Sociedad de la Ornitología Caribeña

EL PITIRRE

Society of Caribbean Ornithology

Winter 1996 **Vol. 9, No. 1**

EL PITIRRE

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

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

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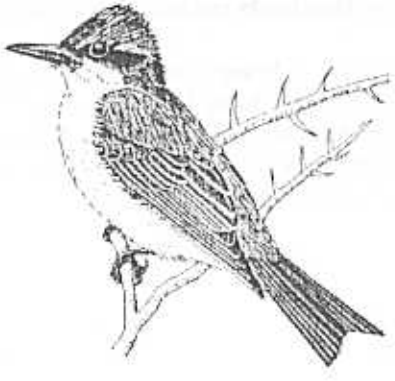
Tyrannus dominicensis



Pitirre, Gray Kingbird, Pestigre, Petchary

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

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

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FIRST REPORT OF "BREWSTER'S WARBLER" IN HISPANIOLA

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Since October 1992 winter resident warblers of 14 species have been color-banded in the Cordillera Central of the Dominican Republic in a study of the population turnover of migrants wintering in small versus large shade coffee plantations (Wunderle and Latta, unpubl. data). The most common migrant warblers present in these plantations are Cape May (*Dendroica tigrina*), Black-throated Blue (*D. caerulescens*), and Black-and-white (*Mniotilta varia*) warblers, American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), and Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). Rarely occurring species include the Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*), Northern Parula (*Parula americana*), Magnolia (*Dendroica magnolia*), Black-throated Green (*D. virens*), Yellow-throated (*D. dominica*), Prairie (*D. discolor*), and Palm (*D. palmarum*) warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*), and Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*).

On 2 November 1994, while searching for color-banded warblers in a coffee plantation 1 km west of Manabao, La Vega Province, Dominican Republic (elevation 760 m), I encountered an unbanded and previously unobserved individual. From a distance of approximately 5-10 m I observed this bird moving through the top of the coffee plants, 1.5-2.0 m from the ground, actively gleaning insects from the leaves. The bird was generally warm gray above, with a light yellow wash restricted to the upper back, and two broad white wingbars. The bird had a conspicuous yellow crown which graded into the gray nape, but which was highlighted by a pronounced black eyeline. The cheeks were gray. The bird was mostly white below with a pure white throat, lower belly, and undertail coverts, but with a broad yellow wash across the upper breast. After recording notes on the bird's plumage characteristics and feeding behavior I lost sight of it in the coffee. The bird reappeared, 10 min later, however, low in the understory of guaba (*Inga vera*) trees, where it actively fed for 5 min on caterpillars from the top and underside of leaves. The following day, J. M. Wunderle, Jr. spent 5 hrs in this coffee plantation but did not observe the bird.

I identified this bird as a "Brewster's Warbler," one of two phenotypes produced by the hybridization of the Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) and the Golden-winged Warbler (*V. chrysoptera*; Parkes 1951, Short 1963). Both forms are described by Curson et al. (1994). The individual I observed could be identified as a Brewster's Warbler by a combination of the distinctive black eye mark and mostly clear white underparts. Although this form is most commonly reported to have yellow wingbars, white bars are occasionally seen (Curson et al. 1994). The bird was separated from other *Vermivora* species, and the somewhat similar female Golden-winged Warbler, by the strong eyeline and the plumage pattern of the head, and from the Blue-winged Warbler by the white underparts.

This report appears to be the first of a Brewster's Warbler in the Dominican Republic or in Hispaniola. Indeed, it appears to be the second report of this form outside the United States. The first Brewster's Warbler recorded in the West Indies was recently banded in Cuba (Rodriguez et al. 1995). Observations of the Brewster's Warbler in Hispaniola should not be entirely unexpected. Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers frequently hybridize (Parkes 1951, Short 1963), and although both species winter primarily in Middle America (American Ornithologists' Union 1983), reports indicate that the Blue-winged Warbler (Dod 1978, Bond 1985, Wunderle and Waide 1993; W. Arendt, pers. comm.) and the Golden-winged Warbler (Bond 1971, 1985) are rare winter visitors to Hispaniola and the Greater Antilles (Gochfeld 1974, Pashley 1988a, b). The presence of the Blue-winged Warbler, in particular, is supported by observations in a variety of habitats in the Dominican Republic (Dod 1978), including mangroves (Wunderle and Waide 1993) and pine forest (pers. obs., March 1994). Confirmed reports of Golden-winged Warblers in Hispaniola, beyond those of Bond (1971, 1985), are unknown. Although comparatively rare, *Vermivora* hybrids may be overlooked or under–reported by birdwatchers and biologists —particularly in wintering areas. Clearly the scarcity of these reports points to the need for more familiarity with these species and forms, and the need to clarify the status of these birds in Hispaniola and the other Greater Antilles.

Acknowledgments.—Funding was provided by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the John T. and Catherine C. MacArthur Foundation to J. M. Wunderle, Jr. Valuable comments were provided by Joe Meyers, Joe Wunderle, and an anonymous reviewer.

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COPULATORY STANCE OF THE PURPLE-THROATED CARIB, *EULAMPIS JUGULARIS*

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Wolf (Condor 77:140-144, 1975) saw a "ventral approach" to copulation by the Purple-throated Carib (*Eulampis jugularis*) in Dominica. By his account this "required both birds to hang somewhat below the perch in comparison to the regular perch position. The birds were sitting adjacent to each other and the abdomens met while each was fluttering somewhat to maintain its position".

At 09:30 on 31 March 1995 I noted a much more definitive "ventral approach" by this species. In the gardens of the Papillote Hotel near Tafalgar Falls, in the mountains approximately 7 km east of Roseau, Dominica, a pair of Purple-throated Caribs was chasing through the shaded lower portions of several patches of torch ginger (*Nicolaia elatior*). One bird, presumably a female, suddenly perched on a slender, horizontal stem of the ginger. The other, presumably a male, fluttered nearby briefly, then clutched the same stem immediately beneath the female and hung upside down, directly under her, facing in the same direction. He then raised the rear portion of his body until he made cloacal contact with the female above him. Although the contact was brief, copulation appeared to have occurred. This action was repeated a few seconds later. Shortly after, the male flew from below the female to alight briefly on her back, where he attempted to copulate in the standard position, although this brief effort did not appear to be successful. After he dismounted, both birds left the immediate area and started feeding from torch ginger flowers. Dr. Richard Zusi (pers. comm.) has observed, but not reported, this same "face-to-face," male-beneath posture in this species, also in Dominica. I thank him for his comments on the first draft of this communication and for bringing the Wolf paper to my attention.

EL GUACAMAYO AZUL Y AMARILLO (*ARA ARARAUNA*) EXÓTICO RESIDENTE DE PUERTO RICO

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Raffaele indica el haber observado a un individuo de Guacamayo Azul y Amarillo (*Ara ararauna*) el 25 de agosto de 1972 y luego, el mismo individuo, en septiembre en el área de Tintillo, Bayamón (Raffaele y Kepler 1992). En el verano de 1985 observé a otra de estas aves en Torrimar, Guaynabo (Pérez-Rivera 1992). Una tercera ave fue observada a partir de agosto del 1985 por Oscar Díaz y Royeanne Salles entre Torrecilla Baja (Carolina) y Medianía Alta (Piñones) (Pérez-Rivera 1992). A mediados del 1986 observé a dos Guacamayos Azul y Amarillo en los alrededores de la urbanización Torrimar en Guaynabo. No obstante, los vecinos del área me indicaron que habia desaparecido una tercera ave del grupo. A principios de diciembre de 1987 el colega Luis Lavergne, observó a cinco de estas aves en la urbanización Garden Hills. Presumí que las aves se habian reproducido por su incremento en número. A partir de entonces las aves comenzaron a variar en

número desde dos hasta seis individuos, aparentemente moviendose estas entre Tintillo, Torrimar y Garden Hills. En junio de 1991 observé a cuatro aves en las cercanías del centro comercial de Garden Hills. El 13 de abril de 1992 observé a otro de estos guacamayos en el Parque Luis Muñoz Marín (Río Piedras). El 7 de febrero de 1995 se observaron cuatro individuos en el Parque Julio E. Monagas (Bayamón-Cataño) y observé a otro el 21 marzo en el Parque Luis Muñoz Marín. El grupo de Monagas ha seguido siendo observado con regularidad por los empleados del Parque (Félix Rivera, com. per.). Aunque cabe la posibilidad de que las aves observadas en el Parque Monagas, sean las mismas de Guaynabo, no hay que descartar la posibilidad de que estas sean un grupo diferente.

Este guacamayo ha logrado reproducirse en el estado silvestre. Por varios años una pareja de Guacamayos Azul y Amarillo, anidaron en la cavidad de una palma real (*Roystonea borinquena*) muerta que quedaba en el centro comercial Garden Hills Plaza en Guaynabo. Esta palma fue removida en la segunda semada de julio de 1995. No obstante, dos dias antes la pareja fue fotografiada en el nido por el Sr. Larry Sánchez.

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LA TÓRTOLA (*STREPTOPELIA DECAOCTO*) ANIDANDO EN CUBA

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Garrido y Kirkconnell (El Pitirre 3(4):2, 1990) reportaron por primera vez para Cuba el hallazgo de la Tórtola Asiática o Tórtola de Collar (*Streptopelia decaocto*) conocida en inglés como Asian Collared Dove en los alrededores de la casa del autor (OHG). En esa ocasión, se observó un sólo individuo que permaneció en la vecindad por varios días antes de marcharse. Transcurrieron unos 3 años sin haberse vuelto a detectar su presencia; pero paulatinamente, se fueron observando individuos aislados, en parejas, o en número de tres, en diversos barrios de la ciudad de La Habana.

Unos tres años después del primer reporte, se comenzó a observar asiduamente, a una pareja que aparentemente tenía un territorio circunscrito de alrededor de 800 m cuadrados. Gustaban de posarse en perchas favoritas como antenas de televisión, árboles frutales o introducidos como *Araucaria*, yagrumas (*Cecropia*), etc. Forrajeaban preferentemente en las azoteas de las casas. Nunca las observé descender al suelo, a pesar de que en mi casa hay un patio grande con gallinas y un palomar; no obstante, mi vecino me informó de haberlas visto ocasionalmente bajar a su patio donde había gallinas. Su presencia se detectaba con frecuencia debido a su característico "currucu cú" de reclamo y a una especie de "gruñido" corto y áspero que emiten generalmente al llegar a una posta. Con frecuencia este sonido lo producen cuando un individuo de la pareja se encuentra con el otro.

En dos ocasiones se les observó en trajines de cortejo, e incluso se observaron dos cópulas sobre una antena de televisión. Antes de la cópula no se observó un ritual de conducta similar al de las palomas domésticas; como por ejemplo la pauta de regurgitarse el alimento y el de asicalarse el plumaje como si se rascaran. La cópula sin embargo fue similar, tanto en su mecanismo, como en duración. La primera vez que se detectó un nido no se observó la pareja construyéndolo, aunque se pudo localizar a gran altura en una bifurcación casi terminal de una *Araucaria*. Este nido distaba una distancia lineal de unos 120 m del palomar de mi casa. Unos tres meses después, alrededor del mes de julio de 1995, la pareja que asiduamete concurría a los alrededores de mi casa construyó un nido entre las pencas de un cocotero (*Cocos nucifera*) en el patio de la casa del vecino. El nido no era visible desde abajo y sólo se podían observar las aves cuando entraban o salían de él. No se supo si sacaron o no, ni se vieron individuos adicionales; sólo los tres que con frecuencia merodeaban la casa. Es interesante destacar, que en ese cocotero, desde hacía varios años, dormía y criaba una pareja de Totiés (*Dives atroviolacea*). En ningún momento se observó ningún tipo de interacción entre ambas especies. En los últimos días del mes de octubre del propio año, se observó a un miembro de la pareja cargando palitos secos de una parra de la azotea vecina, hacia la parte más alta del docel de una mata de mango (*Mangifera indica*) de la propia casa, a unos 15 m del nido anterior del cocotero. Por más que se intentó localizar el nido no había forma de verlo. No obstante, el 11 de deciembre pudo observarse dicho nido desde la azotea del palomar de mi casa. Tenía dos pichones casi completamente emplumados que se acicalaban las plumas en una ramita contigua al nido. De acuerdo a la deducción de mi hijo Alexander (quien cría palomas), los pichones debían de tener alrededor de 25 días de nacido, que unido a los 17 u 18 días que debe durar la incubación se deduce, que los huevos hayan sido puestos en los últimos días del mes de octubre.

Si tomamos en consideración el tiempo transcurrido entre

Tórtola en Cuba (Continued)

los tres nidos reportados, se puede inferir, que la pareja debe tener un mínimo de tres sacas al año. El 18 de diciembre estaban de nuevo preparándose para anidar en el cocotero anteriormente mencionado. Los dos pichones permanecían entre el follaje de la mata de mango ya completamente emplumados. Por otro lado, es evidente que existen varias parejas establecidas en diferentes barrios; lo que indica que la especie está en pleno período de asentamiento aunque nunca se hayan observado más de tres individuos juntos; como es el caso de otros territorios no tan recientemente colonizados como los del sur del estado de la Florida (Homestead, Miami y Cayo Hueso).

El primer record oficial para Cuba lo constituye una hembra adulta depositada en el Museo Nacional de Historia Natural (MNHN 607) obtenida viva con una jaula de trampa en La Vírgen del Camino, San Miguel del Padrón, provincia Habana, el 23 de septiembre de 1995 y traído al Museo por Emilio Alfaro.

Queremos agradecer la cooperación brindada por Luis Otero, Guillermo Ceballos, Carlos Yera y Alexander Garrido en la observación y localización de estas tórtolas.

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS SUBMITTED FOR PRESENTATION AT THE 1995 ANNUAL SCO MEETING, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ESTUDIOS PRELIMINARES SOBRE LA NIDIFICACION DE LA COTORRA DE LA HISPANIOLA *AMAZONA VENTRALIS* EN EL PARQUE NACIONAL JARAGUA, REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

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Amazona ventralis es una especie endémica de La Hispaniola y considerada como especie vulnerable por el Departamento de Vida Silvestre de la República Dominicana, debido a presión que se ejerce sobre las poblaciones silvestres, la destrucción de su hábitat y el tráfico de pollulos para el mercado de mascotas. El decreto de veda que regula la caza y comercialización de la fauna del país sitúa a esta especie en la categoría de "veda permanente." *Amazona ventralis* esta incluida además, en el apéndice II de la Convención CITES de la cual la República Dominicana es signataria. Sin embargo, la captura y comercialización de esta especie es frecuente en todo el territorio nacional. El presente trabajo es el resultado de estudios realizados desde 1993 a 1995 en un área de anidamiento ubicada en el "Parque Nacional Jaragua", en el suroeste del país. Se ofrecen datos sobre los árboles seleccionados como lugares de anidamiento y la vegetación asociada a los mismos. Se presentan también datos sobre la altura, profundidad, diámetro de la entrada de los nidos, número de nidos activos y proporción de nidos saquacados. Se ofrecen resultados sobre densidad poblacional de la especie usando diferentes métodos.

PRELIMINARY STUDY ON THE NESTING OF THE HISPANIOLAN PARROT *AMAZONA VENTRALIS* AT JARAGUA NATIONAL PARK, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

JESÚS M. ALMONTE AND BRÍGIDO HIERRO

The endemic Hispaniolan Parrot, *Amazona ventralis*, is considered vulnerable by the Dominican Republic's Wildlife Department due to the destruction of its habitat and the trade of nestlings for the pet market. The decree that regulates the hunting and trade of the fauna in the country includes this species in a "permanent ban." *Amazona ventralis* is also included in appendix II of CITES, a convention to which the Dominican Republic is a signatory. Nevertheless, the capture and trade of this species is common through out the Dominican Republic. The present paper is the result of field studies from 1993 to 1995 on a nesting area at Jaragua National Park, in southwestern Dominican Republic. Data on trees selected as nest sites and the associated vegetation are presented, as well as height, depth and diameter of the nesting cavity's entrance, and the number of active nests and those robbed by poachers. Density of the population in the area was estimated based on methods discussed here.

VARIATION IN SONG AND SIZE IN CIRCUM-CARIBBEAN RUFOUS-BROWED PEPPERSHRIKES

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Rufous-browed Peppershrikes, *Cyclarhis gujanensis*, vary in size and song type in their circum-Caribbean range – which extends from southern Tamaulipas to Trinidad. Island populations have simpler songs (Isla Margarita) and are larger in size (Margarita and Isla Cozumel) than are mainland populations (Belize, Costa Rica, Venezuela). Mass varies from 20 to 40 grams (Venezuelan mainland versus the peppershrikes of Isla Margarita) and variation in number of syllable types (15 vs. 6) occurs similarly between the sites representing size differences in Venezuela. This peppershrike has 20-25 described races - many of which differ substantially in phenotype and song. Genetic assay may show, as with

other vireos, that several species are, in fact, involved.

EL GUARAGUAO DE BOSQUE Y LA CONSTRUCCIÓN DE LA PR #10: CONFLICTO DE USO POR TERRENOS FORESTALES ENTRE LA AUT. DE CARRETERAS Y UNA ESPECIE EN PELIGRO DE EXTINCIÓN

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El Guaraguao de Bosque *Buteo platypterus brunnescens* es una subespecie endémica, una de 2 especies de guaraguao en Puerto Rico. Existen poblaciones en los bosques de Rio construcción de la Carr, PR #10 a terrenos forestales en el Bosque de Rio Abajo, representa un claro conflicto por uso de espacio entre la Aut. de Carreteral y una especie en peligro de extinción. El conflicto de uso de terrenos forestales entre la Aut. de Carreteras y el Guaraguao de Bosque surge de un desconocimiento de los requisitos biológicos y de espacio previo a la fase de planificación y deseño y ahora de construcción de la PR #10. Sabemos que este conflicto se ha resuelto en detrimento de esta especie. Esto es así, ya que los 2.10 kms. de carretera en construcción irrumpen sobre al menos 2 territorios en habitat preferido de esta especie, inevitablemente destruyéndolo. El desalojo forzado levanta incertidumbre sobre la reubicación de parejas en otras áreas de bosque.

NESTING SITE HABITAT DESCRIPTION AND SPACE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PUERTO RICAN BROAD-WINGED HAWK

CARLOS A. DELANNOY AND ADRIANNE TOSSAS

The nesting site and space requirements of the Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus brunnescens* were assessed in Rio Abajo, Puerto Rico during the breeding season of 1994. The habitat of nine pairs was described according to the nest tree variables and to forest type (plantation and secondary forest). The hawks chose nest trees taller than the canopy, with a large diameter and crown. Nesting sites in plantations and secondary forest had similar vegetation structure. There were only significant differences in two structural variables (basal area of canopy trees and number of stems >32.1 cm dbh). Broad-winged Hawk nesting range averaged 41.0 ha. This range size was similar to home range estimates of the Ridgway's Hawk (*Buteo ridgwayi*), its ecological counterpart in Hispaniola, but smaller than Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*) home range in Puerto Rico and other *Buteo* species in North America. The smaller Broad-winged Hawk range could be related to its smaller body size, strong intra-specific competition for available space, high population density, and more abundant food resources. The ranges were aggressively defended against conspecifics, resulting in little or total absence of overlap.

JAMAICA DRY FOREST CONSERVATION: AN INVENTORY OF THE AVIFAUNA OF THE HELLSHIRE HILLS, PORTLAND RIDGE, AND BRAZILLETTO MOUNTAINS, JAMAICA, WEST INDIES

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A total of 16 weeks was spent working in the dry limestone forest of the Hellshire Hills, Portland Ridge, and the Brazilleto Mountains. To create an inventory of bird species, we found point counts more appropriate, as it gave a higher species diversity than did mist netting. No transect counts were performed as the terrain was sometimes impassable. Totals of 49, 34, and 42 species have been recorded in the Hellshire Hills, Portland Ridge, and Brazilletto Mountains, respectively. Also, totals of 22 and 11 species (mainly shore birds) were recorded within 200 m of the Hellshire Hill and Portland Ridge, respectively. The number of points needed to detect all species varied between habitat and may be a function of habitat size. Percentage detection and mean detection were calculated for all bird species recorded during point counts in all three habitats. Approximately four weeks were used for preparation and execution of educational activities. Slide and audio shows were given at three locations. Culminating activities for these presentations came in the form of bird-watches, games or craft.

LISTE DES OISEAUX DE GUADELOUPE, MARTINIQUE ET DE LEURS DEPENDANCES

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Au cours des 50 derniéres années, 238 espéces d'oiseaux ont été répertoriées en Guadeloupe et en Martinique. Cette liste ajoute 35 nouvelles espéces non mentionnées dans la littérature. Seize d'entre elles sont des espéces rares ou accidentelles. Dix huit d'entre elles sont des espéces introduites, principalement exotiques ou Psittacidés. La trent-ciquiéme est une nouvelle espéce de Trembleur *Cinclocerthia gutturalis* qui a été séparée du *Cinclocerthia ruficauda*. Cette accroissenment de plus de 15% du nombre d'espéces résulte principalement de l'augmentation du nombre d'ornithologues et de la prise compte d'espées introduites.

CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF GUADELOUPE, MARTINIQUE, AND THEIR OFFSHORE ISLANDS

PHILIPPE FELDMANN, ARNAUD LE DRU, PIERRE-JOSEPH BULENS, CLAUDIE PAVIS AND PASCAL VILLARD

In Guadeloupe and Martinique, 238 bird species have been recorded in the past 50 years. This checklist adds 35 species not recorded in previous publications. Sixteen of them are rare, vagrant or accidental. Eighteen are introduced species, mainly exotics and Psittacidae. The 35th species is a new species of Trembler, *Cinclocerthia gutturalis*, that has been separated from *C. ruficauda*. This increases by more than 15% the number of bird species for these islands. More birdwatchers and the addition of introduced species are the main reasons for this change.

RARE CENTER PROVIDES GRANT TO SCO

The **RARE Center for Tropical Conservation** has again provided the Society with a substantial grant to allow production and distribution of *El Pitirre* to Associate Members residing in the Caribbean. We gratefully acknowledge this important contribution and the continuing support from RARE.

BOOK REVIEWS

COMMON BIRDS OF SAN SALVADOR ISLAND, BAHAMAS, by Brian White. Bahamian Field Station, Ltd., San Salvador, Bahamas. With illustrations by David W. White. 57 pp. Color cover photograph, 33 black-and-white line drawings, 1 map. ISBN 0–935909–34–6.

This birding guide was primarily written for the Bahamian Field Station but is suitable for use all over San Salvador Island. This handbook helps to fill the gap of information concerning common birds of the San Salvador Island. White does not define "common" as birds occurring in large numbers but rather as birds that will be present in suitable habitat at the right time of the day (or night). Of the roughly 100 birds that White has observed, only 45 of the more common birds have been included in the guidebook. The guide gives tips on how to use clues such as habitat, time of day, and bird behavior to help identify birds in the field. The author encourages birdwatchers to take time to appreciate bird behavior as well as to take notes and make sketches. White also encourages the use of "pishing" to draw birds closer to the observer. He makes note in the individual species accounts of how responsive each bird is to "pishing."

Several sites are described and a useful map is provided to aid in locating those places. The Catchment Area Pond of the Bahamian Field Station is reported as having birds present "almost always." There are three possible routes that one can take to get to the catchment area, each of which is related in the guide. The Reckley Hill Pond Trail is characterized by mangroves, small labeled bushes and trees and Reckley Hill Pond! The author recounts how to get to the trail and, most importantly, how to return to the Bahamian Field Station campus. Cut Cay, in Grahams Harbor, can be accessed by boat or by wading through shallow water from North Point Peninsula. The author cautions wading across during high tide. In addition, general precautionary notes on speeding cars, dangerous precipices, and hostile plants are provided.

Generally speaking, White arranges the birds in the sequence used in Peterson's "A field guide to birds east of the Rockies" and Brudenell-Bruce's "The birds of New Providence and the Bahama Islands." White uses only common names and classifies birds as "resident," "winter visitor," or "summer visitor." Where possible he indicates whether a species breeds on San Salvador. The birds described include the Least Grebe, White-tailed Tropicbird, Antillean Nighthawk, Bahama Woodstar, Bahama Mockingbird, and the Indigo Bunting. Line drawings, by David White, accompany most descriptions of birds.

White does not offer his guide as a comprehensive field guide. As is the case in several other Caribbean islands, birders have to tote several field guides. Peterson's "A field guide to the birds east of the Rockies" and Brudenell-Bruce's "The birds of New Providence and the Bahama Islands" are recommended by Brian White as supplements.—**Garfield A. Brown**, *Grambling Cooperative Wildlife Project, P. O. Box 4290, Grambling State University, Grambling, Louisiana 71245, USA.*

VIEQUES Y SU FAUNA/VIEQUES WILDLIFE MANUAL, by Jorgé E. Saliva. United States Department of the Interior, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Boquerón, Puerto Rico. 1994. 243 pp. 14 x 21.5 cm. 115 color plates. Bibliography. Index (English, Spanish, and Latin names). Softcover.

With this manual the author hopes to encourage a local appreciation of the most commonly encountered wild fauna of Vieques Island, which lies just east of Puerto Rico. Jorgé Saliva is particularly qualified for that undertaking, as he has

worked on the seabirds of Vieques and Culebra islands for many years and is intimately acquainted with the ecosystems of these islands. The value of this well-designed and beautifully illustrated book goes far beyond the community of Vieques. It will be of interest to all students of West Indian birds.

The main body of the book is divided into four sections: Birds (96 species), Reptiles (15), Amphibians (3) , and Mammal (1). Birds occupy the bulk of the book with 191 pages devoted to this group. An additional section ("General Information") includes a bibliography and index of English, Spanish, and Latin names. For each species the bilingual text includes taxonomic information and a description of the species, along with its status, habitat, and additional comments. On the facing page, a full-color photograph of the subject is displayed. Most of these are lovely shots of wild birds.

Unfortunately, only a limited number of copies were produced through an arrangement with the U. S. Navy whereby they would be distributed free of charge to schools, government agencies, and private organizations primarily in Vieques. Those interested in obtaining a copy should contact Mr. Winston Martínez, U. S. Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Box 3021, FPO Miami, Florida 34051–3021; telephone: 809–865–4429.—JWW.

CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF GUADELOUPE, MARTINIQUE AND THEIR OFFSHORE ISLANDS/ LISTE DES OISEAUX DE GUADELOUPE, MARTINIQUE ET DE LEURS DEPENDANCES by Philippe Feldmann, Arnaud Le Dru, Claudie Pavis, and Pascal Villard. A.E.V.A., Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe, French West Indies. 16 pp.—This checklist adds 37 species to the 240 forms recorded in the subject area in the past 50 years. Scientific, French, Creole, and English names are provided for each species, as well as notes on status and distribution in the French West Indies (including St. Barthelemy and St. Martin). Copies can be obtained by contacting A.E.V.A.–Le Toto bois c/o M. Barré, Belair Desrozières, 97170 Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe, French West Indies. Tel./Fax: 590–95–08–19.—JWW.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The recently formed Neotropical Bird Club publishes its journal, ***Cotinga***, twice annually. The West Indies are included in the region covered by the journal, with a section entitled "Neotropical Notebook" devoted to recent records from the Caribbean and other neotropical areas. Recent issues have included reports on the status of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*; by Martjan Lammertink) in Cuba and the threatened birds of Cuba project. Each issue contains many color photographs, and a color painting of the Cuban Trogon (*Priotelus temnurus*) appeared on the February 1995 cover. Membership is open to all, and costs US$24/£12 per year (US$10 reduced rate for nationals resident in neotropical countries). To join or for further details contact the Membership Secretary, NBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, United Kingdom.

KEY AREAS FOR THREATENED BIRDS IN THE NEOTROPICS, by D. C. Wege and A. J. Long. £22.00. A unique site-based guide to the major threatened bird conservation hotspots in the neotropics, with concise information on the region's priority areas for globally threatened birds. Data are presented site-by-site for each country in a highly accessible format, which includes maps and tables. Available from BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge, CB3 0NA, United Kingdom.

ISLAND REPORT

REPORT FROM THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

BY PATRICIA E. BRADLEY
SCO Representative

The new Minister and government officers in the Department of the Environment are cooperating fully with the National Trust of the Cayman Islands in their efforts to secure and protect Crown land to the Trust. Due to the human population increase in Grand Cayman (18,000 in 1984 to an estimated 33,000 in 1995) terrestrial avian habitats are increasingly being developed into urban areas and this building boom is not expected to slow in the foreseeable future. The Trust, as the foremost NGO in conservation, has therefore directed its efforts to acquiring and protecting areas of pristine terrestrial and wetland habitat. Some of our recent accomplishments include:

- 240 acres of dry limestone woodland in central Grand Cayman, the Mastic, have been purchased by the Trust and protected under Trust Laws; further areas will be bought as funds allow and owners are prepared to sell. The Mastic Reserve is breeding habitat for all the endemic species of terrestrial birds. Money has been received from RARE to re-open an historic right-of-way as a walking path through the reserve which, with a trained guide, is revenue-raising with tourists and is an area used to expose young people to

environmental education.

- The Trust continues, with the help of the Department of the Environment, to seek ways to protect the Central Mangrove Swamp, which is regarded as a critical wetland. It seems that purchasing the whole area is the only long term solution. The government has passed a proposal for the creation of a second Ramsar site to include the Swamp border with the North Sound, a parcel of Crown land, and several cays.

- The Rookery in Little Cayman, site of an estimated 400 pairs of Red-footed Boobies (*Sula sula*) and 150 pairs of Magnificent Frigatebirds (*Fregata magnificens*), is now a Ramsar site and ownership has been transferred to the National Trust. Ground has been broken for an interpretive centre and viewing platform, and management plans for the colony and ponds are underway. Funding was received from the Governor's Fund, the British Government, local Trust members, and the National Trust Council.

  The Trust and concerned citizens on Little Cayman are monitoring government plans for a new site for the airport which may impact the booby population. Pressure is building to ensure the strip remains a short grass runway unsuitable for jet traffic.

- The Nature Trail at the Royal Botanic Park is open to tourists and residents. This area of managed secondary habitat is proving an excellent place to observe and photograph indigenous and migrant landbirds. An enclosure, funded by the World Wildlife Fund, is part of the iguana breeding programme. A monitoring system for this area is being established.

- A walking trail has been opened by the Trust on the border of the parrot reserve on the bluff, Cayman Brac. The population of the Cayman Brac Parrot (*Amazona leucocephala hesterna*) showed a slight increase during a 1994 survey.

- A count of breeding Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) by the Cayman Islands Bird Club revealed120 pairs and 53 juveniles.

The bad news is a pair of Shiny Cowbirds (*Molothrus bonariensis*) was observed at Hutland for a week – the first record.

WEST INDIAN INSTITUTIONS

MUSEO DE CIENCIAS NATURALES "FELIPE POEY"

FACULTAD DE BIOLOGÍA
UNIVERSIDAD DE LA HABANA

Creado en 1842 por el insigne naturalista cubano Don Felipe Poey y Aloy, es el museo de Ciencias Naturales más antiguo del país. Cuenta con numerosos peces descriptos y preparados por él, así como una amplia variedad de sus manuscritos originales sobre diversos aspectos de nuestra fauna autóctona.

En la actualidad están presentes la magnifica colección de conchas de moluscos creada por uno de sus discípulos, el Dr. Carlos de la Torre; la colección de lepidópteros del Dr. Salvador de la Torre, así como otras colecciones de invertebrados marinos, insectos y mas de 1700 pieles de aves.

En la sala de exposiciones pueden admirarse una amplia variedad de peces, reptiles, aves y mamíferos colectados en Cuba. Se destaca por su amplitud la exhibición de aves, donde están presentes todas las especies endémicas de nuestro territorio, así como especies amenazadas o en peligro de extinción, como el Carpintero Real (*Campephilus principalis*). Como hecho relevante puede citarse la presencia de la Gallinuela de Santo Tomás (*Cyanolimnas cerverai*), género y especies endémicas de Cuba y del que sólo existe un ejemplar disecado en el mundo.

Este museo, dada su antigüedad y contenido, constituye un interesante aporte al conocimiento de la biodiversidad faunística de nuestros tiempos pasados y actuales.

Servicios que ofrece el museo:

- Consultas especializadas en colecciones de insectos, moluscos y aves.
- Exposición permanente de carteles sobre investigaciones zoológicas.
- Ciclos de muestras trimestrales que abarcan grupos importantes de problemas biológicos y que se denominan:
  1) La migración de los animales
  2) El hombre y la naturaleza
  3) El endemismo
  4) El peligro de la extinción
- Conferencias
- Concursos sobre temas zoológicos

Horario: De Lunes a Viernes
De 9:00 AM a 4:00 PM
Lugar: Edificio Poey
Universidad de La Habana
Precio de entrada: 1.00 USD
Para más información, dirijase a:
Lic. Martín Acosta Cruz
Director
Museo "Felipe Poey"
Facultad de Biología
Universidad de La Habana
Teléfono: 537–32–9000; Fax: 537–32–1321

"FELIPE POEY" MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES

FACULTAD DE BIOLOGÍA
UNIVERSIDAD DE LA HABANA

Established in 1842 by the noted Cuban naturalist Don Felipe Poey y Aloy, this is the oldest museum of natural sciences in Cuba. The Museum contains numerous fish described and prepared by Poey, as well as a wide variety of his original manuscripts on diverse aspects of our native fauna.

At present a magnificent collection of mollusk shells made by Dr. Carlos de la Torre, one of Poey's pupils, the butterfly collection of Dr. Salvador de la Torre, as well as other collections of marine invertebrates, insects, and more than 1700 bird skins are housed in the Museum.

In the exhibit hall, visitors can view a wide variety of fish, reptiles, birds and mammals collected in Cuba. Of particular interest is the bird exhibit, where all Cuban endemic birds are displayed, as well as threatened and endangered species, like the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*). The Museum also contains the world's only mounted specimen of the Zapata Rail (*Cyanolimnas cerverai*), a genus and species endemic to Cuba.

This museum, given its long history and content, constitutes an interesting institution for learning about our past and present faunal biodiversity.

Among the services offered by the Museum are:

- Consultants specialized in insect, mollusk, and bird collections.
- Permanent expositions of posters describing zoological research.
- Changing (quarterly) exhibits that demonstrate important biological problems that during 1995–96 include:
  1) Animal migration
  2) Man and the environment
  3) Endemism
  4) The threat of extinction
- Conferences
- Talks on zoological subjects

Hours: Monday to Friday
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Location: Poey Building
Universidad de La Habana
Entrance fee: US$1.00
For more information, contact:
Lic. Martín Acosta Cruz
Director
Museo "Felipe Poey"
Facultad de Biología
Universidad de La Habana
Telephone: 537–32–9000; Fax: 537–32–1321

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE 1995 ANNUAL MEETING

The following resolutions were passed by the Society of Caribbean Ornithology at the August 1995 annual meeting in Trinidad:

1. The Society of Caribbean Ornithology resolves not to support the development of the Fairy Glade Trail in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica as proposed. The Society further urges that alternatives to the proposed trail be explored, such as the re-development of other existing trails, or the development of a new trail in less sensitive habitats.

   Our position is taken recognizing that the potential effects of increased access, such as human disturbance and the introduction of exotic species, may adversely effect the unique flora and fauna of the area. We also recognize that the proposed trail would dissect a particularly critical area which serves as one of the last remaining refuges in this part of the island. This refuge supports numerous species of birds and other life forms which significantly contribute to Jamaica's biological richness.
2. The Society of Caribbean Ornithology strongly urges authorities in the French Antilles to set bag limits, and change the opening date of the hunting season for columbids (pigeons and doves). Current studies indicate that Caribbean columbids, such as the Zenaida Dove (*Zenaida aurita*), are still breeding at the onset of the current hunting season. Such harvest prior to termination of the reproductive period can have detrimental effects on populations of game species not only in the French Antilles, but also on other Caribbean islands, due to the continual inter-island exchange. These effects include reproductive failure and reduction in the rate that juveniles are recruited into the harvestable population.

   The application of a bag limit, and the establishment of an opening date for the hunting season in the latter part of September, would be consistent with the management of columbids on neighboring islands. It would also promote the conservation of columbids, and a sustainable harvest of this valuable resource in perpetuity.
3. The Society of Caribbean Ornithology resolves not to support the proposal to construct a dam within the National Park System in Guadeloupe. The proposed project would

coincide with a designated Biosphere Reserve, inundate 15 hectares of rainforest, and result in the destruction of an additional 20 hectares. The proposed construction of the dam is incompatible with National Park goals: to afford an aesthetic experience while protecting natural ecosystems. Construction of the dam would also establish a precedent which contradicts existing conservation policy.

4. Whereas the Grenada Dove (*Leptotila wellsi*) is recognized as an endangered species; whereas the Grenada Dove is endemic to the island of Grenada; whereas the Grenada Dove was named the National Bird of Grenada by the Government of Grenada; and whereas the Grenada Dove population has drastically declined since 1987.

Therefore be it resolved that the Society of Caribbean Ornithology:

a. Encourages efforts to protect the Grenada Dove and its habitat;
b. Urges the Government of Grenada to protect the remaining habitat of this species, particularly the wooded hillsides of the Mount Hartman estate;
c. Encourages conservation education, public outreach, and continued research and management of the Grenada Dove; and
d. Is willing to offer technical assistance to work with the Government of Grenada on these items to whatever extent is possible.

5. Recognizing that the northeastern coast of St. Lucia, extending from the Marquis in the north to Dennery Knob in the south, contains an exceptionally high diversity of native flora and fauna; and recognizing that the last remaining populations of several species of birds now rare in St. Lucia (e.g., White-breasted Thrasher, *Ramphocinclus brachyurus*; St. Lucia Nightjar, *Caprimulgus otiosus*; St. Lucia House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*; and the Forest Thrush, *Cichlheminia lherminieri*) are now restricted to this area; be it resolved that the Society of Caribbean Ornithology fully supports the Grand Anse Advisory Committee in the establishment of the Grande Anse Estate as a National Park, to conserve these vital habitats and the viability of the unique species associated with them.

To submit resolutions for the next annual meeting please contact the chairman of the resolutions committee: Mr. Ernesto Garcia, Wildlife Biologist, Caribbean National Forest, USDA Forest Service, P. O. Box B, Palmer, Puerto Rico 00721.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Puerto Rican Ornithological Society has been activated. The Board of Directors consists of young and talented persons, including Carlos Ruíz (President), and Marelisa Rivera (Vice-president). For information, contact Raúl A. Pérez–Rivera, Colegia Universitario de Humacao, Estación Postal 428, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Humacao, PR 00633.

A formal **Trinidad and Tobago Rare Bird Committee** has been formed. The charters members are Dr. Floyd Hayes (Secretary), Richard ffrench, Ian Lambie, William L. Murphy, Victor Quesnal, and Graham White. For more information contact The Secretary, Department of Biology, Caribbean Union College, P. O. Box 175, Port of Spain, Trinidad, WI. Tel.: 809-662-2241/2(w); 645-6223(h); Fax: 809-662-1197; e-mail: cuc1844@aol.com

The second edition of William Murphy's, **Birder's Guide to Trinidad and Tobago**, is just about ready to go to press. This new edition will have spiral metal binding that allows it to lie flat, yet will have a cover that provides a spine on the bookshelf.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

27–31 March 1996 – **Cooper Ornithological Society**, Bahia Hotel, San Diego, California. (Barbara Kus or Abby Powell, Department of Biology, San Diego State University, San Diego, California 92182, U.S.A.; Telephone: 619-594-4357/594-1685; Fax: 619-594-5676/594-2035; bkus@sunstroke.sdsu.edu/apowell@perl.sdsu.edu).

31 March–5 April 1996 – **VI International Symposium on Avian Endocrinology**, Chateau Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada. (Dr. Robert J. Etches, Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1; Telephone: 519-824-4120; retches@aps.uroguelph.ca).

11–14 April 1996 – **Wilson Ornithological Society**, Grand Hotel, Cape May, New Jersey. (Pete Dunne, local chair).

19–22 May 1996 – **Annual Meeting of the Association of Systematics Collections**, Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland. (Amy Y. Rossman; Telephone: 301-

504-5364; Fax: 301-504-5810).

3-7 June 1996 – **Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution**, Washington, D.C. [Storrs Olson, NHB MRC 116 (Birds), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.; Telephone: 202-357-2031; Fax: 202-786-2328].

2–7 August 1996 – **Society of Caribbean Ornithology**, Nassau, Bahama Islands. (Jim Wiley, 2201 Ashland St., Ruston, Louisiana 71270, U.S.A.; Telephone: 318-274-2499; Fax: 318-274-3870).

13–17 August 1996 – **American Ornithologists' Union**, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho. (Peter Lowther, Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road at Lakeshore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60605, U.S.A.; lowther@fmnh.org).

20–24 August 1996 – **2nd International Symposium and World Congress on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural Science Collections**, St. Johns College, Cambridge, United Kingdom. (Chris Collins, Natural Sciences Congress '96, Geological Conservation Unit. Department of Earth Sciences, Downing St., Cambridge, CB2 3EQ, United Kingdom; Telephone: 0223-62522; Fax: 0223-60779).

29 September - 4 October 1996 – **6th International Behavioral Ecology Congress**, Australian National University, ACT, Australia. [Andrew Cockburn, Botany and Zoology, Australian National University, ACT, 0200, Australia; e-mail: isbe6@anu.edu.au].

2–5 October 1996 – **2nd Raptor Research Foundation International Conference on Raptors**, University of Urbino, Urbino, Italy. (Dr. Massimo Pandolfi, Insituto di Scienze Morfologiche, Via Oddi 21, 61029 Urbino, Italy; Telephone: 39-722-328033; Fax: 39-722-329655).

16-22 August 1998 - **XXII International Ornithological Congress**, Durban, South Africa. (Dr. Aldo Berruti, Department of Ornithology, Durban Natural Science Museum, Durban, South Africa; Fax: 27-31-262-6114; berruti@superbowl.und.ac.za).

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to bring to your attention, and to ask for your assistance on a project currently being undertaken by the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo. The West Indian Conservation Project has been established to provide a database for ongoing initiatives promoting the conservation of endangered animals throughout the West Indies, with which Bermuda is both historically and biotically linked. The ultimate goal is to provide a directory of the work being conducted both by individuals and by organisations which will serve as a reference, enabling conservationists and funders to recognise and prioritise threatened species and direct attention and/or funding to areas where it is most needed.

With this aim we are mailing a questionnaire to conservationists, researchers, funding agencies and local government agencies active in such projects in the region. The information obtained from this questionnaire will then be used to produce the directory, a copy of which will be sent out to all respondents. If you are interested in participating in this programme, we would be grateful if you would complete the enclosed questionnaire. We are trying to encourage as many respondents as possible, so if you know of any other appropriate target individuals or agencies please supply a contact name and address. Finally, if you are aware of any other efforts to establish a similar database, please let us know as we would be keen to promote a collaborative programme.

I look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Anne F . Glasspool Ph .D .
(Project Coordinator)
Bermuda Aquarium
Natural History Museum and Zoo
P .O . Box FL 145
Flatts FL BX, Bermuda
Tel: (809) 293-2727
Fax: (809) 293-3176

Questionnaire forms are at the end of this issue of *El Pitirre*

THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY (SCO): THE RESULTS OF A ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION, SOME IDEAS, AND A QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE MEMBERSHIP

FRANK F. RIVERA-MILÁN, ROSEMARIE GNAM, AND HERBERT A. RAFFAELE
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of International Affairs, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 860-ARLSQ, Arlington, Virginia 22203, U.S.A.

During the 1995 Annual Meeting held in Trinidad we had a round-table discussion about the future of the SCO. The discussion, in part, provided a follow-up to a paper published in *El Pitirre* (Vol. 8, No. 1, Pp. 8-10). Here we present a synopsis of the results of the round-table discussion, provide some additional ideas, and solicit, through a questionnaire, further input from the SCO membership. This questionnaire will help us in contacting a large number of members (hopefully the whole membership!), and will serve as a tool to prioritize future actions according to what we wish to accomplish as an organization primarily concerned with the conservation of birds and their habitats in the Caribbean region.

During the round-table discussion the following points were mentioned by one or more members:

(1) The need to increase the participation of local people in the annual meetings, not just amateur and professional ornithologists, but other persons representing other disciplines (e.g., environmental sciences, education, resource managers) and socioeconomic interests (e.g., ecotourism, developers, politicians) to make our meetings more relevant to the conservation of birds and their habitats in particular, and to the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources in general.

The Local Committee should become more involved in the coordination of the annual meeting. For example, the Local Committee should advertise the meeting and secure the participation of key persons from government and non-governmental organizations involved in important conservation issues (e.g., unregulated hunting, urban development, resource planning, nature reserves management).

(2) The development of policy statements to clarify our position regarding important conservation issues (e.g., the benefits and costs of ecotourism, bird trade, the establishment and management of natural reserves and buffer zones). The development of policy statements should involve the Executive Board in direct consultation with the Island Representatives and the active membership of the Society.

(3) The need of reaching a wide audience at national and regional levels with our conservation message. Why is the conservation of birds so important? What do we gain by spending our limited resources in bird conservation projects? How can the public help in conserving birds and their habitats? What is our position regarding ecotourism projects and, for example, the constructions of access roads and trails inside and outside natural reserves? Can we help in providing feasible alternatives to development projects?

It was agreed that *El Pitirre* should be our main channel of communication. However, we should also contact other newsletters and actively involve other local and regional organizations in our conservation efforts (e.g., CCA, CANARI, UNICA, NAAEE; see H. A. Raffaele. 1995. Building partnerships: ideas for expanded Society collaboration. *El Pitirre* 8(3):7). For example, the Local Committee may contact public or private TV and radio stations or may publish articles in magazines and newspapers to reach the public in general.

Moreover, each year, the SCO may give an award to a prominent person (say, the Minister of the Environment of the island in turn or the leader of an important NGO) for his or her contribution to the conservation of birds and their habitats. Needless to say, the local press should be formally invited to the ceremony, which might take place on a specific day dedicated to the discussion of local conservation issues with decision makers representing public and private organizations dealing with the environment.

As part of SCO public outreach efforts, it was suggested that a brochure be prepared with a simple mission statement, a directory of expertise, a document about the conservation and management of endangered and threatened bird species ("flagships") and their habitats. Also suggested was a 10-year anniversary document summarizing the achievements of the Society.

(4) The need of conducting fund raising activities to make the SCO more self-sustainable was also discussed, as was the idea of selling at the meeting T-shirts with our logo, bird stamps, drawings, posters, photos, books, field guides, and so forth.

In our opinion, the 1995 meeting at Trinidad was an excellent first step in becoming more interactive as members of a Society promoting the conservation of birds and their habitats in the region. We now need to sustain that momentum in preparation for taking a second step in the Bahamas. You can help by filling out and returning the attached questionnaire.

SCO QUESTIONNAIRE (1996)

INSTRUCTIONS.— Except when indicated, answer all the questions by selecting only one alternative per question. At the end of the questionnaire, please write your name, addresses, telephone, fax, and e-mail in the space provided. (The results of the questionnaire will be statistically analyzed and discussed in our next meeting in the Bahamas; the identity of the surveyed members will be kept confidential and will be used only for statistical purposes). *Return the questionnaire as soon as possible to:* Frank F. Rivera-Milán, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of International Affairs, 4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Suite 860-ARLSQ, Arlington, VA 22203, U.S.A.

1. How often should we hold meetings?
   A. Every year
   B. Every two years
   C. Every three years or more

2. When should we hold meetings?
   A. June
   B. July
   C. August
   D. September
   E. Other: _____

3. For how long should we hold meetings?
   (Note: excluding arrival and departure days, but including field trips).
   A. Three days
   B Four days
   C. Five days
   D. Six days
   E. Other: _____

4. Should we hold meetings jointly with other conservation organizations?
   A. Yes
   B. No
   C. Don't care

5. If you chose (A), indicate with how many and what size of organizations?
   A. One small organization (less than 150 participants
   B. Two small organizations (less than 300 participants)
   C. One large organization (more than 500 participants)
   D One small and one large organization (500-1000 participants)

6. How many SCO meetings have you attended since 1988?
   A. None
   B. One
   C. Two
   D. Three
   E. Four or more

7. Besides the SCO meeting, approximately how many meetings do you attend per year?
   A. None
   B. One
   C. Two
   D. Three
   E. Four or more

8. Besides your SCO membership, how many memberships do you hold in conservation organizations?
   A. None
   B. One
   C. Two
   D. Three
   E. Four or more

9. List one or two examples of other organizations that you are member of:

   _____

   _____

10. How much time should we dedicate to round-table discussions of local issues incorporating the participation of local decision makers?
    A. None
    B. Less than one day
    C. One day
    D. Two days
    E. More than two days

11. How much time should we dedicate to workshops and round-table discussions of regional issues?
    A. None
    B. One day
    C. Two days
    D. Three days
    E. Four days or more

12. How much time should we spend presenting papers?
    A. None
    B. One day
    C. Two days
    D. Three days
    E. Four days or more

13. Do you think we need concurrent sessions to reduce the time spent presenting papers?
   A. Yes
   B. No
   C. Don't care

14. How many field trips would you like to attend per meeting?
   A. None
   B. One
   C. Two
   D. Three
   E. Four or more

15. Should the SCO conduct fund raising activities during the meeting?
   A. Yes
   B. No
   C. Don't care

If yes, provide suggestions:

_____

_____

_____

16. Besides the money for registration and membership fees, how much money (US$) can you spend buying fund raising products (posters, T-shirts, field guides, stamps, etc.)?
   A. $5.00-$10.00
   B. $10.00-$20.00
   C. $20.00-$50.00
   D. More than $50.00
   E. I can't afford it.

17. Have you received support from the SCO to participate in meetings?
   A. Yes
   B. No

18. If you chose (A), indicate how many times have you received support from the SCO?
   A. One
   B. Two
   C. Three
   D. Four or more

19. Do you think you can raise matching travel funds to attend meetings?
   A. Yes
   B. No

20. If you chose (A), indicate approximately the level of matching?
   A. 10% ($50 of $500)
   B. 25% ($125 of $500)
   C. 50% ($250 of $500)
   D. I can cover my travel expenses
   E. I can't cover my travel expenses

21. Do you see the SCO mainly as a scientific organization?
   A. Yes
   B. No

22. Rank the level of success of the SCO in promoting the conservation of birds and their habitats in the Caribbean?
   A. High
   B. Moderate
   C. Poor
   D. Unsuccessful

23. Do you think the Columbid and Psittacid Working Groups serve a function in meeting SCO goals?
   A. Yes
   B. No
   C. Don't care

24. Do you think SCO should form a Migratory Bird Working Group?
   A. Yes
   B. No
   C. Don't care

25. Rank the following themes for workshops by the level of importance as: 0 = not important, 1 = low, 2 = moderate, 3 = high.

   _____ Conservation Education

   _____ Monitoring and Management Techniques

   _____ Landscape Ecology, Resource Planning, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

   _____ Basic Statistics and Elementary Survey Sampling Designs

   _____ Ecotourism, Public Outreach and Fund Raising Strategies

   _____ Environmental Impact Assessment and Decision Making Processes

If needed, rank and provide additional themes for workshops:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

26. Should the SCO have a Resolution Committee?
    A. Yes
    B. No
    C. Don't care

27. Should the SCO support specific projects that can serve as models for promoting the conservation of birds and their habitats?
    A. Yes
    B. No
    C. Don't care

28. If you chose (A), what kind of projects should be a priority for the SCO?
    (Note: select one alternative only).
    A. Research
    B. Inventories, Surveys, Monitoring
    C. Management
    D. Education
    E. Ecotourism
    F. Interdisciplinary (team work)

29. What do you think of the following policy for members requesting SCO support?

    (I) Applicants must work with other interested individuals/groups on their island/country to develop mutual interest and partnerships with the Society to achieve conservation goals and objectives. (II) Priority should be given to applicants who can raise matching travel funds or raise in-kind contributions on their island/country. (III) Applicants must provide a one-page statement on how their participation in the meeting will contribute to their professional development and to conservation programs they represent. (IV) Repetitive financing of the same individuals, despite meeting the mentioned requirements, will be discouraged through a gradual decline in the level of assistance.

    A. Agree
    B. Disagree
    C. Don't care

30. If you chose (B), with what of the above criteria do you disagree?
    (Note: select more than one, if needed).
    A. I
    B. II
    C. III
    D. IV
    E. All of them

Please provide the following information:

Name: _____

Organization
Address: _____

_____

_____

Tel.: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Home Address: _____

_____

_____

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Note: I would like to use this column to comment on various topics of interest to the Society's membership, assuming that I can make the editor's deadlines. In addition, I intend to provide a version in Spanish in the future. Additional comments or rebuttals are welcome.

Plugging the Caribbean Information Drain

To appreciate the difficulties faced by island residents trying to obtain information about the flora and fauna or ecosystems of their particular island(s), it is useful to realize that most of the information on these subjects resides outside of their island(s). In fact, with the exception of some universities, government agencies, and NGO libraries scattered throughout the region, much of this relevant information cannot be readily found in the Caribbean. Most of the published information is accessible in the academic libraries of North America and Europe and specimens are often only available in the continental museums and herbaria. Therefore it is not surprising that island residents are sensitive to this information drain from their island territories. To make matters worse, some visiting investigators have been insensitive to these concerns and have made no effort to "repatriate" the results of their island studies. Admittedly, in the past it was difficult for some foreign investigators to know just where or to whom to send the results of their island studies in the Caribbean. These problems, of course are not unique to the Caribbean, as developing nations throughout the tropics have routinely suffered this information drain. Obviously, the inaccessibility of this information delays both the appreciation of the native flora and fauna by island residents and subsequent conservation efforts.

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology was founded, in part, to provide a forum for the exchange of information relating to ornithology and conservation in an effort to improve the flow of information to and from the region and to facilitate exchange among island residents. The Society's annual meetings and our newsletter, *El Pittire* , all contribute to this effort. These efforts have enabled continental investigators and managers to present their island findings and experiences to some of the folks who might benefit most from these studies as well as enabling island residents to exchange valuable information among themselves. No longer do continental or island investigators and managers have the excuse that regional mechanisms are nonexistent for the exchange of information in the Caribbean. The Society's methods of communication have evolved over time from the publication of an irregularly issued journal (*Ornitología Caribeña*) to a regularly published newsletter, and annual meetings based on traditional 15 minute presentations, to meetings with a combination of traditional presentations, workshops, and round-table discussions. This evolution of the Society's information exchange format has been healthy and the trend towards more interactive meetings should be continued. The more interactive meeting format should enable us to move beyond the simple exchange of information to an emphasis on identifying its importance and how it might be applied.

The problem of locating the ornithological literature specific to an island territory has been partially solved by a computerized bibliography of Caribbean ornithology, compiled by Jim Wiley. Jim first presented the design and format of this bibliography at our annual meeting in August 1994, in Martinique. This massive undertaking which includes about 10,000 entries on computer diskette with cross references by key words, author's names, and titles will greatly facilitate our ability to identify authors and their studies conducted anywhere in the Caribbean. The major hurdle now facing this bibliography is finding a publisher willing to publish the bibliography and provide the necessary diskettes, and obtaining funding to complete publication. Jim has approached the executive board of the Society for backing of the bibliography. Given the importance of such a bibliography to our membership, I would hope that our board provides endorsement of Jim's valuable efforts, which are consistent with the Society's objectives. Once the bibliography is finally published we will need to develop mechanisms to enable island residents to easily obtain copies of the literature relevant to their island territories. These efforts will help the Society ensure that the ornithological and conservation information relevant to the Caribbean is available in the region.

Joe Wunderle

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology would like to acknowledge the donation made by the Fairfax Audubon Society (Virginia, USA) of used binoculars and a spotting scope to the Gosse Bird Club (Jamaica). The equipment was received in excellent condition and will help to promote birding activities in Jamaica.

The Fairfax Audubon Society is also interested in helping other Caribbean islands with similar donations (Gary Sielerman, personal communication). For further information contact: Frank F. Rivera-Milán (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of International Affairs, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 860-ARLSQ, Arlington, Virginia, USA; Tel: 703-358-2103; fax: 703-358-2849; e-mail: Frank Rivera@mail.fws.gov).

BAHAMA SWALLOW CONSERVATION PROGRAM

One of the Bahama Islands' three endemic species, the Bahama Swallow (*Tachycineta cyaneoviridis*), has been the subject of an experimental recovery effort. Although populations are thought to be stable, little is known of the species' biology and there is concern for its future. The Bahama Swallow breeds only in pine forests in the northern Bahama islands of Abaco, Andros, New Providence, and Grand Bahama. The swallow nests in cavities, usually woodpecker holes in dead pine trees. Unfortunately, pine forests are limited in the Bahamas and those small tracks are under increasing threat of logging and other uses.

As part of a conservation program for the swallow, 227 nest boxes have been placed at several sites in Grand Bahama, including farm fields, golf courses, mangrove forests, stands of dead pine trees, and an abandoned missile tracking base. This year three of the boxes were occupied, and contained an average of three eggs each. The incubation period was 15 days and the nestling period was about 22 days. One pair raised two broods during the year.

SCO ANNUAL MEETING
2–7 AUGUST 1996
NASSAU, BAHAMA ISLANDS

Society Treasurer, Rosemarie Gnam, and Society Representative for the Bahamas, Carolyn Wardle, recently met in Nassau to continue organizational plans for the 1996 annual meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology. They report the Local Committee consists of about 12 people, including both government and non-government representatives. The Bahamas National Trust [BNT] already has a beautiful design for the 1996 T-shirt, which depicts 6 Bahamian birds in color.

The Local Committee has interest in a workshop on habitat conservation and restoration efforts in the West Indies, as they feel that habitat loss and degradation are the Bahamas' major conservation threat.

The Society meeting will be held at the South Ocean Resort. Room rates for standard garden-view rooms are $60 per night, plus tax and room gratuities, or $30 per person for double-occupancy. There will be a breakfast and lunch package for $20 per person. The banquet will be held at the hotel for $30 plus tax per person with a cash bar. Most importantly, there is good birding on the hotel's grounds.

Announcements and Call for Papers for the 1996 meeting will be sent to SCO members in mid-February. We hope you will attend.

WEST INDIAN CONSERVATION PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE (Concluded)

Number of workers associated with project:

Time-frame of project:

Please see over .....

Please list any recently completed projects on threatened or endangered species in your island that you feel should be included in this directory.

Project	Project Leader	Address	Publication references
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Other conservation issues you feel need to be addressed:

Nomination of other appropriate target agencies:

Project Leader: .....

Address: .....

.....

Project Leader: .....

Address: .....

.....

WEST INDIAN CONSERVATION PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

Country: ..... Target Species: .....

Project Title: .....

Project Leader: ..... Agency: .....

Address: .....

Tel No. : ..... Fax No.: .....

Collaborating agencies: 1) ..... 2) .....

Address: ....

....

Tel. No.: ..... Fax. No.: ..... Tel. No.: ..... Fax. No.: .....

Project description (100 words max.):

Number of workers associated with project:

Time-frame of project:

Country: ..... Target Species: .....

Project Title: .....

Project Leader: ..... Agency: .....

Address: .....

Tel No. : ..... Fax No.: .....

Collaborating agencies: 1) ..... 2) .....

Address: ....

....

Tel. No.: ..... Fax. No.: ..... Tel. No.: ..... Fax. No.: .....

Project description (100 words max.):

CARIBBEAN POSTERS AVAILABLE

The CITES Conservation Treaty Support Fund (CTSF) has just published a beautiful poster entitled "Wild Treasures of the Caribbean," depicting sea turtles, birds, coral, and other endangered species of the Caribbean. The poster ties in with a brochure published by World Wildlife Fund/TRAFFIC USA as part of the "Buyer Beware" campaign that urges tourists and others not to buy endangered species or their products. The poster is beautiful and depicts Caribbean wildlife in a natural setting. Its design was done by the renowned wildlife artist, Mary Helsaple.

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology helped fund the production of this poster as part of the Society's public education effort. The idea for the poster and brochure was conceived at the 1992 CITES Training Workshop for English-speaking Caribbean nations.

Posters will be made available for free to the CITES Management Authorities on each Caribbean island. SCO Island Representatives can contact the CITES Management Authority on their island to help with distribution of the posters. A limited number of posters is available to the public to help raise funds for CITES and our Society. The Society of Caribbean Ornithology will receive a 10% profit from sales of the poster. Society members can obtain the poster by sending a check or postal money order for $25 (US) to the Conservation Treaty Support Fund (CTSF), 3705 Cardiff Road, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815 USA. Please indicate that you are a SCO member on your order. Discounts are available for wholesale purchases (20 posters or more). For further information, contact George Furness, Jr. at (301) 654-3150 or by fax at (301) 652-6390. PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE SCO IN THIS FUND-RAISING PROJECT!!!!

SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

The SCO has produced a t-shirt to promote the Society and help raise much needed funds toward the Society's annual operating costs. The t-shirt depicts the Society's logo, the Pitirre or Gray Kingbird, on a light blue shirt. Large and X-large shirts are available. The cost of the shirt is $15 (U.S.), which includes shipping costs. Please purchase a shirt today and help support the Society! The shirt makes a great gift for Caribbean birdwatchers. Send your order and a check or postal money order made payable to the Society of Caribbean Ornithology to Rosemarie Gnam, Treasurer SCO, 13 East Rosemont Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301, U.S.A. Please don't miss out on this opportunity to promote the Society!

ORCHIDS OF JAMAICA

BY ANCILE GLOUDON AND CICELY TOBISCH

Orchids of Jamaica brings together over 8 years of methodical collection of plants from various parts of the island and over 30 and 15 years growing experience by Gloudon and Tobisch, respectively. Detailed, clear, and precise descriptions are provided for over one-half of the more than 220 orchid species that occur in Jamaica. All are based on original observations of freshly collected plants. Equally important and welcome inclusions are a glossary, which the amateur orchid collector will find particularly useful, as well as an account of the topography of the island home and habitats of the various genera and species selected by the authors. A series of fine line drawings and over 90 colour photographs are display the natural beauty and splendor of these plants.

Orchids of Jamaica has been written to heighten an awareness of the diversity and beauty of the Jamaican orchid flora and is intended for the specialist and orchid hobbyist alike. The long-awaited book is available through the Jamaica Orchid Society at US$35.00 per copy; shipping and handling – 20%. Freight will be by surface mail, unless the customer is willing to pay air freight and other charges. You may place your orders by fax at 809–978–6888. For further information, do not hesitate to contact the Society President, Claude Hamilton by telephone at 809–927–6713 or 809–977–2668.

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