

EL PITIRRE

Society of Caribbean Ornithology

Spring 1995

Vol. 8, 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.

EDITOR: James W. Wiley, 2201 Ashland St., Ruston, Louisiana 71270, U.S.A.

ASSISTANT EDITORS: Chandra Degia and Garfield Brown, Grambling Cooperative Wildlife Project, P.O. Box 4290, Grambling State University, Grambling, Louisiana 71245, U.S.A.

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

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

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.

CONTENTS

TURKEY VULTURE: A DANGEROUS STRIKE RISK FOR AIRCRAFT. <i>Esteban Godínez</i>	2
REGISTRO DE UNA POBLACIÓN DE GRULLAS (<i>GRUS CANADENSIS</i> <i>NESIOTES</i>) EN LA PROVINCIA DE SANCTI SPIRITUS. <i>Hiram González, Pedro Blanco, Francisco Morera</i> y <i>Delia Hernández</i>	3
NUEVO REGISTRO DE COCO ROJO <i>EUDOCIMUS RUBER</i> (AVES: TRESKIORNITIDAE) PARA CUBA. <i>Pedro Blanco, Francisco</i> <i>Morera y Marcos Echevarría</i>	3
A CUBAN TODY (TODIDAE: <i>TODUS MULTICOLOR</i>) CAPTURED NEAR HAVANA CITY. <i>Esteban Godínez and Pedro Blanco R.</i>	4
FRUITS OF JOCUMA (<i>MASTICHODENDRUM FOETIDISSIMUM</i>) AS FOOD ITEM OF PIGEONS AT ZAPATA SWAMP, CUBA. <i>E. Godínez and</i> <i>R. Oviedo</i>	5
SEGUNDA LIBERACIÓN EXPERIMENTAL DE PALOMAS SABANERAS EN CIDRA, PUERTO RICO. <i>Carlos R. Ruiz-Lebrón, Daniel J.</i> <i>Galán-Kercadó y Raúl A. Pérez-Rivera</i>	5
AFRICANIZED HONEYBEES IN THE GREATER ANTILLES. <i>Francisco J.</i> <i>Vilella</i>	7

TURKEY VULTURE: A DANGEROUS STRIKE RISK FOR AIRCRAFT

ESTEBAN GODINEZ

Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Academia de Ciencias de Cuba,
Apartado Postal 8010, Código Postal 10 800, Habana 8, Cuba

The Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) has a wide range in the Caribbean region, including the Cuban archipelagos, Jamaica, Hispaniola, southwestern Puerto Rico, and the northwestern Bahamas, as well as North, Central, and South America, including Trinidad (Bond 1980). The biology of this species in Cuba has been reported by Centella (1916), Ramsden (1916), San Martín (1916), among others. Other studies on this species have recently been conducted in Mexico (Acosta et al. 1991) and Puerto Rico (Santana et al. 1986a, 1986b).

In Cuba, there is concern about the potential of Turkey Vulture strikes on aircraft. The Turkey Vulture has been seen at different Cuban military airfields (Sierra 1981), so it is included in some safety air-navigation reports (A.I.C. 1985, Wotzkow 1984, Wotzkow and Vicente 1985). Also, its flight activity and abundance were analyzed at an airport in western Cuba (Godínez et al. 1988).

Here I analyze the potential of Turkey Vulture-aircraft strikes in Cuba, based on the vulture's distribution, abundance, and general behavior, and consider control methods.

Garrido and García (1975) noted that the Turkey Vulture occurs in all Cuban regions, except in aquatic habitats, and that it has been frequently found in cities. Wotzkow and Wiley (1988) estimated a density of 0.06 birds/ha (0.6 birds/square km) as a result of 11 surveys along 670.5 km of the most important Cuban highway. Because of its social behavior, this density would be higher in feeding and roosting sites. S. Cubillas (pers. comm.) has reported two such social aggregations at the Cuban Zoo (in Havana City), where about 50-80 vultures were counted in a single group. In such areas, vulture densities would be around 80 birds/square km.

Abundance levels may change with respect to soaring altitudes and diurnal periods (Godínez et al. 1988), so it is important to know the flight activity to avoid a collision. Critical periods are mainly when vultures leave their roosts in the morning, because their early flights would be hazardous to airplanes flying at low altitudes. Another critical period is when vultures display their maximum flight activity, generally from 13:00 to 14:00 hrs. Typically, the vultures soar at altitudes of from 1-100 m (Godínez et al. 1988). However, Wotzkow and Armensol (1991) have seen *Cathartes aura* soaring as high as 1,700 m in their surveys made from aircraft.

Hunt (1976) estimated the probability of a bird strike on an aircraft flying through an airspace with respect to the density of birds per unit area (P[D]). Although the probability of a vulture-aircraft strike is low, one must consider the actual frontal area of big commercial airplanes, such as B-747, IL-86, TU-144, and other turbo-jets. Furthermore, when airplanes take-off or land, they are at low altitude, where Turkey Vulture densities are greatest and therefore the strike risks are highest. For instance, P[D] will be equal to 0.00093 with only a density of 1 bird/square km on an aircraft with a frontal area of 93 sq m at an altitude of 100 m.

No effective control method exists for Turkey Vultures. Although several collisions of Turkey Vultures with aircraft have occurred in Cuba, we do not have rigorous statistical data on air strikes. Thus, adequate aircraft-vulture collision data are unavailable. Fortunately, no commercial aircraft crashes resulting from vulture strikes are yet known, although there is a good possibility for such an incident.

LITERATURE CITED

- Acosta, M., L. Mujica, C. Juárez, and E. Jimenez. 1991. Consideraciones ecológicas sobre la comunidad de aves carroñeras de Cuba y México. II Simposio de Zoología, Resúmenes: 82.
- A.I.C. 1985. Sistema de información sobre el peligro aviario (AD José Martí). Serv. Inf. Aeronáutica, C 02/85, 01 Feb. 4 pp.
- Bond, J. 1980. Birds of the West Indies. Fourth American Edition. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 256 pp.
- Centella, J.F. 1916. Contra la destrucción del aura. Mem. Soc. Cubana Hist. Nat. "Felipe Poey" 2(2):59-73.
- Godínez, E., M. Sierra, H. González, M. Alvarez, and J.L. Hernández. 1988. Abundancia relativa y actividad de vuelo de *Cathartes aura* en un aeródromo. I Simp. Zoológica, Resúmenes.
- Hunt, F.R. 1976. The probability of bird-aircraft collisions based on radar data. NRC Associate Committee on Bird Hazards to Aircraft, Field Note 74, Ottawa, Canada. 19pp.
- Ramsden, C.T. 1916. El aura tñosa *Cathartes aura* (Linn.). Resultado de experimentos hechos para probar si propaga enfermedades por la via digestiva. Mem. Soc. Cubana Hist. Nat. "Felipe Poey" 2(5):174-178.
- San Martín, J. 1916. Sobre si el aura tñosa es útil o nociva. Mem. Soc. Cubana Hist. Nat. "Felipe Poey" 2(1):29-38.
- Santana, E., G.A. Potter, and S.A. Temple. 1986a. Status and seasonal patterns of abundance of turkey vulture in Puerto Rico. J. Field Ornithol. 57(3):236-237.
- Santana, E., G.A. Potter, and S.A. Temple. 1986b. Home range and activity patterns of turkey vulture in Puerto Rico. Carib. J. Sci. 22(3-4):175-177.
- Sierra, M. 1981. Incidencia de aves en los aeropuertos de las FAR. Estudio preliminar. I Congreso Nac. Cien. Biol., Resúmenes:188.

Turkey Vultures and aircraft in Cuba (continued)

- Wotzkow, C. 1984. Situación y perspectivas del control de aves en el aeropuerto internacional "José Martí." II Conf. Seguridad Aeronáutica. Resúmenes:113-125.
- Wotzkow, C., and M.T. Armensol. 1991. Censos aéreos del Auro Tiñosa, *Cathartes aura aura* (Aves: Cathartidae): consideraciones sobre su actividad y conducta de vuelo en dependencia del biotopo sobrevolado. II Simp. Zool.

Resúmenes:89.

- Wotzkow, C., and D. Vincente. 1985. Proyecto para la reducción del peligro aviario mediante los servicios de información aeronáutica. III Conf. Seguridad Aeronáutica, Resúmenes:74-76.
- Wotzkow, C. and J.W. Wiley. 1988. Turkey Vulture surveys in Cuba. *J. Raptor Res.* 22(1):3-7.

REGISTRO DE UNA POBLACION DE GRULLAS (*GRUS CANADENSIS NESIOTES*) EN LA PROVINCIA DE SANCTI SPIRITUS

HIRAM GONZÁLEZ¹, PEDRO BLANCO¹, FRANCISCO MORERA² Y DELIA HERNANDEZ²

¹Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Academia de Ciencias de Cuba;

²Empresa para la Protección de la Flora y la Fauna, Jobo Rosado, Sancti Spiritus

La Grulla (*Grus canadensis nesiotes*) es una subespecie endémica de Cuba considerada en peligro de extinción a causa de la considerable disminución detectada en sus poblaciones en los últimos años. Su limitada distribución actual en el Archipiélago cubano, está restringida a pequeñas poblaciones ubicadas en las regiones de: Guanés, Pinar del Río; Los Indios-Itabo, en La Isla de la Juventud, Las Salinas en la Ciénaga de Zapata en la provincia de Matanzas, en la porción central de Camaguey y cayos del norte de la propia provincia (Garrido y García, 1975, Catálogo de las Aves de Cuba; González y García, 1989, Aves Endémicas en: Nuevo Atlas Nacional de Cuba. Sec XI: Fauna, Inst. Geod. - Cart. y Geografía.

En una visita efectuada el 12 de octubre de 1992, a la localidad de La Ciénaga de las Guayaberas ubicada entre los 22° 21' N y 79° 08' W en la costa norte de la provincia de Sancti Spiritus, se registró un total de 11 individuos de esta especie en un recorrido de aproximadamente 8 km, a través

de las sabanas cenagosas temporalmente inundadas de la región. Las Grullas solo se observaron en pequeños grupos (1-3 ind.), con una frecuencia de aparición entre uno y otro registro de 40 minutos aproximadamente.

Se verificó además que los desplazamientos locales de esta población, están asociados principalmente a dos sitios importantes: Cayo Bomba y Cayo Llana, los que constituyen sitios de refugio, alimentación y nidificación de la especie en el área. La información expuesta en la presente contribución demuestra que la población de Grullas existentes en la región húmeda de La Ciénaga de las Guayaberas pudiera constituir una de las mayores de esta subespecie en el archipiélago cubano lo que otorga al área un valor de singular importancia en la región del Caribe y exige de los esfuerzos e inmediata gestión para declarar el área Refugio de Fauna, donde se apliquen las regulaciones y estrategias de conservación que requiere dicha categoría.

NUEVO REGISTRO DE COCO ROJO *EUDOCIMUS RUBER* (AVES: TRESKIORNITHIDAE) PARA CUBA

PEDRO BLANCO R.¹, FRANCISCO MORERA² Y MARCOS ECHEVARRIA²

¹Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Academia de Ciencias de Cuba;

²Empresa para la Protección de la Flora y la Fauna, Jobo Rosado, Sancti Spiritus

El 19 de octubre de 1993, durante la realización de un viaje de investigación con el objetivo de evaluar las comunidades de aves acuáticas asociadas a los cayos de piedra del norte de la provincia de Sancti Spiritus ubicados entre los 79° 15' N y 22° 25' W, se observaron tres individuos adultos de Coco Rojo en la región costera ubicada entre los Cayos Salinas y La Hermita. Las aves volaban dirección sureste hacia la costa.

Un día antes de nuestra observación algunos pescadores de la zona nos habían alertado de la existencia de un grupo de 20 individuos de Coco Rojo en la región, los que habían sido

observados varios días a mediados del mes de agosto de 1993 en lagunas situadas en el manglar costero, al oeste de Playa Victoria.

Esta contribución, constituye el segundo registro de la especie *Eudocimus ruber* para la región norte de la provincia de Sancti Spiritus puesto que con anterioridad había sido observada por N. Viñas en Caguanes y reportado por O. H. Garrido y F. García (1975, Catálogo de las Aves de Cuba).

La información expuesta en el presente trabajo y el reciente registro de la ubicación de la mayor población de

Grullas (*Grus canadensis*) registrada en los últimos 20 años (23 inds) en la provincia reportado por González y col. 1992, demuestra que la región norte de Sancti Spiritus y en particular el sector costero comprendido entre el Estero Real y Playa

Jucaro corresponde a un humedal de singular valor natural e importancia para Cuba, lo que exige de su conocimiento y adecuada conservación.

A CUBAN TODY (TODIDAE: *TODUS MULTICOLOR*) CAPTURED NEAR HAVANA CITY

ESTEBAN GODINEZ AND PEDRO BLANCO R.

*Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Academia de Ciencias de Cuba,
Apartado Postal 8010, Código Postal 10 800, Habana 8 Cuba*

The endemic Cuban Tody (*Todus multicolor*) is a common bird in Cuba and the Isle of Youth (Isle of Pines), where it inhabits forest and woodland (Garrido and García 1975). The "Pedorrera" or "Cartacuba," one of the "three jewels of Cuban ornithology" (García 1980), is a favorite bird for foreign birdwatchers, who seek it in the Zapata Swamp, La Guita, and other favorite birding areas in Cuba. *Todus multicolor* has been reported from several localities in western Cuba (Garrido and Schwartz 1968, Garrido 1980, González et al. 1990, González et al. 1992), including within Havana City province; e.g., National Zoological Park, where it was once observed (S. Cubillas, pers. comm.). However, it has not yet been reported at the National Botanical Garden, near Havana City (Acosta et al. 1984, Acosta y Mugica 1990).

A Cuban Tody was heard on 11 November 1992 and captured the following day at "Casa Amarilla" (23° 8' lat. N y 82° 18' long. W), about 7 km east of downtown Havana City and 1 km from the town of Alamar. The area is characterized as a hill side ("Loma San Pedro"), with the dominant vegetation consisting of shrubs, isolated trees, herbaceous plant cover, and a relatively old mango plantation. In general, the vegetation is degraded secondary growth (R. Oviedo, pers. comm.). Other bird species (22) were recorded during mist-net sampling, observations in the vicinity of the nets (8), and at random from 11–13 November 1992. All birds were observed from sunrise (07:15 h) to noon.

The captured Cuban Tody had the following measurements: weight—6.0 g; wing chord—44 mm; tail—31 mm; tarsus—19.3 mm; and culmen—15.0 mm. These measurements do not differ from those of other Cuban Tody specimens, except that of the tarsus, which was something larger compared with other individuals from elsewhere (17 mm; Godínez et al., in press). After measurements were taken, the bird was set free at the point of capture.

This record represents the nearest observation of a Cuban Tody to Havana City and perhaps finding this species in such close proximity to the city is a good sign that local bird protection efforts are having a positive effect. We recom-

mend that additional efforts be made to enhance management of the area for birds.

LITERATURE CITED

- Acosta, M., M.E. Ibarra, and T. Peterson. 1984. Caracterización y actividad de la ornitocenosis del Jardín Botánico Nacional. *Rev. Jardín Bot. Nac.* 5(2):99-132.
- Acosta, M., and L. Mugica. [1990]. Aves del Jardín Botánico Nacional. Facultad de Biología, Univ. de La Habana. 50 pp.
- García, F. 1980. Las aves de Cuba. Especies endémicas. La Habana, Editorial Gente Nueva. 103 pp.
- Garrido, O.H. 1980. Los vertebrados terrestres de la Península de Zapata. *Poeyana* 203. 149 pp.
- Garrido, O.H., and F. García. 1975. Catálogo de las aves de Cuba. La Habana, A.C.C., Inst. Zool. 149 pp.
- Garrido, O.H., and A. Schwartz. 1968. Anfibios, reptiles y aves de la Península de Guanahacabibes, Cuba. *Poeyana* 53. 68 pp.
- Godínez, E., H. González, P. Blanco, D. Rodríguez, M. Acosta, B. Sánchez, A. Pérez, L. Mugica, and J.L. Hernández. In Press. Morphometric data from birds captures by mist nets in western Cuba: Permanent residents.
- González, H., E. Godínez, P. Blanco, and A. Pérez. 1992. Evaluación ornitológica de las comunidades de aves en dos localidades de la Reserva de la Biosfera de Guanahacabibes durante la migración otoñal. En 1992 Annual Meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology, Program and Abstracts: 11-12.
- González, H., J. Sirois, M.K. McNicholl, P.B. Hamel, E. Godínez, R.D. McRae, M. Acosta, D. Rodríguez, C. Marcos, and J. Hernández. 1990. Preliminary results of a cooperative birdbanding project in the Zapata Swamp, Cuba, January 1988. *Can. Wildl. Serv. Progr. Notes* 187. 8 pp.

FRUITS OF JOCUMA (*MASTICHODENDRUM FOETIDISSIMUM*) AS FOOD ITEM OF PIGEONS AT ZAPATA SWAMP, CUBA

E. GODINEZ Y R. OVIEDO

*Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Academia de Ciencias de Cuba,
Apartado Postal 8010, Código Postal 10800, Habana 8, Cuba*

Since 1988 we have used a combination of mist-net captures, counts, and vegetation measurements to evaluate the avifauna and its habitat at the Zapata Swamp (González et al. 1990). The White-crowned Pigeon (*Columba leucocephala*) has frequently been seen there during our fieldwork in different sampling localities. Although this pigeon was not trapped at the Zapata study area before February 1992, at that time two pigeons were captured, suggesting an increase in numbers of birds, perhaps related to feeding activities. White-crowned and Plain (*Columba inornata*) pigeons were observed eating fruits of jocuma (*Mastichodendrum foetidissimum*). Also, a White-crowned Pigeon regurgitated several jocuma fruits while it was being banded and measured at Zapata Swamp (H. González, pers. comm.). Jocuma trees are abundant in the new sampling localities (Bermeja, El Brinco, Caleta del Toro y Caleta Buena). There was a good fruit crop of this species during this capture period. Jocuma's fruits have a relatively high biomass, so this component of semi-deciduous forest could play an important role as food during the dry season in

the Zapata Swamp. Fruits of *Bursera simaruba*, *Ficus* spp., *Bumelia salicifolia*, and *Exothea paniculata* were also present in the forest, although pigeons were not observed feeding on them during our study period. Godinez (1992) has recorded about 20 food items of White-crowned Pigeon in Cuba, but mostly during the rainy season.

LITERATURE CITED

- Gonzalez, H., J. Sirois, M. K. McNicholl, P. B. Hamel, E. Godinez, R. D. McRae, M. Acosta, D. Rodriguez, C. Marcos, and J. Hernandez. 1990. Preliminary results of a cooperative bird-banding project in the Zapata Swamp, Cuba, January 1988. *Can. Wildl. Serv. Progr. Notes*, 187. 8 pp.
- Godinez, E. 1992. Situación de las poblaciones de *Columba leucocephala* (Aves: Columbidae) en Cuba entre 1979 y 1987. Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática. 89 pp. (Unpublished).

SEGUNDA LIBERACION EXPERIMENTAL DE PALOMAS SABANERAS EN CIDRA, PUERTO RICO

CARLOS R. RUIZ-LEBRÓN¹, DANIEL J. GALÁN-KERCADÓ¹ Y RAÚL A. PÉREZ-RIVERA²

¹Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00906 y

²Universidad de Puerto Rico, Departamento de Biología, Humacao, Puerto Rico 00791

La Paloma Sabanera o Ceniza (*Columba inornata*) es un ave mediana de aproximadamente 320 gramos de peso y unas 15 pulgadas de longitud. Esta especie es endémica de las Antillas Mayores y se considera amenazada en toda su distribución (Pérez-Rivera 1990). La subespecie de Puerto Rico (*C. i. wetmorei*) está concentrada principalmente en la parte centro-este de la isla desde Gurabo hasta Aibonito. Los números poblacionales del ave han fluctuado a través de los años en el área de Cidra y pueblos circundantes (Pérez-Rivera y Ruiz Lebrón 1992, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1982). Los estimados más recientes tienden a indicar que quedan en la isla unos 500 individuos (Ruiz-Lebrón et al. 1994). El hábitat de esta especie se encuentra totalmente en terrenos privados (Ruiz-Lebrón y Pérez-Rivera 1991). Los principales problemas de la Paloma Sabanera son: la destrucción de hábitat, la cacería clandestina y el robo de pichones (Pérez-Rivera y Collazo 1976; Pérez-Rivera 1989, 1990). Dado los diversos problemas del ave en el estado silvestre, en el 1983 se decide comenzar un programa para propagar la especie en cautiverio con fines de utilizar la progenie para reintroducirla en áreas protegidas de Puerto Rico (Conser y Pérez-Rivera

1988). Para este propósito se establece un acuerdo cooperativo entre la Universidad de Puerto Rico (Campus de Humacao), el Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales de Puerto Rico y el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos. Para el 1989 se habían producido más de 100 pichones de sabaneras a partir de 20 fundadores traídos de Cidra (Pérez-Rivera 1989). Para ese mismo año ya contábamos con seis parejas produciendo pichones de manera natural. Un total de 27 de las aves procreada fueron criadas por estas parejas.

El 1 de marzo de 1993, 10 palomas (5 de cada sexo) criadas en cautiverio por sus propios padres, fueron llevadas a la jaula de liberación en las facilidades de la Farmacéutica Smithkline Beecham en Cidra, Puerto Rico. Las palomas estuvieron un período de acondicionamiento de cinco semanas para: (1) reconocer y alimentarse de frutos naturales, (2) acostubrase al clima de Cidra, (3) acostubrase a los transmisores colocados en su espalda y (4) adquirir confianza al área de liberación. El 5 de abril de 1993 se abrió la puerta para que salieran 8 de las 10 palomas al estado silvestre. Las 2 restantes se devolvieron al aviario de Humacao debido a la

Tabla 1. Resultados del segundo grupo experimental de Palomas Sabaneras liberadas en Cidra, Puerto Rico.

Status	Liberadas	Devueltas	Cazadas	Depredadas	Desbandadas ¹
Mano	7	3 ²	0	3	1
Nodrizas	2	2	0	0	0
Natural	7	0	2	2	3
Total	16	5	2	5	4
Porcentaje	100	31.2	12.5	31.3	25.0

¹Fuera del alcance del equipo de radiotelemetría.

²Una de estas palomas se liberó sin transmisor.

pérdida de más de un 20% del peso corporal. Quince minutos después de haber abierto la puerta todas las palomas abandonaron la jaula. Estas comenzaron a comer de inmediato alimento natural en los árboles aledaños a la jaula y en áreas provistas por el personal técnico.

Durante la primera semana, la mayoría de las palomas se mantuvieron cerca la jaula de vuelo sin entrar a la misma (entre 50-150 m). La segunda semana se observaron 2 de los machos a más de 500 m de la jaula junto a otras Palomas Sabaneras silvestres. Para esta misma fecha perdimos dos palomas posiblemente debido a la captura de éstas por parte de Guaraguas (*Buteo jamaicensis*). Luego de la quinta semana, la mayoría de las palomas liberadas se habían establecido a una distancia entre 500 a 1000 m de la jaula de vuelo. Una de estas palomas (un macho) fue observada por varios días junto a otra paloma silvestre (posiblemente una hembra). Esta pareja se observó más tarde cargando material para construir un nido. En resumen, luego de tres meses de monitoreo, cinco de las ocho palomas liberadas pudieron sobrevivir. De estas cinco, al menos dos machos fueron observados con parejas silvestres durante este período.

A finales del 1993 construimos una segunda jaula de igual tamaño (9 x 3 x 3 m) contigua a la primera. Esto se hizo con el propósito de liberar un mayor grupo de Palomas Sabaneras. En 15 de febrero de 1994 se transportaron un grupo de 18 palomas a la jaula de vuelo en Cidra. Se escogieron para el grupo 10 machos y 8 hembras. A diferencia del primer grupo liberado éste consistió de: ocho palomas criadas por sus propios padres (**natural**), dos criadas por Palomas Collarinas (*Streptopelia roseogrisea* var. *risoria*) (**nodriza**) y ocho criadas a mano (**mano**). El grupo fue examinado para enfermedades y parásitos antes de llevarlos a Cidra. En cada jaula se distribuyeron palomas representantes de cada grupo. Al igual que el grupo anterior, se les proveyó a las palomas alimento compactado y natural (17 especies de plantas). Durante los primeros tres días la mayoría de los palomas comenzaron a comer alimento natural. Sin embargo, hubo

palomas que se mantuvieron comiendo alimento compactado durante todo el período de estudio. Entre el alimento natural ofrecido, las palomas tuvieron preferencia por: dama de día (*Cestrum diurnum*), camasey (*Miconia racemosa*), yagrumo macho (*Schefflera morototoni*) y palma real (*Roystonea borinquena*), los cuales son los preferidos también por las palomas silvestres. Durante las cinco semanas las palomas fueron monitoreadas en su comportamiento. Se observaron diferencias en el mismo comparado con el grupo anterior, principalmente en los machos, donde las peleas por territorio fueron menos frecuentes. Muchas aves de naturaleza mansa permitieron que el personal pudiera acercarse a ellas sin que se asustaran. En ocasiones algunas de las palomas se posaron en el hombro o la mano del técnico que les ofrecía comida durante las mañanas. En la tercera semana se les instaló el transmisor a 15 Palomas Sabaneras. Una semana más tarde se devolvió una de las palomas criadas a mano a Humacao por haber perdido más de un 20% de su peso y presentar un comportamiento demasiado manso.

El 15 de marzo de 1994 las restantes 17 palomas fueron liberadas. En 16 de marzo, Rojo 141 (**nodriza**) fue recuperada en el patio de una vivienda en Cidra y regresada a Humacao. Esta mansa paloma fue capturada a mano por el dueño de la propiedad. Para el 18 de marzo, solo se encontraban 3 palomas cerca de la jaula. Once de ellas se habían movido a más de 500 m de la jaula de vuelo y Oro 14 (**natural**) fue monitoreado a poco más de 1 km del área de liberación. En 21 de marzo, Violeta 14 (**mano**) también fue capturado en el patio de otra casa por un ciudadano. La paloma fue devuelta a Humacao debido a su docilidad e improntación con humanos. Durante este período perdimos dos palomas a manos de la cacería furtiva y tres por la posible depredación de Guaraguas. En resumen, luego de haber liberado las palomas se devolvieron cinco a Humacao, dos fueron cazadas, cinco fueron depredadas y cuatro perdimos su rastro ya que se desbandaron y se salieron del alcance del equipo de radiotelemetría (Tabla 1).

Ambos experimentos indican que las Palomas Sabaneras producidas en cautiverios son vulnerables a depredadores, principalmente halcones. Por otro lado tenemos que reconocer que la cacería ilegal sigue siendo un problema en el área de Cidra. Un problema técnico es el que las palomas salen fuera del alcance del equipo de radiotelegrafía y no pueden detectarse por períodos prolongados.

Las Palomas Sabaneras criadas por nodrizas o que son manipuladas durante su crecimiento aparentan ser de poco valor para un programa de liberación. Sin embargo, éstas resultan ser de gran valor al momento de reproducirlas en

cautiverio. Al presente algunas de las palomas criadas por nodrizas y a mano se están reproduciendo de manera natural en nuestras nuevas facilidades. En el próximo experimento se van a liberar cinco palomas criadas por sus propios padres (**natural**) y tres criadas por Palomas Collarinas (**nodriza**). Ambos grupos se van a acondicionar por un período de ocho semanas en la jaula de vuelo y a la presencia de depredadores como el Guaraguao. Dentro de este tiempo se llevará a cabo una campaña educativa con miras a reducir la cacería ilegal en el área de Cidra y pueblos circundantes.

LITERATURA CITADA

- Conser, M. y R. A. Pérez-Rivera. 1988. Break-through in recovery of Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon. *Endangered Species Tech. Bull.* 13(9):11.
- Pérez-Rivera, R. A. 1989. Status of the Plain Pigeon (*Columba inornata wetmorei*) in the Caribbean and the captive management of the Puerto Rican subspecies. Pp. 694-702. *en Proc. 1989 Reg. Conf. Am. Assoc. Zool. Parks Aquar.*, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Pérez-Rivera, R. A. 1990. Sobre la situación de la Paloma Ceniza o Sabanera (*Columba inornata*) en las Antillas Mayores. *Science-Ciencia* 17(1):20-24.
- Pérez-Rivera, R. A. y J. Collazo. 1976. Distribución geográfica, hábitos alimentarios y competencia por alimentos de la Paloma Sabanera de Puerto Rico (*Columba inornata wetmorei*). *Science-Ciencia* 3(2):52-55.
- Pérez-Rivera, R. A. y C. Ruiz-Lebrón. 1992. Situación actual de la población de Palomas Sabaneras (*Columba inornata wetmorei*) en Cidra, Puerto Rico. Pp. 46-46 *en Pérez-Rivera, R. A. (Ed.), Mem. Décimo Simp. Flora Fauna Caribe, Univ. Puerto Rico, Coleg. Univ. Humacao.*
- Ruiz-Lebrón, C. R. y R. A. Pérez-Rivera. 1991. Problemas asociados al manejo de especies en peligro de extinción en áreas privadas: caso de la Paloma Sabanera. Pp. 43 y 82 *en Mem. Prim. Congr. sobre Conserv. Biodivers. Caribe, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana.*
- Ruiz-Lebrón, C. R., A. Ortiz, D. Galán y C. Vázquez. 1994. Nuevos avistamientos de Palomas Sabaneras (*Columba inornata wetmorei*) fuera de Cidra, Puerto Rico. *en Resúmenes, XII Simposio de Flora y Fauna del Caribe. Colegio Universitario de Humacao, Humacao, Puerto Rico.*
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1982. Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon recovery plan. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv., Atlanta, Georgia.

AFRICANIZED HONEYBEES IN THE GREATER ANTILLES

FRANCISCO J. VILELLA

U. S. National Biological Survey, Mississippi Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, P. O. Drawer BX, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762 U. S. A.

In June 1994, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture confirmed that Africanized honeybees (*Apis mellifera* var. *scutellata*; AHB) had become established in Puerto Rico. Within six months, all honeybees in Puerto Rico had been Africanized. AHB probably reached Puerto Rico in contaminated cargo ships from Central or South America. They can only be distinguished from European honeybees (*Apis mellifera* var. *ligustica*) through morphometric analysis by qualified entomological laboratories. AHB first appeared in South America in the 1970s, and have now spread to the southwestern United States. In contrast with European honeybees, they are generalists in their requirements for nest sites, have a greater tendency to disperse, and are much more

aggressive. Whereas a colony of European honeybees will swarm 1-3 times a year, AHB colonies will swarm up to 30 times a year. They also have a defense radius of 30 m, compared with European honeybees with a defense radius of 1 m.

The effect of AHB on cavity nesting birds in Puerto Rico is yet to be determined, but there has already been a marked increase in honeybee occupation of tree cavities managed for the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*) within the Caribbean National Forest. Wildlife technicians from the U. S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service report honeybees have occupied up to 70 percent of the cavities managed for parrots in some areas, including those currently used

Africanized Honeybees in the Greater Antilles (continued)

for nesting. Cavities are being constantly monitored and beehives destroyed as rapidly as possible, given the limitation of manpower. As the 1995 parrot nesting season approaches, managers can not help experiencing a feeling of distress. Following the passage of Hurricane Hugo, the wild parrot population had been exhibiting signs of increased productivity as well as a limited expansion in range and use of historical cavity-producing tree species (*Dacryodes excelsa*). We will have to wait to determine if the additional threat to parrot nesting pairs imposed by AHB will be cause for major concern.

Given the high degree of commercial shipping between Puerto Rico and the rest of the Caribbean, members of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology should communicate this matter to their respective government agriculture agencies. A brochure with information on AHB for apiculturists and the general public can be obtained from the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture (P. O. Box 21120, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00928-1120). Society members with E-mail capabilities can access a bulletin board maintained exclusively for AHB information by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (E-mail address: twillis@esusda.gob).

FORUM

SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY MEETINGS AND AGENDA: SOME PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO REFLECT ON

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

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology (SCO) is facing new challenges and problems to conduct its annual meetings and promote its goals and objectives successfully. Here we identify some of the problems and provide a series of recommendations for the consideration of the Executive Board. It is hoped that our points of view are used constructively by the Board to improve the ways in which the Society serves to promote the conservation of birds and their habitats in the region. The problems and recommendations are the following:

(1) The annual meeting is too long and is not interactive enough.

Recommendation.—To arrange oral presentations by theme (say, population ecology, wildlife and habitat management, avian genetics and taxonomy, etc.) and conduct sessions simultaneously in different rooms to finish in one day; and, then, dedicate two days to conduct round-table discussions about local and regional conservation issues, resolutions, policy statements, and action plans.

(2) The participation of local individuals (researchers, managers, administrators, educators, policymakers, etc.) should always be a priority for the SCO. How many persons from Martinique attended the meeting and/or the monitoring and conservation education workshops this year? Which are the major conservation problems affecting the avifauna of Martinique and can we assist in addressing them? Is there a Minister of the Environment in Martinique and can we help train its personnel? Are there school teachers interested in environmental education and conservation issues? To whom we can offer additional skills? The coordination of activities

was not an easy task this year, but we could have done a better job in assuring enough local participation and discussing local and regional conservation issues affecting birds and their habitats. Once more, we have not been interactive enough.

Recommendation.—Each year the SCO's Local Committee should write an article for *El Pitirre* providing information about the most important environmental and conservation problems affecting the avifauna of the country/island in turn. Since experts from around the Hemisphere will spend almost a week in their island, special attention should be given to enabling individuals from the host island/country to get training, share experiences, and receive orientation to solve applied problems. This level of interaction is badly needed to meet the goals of the SCO.

(3) The SCO is not merely a "scientific" organization. Nevertheless we continue conducting our meetings as if our major concern was the science of birds ("ornithology"). We need to explore new alternatives to make the annual meetings less science-oriented and more country/island- and people-oriented.

Recommendation.—To change the structure of the meeting and spend more time promoting fruitful interactions among members (see above).

(4) To this day, the SCO has not developed financial sustainability.

Recommendation.—To develop fund raising strategies and generate some savings each year. For example, we can

Forum (continued)

sell T-shirts with the SCO's logo at the meetings. We can provide information about birds and their habitats to local airlines and ecotourism companies in exchange for "cash" and/or "in-kind" contributions to cover a portion of our annual travel and lodging expenses. We can contact local artists to spread our conservation message through more popular mechanisms such as songs, poems, paintings, wood carvings, and other local craftsmanship that can also be sold at special prices during the meeting. The SCO can solicit contributions from private organizations and individuals in exchange of space in *El Pitirre* to announce products such as bookshelves, computer hardware and software, tourist field guides, etc.

(5) Given the complexity of having two workshops this year, the SCO meeting had too many organizers involved at different levels of the process.

Recommendation.—Define the role of each of the organizers. For example, establish in writing the responsibilities of the Local Committee. If a member of the Local Committee finds some additional money for the annual meeting, alternatives should be offered to use the money according to the best interests of the SCO. Again, we cannot spend up to our last cent every year. There is an urgent need of generating some savings for lean years.

(6) The preparation of the annual meeting becomes an administrative burden that falls basically on the shoulders of two persons, the President and Treasurer.

Recommendation.—Re-define the roles of the members of the Executive Committee and Island Representatives. Only individuals willing and able to focus on the priorities of the SCO and dedicate adequate attention to the tasks should fill such positions. Follow-up is needed for our action plans and resolutions.

(7) The SCO lacks policy statements. What is our position with respect to the most important conservation issues affecting birds and their habitats in the region (e.g., the Grenada Dove)?

Recommendation.—Less time should be spent giving papers, whereas more time should be dedicated to defining our position as a Society promoting the study and conservation of birds and their habitats in the Caribbean.

(8) *El Pitirre* should be used as a communication channel between the countries/islands and the SCO. Each issue of *El Pitirre* should contain information about research, management, monitoring, training, environmental education, policymaking, conservation problems and initiatives in the region.

Recommendation.—The Island Representatives should play a more active role by writing or contacting potential contributors in their respective islands. Perhaps a quota is needed for the Island Representatives (say, two articles per year).

(9) Most of the members of the SCO still could benefit from guidance in the preparation of proposals.

Recommendation.—Conduct a workshop on how to prepare proposals for research, management, monitoring, training, and education actions. The workshop would include the objectives of major funding entities such as Partners in Flight (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation/U.S. Agency for International Development), Bird Conservation Alliance (ICBP-PACS), The Lincoln Park Zoo Scott Neotropic Fund of the Lincoln Park Zoological Society and Lincoln Park Zoological Gardens, etc.

(10) The SCO should not cover the travel and lodging expenses of any person, unless that person provides evidence of a significant contribution to the success of the annual meeting or other important SCO initiatives.

Recommendation.—Develop a set of criteria to select those persons who deserve economic assistance to participate in the annual meetings of the SCO. The criteria for receiving funding might include the following:

(A) Applicants must be Caribbean nationals or residing in the region. They must demonstrate a need for financial assistance to attend the meeting.

(B) Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to the conservation of the avifauna and their habitats in the Caribbean. If employed by a government ministry or a non-government organization (NGO), the government or NGO must also be able to demonstrate such commitment.

(C) Applicants must demonstrate past or present participation in activities of the SCO. Such activities may include, but not be limited to: holding elected office in the Society, presentations at annual meetings of the Society, publications in *El Pitirre* (if applicant is awarded funding he or she will be required to submit at least one article for publication in the Society's newsletter on conservation problems/efforts on her or his island), fund raising, developing resolutions or policy for the Society, and participation in the conservation efforts of the Society.

(D) Applicants must work with other interested individuals/groups on their island to develop mutual interest and partnerships with the Society to achieve conserva

tion goals and objectives.

(E) Priority should be given to applicants who raise matching travel funds to attend the annual meeting or raise in-kind contributions on their island.

(F) Applicants must provide a one-page statement on how their participation in the Society's annual

meeting will contribute to their professional development and to the conservation programs on their island.

(G) Repetitive financing of the same individuals, despite meeting most of the above requirements, will be discouraged through a gradual decline in the level of assistance.

INTEGRATING MONITORING OF RESIDENT AND MIGRATORY BIRDS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: A WORKSHOP HELD BY THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY (SCO) IN TROIS ISLETS, MARTINIQUE, AUGUST 1994

FRANK F. RIVERA-MILÁN

*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of International Affairs,
4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Suite 860-ARLSQ, Arlington, Virginia 22203*

A morning session was dedicated to the presentation of results of long-term avian population studies in the Caribbean region; an afternoon session was dedicated to discussion of the results of these studies. The results of a workshop in Costa Rica entitled "*Assessment and Integration of Monitoring of Resident and Migratory Birds and Their Habitats with the Conservation Priorities of Latin America and the Caribbean Region: An Interamerican Perspective*" were also discussed. The participants agreed that there is an urgent need to integrate management, monitoring, research, multilevel training and education efforts to promote multidisciplinary initiatives to open a wide front of action for the conservation of resident and migratory birds and their habitats in Latin America and the Caribbean. A resolution was passed and approved by the Society of Caribbean Ornithology supporting the results and resolutions of the Costa Rica workshop. The results of the workshop will also be discussed during the V Congress of Neotropical Ornithology to be held in Asunción, Paraguay, August 5-11, 1995. The results of the workshop can be summarized as follows:

[Monitoring actions are important only if they correspond to specific management needs. Monitoring efforts should be used as a tool to evaluate and refine management actions in the critical habitats of the species of interest; these should be continuous, replicated in space (e.g., habitats, life zones) and time (e.g., months, years), standardized, hierarchical, long-term (>10 years), and should be used in the integration of management and applied research. Multi-level training and education and the development of inter-institutional cooperative agreements ("partnerships") are essential elements to secure the success of our actions at national and international levels. There is an urgent need for a significant increase in the

amount of funds invested by programs such as *Partners in Flight* in the training and education of locals at all levels (e.g., field training for technicians, undergraduate and graduate level training in the universities in cooperation with ongoing management programs and community-based conservation projects, etc.). Only this bottom-up approach will stimulate the development of the full-fledged partners needed to promote the conservation of resident and migratory birds and their habitats in the neotropics. International partnerships must nurture a relationship of equality among partners; we cannot continue pretending that the conservation problems of birds in the neotropics will be solved simply by importing projects from the United States, specifically research-oriented projects that only promote a basic level of training ("para-ornithology") and fall short from addressing the most important conservation issues of the countries. Greater coordination and planning are needed to improve north-south collaboration and to channel donor contributions more effectively to projects in Latin America and the Caribbean region.]

Twenty-nine persons from 16 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean participated in the Costa Rica workshop (held in San José, from January 31 to February 5, 1994). Among the participants were ornithologists, managers, educators, and administrators of natural protected areas throughout the region. The proceedings of the workshop will be published in English and Spanish by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of International Affairs in late 1994 or early 1995. It is hoped that the document serves to promote a better integration of management and monitoring actions in Latin America and the Caribbean region.

FUNDACIÓN VIDA SILVESTRE CELEBRA FESTIVAL DE LAS AVES

La Fundación Vida Silvestre celebró diversas actividades con motivo de celebrarse el Festival Mundial de las Aves, que auspicia cada año Birdlife International. Participaron estudiantes de la Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD) y de la Universidad Católica de Santo Domingo (UCSD).

Los estudiantes realizaron un recorrido por el Jardín Botánico, con la finalidad de aprender a identificar las especies de aves endémicas y migratorias que se encuentran en dicho ambiente.

Las especies endémicas observadas fueron la Cigua Palmera (*Dulus dominicus*), nuestra ave nacional; el Cuatro Ojos (*Phaenicophylus palmarum*), el Carpintero (*Melanerpes striatus*), el barrancoli (*Todus subulatus*) y el Pájaro Bobo (*Saurothera longirostris*). Las migratorias observadas fueron: *Setophaga ruticilla*, *Seiurus aurocapillus*, *Seiurus noveboracensis*, *Actitis macularia*, *Tringa solitaria*, *Mniotilta varia* y *Dendroica tigrina*.

Como culminación del recorrido, el grupo sembró dos árboles nativos de la especie *Trema micrantha*, conocida por nuestros campesinos como memizo de paloma, la cual es una planta silvestre de cuyos frutos se alimentan muchas aves nativas y algunas migratorias. Dichas plantas fueron donadas por la Universidad Católica de Santo Domingo procedentes de su vivero de plantas nativas.

El profesor Simón Guerrero, presidente de la fundación Vida Silvestre, dijo que "dado que las aves silvestres son un elemento primordial en la conservación de nuestros ambientes naturales, es esencial educar a los habitantes de las zonas rurales y urbanas, sobre la importancia de utilizar plantas nativas que proporcionen alimento a nuestra ave fauna silvestre, en los proyectos nacionales de reforestación. de *Listin Diario*, República Dominicana, 2 de Noviembre de 1994

CORRECTION

In the Volume 7, Number 3, issue of the Society's bulletin, specifically in the article submitted by Mr. Jafet Vélez-Valentín, there is an incorrect statement, according to both official information disclosed in the monthly report to cooperating agencies by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 4, and according to information on file at the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources.

The second sentence of the fifth paragraph should read: "Twelve captive Puerto Rican Parrots were transferred to the Río Abajo Aviary during 1993, 1 non-producing breeding pair and 10 unpaired individuals, 5 males and 5 females to be pair-bonded on location. Two chicks fledged successfully under surrogate care at that facility."

I believe this correction is necessary to keep an accurate record that will help make future data gathering a less tedious process.

JOSÉ RODRÍGUEZ-VÉLEZ, Project Leader, Río Abajo Aviary

El Pitirre 8(1)

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

BARBADOS—The first ornithological characterization of this strategically located West Indian island is in preparation. Information on neotropical migrants, palaeartic vagrants, seabirds in adjacent waters, systematic island censusing, fossil and subfossil taxa, and the location of Barbados study skins or mounts will be particularly appreciated, as will reprints and copies of manuscripts or other unpublished material. Individual observations from visiting ornithologists or birders, even if previously submitted to regional authorities or publications, will also be gratefully accepted. Full credit will be given to all contributors. Contact P. A. Buckley, Box 8, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island, Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882, U. S. A. by 1 July 1995.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH in winter—Information is needed on the distribution, abundance, and habitat use of Bicknell's Thrush on its Caribbean wintering grounds. I would appreciate receiving reports of any unpublished records (or obscure published references) of Bicknell's (Gray-cheeked) Thrush in the Caribbean Basin (Bahamas, Greater and Lesser Antilles). For each record, please submit as much detail as possible, including exact location, date, number of birds, circumstance of encounter (sighting, hand-held), whether and how specimen determination was made, habitat association, and any behavioral observations. For hand-held birds, please provide demographic and morphometric data (especially wing chord). Ornithologists currently conducting field work in the Caribbean are urged to help document the status of this poorly known species by searching for birds and submitting details similar to those suggested above. Tapes of Bicknell's Thrush call notes are available to anyone willing to use them in searches employing playbacks. All contributions will be fully acknowledged. For more information or to report records, please contact Chris Rimmer, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, RR2 Box 532, Woodstock, Vermont 05091-9720, U.S.A.; Telephone (802) 457-2779; Fax (802) 457-4861.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Dr. Francisco J. Vilella has accepted a Research Wildlife Biologist position as Assistant Unit Leader for wildlife at the Mississippi Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Mississippi State University. Tito and Ana will be moving to Starkville, Mississippi early in 1995. After 22 January they can be reached at the following address and fax:

U. S. National Biological Survey
Mississippi Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
P. O. Drawer BX
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762 U. S. A.
Fax: 601-325-8726

FINAL RESOLUTION

CONSIDERING that the conservation of neotropical migratory birds is a priority, since they form part of the avifauna of Latin America and the Caribbean, the participants of this workshop, *Assessment and Integration of Monitoring of Resident and Migratory Birds and Their Habitats with the Conservation Priorities of Latin America and the Caribbean*, held in San José, Costa Rica, from 31 January to 5 February 1994, have adopted the following resolution:

1. *Request* that the monitoring of birds and their habitats is included as one of the priorities of management and conservation plans at national and regional levels.
2. *Recommend* that during the initial phase of inventorying and monitoring projects a review be made of the information available about resident and migratory birds and their habitats to avoid unnecessary duplication of sampling efforts and use available data more effectively.
3. *Request* that the leaders of inventorying and monitoring projects produce final documents for the managers and administrators of natural protected areas with specific and practical management recommendations, considering the priorities of government and non-governmental organizations, and promoting the integration of monitoring efforts with the management programs of natural protected areas in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. *Request* that programs such as *Partners in Flight* integrate their actions with the interamerican effort initiated in this workshop, sharing their experience with the fulfillment of cooperative agreements ("partnerships") and promoting the development of effective mechanisms to provide financial assistance and training at national and international levels.
5. *Request* that funding organizations increase assistance to projects dealing with endemic and threatened species, address local priorities, and provide adequate national and international coverage.
6. *Recommend* that the International Working Group of *Partners in Flight* increase the number of representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean region participating in their meetings.
7. *Recommend* that a work plan be generated by the International Working Group of *Partners in Flight* to coordinate, organize, and promote an action plan for birdlife conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean, assuring that the information pertaining to economic assistance reaches potential grantees, and emphasizing administrative procedures and criteria.
8. *Recommend* the establishment of regional coordinators for

South America that reside within the region. The regional coordinators should be in charge of the following tasks:

- A. Facilitate appropriate linkages between funding mechanisms for inventorying and monitoring projects.
 - B. Review proposals for inventorying and monitoring species.
 - C. Interchange and upgrade inventorying and monitoring information inside and outside the region.
9. *Emphasize* the need of improving current funding mechanisms to help developing multi-level training programs for researchers and managers in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 10. *Recommend* an evaluation of the proposal *Birdlife International* to serve as one of the communication channels for monitoring projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 11. *Recommend* that special sessions be dedicated to follow-up on the activities of this workshop during the next meeting of the *Society of Caribbean Ornithology* in Martinique (August 1994) and the *V Congress of Neotropical Ornithology* in Paraguay (August 1995).
 12. *Request* an increase in the number of studies conducted to determine the benefits derived from the establishment of biological corridors for biodiversity conservation at national and international levels.
 13. *Request* that inventorying and monitoring efforts be conducted seasonally, accounting for biological events of significance such as nesting and migratory peaks, including all resident and migratory bird species (either terrestrial or aquatic).
 14. *Recommend* that the leaders of management, monitoring, research, training, and education projects in government and non-government organizations receive training from interdisciplinary programs that are well-established and recognized both nationally and internationally.
 15. *Recommend* an assessment of the impacts of pesticides and other chemicals used in agricultural landscapes on the avifauna and its habitats, and stopping the importation of products that have been banned in the national market of the exporting countries.
 16. *Decide* that the *ad hoc* group, constituted as the Interamerican Working Group, shall meet again next year in Paraguay during the *V Congress of Neotropical Ornithology* to evaluate the results of the action plan, discuss existing problems, and propose further actions to successfully implement the plan.

RESOLUCION FINAL

CONSIDERANDO que la conservación de las aves migratorias neotropicales es una prioridad, ya que éstas han sido siempre parte importante de la avifauna de América Latina y el Caribe, los participantes del taller, *Evaluación e Integración de Monitoreo de las Aves Residentes y Migratorias y sus Hábitats con las Prioridades de Conservación de América Latina y el Caribe*, efectuado en San José, Costa Rica, del 31 de enero al 5 de febrero de 1994, han adoptado la siguiente resolución:

1. *Solicita* que el monitoreo de las aves y sus hábitats se incluya entre las prioridades de los planes de manejo y conservación a nivel nacional y regional.
2. *Recomienda* que durante las fase inicial de los proyectos de inventario y monitoreo se efectue una revisión de la información disponible sobre las aves residentes y migratorias y sus hábitats con el fin de evitar la duplicación de esfuerzos y utilizar más efectivamente los datos existentes.
3. *Pide* que los responsables de los proyectos de inventario y monitoreo produzcan documentos específicamente dirigidos a los administradores de las áreas naturales protegidas con recomendaciones prácticas de manejo, considerando las prioridades de las organizaciones gubernamentales y no-gubernamentales, las universidades, y promoviendo la integración de los esfuerzos de monitoreo a los programas de manejo en las áreas naturales protegidas de América Latina y el Caribe.
4. *Exhorta* a que programas tales como *Compañeros en Vuelo* se integren al esfuerzo interamericano que se origina en este evento, compartiendo su experiencia con el financiamiento de proyectos cooperativos, y promoviendo el desarrollo de mecanismos de apoyo económico y de capacitación a nivel interamericano.
5. *Solicita* que los organismos financieros nacionales e internacionales provean más fondos para proyectos que trabajen con especies endémicas y en peligro de extinción, que consideren las prioridades locales, y que provean una mejor cobertura nacional e internacional.
6. *Recomienda* que el grupo internacional de trabajo de *Compañeros en Vuelo* aumente el número de representantes de América Latina y el Caribe que participan en sus reuniones.
7. *Pide* que el grupo internacional de trabajo de *Compañeros en Vuelo* genere un esquema de trabajo para coordinar, organizar y promover un plan de acción para la conservación de la avifauna en América Latina y el Caribe, asegurando que la información relativa a la obtención de fondos esté disponible para los usuarios, poniendo énfasis en los procedimientos administrativos y criterios técnicos.
8. *Recomienda* el nombramiento de coordinadores regionales para América del Sur que radiquen en la región. Entre las funciones de estos coordinadores se deben incluir las siguientes:
 - A. Facilitar los mecanismos de financiamiento para los proyectos de inventario y monitoreo.
 - B. Revisar las propuestas de proyectos de inventario y monitoreo.
 - C. Canalizar y actualizar la información en la región.
9. *Hace énfasis* en la necesidad de buscar mecanismos alternos de financiamiento tanto a nivel nacional como internacional para iniciar y desarrollar programas de capacitación en América Latina y el Caribe.
10. *Recomienda* la evaluación de la propuesta de *BirdLife International* para funcionar como uno de los canales de comunicación para los programas de monitoreo en América Latina y el Caribe.
11. *Recomienda* que en la próxima reunión anual de la *Sociedad de Ornitología del Caribe* en Martinica (agosto de 1994), y en el *V Congreso de Ornitología Neotropical* en Paraguay (agosto de 1995), se efectúen sesiones especiales para dar seguimiento al trabajo de este taller.
12. *Solicita* aumentar el número de investigaciones para determinar los beneficios derivados del establecimiento de corredores biológicos para la conservación de la biodiversidad a nivel nacional y regional en América Latina y el Caribe.
13. *Pide* que los inventarios y monitoreos se realicen estacionalmente, considerando los ajustes asociados a eventos biológicos importantes tales como la migración y los picos de reproducción, e incluyendo dentro de los programas de monitoreo a todas las aves residentes y migratorias (tanto la terrestres como las acuáticas).
14. *Recomienda* que los responsables de los proyectos de manejo, monitoreo y capacitación sean especialistas que hayan recibido entrenamiento en programas reconocidos a nivel nacional e internacional.
15. *Decide* que se considere el análisis del impacto de los agroquímicos sobre la avifauna y sus hábitats, recomendando que se suspenda la importación de estos productos a los países latinoamericanos y caribeños, ya que su uso ha sido prohibido en los países que los exportan.
16. *Decide* que el grupo *ad hoc* de trabajo, que ha quedado constituido en este taller como el grupo de trabajo interamericano, se reúna nuevamente en Paraguay durante el *V Congreso de Ornitología Neotropical* para evaluar los resultados del plan de acción, discutir problemas existentes, y proponer los ajustes necesarios para concluir con éxito el plan.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

11 April 1995—**Paradigms in Transition: Natural Resources Management in the New Century**, Fort Collins, Colorado, U.S.A. [Rick Knight (303-491-6714); Dan Brinkley (303-491-6519); or Joyce Berry (303-491-5405)].

4-7 May 1995—**Wilson Ornithological Society / Virginia Society of Ornithology** joint meeting, Fort Magruder Inn and Conference Center, Williamsburg, Virginia, U.S.A. (Ruth A. Beck, Department of Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia)

7-11 June 1995—**Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology**, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, U.S.A. [Richard L. Knight, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523, U.S.A.]

mid-June 1995—**The Second Mesoamerican Workshop on the Conservation and Management of Macaws**, Costa Rica. [Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, Inc., 218 Conway Dr., San Antonio, Texas 78209-1716, U.S.A.; Fax: 512-828-5911].

5-11 August 1995—**V Neotropical Ornithological Congress**, Asuncion, Paraguay. (Nancy Lopez de Kochalka, c/o Comité Organizador Local del V CON, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural del Paraguay, Sucursal 19, Campus, Central XI, Paraguay, South America; Telephone: 595-21-505075).

13-20 August 1995—**American Ornithologists' Union Annual Meeting**, Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A.

NEW PUBLICATION

CENSUS METHODS FOR CARIBBEAN LAND BIRDS

BY JOSEPH M. WUNDERLE, JR.

1994

General Technical Report SO-98
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
Southern Forest Experiment Station
26pp.



Various census methods used to survey the distribution of Caribbean land birds and to monitor population changes are presented. The reader is taken step-by-step through the process of defining objectives, selecting a study site, determining the appropriate number of sampling units, and other considerations, before a survey of methods and recommendations techniques best suited to varied situations and species.

Available free from:
Librarian
International Institute of Tropical Forestry
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
Call Box 25000
Río Piedras, Puerto Rico 00928-2500

ELECTION OF SOCIETY OFFICERS

The following candidates have been formally nominated for the three elective Society offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary. The office of Treasurer is not up for election this year, and Dr. Rosemarie Gnam will continue to serve in that post for 1995. Please review the candidates, make your selections, and **return the ballot by 30 April 1995** to Ms. Patricia E. Bradley, Secretary, Society of Caribbean Ornithology, P. O. Box 907, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, B. W. I.

PRESIDENT

SIMON GUERRERO [no c.v. received]

Simon is President and Founder of the *Sociedad Pro-Conservacion de las Aves*, Dominican Republic, where Simon resides. Sr. Guerrero is a mentor for many young ornithologists and conservationists in the Dominican Republic. Simon regularly attends Society annual meetings, where he has presented results of his conservation work in the Dominican Republic and has been an active participant in Society workshops.

JOSEPH M. WUNDERLE, JR.

Education: Ph.D., University of Minnesota (1980); thesis: Breeding ecology of the Bananaquit (*Coereba flaviola*) on Grenada, West Indies. M.S., University of Minnesota (1976); thesis: Species and individual recognition of some in the Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). B.S., University of Maine (1971).

Present Position: Wildlife Team Leader and Research Wildlife Biologist, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, USDA-Forest Service, P.O. Box B, Palmer, PR 00721.

Publications: Over 40 technical publications on birds.

Caribbean Experience: 18 years of research and teaching throughout the Caribbean, including 6 years in Grenada (Ph.D. research and teaching in Canadian Junior College for Marine Biology, Carriacou), 12 years in Puerto Rico (8 years at University of Puerto Rico, 4 years at International Institute of Tropical Forestry).

Miscellaneous Caribbean & Neotropical Activities: Editorial Board, *Caribbean Journal of Science*, University of Puerto Rico (1990-present); Board of Directors, Pan American Section of the International Council for Bird Protection (1991-present); course coordinator and tutor for workshop "Caribbean forest ecology and conservation education," on Jamaica (1992); Editorial Board, *Ornithologia Neotropical*, Neotropical Ornithological Society (1994-present).

Contributions to SCO: Vice-President (August 1991-present); Workshop Co-leader for "How to write a competitive grant proposal," SCO annual meeting, Cuba (August 1993); Associate Editor for *Ornithologia Caribeña* (1986-1992); Co-editor for *Ornithologia Caribeña* (1992); Chairman of Technical Program and co-chairman of the Local Committee for the annual meeting in Puerto Rico (July 1992); co-author of grant proposal which successfully obtained funds from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to bring participants to SCO meeting in Puerto Rico (July 1992); Workshop Committee Chairman (August 1987-1991); workshop leader for workshop on "Methods for censusing Caribbean land birds," annual meeting in St. Lucia (August 1991); Chairman of Resolutions Committee (August 1994); regular participant in SCO meetings since 1988.

VICE PRESIDENT

CHRISTOPHER COX [no c.v. received]

Christopher is a wildlife biologist with the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Ministry of Agriculture, Castries, St. Lucia.

ROELAND DE KORT [no c.v. received]

Roeland is an employee of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Oranjestad, Aruba, and the SCO Representative from Aruba.

SECRETARY

MARCIA MUNDLE

Education: Ph.D. in Zoology (Entomology), 1993, University of the West Indies (Mona).

Present Position: Dr. Mundle presently works with Ms. Catherine Levy and the SCO in the Partners in Flight Caribbean Liaison Office.

Society Elections (continued)

MARCIA MUNDLE *(continued)*

Miscellaneous Caribbean & Neotropical Activities: Dr. Mundle has served as the Secretary of the Gosse Bird Club, Jamaica, since 1993, and is a member of the Club's Executive Committee. In 1995, Dr. Mundle will be involved in a new project on a survey of birds in the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (Jamaica), which is funded by Partners in Flight through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Contributions to SCO: Dr. Mundle represented the Gosse Bird Club and presented papers at the 1993 and 1994 annual meetings of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology.

Select one candidate for each office.

BALLOT

PRESIDENT

SIMON GUERRERO

JOSEPH M. WUNDERLE, JR.

VICE PRESIDENT

CHRISTOPHER COX

ROELAND DE KORT

SECRETARY

MARCIA MUNDLE

(signed)

Return ballot by **30 April 1995** to: