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EL PITIRRE

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Volume 11 Spring 1998 Number 1

BIRD OBSERVATIONS FROM A VISIT TO ANGUILLA, LESSER ANTILLES, 28 DECEMBER 1995 TO 4 JANUARY 1996

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Abstract.—I summarize observations of birds made on Anguilla from 28 December 1995 to 4 January 1996. I observed a total of 44 species and present these in the context of their significance to the island's avifauna and to the Lesser Antilles in general. Several species I observed are rare or accidental for the region, and short descriptions are provided for these species.

I MADE OBSERVATIONS ON THE BIRDS of Anguilla, northwestern–most of the Leeward Island Group in the Lesser Antilles, from 28 December 1995 to 4 January 1996. Anguilla is a small elongate island about 19 km long by 6.5 km wide. Its surface is comprised almost entirely of aeolian limestone, with occasional pockets of red soil which locals use for agriculture (Peters 1927). Vegetation on the inland areas of the island is dominated by *Acacia*, *Croton*, and *Fourcroya*, along with several cacti, including *Opuntia*, *Cereus*, and *Melocactus*. The northeastern end of the island, and salt ponds along the southern shore are surrounded by mangroves (*Avicennia germinans*), and beach situations are dominated by seagrape (*Coccoloba uvifera.*).

I observed birds primarily at several salt– and fresh–water ponds around the island, as follows:

28 December 1995.—Late afternoon ferry crossing from St. Martin to Blowing Point Harbor, Anguilla, and bus ride to Island Harbor.

29 December.—Island Harbor and Shoal Bay beach.

30 December.—Long Salt Pond and nearby scrub habitats, 09:00–11:00 hr; Junk's Hole Beach, 14:00–15:30 hr.

31 December.—Mangrove scrub around West End Salt Pond and other salt ponds on the western end of the island, including Gulf Pond, Cove Pond, and Mead's Bay Pond; 08:45–12:00 hr.

1 January 1996.— Junk's Hole beach to Grey Pond, on foot; 14:00–17:00 hr.

2 January.—Salt pond east of ferry dock at Blowing Point (hereafter Blowing Point Pond), 11:25-11:40 hr.

3 January.—Boat trip from Island Harbor to Scrub Island (off the northeastern corner of Anguilla), 09:00–13:30 hr; drive around island: Little Bay, 16:00–16:30 hr; Shoal Bay, 15:00–15:20 hr, Road Salt Pond, 15:30–15:45 hr; and East End Pond (the only fresh pond I visited), 17:20–17:30 hr.

4 January.—Blowing Point Pond and surrounding scrub, 10:00–11:00 hr.

SUMMARY OF SIGHTINGS

I observed a total of 44 species on Anguilla. Below, all observations are listed for most species. For the most common species, only a summary of their abundance and preferred habitat is presented. Location names correspond to those listed in the topographical map of Anguilla (Department of Overseas Surveys 1997), with the exceptions of East End Pond (which is the freshwater pond on the west side of East End Village) and Blowing Point Pond (which is just east of the Blowing Point docks). I also include a few comparative observations from St. Martin.

Abbreviations.—BPP = Blowing Point Pond, EEP = East End Pond, GP = Gulf Pond, LSP = Long Salt Pond, MBP = Mead's Bay Pond, RSP = Road Salt Pond, photo = photographed (duplicate photographs are available to interested persons). Dates of observations are enclosed in brackets; e.g., [1/3] = 3 January.

PIED–BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*).—One sighting: one adult GP [12/31].

BROWN BOOBY (*Sula leucogaster*).—Common in small numbers (1–5) in marine habitats around island, especially on the northern side. High count was of 25 resting on the west end of Scrub Island (off northeastern Anguilla) [1/3] (photo).

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*).—Common in small numbers (1–10) in marine habitats around the island.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD (*Fregata magnificens*).—Common in small numbers in marine habitats around island. High count of 25 over western end of island [12/31] (photo).

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*).—One sighting: one

immature EEP 1/3, seen earlier in week by island resident. Another at Phillipsburg, St. Martin [1/2].

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea albus*).—Two sightings: two at BPP [1/2] and one there [1/4].

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*).—Two sightings: five at BPP [1/2] and seven there [1/4] (photo).

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*).—One sighting: one calico immature at BPP [1/4] (photo).

TRICOLORED HERON (*Egretta tricolor*).—One sighting: an immature at BPP [1/4] (photo). I was unable to find earlier records of Tricolored Heron for Anguilla.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*).—Fairly common throughout Anguilla, especially as fly-overs or feeding along grassy roadsides, or at the Wall Blake Airport. High count 10 at Wall Blake Airport [1/3].

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL (*Anas bahamensis*).—Four sightings: 13 at MBP [12/31] (photo), eight at Grey Pond [1/1] (photo), three at RSP, and four at EEP [1/3]. Call, heard several times at Grey Pond, was like that of Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), but higher pitched. Most other observers (e.g., Peters 1927; Anguilla National Trust, in press) have noted the pintail in Anguilla, although Keith and Loftin (1992) considered this species accidental on the Leeward Islands. Wauer (1988) reported the pintail nesting in the island.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*).—One sighting: two female-plumaged birds seen resting at the far edge of East End Pond with four White-cheeked Pintail. The bill was dark and broader and more spatulate than in Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*), but not so spatulate as that of a Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*). The pale face was lightly streaked with a dark cap and a dark eyeline. Two pale loral spots were evident. General coloration was gray with dark spotting on the flanks, and dark on the back with paler edging, not the brighter tones expected on a Cinnamon Teal. I feel confident that Cinnamon Teal was eliminated by virtue of size, color, and bill shape, but the two species can be difficult to separate without ideal views. Keith and Loftin (1992) considered this species as accidental in the Leeward Island Group. Blue-winged Teal have been reported for Badcox Pond, Caul's Pond, and East End Pond (Anguilla National Trust, in press).

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*).—Three sightings: one female at LSP [12/30], and single females on telephone wires near Bud Cox Pond and just west of Lower South Hill [12/31]. The first sighting was of a brightly colored individual, probably of the race *caribaearum*, though the others were not seen as well. Another was photographed some months earlier by Peter Schnabel at his Captain's Ridge residence just west of Island Harbor.

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*).—One sighting: one male lit briefly on a branch at GP [12/31]; probably of the race *columbarius*, by virtue of the medium blue-gray back (photo). Peters (1927) reported the only other record for Anguilla.

COMMON MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*).—One sighting: five adults and 25 immatures feeding in vegetation around EEP [1/3].

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*).—Three sightings: 35 at LSP [12/30], 1 at RSP [1/3], and 7 at BPP [1/4].

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (*Charadrius semipalmatus*).—One sighting: 45 at LSP [12/30].

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*).—Four records: one heard at night over Island Harbor [12/30], three heard at eastern end of Grey Pond [1/1], one at RSP [1/3], and 15 at EEP [1/3].

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus palliatus*).—One sighting: one on limestone beach of Long Pond Bay, at east end of LSP, [12/30]. I observed it through binoculars for 2 min at 40 m. About the size of a Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), the thick, long, red bill, yellow eye, white breast and belly, black hood, dark brown mantle, and white patch visible in the folded wing made for an easy identification. It did not fly or call. Ashcroft (1965) found three oystercatchers on Anguilla, whereas Wauer (1988) reported one along the Rocky Hills Bay. The Anguilla National Trust (in press) notes rare reports from West Cove Bay Pond. Keith and Loftin (1992) considered the oystercatcher an accidental in the Leeward Islands.

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*).—Three sightings: four at GP [12/31] (photo), 40 at BPP [1/2], and 65 there [1/4] (photo).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa melanoleuca*).—Six sightings: two at LSP [12/30], five at GP [12/31], three at BPP [1/2], five at RSP [1/3], two at EEP [1/3], and 10 at BPP [1/4]. Peters (1927) also recorded this species in Anguilla.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*).—Eight sightings: 10 at LSP [12/20], three at small pond at Junk's Hole Beach [12/30], 45 at GP [12/31], one heard at Grey Pond [1/1], 25 at BPP [1/2], 25 at RSP [1/3], 15 at EEP [1/3], and 100 at BPP [1/4].

WILLET (*Cataptrophorus semipalmatus*).—Two sightings of what was probably the same individual: one at BPP [1/2] and [1/4] (photo). I believe this individual to be of the eastern race *semipalmatus*, because of the wing pattern and bill length.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularia*).—Four sightings: three at LSP [12/30], one at BPP [1/2 and 1/4], and one at EEP [1/3].

WHIMBREL.—Two sightings: one at BPP [1/2]; joined by a second there [1/4] (photo).

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*).—Seven sightings: 20 at LSP [12/30], 15 at GP [12/31] (photo), five at MBP [12/31], five on beach at Island Harbor [1/3], 10 at RSP [1/3], 20 at BPP [1/2 and 1/4].

SANDERLING (*Calidris alba*).—Two sightings: 10 at LSP [12/30] and two at RSP [1/3].

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (*Calidris pusilla*).—Three sightings: three at LSP [12/30], 20 at RSP [1/3], and one at BPP [1/

4]. Those on 30 December were identified by call and bill shape, whereas those thereafter were identified only by bill shape (though on 3 January Western Sandpipers [*Calidris mauri*] were available for direct comparison).

WESTERN SANDPIPER.—Two sightings: 10 at LSP [12/30] and 20 at RSP [1/3]. Identified by both bill shape and call (in direct comparison with Semipalmated Sandpipers on both dates).

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minuta*).—Two sightings: five at LSP [12/30] and 15 at RSP [1/3].

STILT SANDPIPER (*Calidris himantopus*).—Six sightings: 25 at LSP [12/30], one with three Lesser Yellowlegs at a small pond near Junk's Hole Beach [12/30], 20 at GP [12/31] (photo), 20 at RSP [1/3], 50 at BPP [1/2], and 100 there [1/4]. I was unable to find earlier records of Stilt Sandpiper for Anguilla.

COMMON SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*).—One sighting: One bird flushed, calling as it flew, from sand dunes on the ocean side of Grey Pond. Only one other record exists for Anguilla (Anguilla National Trust, in press).

ROYAL TERN (*Sterna maxima*).—Common in small numbers (1–8) in marine habitats around the island. Despite much searching, no other tern species were seen.

ROCK DOVE (*Columba livia*).—Although common on St. Martin, I made only two Anguilla sightings: two at Island Harbor [1/3], with possibly one of the same individuals there the next day. This introduced dove has only recently been reported (Anguilla National Trust, in press).

ZENAIDA DOVE (*Zenaida aurita*).—Common throughout the island in all habitats (photo).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina passerina*).—Common in scrubby habitats around island, especially dune areas with seagrape. Ten seen at Junk's Hole [1/1] (photo) were a typical count for this habitat.

MANGROVE CUCKOO (*Coccyzus minor*).—Two records: one seen in mangrove scrub at west end of island [12/31] and a window-killed bird found just east of Island Harbor [12/30].

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Ceryle alcyon*).—Two sightings: one at LSP [12/30] and one at Cove Pond, near Cap Jaluca [12/31]. Sex was not determined on either bird.

CARIBBEAN ELAENIA (*Elaenia martinica*).—Fairly common in tall scrub habitats of island. More often heard than seen, once I learned their vocalizations (photo).

GRAY KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus dominicensis*).—One sighting: group of five, possibly a family group, seen and heard while perched in treetops just east of The Valley, on the edge of an open cattle pasture [1/3].

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*).—One sighting: six perched on telephone wire over grassy field between Lower South Hill and West End Village [12/31].

PEARLY-EYED THRASHER (*Margarops fuscatus*).—Common throughout the island in all habitats. One very tame individual foraged for table scraps in an open-air restaurant at Shoal Bay Beach (photo).

YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*).—One sighting: Adult male sang and then appeared with a female or immature among mangroves at BPP [1/4]. Male was quite brightly colored and likely of the race *bartholemica*.

BANANAQUIT (*Coereba flaveola*).—Abundant in all scrubby habitats of island (photo).

DISCUSSION

There are few published accounts dealing with the birds of Anguilla and, consequently, it was difficult for me to ascertain the significance of my sightings. Although Keith and Loftin (1992) provide a comprehensive summary of the birds of the Leeward Islands north of the Guadeloupe Passage, they do not account for differences in distribution among islands. Their list might be seen as a good general guide, but I turned elsewhere to determine the importance of my sightings to Anguilla. Probably the first records of Anguilla's birdlife were made by Winch, who collected a total of 23 species from April–July 1890 (Cory 1891a) and May 1891 (Cory 1891b). Later, Peters (1927) reported on collections and observations of 44 species made from 1–22 February 1922.

Most authors (Peters 1927, Cory 1891a, Cory 1891b, Ashcroft 1965, Wauer 1988) considered the Antillean Crested Hummingbird (*Ornithorhynchus cristatus*), Green-throated Carib (*Eulampis holosericeus*), Lesser Antillean Bullfinch (*Loxigilla noctis*), and Black-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris bicolor*) common to abundant, but I failed to find these four species. Although my efforts were concentrated on waterbirds, I still expected to encounter these species given the abundance with which they were found by earlier workers. I made a special effort to find hummingbirds, and carefully examined every likely flower patch. Possibly some or all of these native landbirds were adversely affected by Hurricane Luis, which struck the island on 4 September 1995.

Peters (1927) visited Anguilla at about the same time of the year (February) as my December–January observations. Whereas I found no North American migrant landbirds, it is notable that Peters found several species of wintering wood-warblers, including American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*), Ovenbird (*S. aurocapillus*), Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), and Northern Parula (*Parula americana*). Peters' list did not include Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Cattle Egret (a recent colonizer), Blue-winged Teal, American Oystercatcher, Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Rock Dove (another recent colonizer?), Mangrove Cuckoo, and Barn Swallow, which I observed, nor such species as Brown Booby, Royal Tern, Snowy Egret, and Stilt Sandpiper, which I found to be common. Also, there are differences in species abundance between Peters' and my observations. Whereas I found Pearly-eyed Thrashers and Zenaida Doves common throughout Anguilla, Peters (1927) listed them as "uncommon" and "less common than the ubiquitous Ground Dove," respectively. He found Gray Kingbird to be common, but I

observed only one small group. These differences may have been due to surveying in different terrestrial habitats. Unfortunately, Peters gave little description of where he visited on the island, although he mentioned visiting Caul's Pond, where he found most shorebirds. I did not visit Caul's Pond.

I would like to note that Long Salt Pond appears to have been little birded, and my observations there evidence that it is an excellent location and not to be ignored by visiting birders in the future.

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I would like to thank Peter and Francine Schnabel for their generous offer to let me visit, their warm welcome to the island, and the help with logistics such as lodging and transportation. I would also like to thank Jim Wiley for prompting me to publish my observations, his assistance in finding relevant references, and his help editing and improving this paper.

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INDIRECT EVIDENCE ON PARASITISM OF THE LESSER ANTILLEAN BULLFINCH BY THE SHINY COWBIRD

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THE LESSER ANTILLEAN BULLFINCH (*Loxigilla noctis*) has only been documented once as a host for the Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*), a widespread brood parasite in the Caribbean (Wiley 1988, Post et al. 1990, Lowther and Post, in press). A clutch of three eggs of the host and one egg of the Shiny Cowbird was collected in Christ Church parish, Barbados, on 23 August 1937 (Friedmann 1943). Sixty years later, this note again provides evidence from Barbados that the Lesser Antillean Bullfinch is occasionally parasitized by the Shiny Cowbird.

I watched a pair of Lesser Antillean Bullfinches feed one fledgling Shiny Cowbird many times each day from 27 September to 4 October 1997 at Harrison's Point, St. Lucy parish (13°19′N lat., 59°39′W long.), at the northwestern tip of Barbados. The vegetative cover is highly disturbed coastal scrub, thickets, and woodlots, which have succeeded abandoned sugar cane plantations.

Most of the food that was brought to the young cowbird was regurgitated, and difficult to identify, but bullfinches caught in mist–nets were feeding predominantly on the seeds and pulp of dogwood (*Capparis flexuosa*). I determined that the bullfinch pair fed the fledgling this food at least twice. The cowbird also fed on its own on seed heads of guinea (*Panicum maximum*) and sour (*Digitaria insularis*) grasses.

The bullfinches also fed one of its own fledglings from 27 September to about 10 October. The fledgling cowbird appeared to become independent after 4 October, as I saw it daily through 22 October, during which time it rarely associated with the bullfinches. Although I have no direct evidence that a cowbird laid its egg in the bullfinch nest, these observations strongly suggest that the Lesser Antillean Bullfinch served as a host for the Shiny Cowbird. The Lesser Antillean Bullfinch is an acceptor of foreign eggs (Friedmann 1943, Post et al. 1990). The bullfinch may not be ultimately suitable as a host, however, because it feeds its young fruit. Despite this inappropriate diet, the pair of Lesser Antillean Bullfinches apparently raised one Shiny Cowbird.

Most Lesser Antillean Bullfinches at Harrison's Point are heavily molting during late summer and early autumn, based on captures of numerous birds in mist–nets (McNair, unpubl.).

Regular breeding activities resumed during the last week of October (McNair, unpubl.). At that time, Shiny Cowbirds are absent. The absence of Shiny Cowbirds at Harrison's Point during autumn, when regular breeding resumed for bullfinches, suggests that they are not preferred hosts, but rather secondary hosts for the cowbirds, which may primarily use another, more suitable species. For example, casual observations suggest that the Carib Grackle (*Quiscalus lugubris*) is a regular host species in Barbados (Friedmann 1943; Hutt et al., in prep.; pers. obs.), although an infrequent host in St. Lucia (Post et al. 1990).

I thank W. Post and J. W. Wiley for their reviews of a draft of this manuscript.

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NOTEWORTHY BIRD RECORDS FOR TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1995-1996

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This paper presents new data on the status of seven species of birds from Trinidad and Tobago, including a new species for each island, based on my own observations while resident in the country during 1995 and 1996. These records have been submitted to the Trinidad and Tobago Rare Bird Committee for evaluation.

Greater Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*.—While aboard the M. V. *Tobago* on 23 June 1996, I noted six large shearwaters flying 100+ m from the ship as we passed several kilometers south of Crown Point, Tobago. In my notes I described the shearwaters as "white below, including underwings; dark brown back and wings; blackish on head; whitish collar." Rough water and sea sickness precluded better observations. There is only one previous record of this southern migrant from Tobago (Hayes 1996).

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*.—While aboard the M. V. *Panorama* on 17 March 1996, I observed a booby at 14:33 hr as it glided and flapped low over the surface of the water about 50 m from the starboard side of the ship's bow; about 30 sec later the bird disappeared across the bow of the ship and I was unable to relocate it on either side. This sighting occurred between Trinidad and Tobago at 10˚59´N, 61˚07´W, 17.5 km N of Matelot, Trinidad, and 35 km WSW of Crown Point, Tobago. In my field notes I wrote: "adult dark-phased bird, brown with white tail, white-wedged triangle extending up onto back." This species is often cited for Trinidad on the basis of Belcher and Smooker (1934:578), who merely stated that it "Occurs on the coasts of both islands." Although the Red-footed Booby is a breeding resident on St. Giles (Dinsmore and ffrench 1969) and recently on Little Tobago (D. Rooks and F. Hayes, pers. obs.), both small islands just east of Tobago, this observation apparently represents the first valid record for Trinidad, which was the closest point of land.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*.—On 24 March 1996, I found a Cocoi Heron at Buccoo Swamp, Tobago, and observed it from as close as 35 m with W. K. Hayes and a group of students. The white neck and thighs distinguished it from the Great Blue Heron (*A. herodias*), a Nearctic migrant. Although the bird possessed a whitish belly, the blackish band crossing the chest above the thighs distinguished it from the Gray Heron (*A. cinerea*) of the Old World, which has been recorded from Trinidad (ffrench 1991). Although the Cocoi Heron is an uncommon visitor to Trinidad (ffrench 1991), there is only one previously published record of this South American species from Tobago (ffrench 1975).

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*.—On 26 March 1995, M. F. Hayes and I found two Little Egrets associating with a Snowy Egret (*E. thula*) at Buccoo Swamp, Tobago. The Little Egrets were white-morph birds in basic plumage, and were easily distinguished from the Snowy Egret by their larger size and dark lores. At least five previous records of this Old World species have been published for Tobago (Murphy 1992, Hayes 1996).

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*.—From 1730-1740 on 20 December 1995, I observed a scaup swimming with eight Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* in a newly created lake at Lowlands, Tobago. I observed it through a 25x telescope from as close as 40 m. The sky was cloudy with the sun low and behind the clouds, therefore light conditions were poor. In my field notes I wrote: "larger than teal; dark brownish(?) head; lot of white seen in right wing when briefly stretched; dark chest; blackish rear end; dirty gray sides; dark back; eye yellowish; bill dark gray; light not too good; head appeared rounded." I included a drawing of the shape of the "rounded" head, which nevertheless shows the peak toward the rear of the head. Kaufman (1990) considered head shape to be the most reliable field mark for distinguishing between the Greater Scaup *A. marila*, whose peak is toward the front of the head, and the Lesser Scaup, whose peak is toward the rear of the head (as in my drawing). The "dirty gray sides" also suggest a Lesser Scaup; the Greater Scaup has whiter sides. Although the Lesser Scaup is a rare but regular visitor to Trinidad, ffrench (1991) cited only a single record of this Nearctic migrant from the previous century for Tobago. The Greater Scaup is not known from the southern Caribbean (Bond 1985).

WILSON'S PLOVER *Charadrius wilsonia*.—On 27 April 1996, I found a male Wilson's Plover of the race *cinnamominus* with a small flock of Semipalmated Plovers *C. semipalmatus* at Buccoo Swamp, Tobago. I studied the bird with D. Bass from about 15 m through 7x35 binoculars and a 25x telescope for about 10 min. In my field notes I wrote: "orange on face below eye, slight orange above and behind eye; whitish ring behind neck, with lower edge orangish; whitish on forehead extending above eye; large, thick all-black bill." Although an uncommon resident in Trinidad, this is the first record for Tobago (ffrench 1991).

MARBLED GODWIT *Limosa fedoa*.—On 10 March 1996, G. White and I observed a single Marbled Godwit on mudflats at Waterloo, Trinidad. We identified it by its long, slightly-upturned, bicolored bill and uniform cinnamon-brown coloration. Presumably this was the same bird observed on 7 and 19 October 1995 at Waterloo (G. White pers. comm.). ffrench (1991) cited only a few previous records of transients in Trinidad during the months of September and October. This observation thus represents the latest date for this Nearctic migrant. On 19 October 1996, we noted another Marbled Godwit at the same locality.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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COMMENTS ON THE AMERICAN KESTREL *FALCO SPARVERIUS* (AVES: FALCONIDAE) IN THE WEST INDIES

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POLYMORPHISM WITHIN WEST INDIAN POPULATIONS of the American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) has been a controversial topic in the taxonomy of this New World species (Bond 1936, Barbour 1943, Garrido and García 1975, Berovides and Fernández 1984, Buden 1987, Garrido et al. 1997). Although these and other authors have assigned new races to West Indian populations based partly on plumage characteristics, the distribution of the races within the Caribbean is poorly defined. Plumage coloration and patterns in these kestrel populations are more variable than the morphometric characteristics of these subspecies. *Falco s. sparveroides*, described for Cuba and the Isla de la Juventud (formerly Isla de Pinos), and additionally reported from the Bahamas, may well constitute the key to clarify the origin of dispersion of these raptors in the West Indies. Here I report on my studies of populations from Cuba, Jamaica, the Bahamas, and Hispaniola.

METHODS

I examined all available specimens of the American Kestrel in eight Cuban and two Jamaican collections. However, for this study, I selected 19 Cuban specimens collected in central and eastern Cuba because that region is faunistically more closely related to the faunal regions of the Bahamas, Hispaniola, and Jamaica than is the region of western Cuba and the Isla de la Juventud. All measurements follow Baldwin et al. (1931) and were taken to the nearest millimeter using dial calipers, except for the wing chord, for which I used a chord ruler. The culmen length was measured from the tip to the anterior edge of the nostril. The general coloration and feather patterns described in this study are based on notes taken of living individuals and museum specimens.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the first edition of his *Birds of the West Indies* (1936), Bond does not mention the American Kestrel as inhabiting Jamaica. The lack of observations and specimens before ca. 1950 indicates that the species became established on Jamaica thereafter (Haynes Sutton and Sutton, ms.). Of course, small numbers of kestrels in some natural areas may have gone unobserved by naturalists in the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries.

At first, the Cuban population of the American Kestrel was not recognized by Bond (1936) as belonging to the *sparveroides* race, but he assigned it to the Hispaniolan subspecies, *F. s. dominicensis*. However, during the last four decades, several authors separately suggested that the Cuban race extended its range through invasion of new territories to the northeast (Bahamas) and southeast (Jamaica), but not to Hispaniola and Puerto Rico (Bond 1956, 1964, 1970, 1978, 1980, 1986, 1987; Garrido and Garcia 1975; Buden 1987). Bond (1956:33) considered four Jamaican specimens examined by him as belonging to *F. s. dominicensis* and, until 1979, maintained that the Jamaican population was part of the Hispaniolan population. However, Bond (1980:3) later mentioned two red phase kestrels that were observed in Jamaica and Haiti (evidently members of the Cuban race, *sparveroides*).

Buden (1987) assigned specimens from Great Inagua, Little Inagua, Crooked Island, Rum Cay, and San Salvador to the Cuban subspecies, *F. s. sparveroides*, noting that considerable pattern and color variation existed among *sparveroides* individuals. To date, Buden has determined the distribution of two races: *F. s. sparveroides* inhabits Cuba, Isla de la Juventud, the southern Bahamas, Rum Cay, and San Salvador, whereas *F. s. dominicensis* inhabits Hispaniola and Jamaica (Fig. 1).

Hellmayr and Conover (1949) reported that *F. s. sparveroides* and *F. s. dominicensis* were similar, although the latter is somewhat larger and never as strongly reddish-tinted as the Cuban populations. Buden (1987) also described the coloration of the specimen of the *dominicensis* race of Hispaniola. I analyzed these characteristics in the specimens in the Jamaican collections (Institute of Jamaica and Audrey Downer's private collection).

In the Cuban archipelago, except some larger cays (e.g., Cayo Coco, Cayo Romano, and Cayo Largo) where the kestrel populations are consistent in pattern and color, conspicuous differences in these characters are evident among populations throughout Cuba and the Isla de la Juventud. Individuals in western populations often have red breasts with black markings on the chest and abdomen. These are possibly descendants of *F. s. tropicalis* of Yucatán. The black markings on the undersides fade as one proceeds toward eastern Cuba, where the red-breasted morph also occurs, but with only faint vestiges of the markings.

The so-called "intermediate morph" of Cuba (red chest and beige abdomen) may or may not have black markings, but this morph is extremely variable and futher studies (already begun) are needed to determine the distribution of the variabilities in the archipelago. The upper chest of the white phase is typically immaculate white or may have a slight reddish tint, but a few individuals have markings similar to those of *F. s. sparverius*, especially in the black markings of the chest, flanks, and abdomen, as well as faint markings in the bands on the outer rectrices. Some individuals of the *sparverius* race collected in Cuba display deeply

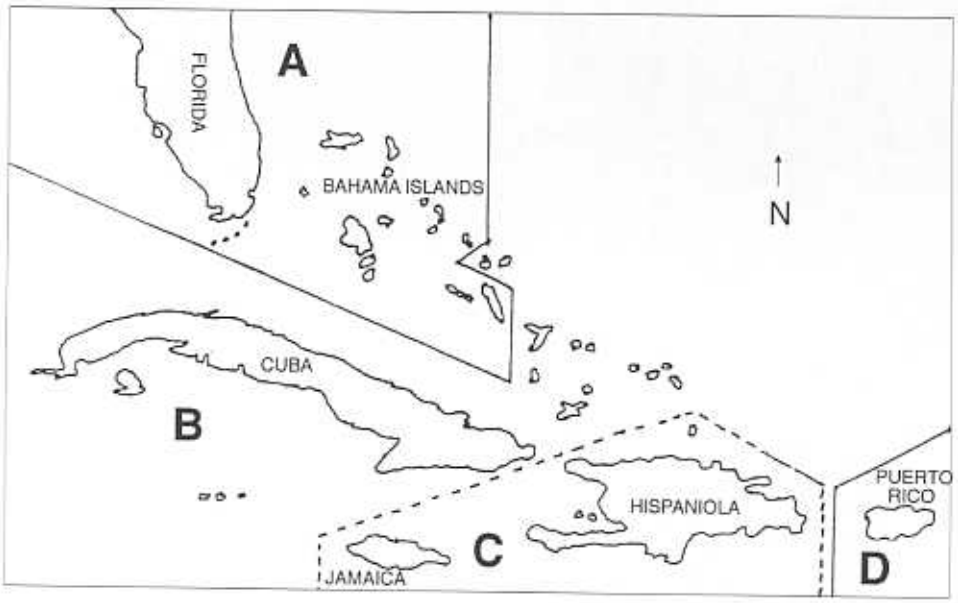

FIG. 1. Distribution of American Kestrel races in the Greater Antilles[1] and the hypothetical derivation and status proposed in this review[2].

[1]Buden's (1987) analysis of the distribution of American Kestrels in the Greater Antilles included *F. s. dominicensis* within area C encompassed by the dash line.

[2]According to my criteria the race *Falco sparverius dominicensis* does not constitute a valid subspecies, because it contains individual characteristic of *F. s. sparveroides* (B) in Cuba, and a high variability which differentiates it from more stable populations in coloration, such as *F. s. sparverius* (A) and *F. s. caribaearum* (D). Should these hypotheses prove to be true, *F. s. dominicensis* of Hispaniola would also form a block with the Cuban and Jamaican populations, and then the dash line should be removed.

red-tinted chests, which suggests the possibility of interbreeding between the *sparverius* and *sparveroides* races.

My analysis of the patterns described suggests that all of the populations (Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, and some cays in the Bahamas) are of the same taxa; i.e., the contention that *F. s. dominicensis* is not a valid subspecies (Buden 1987) is supported, in part, because the Cuban population shows such variability that it is practically impossible to distinguish them from the individuals from Rum Cay, San Salvador, Inagua, Hispaniola, and Jamaica.

My morphometric analysis revealed the Cuban *F. s. sparveroides* displays ranges which surpass the extremes given by Buden (1987) for kestrels on Hispaniola, Cuba, and Jamaica (Tables 1 and 2). In these analyses I selected Cuban specimens collected in central and eastern Cuba, because these zoogeographic areas are more closely related to the Bahamas, Hispaniola, and Jamaica than western Cuba and the Isla de la Juventud. One individual (UF 19070) analyzed by Buden (1987) enters the range of the Cuban specimens I measured. Therefore I found no morphometric distinctions between *F. s. dominicensis* and *F. s. sparveroides*, as earlier suggested by Hellmayr and Conover (1949).

From 13–25 August 1990, I observed several individuals, predominantly white-breasted, in the vicinities of Kingston, Blue Mountains, Port Antonio, Ocho Rios, Mandeville, and the Cockpit Country, Jamaica. However, at Hope Zoo (Kingston) on 16 August 1990, Alexander Cruz, Jorge Moreno, Simon Guerrero, and I observed a red-phase individual which I considered to be a typical *sparveroides*. Simon Guerrero (pers. comm.) noted that this color phase also occurs in the Dominican Republic. In my opinion, all the red individuals (typical of the Cuban race) should be considered as evidence of *F. s. sparveroides'* range expansion whenever the presence of *sparveroides* is confirmed on any of the Caribbean islands. In spite of the results of my investigations of Cuban kestrel populations, my observations of a *sparveroides*-like bird in Jamaica leads me to the following hypotheses:

- The races of the American Kestrel in the West Indies, with their distinctive coloration leading to subspecific separation, are derived from three continental races: *F. s. sparveroides* shows the red vestiges of *F. s. tropicalis*, inhabiting Yucatán and Honduras; *F. s. dominicensis* displays coloration similar to *F. s. isabellinus*, living in northern South America and Isla de Margarita; and *F. s. caribbaerum* resembles the patterns and coloring of *F. s. sparverius* of North America.
- With time these three Antillean kestrel races, quite well differentiated in the past, overlapped in distribution, as they expanded their ranges. The red phase of western Cuba expanded eastward, creating a polymorphic situation in central and eastern Cuba as a result of a genetic

TABLE 1. Morphometric analysis among female American Kestrel populations in Cuba, Jamaica, and Hispaniola[1].

Locality	N	Measurement (mm)	
		Wing chord	Tail (inner retrices)
		$\bar{x}$ (range)	$\bar{x}$ (range)
Cuba	11	186.5 (174-200)	120.3 (106-135)
Hispaniola	13	190.2 (183-197)	119.8 (116-124)
Jamaica	8	182.0 (169-190)	107.7 (90-113)

[1]Includes only females and, of these, only the tail and wing measurements are given to make this analysis comparable with that of Buden (1987).

TABLE 2. Morphometric analysis among American Kestrel in Cuban[1] and Jamaican[2] collections.

Island	Sex	N	Measurement (mm) — $\bar{x}$ (range)			
			Culmen length	Wing chord	Tarsus	Tail (inner retrices)
Cuba	M	8	11.2 (10.8-12.3)	175.6 (167-182)	36.2 (33.4-38.2)	110.5 (105-121)
	F	11	11.6 (11.1-12.0)	186.5 (174-200)	38.1 (32.1-45.3)	120.3 (106-135)
Jamaica	M	4	11.1 (10.6-12.2)	167.5 (158-176)	36.8 (35.7-38.3)	99.3 (95-105)
	F	8	11.5 (10.2-12.2)	182.0 (169-190)	41.0 (36.1-47.5)	107.6 (90-113)

[1]In Cuba I only selected specimen of the central and eastern provinces, because they are zoogeographically the closest populations to Jamaica and Hispaniola. Specimens examined were from the following collections: Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Colección "Juan Cristobal Gundlach" del Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Colección "Felipe Poey" de la Facultad de Biología de la Universidad de La Habana, colección del Museo de Historia Natural "Charles T. Ramsden" del la Facultad de la Universidad de Oriente, Museo de Historia Natural "Carlos de la Torre y Huerta" de Holguín, Museo Polivalente "Ignacio Agramonte" de Camagüey, and the private collection of Carlos Wotzkow.

[2]The only two specimen classified as *dominicensis* are: adult No. 45, and adult No. 255 of the Institute of Jamaica. Collections examined were Institute of Jamaica and the private collection of Audrey Downer.

flow under fortuitous conditions. The presence of this red morph in the Bahamas, Hispaniola, and Jamaica is proof of such a natural invasion of the Cuban race to Antillean areas formerly not inhabited by this form.

- At the same time, and on a larger scale than occurred with the red morph (which is less abundant in eastern Cuba [Berovides and Fernández, 1984]), some individuals of the white and intermediate phases also invaded Jamaica and Hispaniola.
- If *F. s. dominicensis* is a valid subspecies, at the present its patterns may be in process of intergradation, as both the coloration and size are compatible with *F. s. sparveroides*.

Should the aforementioned four hypotheses be corroborated, then the name of *F. s. sparveroides*, in spite of its former validity and role in the evolution of present population, would then fall into synonymy, because *F. s. dominicensis* was described 39 years before *F. s. sparveroides*.

If all of the above are correct, the West Indies would, in fact, constitute one of the most notable hybrid belts for raptor populations in the world. It would have at least three subspecies derived from continental races, now gradually developing into a single race, as it would have been originally, although not the same as the ancestral one.

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NUEVA LOCALIDAD PARA LA DISTRIBUCIÓN DEL PITIRRE REAL *TYRANNUS CUBENSIS* (AVES: TYRANNIDAE) EN CUBA

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LA FAMILIA TYRANNIDAE está bien representada en Cuba, ella contiene los conocidos bobitos y pitirres. De los últimos, solo tres especies (*Tyrannus dominicensis, T. caudifasciatus* y *T. cubensis*) crían en el archipiélago y de ellos, el Pitirre Real (*T. cubensis*) es el más raro de todos (Garrido y García 1975). En el siglo pasado era común (Gundlach 1876), pero en la actualidad es un ave muy escasa y de difícil localización ya que habita en bosques altos (Garrido y García 1975). Hoy su distribución en Cuba es la siguiente: Península de Guanahacabibes, La Güira, Isla de la Juventud (Río Santa Fé), Ciénaga de Zapata (Laguna del Tesoro), Sierra de Najasa y macizo montañoso al noreste del país (Garrido y Kirkconnell, ms.), además se ha visto en Sancti Spíritus (O. H. Garrido y A. Kirkconnell, com. per.).

El 10 de Septiembre de 1996 escuché las vocalizaciones de este tiránido en "El Copey," cerca de la base de campismo "La Coronela," localidad ubicada al noroeste del municipio Caimito, Provincia La Habana. Allí existen elevaciones redondeadas de poca altura que presentan su vegetación de bosque semideciduo algo conservada. Este lugar se exploró sin poder localizar el ave.

El 13 de octubre de ese año, observé en el lugar conocido como "Monte de Regino," un individuo joven de esta especie, que comía palmiche (*Roystonea regia*) y abejas (*Apis* sp.). Ingería las frutas enteras, tomándolas del racimo luego de un vuelo cernido frente al mismo. Con posterioridad visualicé otro en el mes de diciembre, en una arboleda ubicada entre las zonas rurales de Aguacate y La Encarnación, a 2 km aproximadamente del poblado cabecera. Además de las aves observadas se conoce un ejemplar (hembra joven) colectada en este territorio; por ende, existen restos poblacionales de dicho tiránido en el municipio, no conocidos con anterioridad, aunque es bastante raro como en las demás localidades de Cuba para las que se reporta.

Los lugares de mayor densidad poblacional parecen ser las elevaciones centrales y norteñas del territorio municipal, desde donde se irradian eventualmente a árboles altos cercanos que visitan con fines tróficos, utilizándolos como perchas.

Los dos últimos puntos geográficos mencionados se hallan en llanuras, a un kilómetro de las elevaciones centrales y presenta bastante actividad antrópica. La presencia de este pitirre en esos lugares parece ser un paso adaptativo de estas aves a las condiciones locales.

En el monte de la Laguna de Ariguanabo, municipio de San Antonio de los Baños, limítrofe al sureste con Caimito, Garrido pudo observar un individuo en la década del 1960 (O. H. Garrido, com. per.). Por ello es posible que también habite allí en la actualidad, aunque en la mayoría de las localidades conocidas de esa fecha ha desaparecido debido a los desmontes.

Este tiránido pudiera encontrarse en algunas de las montañas del país que presenten vegetación poco depauperada o por lo menos dentro de los rangos tolerables de deforestación para estas aves, siendo muy raro. Por tal motivo pasan inadvertidas sus pequeñas poblaciones. Además de Cuba e Isla de la Juventud, también vive y cría en las islas del sur de las Bahamas (Gran Inagua e Islas Caicos) (Bond 1960).

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LISTA PRELIMINAR DE LAS AVES CUBANAS DEPREDADAS POR *TYTO ALBA FURCATA* (AVES: TYTONIDAE)

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DIFICILES SON LAS OBSERVACIONES de campo en las aves de presa nocturnas debido a sus conocidos hábitos, así como por la necesidad de emplear métodos ópticos propicios dada la escasez de luz en que se desenvuelven sus actividades, precisando de un gran porcentaje de tiempo al respecto. Sin embargo, las egagrópilas (pellets) regurgitadas por estas aves brindan una posibilidad singular y una información sorprendentemente amplia de la actividad alimentaria en las mismas.

La Lechuza (*Tyto alba furcata*) es común en bosques y ciudades de Cuba (Garrido y García 1975). Considerada como un depredador aéreo nocturno (Kirkconnell et al. 1992), que se elogia por su provechoso y saneador hábito de consumir grandes cantidades de roedores (*Rattus* y *Mus*). Además de ellos se conocen otros mamíferos que componen su dieta. En Cuba se han reportado las especies de murciélagos depredadas en base a estudios realizados en residuarios frescos (Silva 1979). De otra forma, nada se ha investigado sobre las aves que intervienen en su dieta, aunque sus restos son muy comunes en los mencionados residuarios. Estudios de este tipo se conocen en las Antillas. En la Española, Wetmore y Swales (1931) reportaron 29 especies asociadas a anfibios, reptiles y mamíferos. En Gran Caimán, Johnston (1974), por citar otro ejemplo, reportó también varias especies de aves y plantea que éstas en esa isla representan un 40% aproximadamente de todos los restos óseos examinados.

Con el fin de fomentar colecciones osteológicas de comparación para estudios paleornitológicos, he colectado huesos procedentes de las siguientes localidades a través de casi toda la isla: Pinar del Río (Viñales); La Habana (Caimito; La Salud); Matanzas (Ciénaga de Zapata); Cienfuegos (La Sierrita); Sancti Spíritus (Río Cañas; Manacal); Camagüey (Céspedes); Guantánamo (Yateras). En algunos de estos lugares, los elementos óseos formaban parte de egagrópilas frescas (esqueletos completos e incompletos) y en otros, parte de una capa delgada (elementos óseos diseminados), resultado de la desintegración de aquellas por diversos agentes físicos. Estos restos son frecuentes en las entradas de cuevas, abrigos rocosos, construcciones arquitectónicas y debajo de árboles utilizados como refugio por las lechuzas.

En el presente trabajo daré un lista preliminar de todas las especies de aves encontradas hasta el momento en dichos depósitos, las cuales suman 37 táxones (129 individuos), sin incluir anfibios, reptiles ni mamíferos asociados a estos vertebrados (Tabla 1).

Como se aprecia, muchas de las especies depredadas en la muestra son endémicas, siendo *Gymnoglaux lawrencii* la de mayor incidencia, seguida por otras aves como *Turdus plumbeus, Xiphidiopicus percussus* y *Dives atroviolacea*. Es posible que *Tyto alba* localice los sijúes en el momento en que éstos se precipitan sobre sus presas, proporcionando ruidos en esas actividades que aprovecha ésta para su ubicación y captura. Los Passeriformes representan más del 56% de las aves encontradas, incluyendo algunas migratorias que son comunes en determinada época del año. La relativa abundancia del Zorzal Real (*Turdus plumbeus*) parece estar determinada por la amplia y uniforme distribución a través de todos los puntos geográficos pesquisados, teniendo así una notoria disponibilidad como alimento.

Aves de corral, como *Gallus gallus* y *Columba livia*, son en ocasiones consumidas por este depredador (Gundlach 1876). Cuando éstas tienen una talla que resulta grande para ser trasladadas e ingeridas completas (como ocurre en la mayoría de las pequeñas aves cubanas), son desgarradas y tragadas en pedazos, abandonando los despojos de piel con plumas y partes del cuerpo (patas, alas, etc.) que no se devoraron, encima de ramas de árboles, cercanos a patios y corrales donde se efectuó la captura. He observado este hecho en tres ocasiones, incluso, muchas veces acuden al mismo lugar para cazar. Esta fragmentación de las presas debe ser la causa por la cual se encuentran pocos huesos de *Butorides virescens* y *Porphyrula martinica*, pues en el continente es frecuente el consumo de rálidos (Bent 1938). De las especies introducidas, *Passer domesticus* es la más depredada, sobre todo en las ciudades. Procedentes de La Habana he colectado en un mismo residuario más de 30 cráneos de gorriones junto a roedores, lo que demuestra lo expuesto, superando en número a todas las demás aves mencionadas. La Lechuza, a pesar de no tener un gran tamaño, es de constitución fuerte y comportamiento agresivo, con un hábito ornitófago bien definido, más marcado aún en las islas (Howell 1920).

La Golondrina Azul (*Progne cryptoleuca*) también es objeto de depredación, aunque no tenemos evidencias óseas, se han observado lechuzas cazando estas aves (Kirkconnell, com. per.).

Muchas otras aves se adicionarán con seguridad a esta lista en el futuro, sobre todo pertenecientes a las familias Columbidae y Emberizidae, las que deben tener un espectro mayor dentro de la dieta de esta rapaz nocturna.

TABLA 1. Lista de aves encontradas en depósitos de egagrópilas de *Tyto alba* en nueve localidades en Cuba, incluyendo Viñales (1), Caimito (2), La Salud (3), Ciénaga de Zapata (4), La Sierrita (5), Río Cañas (6), Manacal (7), Céspedes (8) y Yateras (9).

Especie[1]	Número mínimo de individuos	Porcentajes	Localidades
*Butorides virescens**	1	0.7	2
Falco sparverius	5	3.8	1, 2, 4, 6
Colinus virginianus	3	2.3	2, 3, 5
*Porphyrula martinica**	1	0.7	1
Charadrius vociferus	1	0.7	2
Zenaida macroura	6	4.6	2, 3, 4, 8
Columbina passerina	4	3.1	2, 3, 9
Saurothera merlini	2	1.5	2
Crotophaga ani	2	1.5	1, 3
Gymnoglaux lawrencii	10	7.7	1, 2, 4, 7, 9
Glaucidium siju	7	5.4	2, 4, 5, 6, 9
Chordeiles gundlachii	2	1.5	2
Priotelus temnurus	5	3.8	1
Todus multicolor	2	1.5	1, 2
Melanerpes superciliaris	4	3.1	2, 9
Xiphidiopicus percussus	8	6.2	1, 2, 4, 6, 9
Tyrannus dominicensis	1	0.7	9
Tyrannus caudifasciatus	3	2.3	5, 6
Contopus caribaeus	1	0.7	2
Myiarchus sagrae	3	2.3	2, 7
Hirundo fulva	4	3.1	2, 3, 7
Mimus polyglottos	4	3.1	2, 3
Dumetella carolinensis	1	0.7	2
Turdus plumbeus	9	6.9	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9
Myadestes elisabeth	2	1.5	1
Vireo gundlachii	2	1.5	2
Dendroica cf. *palmarum*	1	0.7	2
Seiurus aurocapillus	4	3.1	1, 2, 3
Setophaga ruticilla	1	0.7	3
Spindalis zena	3	2.3	1
Quiscalus niger	5	3.8	2, 4
Dives atroviolacea	8	6.2	1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9
Icterus dominicensis	2	1.5	1
Agelaius humeralis	2	1.5	2
Sturnella magna	5	3.8	2, 3, 5
Tiaris cf. *olivacea*	3	2.3	2, 5, 9
Melopyrrha nigra	2	1.5	1

[1]* = Especies conocidas por un elemento óseo.

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SEGUNDA CAPTURA PARA CUBA DEL CISNE DE LA TUNDRA (*CYGNUS COLUMBIANUS*) (AVES: ANATIDAE)

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EL LLAMADO CISNE DE LA TUNDRA (*Cygnus columbianus*) anida en Alaska y en la tundra ártica canadiense. Pasa el invierno en la costa atlántica y pacífica de los Estados Unidos, desde el estado de Washington hasta California, y desde Maryland a Carolina del Norte (Godfrey 1970). La primera captura de esta especie en Cuba fue en la Ciénaga de Zapata el 17 de 1944, hace más de 50 años.

El día 25 de febrero de 1990, colectó el segundo Cisne de la Tundra en la gran presa de Nipe, Municipio de Mayarí, provincia de Holguín, cuando se encontraba comiendo en compañia de otras aves acuáticas, entre ellas Patos Lavancos (*Anas americana*) y Gallaretas de Pico Blanco (*Fulica americana*). El ejemplar resultó ser una hembra jóven que pesó 6.5 kg con las siguientes medidas: ala — 530.0 mm; tarso — 105.5 mm; culmen — 95.0 mm. Al realizar la taxidermia del ave corroboré la identificación por la forma de la tráquea, que en esta especie no presenta la curvatura vertical debajo del esternón que presenta el llamado Cisne Tropetero (*Cygnus buccinator*) y con el cual pueden confundirse algunos ejemplares atípicos del Cisne de la Tundra.

Los pescadores de la presa nos informaron que habían visto tres cisnes más en distintos lugares de la misma, pero nosotros solamente pudimos ver al que fue colectado, a pesar de que revisamos bien la presa durante los dos meses anteriores a la captura. Actualmente este ejemplar se encuentra en el Museo Polivalente del Municipio de Mayarí, provincia Holguín.

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NUEVA LOCALIDAD PARA LA DISTRIBUCIÓN DEL *PTERODROMA HASITATA* (KUHL) (AVES: PROCELLARIDAE) EN CUBA

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EL DIABLOTÍN O PETREL DE CORONILLA NEGRA (*Pterodroma hasitata*) es una especie oceánica que se dice solamente se acerca a tierra para anidar, pero únicamente lo hace en determinados sitios montañosos en la inmediata vecindad del mar. En Cuba se reportó su presencia por primera vez en 1977 en la ensenada de La Bruja, costa sur de la Sierra Maestra, provincia Santiago de Cuba, donde se colectaron los primeros ejemplares. En esta zona estuvo siempre asociado a oscuras leyendas donde los vecinos escuchaban sus gritos en el silencio de la noche sin que pudieran saber que cosa producía aquellos gemidos, ya que a causa de sus hábitos nocturnos y retraidos, el Diablotín se hace muy difícil de localizar.

En el mes de Noviembre de 1976 mientras realizabamos un estudio en el Valle de Yaguanabo en las Alturas de Trinidad, del Macizo del Escambray (Guamuaya) en la provincia de Cienfuegos, escuchamos de noche en la playa Boca de Yaguanabo, cerca de la desembocadura del rio del mismo nombre, unos sonidos, como gemidos con variaciones, que evidentemente eran producidos por alguna ave marina, ya que los sonidos provenían del mar. No pudimos localizar al ave a pesar de alumbrar con linternas. Solamente en la zona de la playa situada más abajo cerca de un arrecife, y gracias a las luces que proyectaban sobre el mar unas cabañas desde lo alto, pude observar el vuelo de algunas aves oscuras de alas estrechas y alargadas que volaban rápidamente muy pegadas al agua, virando una y otra vez, apareciendo y desapareciendo siempre en la oscuridad. Por aquellos días desconocía que especie de ave era aquella. Sin embargo al leer en febrero de 1977 en la revista *Bohemia* el descubrimiento del Dr. Nicacio Viñas sobre la presencia del Diablotín en las costas de la Sierra Maestra, pensé que se trataba de la misma especie de ave que había escuchado y visto vagamente durante cinco noches seguidas en la Playa Boca de Yaguanabo, apenas cuatro meses antes.

Después en febrero de 1982 volví a la zona de Yaguanabo, pero durante los dos díaz que permanecimos allí no pudimos colectar al ave, porque el fuerte oleaje impidió que pudiéramos embarcarnos en un bote, y esta vez no fue posible ver ninguna

cerca de la playa, aunque escuchamos en varias ocasiones sus gemidos mar afuera al anochecer.

No fue hasta el día 10 de enero de 1990 en que tuve otra oportunidad de visitar de nuevo la costa y la playa de Boca de Yaguanabo, y utilizando la luz de dos reflectores conectados a dos baterías eléctricas y un bote, pude disparar sobre las aves que volaban cerca de la playa a baja altura. Aunque tenía la seguridad de haber herido al menos una, no pudimos encontrar nada durante la noche y las aves desaparecieron. Pero al amanecer, localizamos en la orilla de la play el cuerpo sin vida de un Diablotín hembra. Este ejemplar no pudo disecarse debido al mar estado en que se encontraba pues había permanecido unas nueve horas dentro del agua y los peces le habían comido más de la mitad del cuerpo.

Así, tras casi 15 años de espera, pudimos comprobar que Boca Yaguanabo y los macizos montañosos del Escambray que lo rodean, constituyen una nueva localidad de la presencia de *Pterodroma hasitata* para Cuba y el sitio de ocurrencia más occidental para esta especie en el Caribe.

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TWO NEW AVIAN RECORDS FOR HISPANIOLA: SWAINSON'S WARBLER AND SONG SPARROW

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DURING RECENT FIELD WORK in montane forests of southwestern Dominican Republic, we encountered two species of birds that have not previously been reported from Hispaniola. The first of these, a Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), was captured in a mist net on 10 November 1997 during banding studies in moist, predominantly broadleaf forest at "Palo de Agua" in Sierra de Baoruco National Park, Pedernales Province (18°12´N, 71°31´W, ca. 1400 m elevation). This site is characterized by a dense understory, a solid canopy of broadleaf trees 8–15 m high, and scattered, emergent pines (*Pinus occidentalis*) up to 30 m in height. The bird's identity was unmistakable, although we were unable to determine its age or sex. Most distinctive were the relatively large, daggerlike bill, unusual among paruline warblers, its large, somewhat flattened head with solid brown crown and pale supercilium, and the overall brownish, unmarked coloration of its upperparts. The bird's wing chord measured 69.0 mm, it weighed 14.8 g, and it had no visible subcutaneous body fat. The Swainson's Warbler was viewed in the hand by seven people, including the authors, James Tietz, James Goetz, Jesús Almonte, Elvis Cuevas, and Esteban Garrido. Three series of photographs were taken.

During a follow-up visit to Palo de Agua in March 1998, we recaptured this same individual on 7 March within 100 m of its original site of capture. The bird weighed 15.4 g and had a trace of visible subcutaneous body fat. Its site tenacity over a 4-month period strongly suggests that it over-wintered at the location. On 9 March we mist-netted a second Swainson's Warbler at the Palo de Agua site. This individual had a wing chord of 69.5 mm, a weight of 14.4 g, and a trace of body fat. It was viewed in the hand by six of the above seven observers, plus Steven Holmes, Tomás Vargas, and Paul Wieczoreck. Two series of photographs were taken.

The discovery of Swainson's Warbler in the Dominican Republic is not surprising, given the species' wintering distribution, which is centered in the Greater Antilles but extends from the Yucatán Peninsula and Honduras eastward to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (Raffaele 1989, Howell and Webb 1995, Graves 1996). The highest recorded densities of wintering Swainson's Warblers appear to have been found in the Blue and John Crow mountains of Jamaica and in certain areas of Cuba (Graves 1996). The species is secretive and cryptically plumaged, however, is not easily detected in winter, and appears to favor undisturbed or slightly modified montane forest habitats (Graves 1996). It is thus likely that Swainson's Warbler has been overlooked on Hispaniola. Focused surveys that incorporate tape-recorded playbacks represent the most effective means to census this species on its wintering grounds (Graves 1996), and we believe that such surveys might reveal Swainson's Warbler to be relatively widespread in suitable habitat on Hispaniola.

The second new species for Hispaniola was completely unexpected and appears to represent a new record for the Caribbean Basin south of the Bahamas. We observed a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) on 15 November 1997 in the western Sierra de Neiba, on the border of Baoruco and San Juan provinces, in shrubby roadside habitat on the international road above "Vuelta de Quince" near the Haitian border (18°41´N, 71°46´W, ca. 1900 m elevation). This site, about

20 km above the town of Los Pinos, is characterized by moist, broadleaf montane forest, of which only a relatively small fragment remains. The area surrounding this remnant forest has been extensively cleared for agriculture and grazing, and the remaining forested patch contains scattered clearings and many small trails. The road to Hondo Valle which passes through this tract is fringed in many places by dense, shrubby habitat with numerous, small openings. We observed the Song Sparrow in this low, roadside growth.

The bird was first observed by Rimmer at 09:45 hr as it flushed from the wet, grassy road into a bordering shrub. His immediate impression of the bird's identity was of an Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), based on its size, brown dorsal coloration, and streaked underparts. Upon viewing it through binoculars from a distance of 7-8 m, as it moved furtively but in occasional full view in a shrub 1-1.5 m above ground, both authors quickly realized that the bird was some type of sparrow. This was based on the bird having a distinctly longer tail, richer dark brown upperparts, and a shorter, heavier, more conical bill than an Ovenbird. During the next 30-45 sec, the sparrow remained in the bush, continually moving but providing several clear views, despite its fairly elusive behavior. After about 20 sec, both authors exclaimed nearly in unison that the bird appeared to be a Song Sparrow, a species with which both were familiar on its northeastern North American breeding grounds. Several seconds before flying out of sight, the bird vocalized twice, giving single, short, high, slightly rising "*seeet*" or "*seeep*" calls. These sounded to the authors exactly like the alarm calls often heard in North America and confirmed the species' identity in their minds. Several minutes of "*spishing*" failed to bring the bird back into view, and the species' characteristic nasal "*tchep*" call note, often given in response to human "*spishing*," was never heard.

Recognizing that Song Sparrow was unlikely to have been previously recorded on Hispaniola, and that neither of us was familiar with juvenal or first basic plumages of Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*), a relatively common species in the area, we independently recorded detailed field notes within 24 hours of the sighting, before consulting field identification guides. The following description, compiled from our combined field notes, summarizes the salient features that we believe confirm the accuracy of our initial identification of the bird as a Song Sparrow. The head was distinctively marked by a grayish-white median crown-stripe bordered by two brown lateral crown-stripes and a fairly broad, grayish-white supercilium without supraloral markings. A thin but distinct postocular stripe formed the upper border of ear coverts that appeared pale brownish or grayish-brown and were bordered below by a dark moustachial stripe. The submoustachial stripe was broad and whitish. A prominent, dark malar stripe bordered the whitish, unmarked throat. The eyes and bill appeared all dark. The upperparts were brown with a rufous tinge, especially on the back and wings. The mantle and back were conspicuously marked with vertical blackish streaks. No wingbars were evident. The underparts were whitish, with prominent dark streaks on the breast and flanks; these did not extend onto the belly. Neither author saw a central breast spot, which is often, but not invariably, a distinctive feature of basic-plumaged Song Sparrows (Byers et al. 1995). The tail was markedly long and brownish, appearing to be nearly as long as the bird's body. Neither of us specifically noted the coloration of the legs and feet.

Although we did not observe the central breast spot diagnostic of most Song Sparrows in basic plumage, we believe that the above description rules out any other sparrows known to occur on Hispaniola or other islands of the West Indies. The distinctive head striping, bold streaking on the underparts, and absence of prominent wingbars eliminate the possibility of confusion with juvenile Rufous-collared Sparrow or other *Zonotrichia* species. Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), of which an endemic subspecies (*A. s. intricata*) occurs on Hispaniola (Dod 1981, Byers et al. 1995), is smaller with a short tail and unstreaked or only faintly streaked underparts with a buffy wash on the breast. Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), which winters in the Bahamas and western Greater Antilles (Bond 1993, Byers et al. 1995), has a short, notched tail, indistinct crown-stripes, yellowish supraloral markings in most subspecies, and generally finer, less bold streaks on the underparts than Song Sparrow. Lincoln's (*Melospiza lincolnii*) and Swamp (*M. georgiana*) sparrows, both of which have been recorded as vagrants in the Greater Antilles (Raffaele 1989, Bond 1993), are readily separable in basic plumage from Song Sparrow; Lincoln's by its finely-streaked underparts and pale buffy breast and flanks, Swamp by its more uniformly dark brown crown, lack of distinct malar and moustachial stripes, and grayish, unstreaked underparts.

The documentation of Song Sparrow on Hispaniola represents a significant extralimital occurrence of the species. The known wintering range extends throughout the southeastern United States to south-central Florida and into northern Mexico (northern parts of Sonora, Chihuahua, and Coahuila), with eight sedentary subspecies resident in central Mexico from Durango to Michoacán and Puebla (Byers et al. 1995). We are aware of only five previous records of Song Sparrow from the Caribbean Basin, all sight records from the Bahama Archipelago between Grand Bahama and Crooked islands (H. Raffaele, pers. comm.). The encounter reported here, involving a probable vagrant individual, extends the extralimital range of wintering Song Sparrows at least an additional 550 km to the southeast. While we can only speculate about the origin of this bird and the causes of its appearance in Sierra de Neiba, our prior field experience with Song Sparrows in the northeastern United States and consultation with several field identification guides (e.g., Byers et al. 1995) suggest that it belonged to the nominate subspecies *M. m. melodia*.

We are grateful for field assistance from Jesús Almonte, Elvis Cuevas, Esteban Garrido, James Goetz, Steven Holmes, José Jiminez, James Tietz, Tomás Vargas, and Paul Wieczoreck. We thank José Ottenwalder and Herbert Raffaele

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A LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*LARUS FUSCUS*) IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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WE OBSERVED A LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*) in first-year plumage at Las Salinas, Bani, Dominican Republic on 22 November 1997. The bird was in the company of a small flock of other gulls and terns, including Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Royal Tern (*S. maxima*), Laughing Gulls (*L. atricilla*) in various plumages, a Greater Black-backed Gull (*L. marinus*) in first– or second–winter plumage, a first–winter Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*), and an adult Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*). The terns are common at this site, the Ring-billed and Herring gulls are both uncommon but regularly seen, and several Greater Black-backed Gulls, although rare throughout the Caribbean, have been present here for more than a year. Fortuitously, we were able to study the Lesser Black-backed Gull from a distance of 20-25 m with a spotting scope, with the bird at times side-by-side with each of the other gull species. The Lesser Black-backed Gull was first picked out as possibly unique owing to its size (intermediate between that of the larger Herring and Greater Black-backed gulls, but larger than the Ring-billed Gull) and an entirely black, comparatively small bill, contrasting with the larger, two–tone bill of the young Herring Gull, which was distinctly lighter at the base. In general, the bird was largely brown, but considerably paler than the Herring Gull, especially on the head, neck, and underparts. In comparison, the Herring Gull was darker brown with less contrast among the head, upperparts, and underparts. When the gull jumped in the wind, spreading its wings, or took short flights, a well-defined, dark tail-band was seen, contrasting with a light, almost white rump, which also contrasted with the brown back. In addition, the wing showed dark primaries, secondaries, and coverts, such that two dark bars formed on the inner wing. No light window in the inner primaries was seen as is typical of Herring Gulls.

This appears to be the first record of the Lesser Black-backed Gull for Hispaniola, and one of only a few for the Caribbean. No records of this species exist in Keith et al. (in prep.), and Bond (1979) lists the species as a vagrant, with records from Puerto Rico and St. Martin. The bird was also seen by Mia Sondreahl of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, and Kate Wallace and Danilo Mejias of the Club de Observadores de Aves Annabelle Dod.

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UNUSUAL BIRDS FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, INCLUDING THREE NEW SPECIES OF NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS

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WE RECORDED SEVERAL unusual birds while mist-netting in dry forest near Cabo Rojo, Pedernales, Dominican Republic in October and November 1997. These birds included the first substantiated record of the Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), Bay-breasted Warbler (*D. castanea*), and Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) in the Dominican Republic, and several captures and sightings of the rarely reported Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) and the Golden-winged Warbler (*V. chrysoptera*).

On 14 October 1997 Latta was the first to see the Chestnut-sided Warbler foraging in a buttonwood tree (*Conocarpus* sp.). The bird immediately appeared unique because of its habit of cocking its tail. The bird was generally greenish-yellow above with two broad, yellowish wingbars. The underparts were grayish–white, becoming lighter towards the rear with whitish undertail coverts. The cheeks were gray and a grayish–white eyering was present. On 15 October we mist-netted this bird and confirmed the identification as a juvenile female Chestnut-sided Warbler. In addition to the above field marks we noted light streaking on the back. The bill, legs, and feet were dark. The bird was also seen in the hand by Mia Sondreahl and Danilo Mejias, and was photographed by Brown. Keith et al. (in prep.) show no records of this species from the Dominican Republic, and a single record (Bartsch 1917) from Haiti.

We captured a juvenile male Bay-breasted Warbler on 23 October 1997. The bird appeared similar to the numerous Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*), except the legs and feet were blue-gray rather than the unique orange of the blackpoll. The upperparts were greenish-gray with black streaks formed by black patches to the centers of the feathers. The head was a similar grayish-olive and did not contrast with the upper back, but only minute black streaks were present on the head. The cheeks and lores were dusky. The rump was also grayish-olive, as was the tail which had white in the outer three rectrices. Two bold whitish wingbars were also present. The underparts were generally whitish and unstreaked, but the sides of the upper breast were stained yellowish-green to very light gray. The flanks were buffy gray and a very few chestnut-colored feathers were found on each flank. The bird was also seen by Mia Sondreahl, Kate Wallace, Bolivar Cabrera, and Danilo Mejias, and was photographed by Brown. Keith et al. (in prep.) list a single, unsubstantiated record of the Bay-breasted Warbler from the Dominican Republic.

We mist-netted an adult female Nashville Warbler on 14 November. The upperparts of the bird were generally greenish–olive, including the tail, and no white was present on the wings or tail. The crown, auriculars, and nape were gray and blended into the green back. The bird had a prominent white eyering. A rufous patch was concealed in the crown, which extended about 10 mm. The upper breast and throat was yellowish, but the throat less so. The lower breast and belly were whitish, the undertail coverts yellow. The bird was also seen by Bolivar Cabrera and Danilo Mejias, and was photographed by Brown. This appears to be the first Dominican record of the Nashville Warbler.

Although not new species for Hispaniola, two other records are worth noting. First, a juvenile Connecticut Warbler was mist-netted on 16 October. The bird was uniformly brownish–green above, including the back, rump, and uppertail coverts, with the head, nape, and auriculars greenish–gray to gray. The gray hood extended to the upper breast, but the throat was buffy–gray. The bird had a prominent white eyering, which had a slight break in it behind the eye. The rest of the underparts, including the undertail coverts, were yellow, but the contrast between the gray bib and the yellow breast was not sharp. The sides were greenish-yellow. Two additional individuals were netted on the same day, both of which had a complete eye ring, and one of which had a more olive-brown bib without the gray wash. All birds were also seen by Mia Sondreahl and Danilo Mejias, and were photographed by Brown. Although these birds were banded, we did not resight them. In the following days, however, we did see unbanded Connecticut Warblers on several occasions, suggesting that additional individuals were moving through this area. We continued to see unbanded Connecticut Warblers until 21 October. Whereas Connecticut Warblers have been rarely reported from Hispaniola (Keith et al. [in prep] show two birds collected and two additional sight records), the concentration of so many sightings at one site suggests that this species may be more common, at least on migration, than previously suspected.

A second sight record is that of two Golden-winged Warblers seen by Danilo Mejias on 14 October 1997 about 1.5 km north of the above mist-netting locations, but in similar dry forest habitat. These birds were well seen and identified by the gray upperparts, whitish underparts, the blackish throat and ear patch, and yellow wing patch.

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THE WEST INDIAN WHISTLING-DUCK AND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROJECT — WORKING GROUP REPORT ON A TRAINING WORKSHOP HELD IN NASSAU, BAHAMAS, 13–15 NOVEMBER, 1997

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AS PART OF THE NEWLY INITIATED West Indian Whistling–Duck (WIWD) and Wetlands Conservation Project sponsored by the WIWD Working Group of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology, a workshop entitled "The West Indian Whistling-Duck and Wetlands Education Training Workshop" was recently held in Nassau, Bahamas, 13-15 November 1997. The workshop was held at The Retreat, headquarters of The Bahamas National Trust. Here we present an official report on the proceedings of the workshop, along with plans for the way forward.

The Workshop, part of the WIWD Working Group's activities, was made possible as a result of funding obtained by the Co-chairs of the Working Group (WG) and the Bahamas National Trust. Financial support for this project comes from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Western Hemisphere Program, the American Bird Conservancy, and Conservation International Bahamas. The workshop was organized by the WIWD WG Co-chairs, Dr. Lisa Sorenson and Patricia Bradley. Lynn Gape of The Bahamas National Trust led the local organizing committee.

The WIWD WG, formed at the 1996 annual meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology in Nassau, Bahamas, has been developing a conservation plan to reverse the decline of the threatened WIWD in the West Indies. Towards this end, the group has initiated a region-wide public education and awareness program on the WIWD and the importance of wetlands in general. Specific objectives of this program include making people aware of the value of WIWDs and their wetland habitats, creating local pride in the WIWD as a Caribbean endemic, and raising interest in the potential of WIWDs (and other wetland species) for eco-tourism.

The objectives of the WIWD and Wetlands Education Training Workshop in Nassau were to 1) promote awareness of the WIWD and wetlands, 2) review educational tools and methodologies for the promotion of the WIWD and the importance of wetlands, and 3) provide training to regional biologists in population survey and monitoring techniques.

A total of 45 people attended the workshop. This included 1 to 2 representatives from the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos Islands, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the United States, and Canada. Also in attendance were 11 schoolteachers from 4 different Bahama Islands, Bahamas Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries personnel (conservation officers and game wardens), Bahamas Ministry of Education personnel, and members and officers of the Bahamas National Trust (BNT). Following opening remarks by Lynn Gape, Public Relations and Education Officer of the BNT, and by the WIWD WG Co-chairs, the workshop began in earnest.

WEST INDIAN WHISTLING–DUCK SLIDE PRESENTATION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Dr. Lisa Sorenson presented a 45 minute slide show that she developed for the general public. The show begins by describing the WIWD's natural history including identification, range, breeding biology and behavior, and habitat use; followed by the WIWD's conservation status and threats to its continued survival, including poaching and unregulated hunting, wetland destruction, wetland degradation, and depredation by introduced mammals. The final part of the presentation addresses conservation efforts: what the WG is doing to help reverse the decline of the whistling–duck and save it from extinction. The show describes the WG's Public Education and Awareness Program, the WIWD poster that will be distributed throughout the West Indies, and emphasizes to the audience the importance of wetlands; that wetlands need to be protected not just as habitat for the WIWD, but also for the health and welfare of local human populations. The many services that wetlands provide including food control, sources of fresh, unpolluted water, nurseries for marine fisheries, and as habitat for other species are described and illustrated with many beautiful photos (our thanks to those who donated slides). The presentation ends with the speaker informing the audience of what they can do to help, including suggestions such as not polluting, supporting conservation of wildlife and wetlands, reporting illegal hunting, and going birding and enjoying our natural heritage.

Dr. Sorenson commented that the script she prepared was intended to serve as a guide; it is general enough so that it could probably be shown on any island in the West Indies, but she urges that presenters on each island also include local information and issues related to the WIWD and its habitat, where appropriate, because this will make the presentation more meaningful to the local audience. Following the workshop, copies of the slide show and script were distributed to each island representative. A Spanish version of the slide show is currently in preparation and soon will be available for distribution.

SECONDARY-AGE SCHOOLCHILDREN EDUCATION PROGRAM

Ms. Mars van Liefde (Cayman Islands) made a presentation on the WIWD education method she used successfully with older schoolchildren in the Cayman Islands. She emphasized the importance of reaching this age group with a conservation message, because this is when many youngsters

become interested in hunting. Ms. van Liefde stressed the importance of student interaction during the presentation. She designed her presentation to encourage the students to determine answers for themselves as opposed to simply presenting them with facts and figures. Using a blackboard and overhead projector, Ms. van Liefde presented the following concepts and information on the WIWD: names (common and scientific), identifying characteristics, habitat, ecological importance, threats faced by the species and, importantly, what students can do to help raise awareness and save the WIWD from extinction. Ms. van Liefde said that she was always careful to not bombard the students with too many large words and complex concepts, but rather explained her ideas as she went along, letting the students figure out words and concepts themselves wherever possible. Ms. van Liefde mentioned that she was also conscious of the length of the presentation, being careful not to bore her audience. She reported that the students were delighted when informed that they would not be tested on the material and that no-one ever fell asleep during her presentation! Ms. van Liefde' excellent ideas will be incorporated into our WIWD and wetlands education workbook (in progress).

PRIMARY-AGE SCHOOLCHILDREN EDUCATION PROGRAM

This well-received presentation comprised two education techniques:

Puppet Show.—Ms. Lynn Gape and Ms. Monique Clarke (Bahamas National Trust) presented a puppet show written by Ms. Gape on the WIWD and wetlands conservation suitable for young children. Assisted by Ms. Karen St. Cyr from the Ministry of Education (Bahamas) the puppet show was presented in its first draft. In scene I, the protagonists, children "Whitney" and "Will," are receiving a talk from "Environmental Eddie," who has taken them on a tour of the Adelaide Creek Wetland. Eddie explains why wetlands are important as nurseries for groupers and crawfish, habitat for ducks, among other wildlife. The audience is introduced to other charming characters, including "Whistler" the WIWD, "Pinny" the Bahama Pintail, and "Blue" the Little Blue Heron, who are listening in the background. In Scene II, Whitney and Will return to Adelaide to look at the ducks and other wildlife. They see a bulldozer and then overhear "Developer Dan" talking about how he is going to fill the wetland and make it into homes for people. Whitney and Will meet Whistler, Pinny, Blue, and other mangrove animals who are upset about losing their homes. Whitney and Will suggest they go to Environmental Eddie for help. In Scene III, all the animals, Whitney and Will tell Environmental Eddie about the proposed development and ask for his help. After they leave, Environmental Eddie shakes his head and says that it is now time for the "Environmental Ninja." In the final scene, the animals and children led by the Environmental Ninja (Eddie now wearing a cape and bandanna) meet with Developer Dan and convince him that mangrove wetlands are good, and that it will enhance his development to have a natural area for bird watching, and other environmentally friendly activities as part of his development — a happy ending for all. Participation by children in the audience was written into the script: every time the audience hears "Mangroves are useless," they respond with a chant (written on poster board):

No, they are not!
Mangroves are nurseries for crawfish and conch,
They give us protection from storms that knock,
Homes for birds and ducks that fly,
Places of beauty to soothe our eyes.

The puppet show was extremely well-received and drew much laughter and applause. All agreed that it was fun, engaging, and with a clear wetlands conservation message for schoolchildren and grown-ups alike. With a few minor adjustments, it was thought that the puppet show could easily be duplicated and shown on any of the participating islands. The puppet show script, theater design, and photos and templates of the puppets will be made available to each island.

Coloring Book—Ms. Melissa Maura, a talented artist and supporter of The Bahamas National Trust, kindly volunteered to prepare drawings for a WIWD coloring book. Lynn Gape presented the frames, all beautifully done, that had been created by Ms. Maura. The various drawings depict the WIWD in the following scenes: upright stance, feeding, in flight, fighting, with range map, in mangrove habitat with signs indicating threats to the duck, other species that share WIWD habitat, adult at nest with eggs, pair swimming with ducklings, and children bird-watching at a wetland. The idea of the coloring book was well received and will be actively followed up by the Working Group. The drawings, along with descriptive illustrations, will be published in a coloring book and also as separate pages that can be photo–duplicated and distributed to schoolchildren.

HUNTER EDUCATION TECHNIQUES

Mr. Pericles Maillis (past President BNT, conservationist, hunter) presented the Bahamian experience in dealing with hunters. Mr. Maillis informed participants that the BNT has for many years been active in working with hunting issues in the Bahamas. Mr. Maillis highlighted some of the problems and successes that have occurred in managing hunting in the Bahamas in the past by describing the management history of White-crowned Pigeons, a major game bird in the Bahamas. Some of the lessons learned from this experience could be applied to the current problems throughout the West Indies of unregulated hunting and poaching of WIWDs. Mr. Maillis concluded that the success of the White-crowned Pigeon conservation program was the result of a well–developed public slide program and hunter education meetings presented by a hunter (Mr. Maillis). This enabled the presenter to use the same frame of reference as the audience and quickly win their confidence. Mr. Maillis therefore advocates that a conservation-minded hunter be involved in a WIWD Hunter Education Program in each island and, if possible, should be responsible for making presentations to hunter groups. It is important to make hunters feel like they

are part of the solution, not the problem.

Mr. Maillis felt that hunter education was important in our conservation efforts of the WIWD. He believes that WIWDs are presently shot because many people are not aware that they are endangered or that it is illegal to shoot them. Another major problem both in the Bahamas and other parts of the Caribbean is species identification: WIWDs are frequently reported shot by mistake or by hunters who did not know what they were shooting. Mr. Maillis believes that hunter attitudes and behavior would change with education and that once hunters are educated, we can depend on their knowledge to increase protection of the duck, as policing can often be difficult (especially in the Bahamas).

As part of our Hunter Education Program, the WIWD WG is currently preparing a slide show on the WIWD specifically for hunter groups. This show will emphasize duck species identification, a review of local hunting laws and which ducks are legal game, and ways in which hunters can aid in conservation efforts. A plasticized identification card showing both resident and migratory ducks of the West Indies (standing and in flight) that hunters can take into the field is currently in production; a mock-up was circulated at the workshop and comments were made on the lay-out. The WIWD poster will be placed in areas frequented by hunters. Also discussed was the initiation of a duck hunting stamp (modeled after a program developed and administered by Wildlife Habitat Canada) which would generate funds for conservation, and offering alternatives such as clay pigeon shooting to hunters in the off-season.

SURVEYING AND MONITORING OF WIWD POPULATIONS

Ms. Diane Eggeman (Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission) covered basic aspects of waterfowl census methodology that will be useful in monitoring WIWDs. Her presentation included the various goals of monitoring (e.g., documenting population status and change, evaluating effects of hunting or other factors that influence populations), primary versus secondary population parameters, how monitoring is used in waterfowl management, the basics of sampling, statistical analysis, and development of a monitoring program. Ms. Eggeman told participants that they should be conscious of the following points when thinking about monitoring: always begin with a clearly defined goal, identify parameters for monitoring, identify methods of monitoring, remember to include variance estimates, and conduct a preliminary study to assess feasibility and precision.

Following Ms. Eggeman's presentation, the group discussed the potential goals of a WIWD Survey and Monitoring Program and several different objectives were identified, including: obtaining a range-wide estimate of population size, determining island population size, determining habitat use, identifying important breeding sites, monitoring trends, monitoring local hot spots, and determining presence and occurrence. It was pointed out that we really need to know baseline population numbers; i.e., what is the present range-wide WIWD population size? Given the special problems posed by WIWDs — the inaccessibility of much of their habitat, their nocturnal nature, and the present lack of resources to adequately sample their entire range — participants agreed that a range-wide estimate of population size was not currently feasible. Determining habitat use and identifying key breeding habitats were considered two monitoring goals badly needed for WIWD habitat protection efforts. It was decided that the WG would support survey and monitoring efforts on several islands (Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Eleuthera, and Cuba) and pilot studies will be conducted on these islands in the coming months. Determining simple occurrence of WIWDs using playback tapes will also be explored. Ms. Eggeman concluded her session by emphasizing two important take-home messages: 1) clearly define the goals and objectives of your monitoring, and 2) be aware that you will only find WIWDs where you look (i.e., don't sample only in certain habitats).

WETLANDS EDUCATION

Given an entire day to dazzle participants with her experience, insights, and knowledge, Michelle Kading (Head Interpreter, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, Manitoba, Canada) came through with flying colors. Ms. Kading began her program by showing a short video and giving a slide presentation on the history and education activities at Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, a successful wetland restoration project.

Ms. Kading then discussed interpretive techniques (what makes a good interpreter), general communication skills, and how people learn best (by *doing*, not just by hearing or seeing), followed by an exercise in how people perceive wetlands (Wetland Alphabet). This introduction set the stage for the rest of the day's activities, which included mostly hands-on demonstrations and activities. Ms. Kading demonstrated "Critter Dipping" - a means of introducing folks to the insects that live in wetlands. Bugs can be examined up close using either "low-tech" clear, plastic bug boxes (milk carton bottoms work too!) and magnifying glasses or "high-tech" video cameras hooked up to a television set. Children discover what critters they are looking at by drawing them and matching them up with bugs on a "Marsh Monster" sheet. If it is not possible for schoolchildren to visit a wetland firsthand, Ms. Kading demonstrated the next-best substitute: the "Port-a-Pond" — a sheet of thick plastic, which when placed on the floor with edges rolled up and a bucket of pond water poured in — works beautifully in a classroom situation. Before breaking for their own lunch, participants discovered what owls eat for lunch by dissecting their own owl pellets and matching up the various tiny bones found with those drawn on an identification sheet.

In the afternoon, participants divided up into six groups, each selecting two activities or games to demonstrate to the rest of the Workshop. Participants were given a framework and some materials which they used to develop an education exercise that as then acted out for the other participants. These activities, although a lot of fun, all have an underlying

educational objective and are designed to teach students about some aspect of wetlands. The presentations were in the areas of general wetland ecology, wetland species and adaptations, food chains, water hydrology, and wetland issues. Judging from the creative ideas, high level of enthusiasm, and laughter heard throughout the afternoon, it was clear that the exercises were well-received and enjoyed by all. Ms. Kading ended the day's exciting program with an inspirational "Bird in the Hand" story that left many participants dabbing their eyes.

Feedback received from the participants (from evaluation forms completed at the end of the Workshop) indicated that all were inspired by Ms. Kading's presentation as well as the other sessions, and that all returned home with a renewed sense of purpose, confidence, and enthusiasm, and with many new tools and ideas for carrying out WIWD and wetlands education in their own country. Overall, the organizers felt that the Workshop was hugely successful and we thank all those that were involved in the organization and that gave presentations for their assistance and hard work. We are more convinced than ever that we have a great group of people involved in our conservation effort - all enthusiastic, talented, motivated, and dedicated people with excellent ideas and an ability to work well together.

PLANS FORWARD

The Workshop concluded with four main tasks to be undertaken:

1. *WIWD and Wetlands Education and Awareness Program.*—The presentations that have been developed (or are in preparation) for the different target groups and which were presented at the Workshop are now expected to be used in the respective islands to begin educating people about the WIWD and the importance of wetlands. Island representatives that received binoculars (40 pairs were distributed) are expected to take schoolchildren and the general public on field trips to see the WIWD and other wetlands avifauna. Working with Ms. Gape and Ms. Kading, the WG plans to develop and publish a Wetlands Education Workbook (using the excellent ideas, tools and activities demonstrated by Ms. Kading) for use by schoolteachers and other natural resource educators in the Caribbean. The WIWD coloring book will also be published and distributed.

2. *Monitoring.*—Jamaica, Eleuthera, Antigua and Barbuda, and Cuba were mandated to begin some form of monitoring activities with a report expected for next year's SCO meeting in Guadeloupe. It was felt by the participants from these islands that sufficient logistics are in place to undertake this activity. Both of these activities will be monitored by the Co-chairs and reports will be given at the 1998 SCO meeting in Guadeloupe.

3. *Hunter Education Workshop.*—As requested by SCO members in Guadeloupe, the WG plans to hold a Hunter Education Workshop at the 1998 SCO meeting in Guadeloupe. Plans are currently underway.

4. *"Watchable Wildlife Ponds."*—The WG would like to encourage and support the development in the Caribbean of "Watchable Wildlife Ponds," accessible wetlands where the public can observe WIWDs and other wildlife. This may entail building a boardwalk, nature trail and observation blind, installing interpretive signs that provide information on birds and other wetland species, and perhaps (at least initially) releasing captive-reared birds into the area to attract wild birds. Such a pond would serve as an attraction to both the local human population and eco-tourists, thereby enhancing an appreciation of wildlife for both its aesthetic and economic value. To help us get started, the WG plans to invite a representative from the Pointe-A-Pierre Wildfowl Trust in Trinidad to share their experience and expertise in creating wildlife ponds with WG members at the Guadeloupe SCO meeting.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

If anyone has a copy of G. H. Voous' English-language version of "Birds of the Netherlands Antilles" and would like to sell it, please contact:

Bill Murphy
telephone: 304-485-4710
e-mail: bmurphy@bpd.treas.gov

Catálogo de las Aves Cubanas por Don Juan Gundlach publicado en los Anales de la Sociedad Española de Historial Natural, en 1873 con Comentarios al *Catálogo* y Listado Acualizado de las Aves de Cuba Realizados por Rafael Pardo.–Servicio de Reproducción de Libros de Librerías París–Valencia. Valencia. 1996. 35 + 191 +19 pp. Paper, $30.00.—This facsimile edition of Juan Gundlach's original *Catálogo*, first published in the *Anales de la Sociedad de Historia Natural* in 1873, will be welcomed by all ornithologists working in Cuba. It replaces my well-worn photocopy of Gundlach's still quite useful original work.

The publication is divided into three parts. The first consists of Rafael Pardo's "commentary" on the *Catálogo*, with a brief assessment of Gundlach's contributions to Cuban zoology, followed by a synonymy of common and Latin names used by the original author. This synonymy is especially useful as one ponders such old names as *Regherinus wilsonii* (Hook-billed or Cuban Kite) and *Erismatura rubida* (Ruddy Duck) in the facsimile catalogue. Pardo also provides order, family, subfamily, tribe (where appropriate) for each of the birds treated.

The second part of the publication consists of the facsimile copy of the original *Catálogo* (with original pagination from the *Anales*). Following the species accounts in the 27 families treated by the author, Gundlach provides information on additional bird species in four appendices: Apéndice I, "Catálogo de las aves introducidas en la isla de Cuba, y ya observadas, criando en estado silvestre"; Apéndice II, "Catálogo de las aves observadas en el campo, pero probablemente huidas de jaulas"; Apéndice III, "Catálogo de las aves indicadas como pertenecientes á la ornitología cubana, pero equivocadas con otras que, en efecto, se encuentran en la isla de Cuba"; and Apéndice IV, "Catálogo de las aves indicadas como pertenecientes á la ornitología cubana, pero indudablemente por error ó falta de exámen crítico de sus individuos."

The third part of the publication is a "Listado actualizado de las aves de Cuba realizado por Rafael Pardo," which includes additions to the avifauna of the island since Gundlach's period (e.g., Zapata Wren *Ferminia cerverai*, Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*). This list consists of phylogentically arranged species, by order, family and subfamily. Latin, English, and Spanish names are provided, along with status. Five degrees of endangerment are given for those species considered extinct or at risk.

A bibliography completes the publication, although most of the references are of a general nature; e.g., Burton's (1989) "Birds of prey," with only a few references specific to Cuba.

This publication follows the recent facsimile reproduction of Juan Lembeye's important work from the same century (see *El Pitirre* 9[3]:32). This gives workers in the region hope that additional rare publications will soon see light as facsimile editions. —James W. Wiley.

ISISA
INTERNATIONAL SMALL ISLANDS STUDIES ASSOCIATION — ISLANDS V
SMALL ISLANDS IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM
PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF ISLAND LIVING
MAURITIUS
1 to 5 July 1998

ISISA is a voluntary, non-profit and independent organization, the objectives of which are to study islands on their own terms, and to encourage free scholarly discussion on small island related matters such as islandness, smallness, insularity, dependency, resource management and environment, and the nature of island life. These objectives are pursued by encouraging the networking of small island communities through international communication systems, such as newsletters, journals and the holding of periodic, multi-disciplinary conferences, employing appropriate technologies to achieve these ends. ISISA was officially established at the Islands IV conference on Okinawa, following previous meetings on Victoria (1986), Tasmania (1988) and Nassau (1992) islands.

ISLANDS OF THE WORLD V CONFERENCE is to be held in Mauritius, 1-5 July 1998, sponsored locally by the University of Mauritius, the Mauritius Institute of Education, Mahatma Gandhi Institute and the Tertiary Education Commission. Internationally, the United Nations Environment Programme and INSULA, the International Scientific Council for Island Development are co-sponsors.

The major theme is *Small Islands in the Third Millennium - Problems and prospects of island living*. There will be Sessions, Symposia and Workshops for which contributions are invited.

SYMPOSIUM TOPICS

The emphasis here is on the presentation of papers, discussion of a current state of knowledge and what might be needed in future research.

Symposium 1:	Networking and telematics
Symposium 2:	Islands on the global scene
Symposium 3:	Social & cultural issues in Islander living
Symposium 4:	Islanders, oceans and coastal environmental problems
Symposium 5:	Islanders, oceans and political economy
Symposium 6:	Island biodiversity in the year 2000

WORKSHOP TOPICS

Workshops emphasize instruction or provision of information, intensive discussion of specific topics and proposals for action, including curriculum implications and social policy.

Workshop 1:	Communicating island life through electronic networking systems
Workshop 2:	Social & cultural issues in island life
Workshop 3:	Remembering the Dodo: Small islands and biodiversity - the balance sheet in the year 2000
Workshop 4:	Islander health and population
Workshop 5:	Islanders and political economy
Workshop 6:	Education for sustainable development

NB: Submission of a paper title and abstract implies that permission is given for the publication of that material on ISISA's website, without infringement of copyright.

TIMETABLE & FEES

The revised (22.02.98) timetable for this conference is as follows:

1 Aug 1997	Islands V First Circular available & call for papers
1 Mar 1998	Second Circular, with details of presentations and conference schedule
31 Mar 1998	Deadline for paper proposals & early registration
31 Mar 1998	Deadline for paper abstracts
1 May 1998	Third Circular, with further program details
31 May 1998	Pre-registration fee due date
1 Jun 1998	Deadline for poster paper proposals
After 1 June 1998	Full registration fee applies
30 June 1998	Arrival and registration at Islands V, Mauritius

The registration fees for this conference are according to when payment is made (and have been revised from earlier announcements):

31 March 1998	Last day for early registration fee of US$275
31 May 1998	Last day for Pre-registration fee of US$300
*After 1 June 1998	Full Registration fee of US$350 applies

The registration fee includes:

* Entry to all Sessions, Workshops and Symposia
* Program and abstracts on arrival
* Arrival and departure transfers between airport and conference hotel
* Transfers between Hotel Monaco and Islands V conference site & activities
* 6 nights hotel accommodation for one person (Non-

delegate companion accommodation by application)
* Conference reception
* Cultural Evening presented by the Mahatma Gandhi Institute
* Lunch daily during conference sessions
* Conference dinner at the Klondike Hotel, including Sega Night cultural show

The ISISA Website is located at: http://www.isn.net/islandweb/isisa.html

Completed registration forms and fees be should be sent to:
Dr. Prem Saddul, Secretary-General Islands V
Social Science Department
Institute of Education
M.I.E. Reduit, Mauritius
Telephone: (230) 454 1031 or (230) 454 1035
FAX: (230) 454 1037
e-mail: Psaddul@bow.intnet.mu

ISLANDS V REGISTRATION FORM

Name.(Family, then given): _____ _____

Institutional affiliation (if any): _____

Postal Address: _____

_____

Island(s) or Region (s) where you research: _____ Telephone: (____) _____
Fax: (____) _____ e-mail: _____

Symposium of Greatest Interest: _____ Workshop of Greatest Interest: _____
(NB: Participants may attend as many Symposia and Workshops as they wish)

Proposed paper title (please attach 200 word abstract): _____

_____

The most important conference relevant to islands I have attended recently is:

_____

Please attach 50 word single spaced summary for display and discussion and bring your badge and satchel from that meeting.
Are you are willing to use the satchel and identifying badge you bring with you rather than obtain one supplied by Islands V? Yes _____ No _____
Registration

Early Registration (by 31.03.98) US$275
Pre-Registration (by 31.05.98) US$300
Full Registration (after 01.06.98 and on site) US$350

Amount enclosed _____

ISISA Membership (not required for Islands V participation, but necessary to attend the ISISA AGM and hold office or membership in ISISA Commissions)

US$20 x ____ persons = _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED PAYABLE TO "ISLANDS V" _____
All payments should be in US dollars and payable to "ISLANDS V".

Student or group conference fees on application and subject to Islands V conference finances. Partners who share a room, but do not participate in the meetings of the conference, may register for US$100 less than the established fees above. All information above is correct at time of writing (22.02.98).

THEFT OF ENDANGERED *AMAZONA LEUCOCEPHALA LEUCOCEPHALA*

A series of robberies in Florida has resulted in the severe depletion of founder stock and resultant offspring of the endangered Cuban Parrot (*Amazona leucocephala leucocephala*). During the morning of 11 March 1998, Life Fellowship (Ramon Noegel and Greg Moss) was robbed. Security fencing was cut as were the front panels of parrot flight cages. The flights were entered and parrots removed. The perpetrators also disabled the vehicles on the property. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

These Cuban Parrots have been previously listed with ISIS. Their band numbers and color follow in the unlikely event the birds are seen or recovered with bands intact:

Band number	Color	Sex
Life 94–242	orange	male
Life 94–209	green	female
Life 94–226	red	male
Life 94–207	green	female
Life 94–205	green	male
Life 94–210	green	female
Life 93–72	purple	male
Life 85–2	silver	male
Life 94–232	purple	male
Life 97–	—	female
Life 22–26	red	male
FC–FC	silver	female
Life 94–222	red	male
Life 94–228	red	female
Life 89–6	silver	male
Life 94–228	light green	female
Life 94–250	orange	male
1746	silver	female
Life 94–219	blue	female
Life 94–221	red	male
Life 94–228	red	female

Two additional male and one female Cuban Parrots were taken, as were one male Double Yellow-headed Parrot (*A. oratix*) and one elderly female Panama parrot.

A similar theft previously occurred at Last Chance Farm, when many Cuban Parrots and other endangered species were stolen. Additional thefts occurred in the Fort Myers (Florida) area earlier this year. Unfortunately, none of these birds have been recovered. There is speculation that birds are being stolen, dyed, and subsequently shipped out of the United States.

The authorities have asked that word of these thefts reach as many concerned individuals as possible. If you hear anything about the stolen parrots, please contact Luanne Porter at (941) 674-0321 (telephone) or (941) 675–8824 (fax).

If additional details become available, they will be posted on http://www.funnyfarmexotics.com/IAS/index.htm

13–16 July 1998 – **Society of Conservation Biology Annual Meeting**, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. (List of symposia and their convenors can be obtained by consulting the SCB web site at http://www.bio.mq.edu.au/consbio or via e-mail from the organizers by contacting george.mckay@mq.edu,.au).

18-22 July 1998 – **Animal Behavior Society Annual Meeting**, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Lee Drickamer, Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois 62901, USA.

19-25 July 1998 – **International Congress On Ecology**, Florence, Italy. (Almo Farina, INTECOL; tel: 39.187.400.252).

28 July - 3 August 1998 – **7th International Behavior Ecology Congress**, Asilomar Conference Grounds, Monterey, California, USA. [Walt Koenig; e-mail: wicker@uclink.berkeley.edu or Janis Dickinson; e-mail: sialia@uclink2berkeley.edu; both at Hastings Reservation, 28601 E. Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel Valley, California 93924, USA).

2-6 August 1998 – **Ecological Exchanges between Major Ecosystems**, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. (Contact: ESA Program Chair, Fred Wagner, Ecology Center, Utah State University, Logan, Utah 84322–5205, USA; telephone: 801-797-2555; e-mail: fwagner@cc.usu.edu).

19-22 August 1998 — **XXII International Ornithological Congress**, Durban, South Africa. (Information — Dr. Aldo Berruti, 111 Blair Atholl Road, Westville 3630, South Africa; Fax: 27-31-262-6114; e-mail: aldo@birdlife.org.za; Scientific Program — Dr. Lukas Jenni, Schweizerische Vogelwarte, CH–6204 Sempach, Switzerland; fax: 41-41-462-9710; e-mail: jennil@orninst.ch).

8-10 September 1998 — **Coastal Environment 98**, Cancun, Mexico. (Contact: Liz Kerr, Wessex Institute of Technology, Southampton, United Kingdom; telephone: 44-1-703-293223; fax: 44-1-703-292853; e-mail: liz@wessex.ac.uk).

30 September–4 October 1998 — **The 1998 Annual Meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.**, David Eccles Conference Center, Ogden, Utah. (Carl D. Marti, Department of Zoology, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah

19-22 October 1998 — **International Conference on Tropical Forests and Climatic Change: Status, Issues and Challenges**, Manila, Philippines. Asian Institute of Management. (Contact: The Secretariat, International Conference on Tropical Forests and Climate Change, Environmental Forestry Program, UPLB College of Forestry, 4301 College, Laguna, Philippines; e-mail: enfor@laguna.net).

1998 Meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology
Guadeloupe, French Antilles
23–30 July 1998

The annual meeting of the SCO will be held 23-30 July 1998 in Guadeloupe. Maurice Anselme and the Local Committee have been hard at work ensuring a successful meeting. Workshops are planned on setting conservation priorities in the Caribbean region, and hunting management regimes. Registration materials and abstract forms should have reached all members by now. If you have not received these materials, please contact Dr. Rosemarie Gnam as follows:

Telephone: (703) 358–2095 (office); (703) 739–9803 (home)
Fax: (703) 358–2298
E-mail: rosemarie_gnam@mail.fws.gov

See page 30 for further details

WETLANDS OF NEW PROVIDENCE

WHEREAS the wetland area on the island of New Providence, Bahamas, known as Wilson and Harrold Pond is important for wading and other birds, particularly in the migratory season; and

WHEREAS New Providence has the highest population and tourist density of all The Bahama Islands and this island has few remaining wetland areas of such importance; and

WHEREAS this area if left undisturbed would be important for ecotourism and environmental education; and

WHEREAS Wilson Pond is under increasing pressure from agricultural activity and the clearing of the buffer zone on the south side of the pond; and

WHEREAS the ridge and buffer zone to the north of Harrold Pond has been increasingly disturbed recently by the excavation of the hill and the spreading of fill towards the pond

THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY

AGREES that the area of Wilson and Harrold Ponds on the island of New Providence represents an important habitat for migratory and resident avian species and has potential as a significant ecotourism site and for environmental education,

RECOMMENDS that the Government of the Bahamas set aside the area with a buffer zone under the protection of the Bahamas National Trust as a reserve area to be left in its natural state.

THANK YOU RESOLUTION FOR ARUBA

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology wishes to express its deepest appreciation to the Aruban Foundation for Nature and Parks (FANAPA) and the members of the local organizing committee for their assistance with this our tenth annual meeting. SCO gratefully acknowledges the dedication of these workers in planning and hosting this meeting. A special note of thanks to the local committee chair, Mr. Roeland de Kort, who worked to make our visit to Aruba a memorable occasion.

SCO was heartened by the gracious hospitality extended to us by the Holiday Inn, Aruba. We wish to thank the entire staff of the Holiday Inn, especially the Food and Beverage Manager and his staff for the sumptuous meals which were provided.

We are also grateful to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Tourism, Government of Aruba, the Coastal Aruba Refining Company; De Palm Tours, Aruba; Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, Aruba; Tropical Bottling Company of Aruba, other local organizations and the Aruban people for their support and interest in the SCO.

We also thank our international supporters, the International Institute of Tropical Forestry, USDA Forest Service, and the Office of International Affairs, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service for their generous contributions.

SCO hopes to assist Aruba in their future conservation efforts especially in the development of the Parke Nacional Arikok and Bubali sanctuary.

We hope our association with Aruba will be long and fruitful.

RESOLUTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF WEST INDIAN WHISTLING DUCKS IN JAMAICA

WHEREAS The Society of Caribbean Ornithology notes that West Indian Whistling Ducks *Dendrocygna arborea* have been internationally recognized as in need of conservation throughout their range, including Jamaica

and WHEREAS there are no scientific data on the status and distribution of West Indian Whistling Ducks or other resident or migratory ducks in Jamaica

and WHEREAS there is no habitat protection for any species of ducks in Jamaica

and WHEREAS no management plans have been developed or implemented for ducks in Jamaica

and WHEREAS the Society has been informed that there is interest in Jamaica in declaring an open season to hunt migratory ducks

and WHEREAS there is no information about the likely impacts of hunting of migratory ducks on resident ducks (including West Indian Whistling Ducks, Masked Ducks *Oxyura dominica* and Ruddy Ducks *Oxyura jamaicensis*)

and WHEREAS West Indian Whistling Ducks in Jamaica are often found in the same places as game species (especially Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*)

and WHEREAS ducks and their habitats have considerable potential value for ecotourism, but duck hunting and ecotourism cannot coexist in the same places at the same times

Be it resolved that the Society for Caribbean Ornithology

CONGRATULATES the Government of Jamaica on its decision not to declare an open season for migratory ducks in 1997

and URGES the Government of Jamaica to maintain its present position and not to support proposals for migratory duck hunting until measures to ensure the future of Jamaican populations of ducks, specially West Indian Whistling Ducks, (including a scientific assessment of the status and distribution of ducks, effective habitat protection, zoning of areas for hunting and ecotourism, and a management plan for ducks and their habitats) have been put in place.

RESOLUTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF THE COCKPIT COUNTRY, JAMAICA

ADOPTED BY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY ON 4 AUGUST 1997

WHEREAS the biodiversity of the Cockpit Country of Jamaica is of national and international importance

and WHEREAS the Cockpit Country provides habitat for all Jamaica's endemic bird species (including the Yellow-billed Parrot *Amazona collaria*, Black-billed Parrot *Amazona agilis*, Jamaican Blackbird *Nesopsar nigerrimus*, and Ring-tailed Pigeon *Columba caribea*) and many endemic sub-species of birds (including the nationally endangered Golden Swallow *Tachycineta euchrysea euchrysea* and Plain Pigeon *Columba inornata exigua*) as well as more than 100 endemic species of plants, reptiles and amphibians, many of which are restricted to the area,

and WHEREAS the Cockpit Country is of hydrological importance for western Jamaica,

and WHEREAS the Cockpit Country has great potential for ecotourism and heritage tourism,

and WHEREAS the forests of the Cockpit Country are being destroyed at an increasingly rapid rate by timber extraction, and clearance of land for farming, and the wildlife is being negatively affected by hunting,

and WHEREAS mining of bauxite and limestone has been proposed in the Cockpit Country,

Be it RESOLVED that the Society for Caribbean Ornithology

ENCOURAGES the Government of Jamaica to include the Cockpit Country in the national system of protected areas and to develop and implement a plan for sustainable management as soon as possible.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON THE ENDANGERED BERMUDA PETREL BY PROPOSED OIL EXPLORATION ON THE ATLANTIC CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE UNITED STATES

Whereas the Bermuda Petrel, *Pterodroma cahow*, which breeds only on the Castle Harbour islands of Bermuda and ranges out into the Atlantic Ocean is listed as an endangered species by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and in *Endangered Birds of the World, The ICBP Bird Red Data Book*. When rediscovered in 1951, after having been presumed extinct for three hundred years, the population was estimated to number only eighteen nesting pairs and less than fifty birds, but as a result of an intensive management and restoration plan administered by the Bermuda Government, the population has gradually increased to fifty-two breeding pairs and an estimated one hundred eighty individuals in 1997.

Whereas the feeding range and migratory movements of this oceanic bird were previously unknown, recent collaborative efforts with ornithological colleagues in the United States have yielded documented sight records and one irrefutable photograph in the immediate vicinity of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

Whereas this is the only location other than near the Bermuda nesting grounds where these petrels have been recorded, and given the small population numbers and the great distance (540 nautical miles) from Bermuda this implies and non-random concentration of the species in that area, primarily where offshore oil/gas exploration is proposed.

Whereas the Cape Hatteras area is acknowledged to be an area of exceptionally rich feeding grounds vital to numerous other species of seabirds, we are concerned that the proposed oil exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf of North Carolina would endanger the Bermuda Petrel as well as a number of other critically endangered species that frequent the area.

Whereas oil spillages or accidents may occur as a consequence of drilling and seabirds are exceptionally vulnerable to oil contaminants.

Whereas petrels and related night-flying species are known to be attracted to lights or gas flares in periods of fog or rain, we are concerned about the high probability of mortality due to collision with drilling equipment.

We are therefore convinced that any oil exploration in the Cape Hatteras area would pose a significant threat to the survival of the Bermuda Petrel.

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology urges the Government of North Carolina to consider this resolution when determining policy regarding off shore drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf of North Carolina.

1998 ANNUAL SCO MEETING IN GUADELOUPE

The eleventh annual meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology will be held in the Touring Hotel, Ft. Royal, in Guadeloupe during 24–29 July 1998. The meeting, sponsored in part by the National Park of Guadeloupe, will have a full program of activities. The meeting will have two major workshops: 1. Setting avian conservation priorities for the Caribbean and the SCO, and 2. Hunting issues and problems hindering effective sustainable harvest of gamebirds in the Caribbean. In addition, there will be smaller workshops on Caribbean wetlands conservation (RAMSAR) and the status of threatened and endangered Caribbean birds (BirdLife International). In addition, the event will include meetings of the SCO's two active working groups: West Indian Whistling-Ducks and Caribbean Seabirds. A keynote address and a diversity of technical presentations will add to the meeting, as well as a one-day field trip. The tentative meeting schedule is provided below:

THURSDAY, 23 July 1998 — SCO Executive Meeting; meeting participants arrive; meeting registration (continued on Friday morning)

FRIDAY, 24 July
- Morning — Opening ceremony, welcome by local dignitaries, keynote address by Dr. Jean Luis Martin
- Afternoon — Technical session, with French Antilles presentation
- Evening — Reception/cocktail (arranged by Local Committee and hotel)

SATURDAY, 25 July
- Morning — Hunting Workshop (Facilitator, Dr. Herbert Raffaele
- Afternoon — Hunting Workshop, continued
- Evening — Meeting of SCO Island Representatives and SCO Executive Board

SUNDAY, 26 July
- All day — Field trips: two trips – (1) a montane trip to the endemic Guadeloupe Woodpecker and forest birds; and (2) wetlands trip to see birds in mangrove and *Pterocarpus* habitats
- Evening — Meeting of West Indian Whistling-Duck Working Group

MONDAY, 27 July
- Morning — Caribbean and SCO Conservation Priorities Workshop, Part I (Facilitator, Ms. Marlene Walker)
- Afternoon — Caribbean and SCO Conservation Priorities Workshop, Part I, continued
- Late afternoon (4:00 PM) — SCO General Meeting
- Evening — Meeting of Caribbean Seabird Working Group

TUESDAY, 28 July
- Morning — Priorities Workshop, Part II
- Afternoon — Workshop on Caribbean wetlands conducted by RAMSAR
- Evening — Workshop to evaluate status of threatened and endangered birds in the Caribbean, by BirdLife International (Cambridge, UK, David Wege)

WEDNESDAY, 29 July
- Morning — Technical session
- Afternoon — Technical session and time to complete unfinished workshop or working group business
- Late afternoon and early evening — Silent auction
- Evening — SCO banquet at Touring Hotel

THURSDAY, 30 July — Island Representatives depart

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE LONG-AWAITED

GUIDE *to the* BIRDS *of the* WEST INDIES

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