least disturbed mangrove and salt lagoon system in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and because of its several important historical and archaeological sites, the St. Croix Environmental Association (SEA) considers Salt River to be the island's most critical site for preservation. The SEA Newsletter (September 1987) reported on the proposed construction of the Virgin Grand St. Croix, a major complex consisting of a marina, 288-unit hotel, and 300 condominiums, to be built by the Allen-Williams Corporation at Salt River. Although the builders have been unable to guarantee that the waters of the bay will not be further degraded by the project, and considerable concern exists that the increased boat traffic in the Bay will harm the environment, the Board of Land Use Appeals decided in favor of the developer's permits issued by the Coastal Zone Management Committee and challenged by SEA last summer.

The development of the proposed marina will undoubtedly lead to construction of additional facilities for pleasure boats. Already, other individuals are applying for permits for marina construction in Salt River Bay. The cumulative impact of these developments will be severely adverse and irreversible, with the Salt River becoming a commercial marina, at the expense of the natural, historical, and archaeological values that are at a premium in the Virgin Islands. SEA rejects the developer's contention that the project will benefit the island, pointing out that (1) there are still over 30,000 acres on St. Croix where the project could be developed and not create the kind of environmental havoc that would occur at Salt River, and (2) the jobs promised by the developer will go to non-residents, not to unemployed Crucians.

SEA suggests that persons concerned about protecting Salt River from this damage should write a letter to the following individuals:

Honorable Alan Smith, Commissioner  
Department of Planning and Natural Resources  
179 Altona and Welgunst  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00802

Honorable Senator Virdin Brown  
17th Virgin Islands Legislature  
P.O. Box 477  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00801

All St. Croix Senators  
P.O. Box D,  
Christiansted  
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00820

## MEETINGS OF INTEREST

1-3 March **Thirteenth Vertebrate Pest Conference**, Monterey Sheraton Hotel, Monterey, California, U.S.A. (A. Charles Crabb, Chairperson, Crop Science Department, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California 93407, U.S.A.).

17-22 March **58th Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society**, Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California 93950, U.S.A. (Dr. Walter D. Koenig, Hastings Reservation, Star Route Box 80, Carmel Valley, California 93924, U.S.A. 408/659-2664).

18-22 March **The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting**, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky (Harry E. Hodgdon, Executive Director, The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, U.S.A. 301/897-9770).

18-23 March **53rd North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference**, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky (Laurence R. Jahn, Wildlife Management Institute, 1101 14th St. N.W., Suite 725, Washington, D.C. 20005, U.S.A. 202/371-1808).

13-15 May **Association of Field Ornithologists Annual Meeting**, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Woodstock, Vermont 05091 (802/457-2779). [Note: 14 May evening program will be "The Ivory-billed Woodpecker: Stalking an 'Extinct' Species in North America and Cuba," presented by Jerome Jackson.]

17-20 May **2nd International Wildlife Symposium on Economics & Social Aspects of Wildlife**, Calinda Acapulco Quality Inn Hotel, Acapulco Conventions Center, Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico (2nd International Wildlife Symposium, Organizing Committee, Mexico Chapter, The Wildlife Society, Apartado Postal 13-432 Mexico D.F., 03500. 553-9408 in Mexico City.)

20-22 May **"Themes in Caribbean Ornithology,"** a symposium organized by the Society for the Study of Caribbean Ornithology, Fredriksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (Jorge A. Moreno, Committee Chairperson, Department of EPO Biology, Campus Box b-334, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80309, U.S.A. 303/492-6685 [days] or 303/786-0365 [evenings]).

5-12 June **"Resource Availability and the Structure and Functioning of Tropical Ecosystems,"** an international symposium on tropical studies celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS), University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, U.S.A. (Jay M. Savage, Silver Anniversary Symposium, Department of Biology, University of Miami, P.O. Box 249118, Coral Gables, Florida 33124, U.S.A.).

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## MEETINGS OF INTEREST (CONTINUED)

8-12 June **Wilson Ornithological Society Centennial Meeting**, Rosemont College and The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Dr. Richard C. Banks, WOS, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.)

9-10 June **Annual Meeting, American Association for the Advancement of Science - Caribbean Division** (site to be announced).

14-17 June **Ecologia Integrada en Defensa de la Naturaleza, I. Simposio de Zoología**, Palacio de las Convenciones, La Habana, Cuba (Dr. María Herrera Alvarez, President of the Organizing Committee, Apartado 16046, La Habana, Cuba. 809/22-5511 or 22-1623)

7-12 August **Animal Behavior Society**, Missoula, Montana, U.S.A. (Donald A. Jenni, Department of Zoology, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812, U.S.A. 406/243-2393).

15-18 August **106th Annual Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union**, Fayetteville, Arkansas, U.S.A. (Douglas A. James and Kimberly G. Smith, Chairpersons).

16-19 August **Second Annual Conference of the Society for Conservation Biology**, University of California, Davis, California, U.S.A. (Dr. Daniel Simberloff, Department of Biological Science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306-2043, U.S.A.)

6-10 October **Second International Conference on Behavioral Ecology**, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. (Conference Services, Continuing Studies, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5A 1S6. 604/291-3649).

October **Meeting of the Parrot Working Group**, International Council for the Conservation of Birds, Brazil.

## TRAINING PROGRAMS AND COURSES

**Manomet Bird Observatory Field Biology Training Program and Research Apprenticeship Training Programs.** The Field Biology Training Program will begin offering a full semester of college credit in 1988. Students participate in ongoing environmental studies of tropical forests and avian migrants in Belize, Central America; migration and breeding ecology of landbirds on the Gaspé Peninsula, Québec; colonial bird ecology; marine mammal distributions in the Northwest Atlantic; and others. Transfer credit through affiliates. Financial aid is available.

## TRAINING PROGRAMS & COURSES (CONTINUED)

Research Apprenticeships (2-4 months) in ongoing research in avian, marine mammal, estuarine, and tropical forest ecology. Available year-round. U.S.\$250 per month and room provided. Apprenticeships are designed for beginning biologists with some field experience.

For information, write: Field Biology Training Program or Research Apprentice Program, Manomet Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 936, Manomet, Massachusetts 02345 U.S.A., (617) 224-6521

**Captive Breeding of Endangered Species**, The Wildlife Preservation Trust, Isle of Jersey, Channel Islands, England, Great Britain. Programs are available for persons with practical experience with animals, institutions with captive breeding programs, and students with interest in conservation. Those interested in the programs should send a proposal before 1 June 1988 for participation in the subsequent year. Selections are made in August. For information or to submit a proposal, contact: Training Program, Wildlife Preservation Trust International, 34th Street & Girard Ave., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, U.S.A.

The National Zoological Park, Washington, D.C., offers summer courses in wildlife management and conservation. The principal objective of the **Wildlife Conservation and Management Training Program** is the scientific preparation of persons from tropical countries. Courses are also organized in these countries. The institutions interested in conducting such a course in their country should select the candidates for the course, identify the sites for field work and determine needed logistics. The National Zoological Park will attempt to obtain funds for implementing the course and travel funding. For field courses in the National Zoo's Conservation and Research Center for foreign students in universities in the United States or persons living in tropical countries and who want to continue with advanced courses in management of wildlife, write: R. Rudran (Program Coordinator), Department of Zoological Research, National Zoological Park, Washington, D.C. 20008, U.S.A.

**Course on the Management of Viable Populations** - The Center for Conservation Biology, Stanford University, offers a 3-day course on population viability for wildlife professionals and graduate-level students. The fundamentals of biogeography, ecology, population dynamics, and population dynamics will be taught as they relate to protection, recovery, and maintenance of populations of rare, threatened, and endangered species. The course will also cover case studies, computer simulation models, and the legal and policy aspects of population viability analysis and planning.

For information, write Center for Conservation Biology, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305, U.S.A.

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## OPPORTUNITIES

**Research Assistant** needed for graduate student's study of sexual selection in the yellow-knobbed currawong in the Venezuelan llanos, March-June 1988. Some field experience necessary, knowledge of the tropics and Spanish helpful. Airfare and room/board provided (conditional on funding). For more information, send curriculum vitae and cover letter to Richard Buchholz, Department of Zoology, 223 Bartram Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, U.S.A.

**Research Assistant** in study of the biology and conservation of the Bahama Parrot on Abaco Island, Bahamas, May-September 1988. Contact Rosemarie Gnam, Bird Division, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York, New York 10024, U.S.A.

**Volunteers** for Earthwatch project supported in 1988: Avian studies in southwestern Puerto Rico (Dr. Jaime Collazo and Mr. José Colón. For additional information, contact Dr. Collazo, Wildlife Biologist, Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Apto. 510, Boqueron, Puerto Rico)

**Amazon internships.** Work/study at a field station 80 mi. deep in climax tropical rainforest, Peru. Specialties include rehabilitation, reintroduction of wildlife confiscated from the illegal pet trade; nature photography; field study. Must pay air fare, tuition, room and board. Contact Amazon Conservation Foundation, 18328 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores, Florida 34635, U.S.A.

**Experienced volunteers** are needed to run mist nets and manage data in association with the World Wildlife Fund's Minimum Critical Size of Ecosystems project, 80 km north of Manaus in Amazonian Brazil. Airfare, room and board, and very modest allowance are provided. Volunteers are expected to work for 6 months, with the possibility of developing independent research following the banding period. Working knowledge of Neotropical birds useful and weigh heavily in selecting candidates. Contact Rob Bierregaard, World Wildlife Fund, 1250 24th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, U.S.A.

## REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

**Parrots needed** for work on the biochemical systematics of Psittaciformes. Frozen tissue is needed from a variety of taxa. Source may be adult or juvenile, wild-caught or captive-bred birds. Michael Dixon, Department of Zoology, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712, U.S.A.

Byron Swift (2738 Chain Bridge Rd. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016, U.S.A.) requests **bird lists of neotropical parks** to build a data base of bird species found in all major neotropical protected areas. Systematic lists are needed, rather than incidental observations made in 1-2 days.

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## RECENT PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

"**Checklist of Birds of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.**" 1987. U.S.\$1.00. Fred W. Sladen, P.O. Box 4106, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00820.

"**Checklist of Vertebrates of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and Canada,**" edited by R.C. Banks, R.W. McDiarmid, and A.L. Gardner. 1987. Fish and Wildlife Service, Resource Publ. 166, 79pp. Available from Publications Unit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Matomic Building, Room 148, Washington, D.C. 20240, U.S.A.

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*Send notices, articles, and other information of interest to members of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology to: James W. Wiley, 1863 Ciprian Ave., Camarillo, California 93010, U.S.A.*

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INFORMATION REGARDING THE SOCIETY'S MAY SYMPOSIUM IS FORTHCOMING TO ALL MEMBERS.

INFORMACION SOBRE EL SIMPOSIO EN MAYO SERA ENVIADA PRONTO.