

Sociedad de Ornitología Caribeña

EL PITIRRE

Society of Caribbean Ornithology

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EL PITIRRE

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

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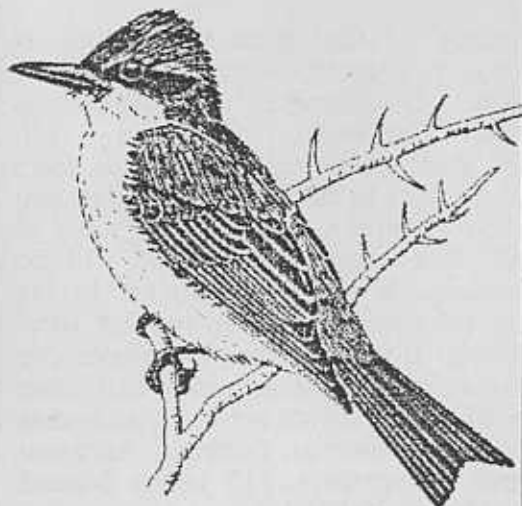
News, comments or requests should be mailed to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter.

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

The Society 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.

La Sociedad de 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.

Tyrannus dominicensis



Pitirre, Gray Kingbird, Pestrige, Petchary

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Society Adopts New Name

The former Society for the Study of Caribbean Ornithology will from now on be known as the **Society of Caribbean Ornithology**.

1989 Meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology will host its second annual meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in late July or early August 1988 (will not overlap with the American Ornithologists' Union meetings). The meeting will run four days and will include symposia on introduced birds in the West Indies, bird-plant interactions in the Caribbean, and the role of education in Caribbean bird conservation. Field trips will follow the meeting. Discount airfares and hotel rates will be available. For further information, write to:

Jorge A. Moreno
Department of EPO Biology
University of Colorado
Campus Box B-334
Boulder, CO 80309 USA

Report of the Education Committee

An Environmental Education Committee has been formed with the following members: Charles Chase, Barbara Dowell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center; Ann Haynes-Sutton, Jamaica; Charles Luthin, Pan American Officer, ICBP; Frank F. Rivera Milan, Department of Natural Resources, Puerto Rico; Jose Ottenwalder, Parque Zoologico Nacional, Dominican Republic; Ro Wauer (Chairman), National Park Service, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Committee's initial project is the production of a poster that will advertise the Society of Caribbean Ornithology, as well as to create interest in Caribbean birds and their habitats. We want to develop a poster that will appeal to children and adults to encourage their help in protecting birds and bird habitats throughout the Caribbean.

A request for slides that might be utilized for the poster was sent to all the Society's members in mid-August, but only one slide has so far been received. There is still time for submission of an appropriate slide; send to Ro Wauer, P.O. Box 2145, Kingshill, VI 00851.

Report of the Education Committee (Continued)

A funding source for the poster production has not yet been identified, although a few good suggestions were received. The Committee hopes to complete this project prior to the August 1989 meeting of the Society.

Society to Prepare Annotated Bibliography of West Indian Ornithology

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology is preparing an annotated bibliography of the literature on birds in the West Indies. The boundary of the region considered will follow the faunal area outlined in the most recent edition of James Bond's *Birds of the West Indies*. The Society's annotated bibliography will be published in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Report series, and will be available to individuals, organizations, and governments as a reference source.

If you 1) have published any technical or popular articles on West Indian ornithology, 2) know about unpublished ornithological reports, 3) have compiled a publication list for an island, island group, or a bird species, or 4) know someone who has done any of 1-3 above, please send reprints or copies of the publications, lists or reports to:

Craig A. Faanes
Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2604 St. Patrick Avenue
Grand Island, Nebraska 68803
U.S.A.

Craig's telephone number is 308-381-5571 if you need additional information.

Society Compiling List of Researchers and Their Activities in the Caribbean

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology is compiling a list of researchers with interests in the Caribbean Basin. Governments and individuals throughout the Caribbean concerned with conservation of their island resources often have difficulty gaining access to the results of studies that may support their activities. The Society's list of researchers and their areas of expertise will be available to individuals and governments in the Caribbean as a reference guide to support local conservation efforts. If you are currently working or are interested in conducting research in the Caribbean Basin, please send your research activities and areas of expertise to Reed Bowman, National Audubon Society, Research Department, 115 Indian Mound Trail, Tavernier, Florida 33070, USA.

Second Meeting of the Parrot Specialist Group, Curitiba, Brazil

The International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) held its Second Meeting of the Parrot Specialist Group at Curitiba, Brazil, from 13-18 October 1988. Several papers on West Indian parrots were presented, including:

- "Status and conservation of Lesser Antillean parrots," Paul Butler and Peter Evans.
- "Status and conservation of Greater Antillean parrots," James W. Wiley.
- "Breeding biology and conservation of the Bahama Parrot, *Amazona leucocephala bahamensis*," Rosemarie Gnam.
- "Recent conservation efforts for the Puerto Rican Parrot, *Amazona vittata*," Marcia H. Wilson
- "Status and conservation of the Yellow-billed Parrot (*Amazona collaria*) and Black-billed Parrot (*A. agilis*) in Jamaica," Yvette Strong

Nigel Collar and Jorgen Thomsen summarized the conservation needs for the region and presented recommendations for conservation of West Indian parrots. These recommendations and papers presented at the meeting will be published by ICBP in their proceedings of the meeting.

Request for Assistance

Help needed for Bahama Parrot - As part of an ongoing conservation project on the endangered Bahama Parrot (*Amazona leucocephala bahamensis*) on Abaco Island, Bahamas, information is needed on feral cat control programs on islands. Bahama Parrots are extremely vulnerable to nest predation by feral cats because of their subterranean nesting habit. In 1988, 53% of the parrot nests in our study area suffered from feral cat predation. The Bahamas National Trust chapter on Abaco is hoping to begin a feral cat control program in 1989 and seeks logistical advice. Please send information to:

Rosemarie Gnam
Department of Ornithology
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West @ 79th St.
New York, NY 10024

Piping Plover Sightings Requested - A Piping Plover winter distribution survey was conducted along the Atlantic (Dec.-Mar. 1986-87) and Gulf (Dec.-Mar. 1987-88) coasts of the United States. We believe that most of the Atlantic coast breeding population is overwintering outside of the

Request for Assistance (Continued)

United States. Any residents or birders visiting the Caribbean this winter (Oct.-Mar.) are requested to report Piping Plover sightings (date, location, numbers seen, bands) to:

Janice Nicholls
Department of Zoology-Wildlife
331 Funchess Hall
Auburn University
Auburn, AL 36849-5414 U.S.A.,

or

Craig Faanes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2604 St. Patrick, Suite 7
Grand Island, Nebraska 68803
U.S.A.

This information would be greatly appreciated.

Funding Source

The Pan American Continental Section of ICBP offers small grants for avian conservation projects in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Proposals for research, habitat protection and management, and public education will be considered; all projects must have a clear conservation component. Write for details on applications. Pan American Office, ICBP, P.O. Box 1369, Melrose, FL 32666, U.S.A., or Brian Harrington, Manomet Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 958, Manomet, MA 02345-0958. Deadline for application is 1 Feb. 1989.

Meetings of Interest

17-22 March 1989 - 54th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C., USA. (L.L. Williamson, Wildlife Management Institute, Suite 725, 1101 Fourteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, USA).

24-26 May 1989 - Institute of Tropical Forestry Golden Anniversary Symposium, A Century of Research at the Institute of Tropical Forestry: Results from the First Half, Themes for the Second, Condado Beach Hotel, San Juan, Puerto Rico. A session on wildlife research will be presented by John Terborgh, Princeton University. Registration fee - U.S.\$50.00. (Julio C. Figueroa, Institute of Tropical Forestry, Call Box 25000, Rfo Piedras, Puerto Rico 00928-2500).

Meetings of Interest (Continued)

25-28 May 1989 - Wilson Ornithological Society, St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana. (Doris J. Watt, Department of Biology, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556 [telephone - 219-284-4668] ,and Richard C. Banks, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. 20560 [202-357-1970]).

5-8 June 1989 - International Symposium on Vertebrate Biogeography and Systematics in the Tropics, Bonn, West Germany. (Gustav Peters, Vertebrate Symposium '89, Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig, Adenauerallee 150-164, D-5300 Bonn 1, West Germany).

11-17 June 1989 - American Behavior Society, Northern Kentucky University.

14-16 June 1989 - Association of Field Ornithologists, Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire. Housing and meals will be at the Appalachian Mountain Club's Pinkham Notch Camp at the foot of Mt. Washinton. (Carol Foss, New Hampshire Audubon, P.O. Box 528b, Concord, NH 03301 U.S.A.). For information about the scientific program (including inquiries about paper/poster/workshop submission), contact Peter F. Cannell, Division of Birds (NHB mail stop 116), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560 U.S.A.

22-26 June 1989 - 59th Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho. (Dr. J. Michael Scott, USFWS, Department of Fish & Wildlife, College of Forestry, Wildlife & Range Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843, USA).

7-10 August 1989 - American Ornithologists' Union, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (Kenneth C. Parkes and Robert Raikow, co-chairs of Local Committee).

9-17 August 1989 - XXI International Ethological Conference, Utrecht, Netherlands. (XXI International Ethological Conference, c/o QLT Convention Services, Keizersgracht 792, 1017 EC Amsterdam, Netherlands).

8-14 October 1989 - Joint meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., and the ICBP World Working Group of Birds of Prey, Hotel Mocambo, Veracruz City, Veracruz, Mexico. Major theme will be Biology and Conservation of Tropical Raptors.

Meetings of Interest (Continued)

Approximate costs will be US\$420 for single and US\$300 for double occupancy, including breakfast and dinner. (Romeo Dominguez Barradas, Local Arrangements Committee, RRF/WWGBP Meeting, P.O. Box 63, Xalapa, Veracruz, 91000 Mexico).

7-9 December 1989 - Ecology and Conservation of Neotropical Migrant Landbirds, Massachusetts. The symposium will focus on breeding, wintering, and migration ecology and population trends in North American migrant landbirds. The purpose is to update knowledge since the 1977 Smithsonian symposium. Invited and contributed papers will be presented. Abstracts are due 1 Feb. 1989. (John M. Hagan, Manomet Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 936, Manomet, MA 02345 U.S.A. Telephone: 508-224-6521).

16-21 March 1990 - 55th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Denver, Colorado, USA.

June 1990 - Joint meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

June 1990 - Wilson Ornithological Society and the Association of Field Ornithologists will meet jointly at Weaton College, Norton, Massachusetts.

2-9 December 1990 - XX Ornithological Congress, Christchurch, New Zealand. (Dr. Ben D. Bell, Secretary-General, XX Congressus Internationalis Ornithologicus, Department of Zoology, Victoria University, Private Bag, Wellington, New Zealand).

Opportunities

Field assistants needed for an ongoing study of coloniality in the Carib Grackle in Venezuela for 4-5 mo. starting May/June. Work will include nest observation and monitoring, trapping and banding, blood sampling, and collecting various behavioral data. Prior field work with birds and banding experience desirable, but not necessary; enthusiasm for hot, humid field conditions is important. Expenses in Venezuela will be covered. Please write (incl. CV and phone number) to David Lemonn, Dept. Biology, SUNY Albany, Albany, NY 12222 U.S.A.

Field assistants needed to help with studies examining wading bird foraging ecology, distribution of wading birds in the Everglades, and White-crowned Pigeon reproductive and feeding ecology.

Opportunities (Continued)

One position mid-Mar. through Sept., another mid-May to mid-Sept. Applicants must be willing to spend long hours working in mangrove swamps where mosquitos can be ferocious, and be able to ride in single engine aircraft. Telemetry experience helpful but not necessary. \$1200/mo. Applicants should have B.S. or some experience in field biology. Send letter describing qualifications, resume, and names, addresses, and phone numbers of 2 references to G. Thomas Bancroft, National Audubon Society, 115 Indian Mound Trail, Tavernier, FL 33070 U.S.A. (305-852-8012).

Acknowledgements for Funding of 1988 Society Meeting

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology would like to thank the International Council for Bird Preservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of International Affairs for helping to fund the 1988 meeting in St. Croix.

THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY

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