

Sociedad de la Ornitología Caribeña

EL PITIRRE

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EL PITIRRE

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

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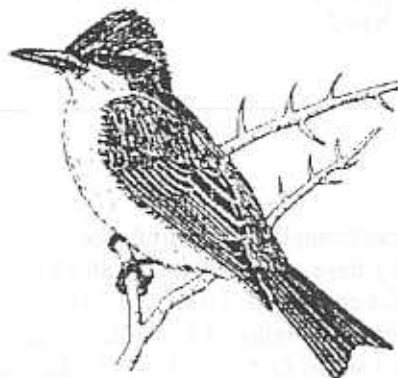
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News, comments or requests should be mailed to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter.

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

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 RECORD OF EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE, *CONTOPUS VIRENS* (AVES, TYRANNIDAE),
IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

FRED W. SLADEN

P.O. Box 706, New London, New Hampshire 03257, U.S.A.

On 9 October 1986, in a small mangrove swamp north of Frederiksted, St. Croix, I observed a flycatcher quietly perching on a dead branch about 2.5–3 m above the ground, occasionally flitting out to capture an insect, and then returning to the branch in typical pewee fashion. After retrieving a camera from my car, I was unable to relocate the bird.

On 12 October, Roland Wauer joined me in looking for this bird. It was relocated at the same location in a stand of white mangroves at about one hour past sunrise. Wauer confirmed that the bird was an Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*). This individual perched quietly in an erect posture and had a "crested" appearance. The throat, lower belly, and undertail coverts were white, whereas the breast and sides were dusky. The upper belly was pale yellow where the dusky of the sides almost met. There was no eye-ring and the wing bars were pale buffy. The tail was moderately forked. The bill was black with a pale area at the base of the lower mandible. The legs and feet were black and the iris dark.

Two *Contopus* species are found in the region. The Greater Antillean Pewee (*Contopus caribaeus*), found in the Bahama Islands, Cuba, Isle of Pines, Jamaica, Hispaniola, and Gonave Island (Bond 1985), is accidental on Mona Island, Puerto Rico (Raffaele 1989). Plumage differences between *caribaeus* and *virens* are (1) *virens* has wing bars, whereas *caribaeus* does not; (2) *virens*' underparts are white to yellow, whereas the underparts of *caribaeus* are gray with a buffy wash; and (3) the sides of *caribaeus*' breast and flanks are less dusky than those of *virens*. The Lesser Antillean Pewee (*C. latirostris*), an endemic resident in the western two-thirds of Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, and St. Lucia (Bond 1985), has ochraceous underparts and no wing bars.

Eight species of the family Tyrannidae have been recorded in the Puerto Rico—Virgin Islands region (Philibosian and

Yntema 1977). Only two species have been recorded on St. Croix: Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) and Caribbean Elaenia (*Elaenia martinica*). This occurrence of an Eastern Wood-Pewee is the first for the eastern part of the West Indies and brings the Puerto Rico and Virgin Island total of Tyrannidae species to nine.

Bond (1985) gives the winter range of the Eastern Wood-Pewee as chiefly limited to Central America, but also extending through the islands of the western Caribbean (i.e., Cuba, Isle of Pines, Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Swan Islands, Isla San Andres, and Albuquerque Cay) (24 August—4 November; 26 March—22 April), and the Bahama Islands (15 October—1 November). One record exists east of Cuba in Barbados (American Ornithologists' Union 1983), although no details are available. This is the first record for the Puerto Rico-Virgin Islands region and brings the regional total of Tyrannidae species to nine.

I thank Ro Wauer for his help in identifying this bird and for reviewing an earlier version of the manuscript.

LITERATURE CITED

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Check-list of North American birds, 6th edition. American Ornithologists' Union.
- Bond, J. 1985. Birds of the West Indies. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Massachusetts.
- Philibosian, R., and J. Yntema. 1977. Annotated checklist of the birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Information Services, Frederiksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Raffaele, H.A. 1989. A guide to the birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, New Jersey.

REVIEW

ENDANGERED & ENDEMIC BIRDS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, by Annabelle S. Dod. Cypress House Press, California. Illustrated. 207pp. ISBN 1-879384-12-4. Paperback: \$12.00. This volume is a product of Annabelle ("Tudy") Dod's observations of birds in the Dominican Republic over almost 20 years while she and her husband, Don, resided in that country. In her Introduction, Ms. Dod summarizes earlier ornithological work in the country. In a chapter entitled "The Origin of the Species," Tudy relates how she and Don moved

to the Dominican Republic in the fall of 1964 and some of the adventures they have had on their expeditions. The main body of the book consists of accounts of 39 rare or endemic birds species of the Dominican Republic. Several of these stories appeared in Ms. Dod's excellent series in the supplement section of the Santo Domingo newspaper, *El Caribe*. Each species is illustrated with a black-and-white drawing or photograph and information is presented on the species' status and distribution. However, the charm of these accounts

Review (continued)

comes from Tudy's recollections of her personal experiences with the species. Many of the Dod's adventures include their close friend and another expert on the avifauna of the Dominican Republic, Dr. George B. Reynard.

Tudy's ornithological accomplishments in the Dominican Republic are many, and her persistence as a pioneer and champion of conservation is evident throughout her stories. Here she tells of how she and Don relentlessly tracked down the elusive Stygian Owl (*Asio stygius*), their re-discovery of the Least Pauraque (*Siphonorhis brewsteri*), and the discovery of a new race of Chat Tanager (*Calyptophilus frugivorus neibae*). Through each of the accounts, Ms. Dod imparts new information on the little-known birds of the Dominican Republic. She tells of the apartment-style nesting of the Palm Chat (*Dulus dominicus*), the only representative of a family found nowhere else. She describes the interesting behavior of the little-known White-necked Crow (*Corvus leucognaphalus*), now extirpated from Puerto Rico and found only in the Dominican Republic. We learn of myths surrounding some of the country's birds, including the *campesinos'* prejudices against the Common Potoo (*Nyctibius gris*) and Stygian Owl, both of which are considered witches by country people. The final story is not of a bird at all, but of the strange Hispaniolan solenodon (*Solenodon paradoxus*). A glossary of terms (mostly Spanish) is followed by a list of birds of the Dominican Republic with their status in the country.

For those of us who have spent time in the field with the Dods, the book will bring back memories of the *long* rough drives in their Volkswagon bus to Zapotén and Sierra de Neiba, as well as the interesting working relationship of this unique couple. For others, it will allow them to accompany the Dods on their travels through the Dominican Republic in search of its little-known avifauna. I recommend it as much for these charmingly told tales as for the information presented on the country's birds.—James W. Wiley.

ANNUAL SCO MEETING

JULY 30—AUGUST 8, 1993

PLAYA GIRON, CUBA

The annual meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology will be held at Playa Giron, near Zapata Swamp, in Cuba from August 1-6, 1993. Travel dates from Florida to Cuba and back will be July 30 and August 8 or 9, 1993. All travel for United States citizens will be handled by Marazul Tours Inc. (250 W. 57 St., Suite 1311, New York, New York 10107; telephone 212-582-9570, outside NY state - 800-223-5334, FAX 212-541-6102).

The working languages for the conference will be English and Spanish. No simultaneous interpretation will be provided. Two workshops will be conducted, "Cuban and other Columbid Populations," and "Avian Conservation in the Caribbean." Abstracts for papers should be submitted to Jim Wiley, 2201 Ashland St., Ruston, Louisiana 71270, U.S.A. El Pitirre 6(2)

The format for abstracts is available on request.

The **travel and meeting schedule** is as follows:

July 30 Check-in at 6:00 A.M. at Haiti Trans Air ticket counter at Miami International Airport for charter flight which departs at 8:30 A.M. Arrive José Martí Airport, Havana, at 9:30 A.M. Charter carrier will collect \$28 (U.S. departure tax and Cuban landing fee) from each participant at check-in.

August 8 Scheduled check-in at 9:00 A.M. in Havana. Departs 11:30 A.M. Arrive Miami 12:30 P.M.

There are flights (except on Saturdays) in the morning from Miami to Havana and at mid-day from Havana to Miami. Marazul may be able to accommodate alternative arrangements.

Conference Schedule:

Friday, July 30 Arrival. Transfer to Havana hotel.

Saturday, July 31 Free day in Havana.

Sunday, August 1 Departure for Zapata Swamp.

Registration and Welcome Reception.

Monday, August 2 Opening Ceremony.

Presentations/Business Meeting.

Tuesday, August 3 Paper sessions/Business Meeting.

Video Session.

Wednesday, August 4 Paper sessions.

Plenary Session.

Thursday, August 5 Columbid and Avian Conservation Workshop.

Closing Ceremony and Farewell Dinner.

Friday, August 6 Optional Excursions.

Return to Havana.

Saturday, August 7 Free day in Havana.

Sunday, August 8 Departure.

Program Costs (paid to Marazul Tours, Inc.):

Arrangements include round-trip airfare from Miami to Havana, visa, accommodations in Havana and Playa Giron (Zapata Swamp), breakfast and one meal daily, transfers, and transportation to and from the Zapata Swamp.

\$720 per person in single room

\$650 per person in double room

Land arrangements only (excluding round-trip airfare from Miami and visa fee):

\$520 per person in single room \$450 per person in double room

Conference Registration Fee (to be paid on arrival in Havana): \$70 per person. There will be additional fees for the banquet and field trips. Presently, their costs are unknown, but should be similar to fees charged at past SCO meetings. Participants should be prepared to pay their registration fee and additional fees in cash. No personal checks or credit cards (from U.S. banks) will be accepted.

For registration forms, please contact Marazul Tours (address and telephone numbers above). Space is limited, so do not wait until the last minute.

We hope to see you in Cuba!

LETTER TO ISLAND REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Representative:

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology is putting together final plans for the programme for the Cuba meeting (1—5 August 1993). I am writing to remind you that, as the representative of your island, it is very important for the success of this meeting, and the planning of future meetings, that you come to Cuba.

There will be a workshop, suggested title "Avian Conservation in the Caribbean," as well as a Columbid workshop focusing on legislation and enforcement needs. Thus, the thrust of the meeting is a strong conservation message, supported by the paper sessions. We propose developing a regional strategy for conservation needs to ensure projects have a greater degree of continuity from year to year.

We urge that you come prepared to discuss the problems of your territory and to bring a feasible project relevant to local needs which the Society can support and which you and local members can implement.

Yours sincerely,
Patricia Bradley
Secretary

THE 5TH SYMPOSIUM ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE BAHAMAS

JUNE 11-14 1993
BAHAMIAN FIELD STATION
SAN SALVADOR, BAHAMAS

The objectives of this Symposium are:

- to provide a forum for the presentation of the results of current natural scientific research being conducted throughout the Bahama archipelago.
- to provide an informal setting for the stimulation of contacts and cooperation between scientists working in the Bahamas and similar areas.
- to promote the growth of knowledge in the general area of Bahamian terrestrial and marine sciences.

The format of the Symposium will consist of mornings and evenings devoted to papers and discussions, with afternoons spent on field trips. The papers will be published in a Symposium Proceedings volume. One or more poster sessions are also planned.

For further information, contact:

Dr. Donald T. Gerace
Executive Director
Bahamian Field Station, Ltd.
P.O. Box 2488
Port Charlotte, FL 33949

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

7-12 June 1993 – **The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections**, annual meeting, Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, British Columbia. (Grant Hughes, Royal British Columbia Museum, 675 Belleville St., Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 1X4, Canada. Telephone: 604-387-5706).

12 June 1993 – **Symposium on Archives in Natural History Collections**, at The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections conference. (Liz Taylor, Royal British Columbia Museum. Telephone: 604-387-3701 or 604-356-8791).

8-13 June 1993 – **The American Ornithologists' Union**, Fairbanks, Alaska, U.S.A. (Edward C. Murphy, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0180, U.S.A.).

11-14 June 1993 – **The 5th Symposium on the Natural History of the Bahamas**, Bahamian Field Station, San Salvador, Bahama Islands. (Dr. Donald T. Gerace, Executive Director, Bahamian Field Station, Ltd., P.O. Box 2488, Port Charlotte, Florida 33949, U.S.A. Telephone: 813-743-7954).

24-30 July 1993 – **Animal Behavior Society**, University of California, Davis, California, U.S.A. (Benjamin Hart, Department of Physiology, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, California 95616, U.S.A.).

1-6 August 1992 – **The Society of Caribbean Ornithology**, Cienaga de Zapata, Cuba. (Catherine Levy, 2 Starlight Ave., Kingston 6, Jamaica).

15-21 August 1993 – **International Union of Game Biologists XXI Congress**, Halifax, Canada. Theme, "Forest/Wildlife and Biodiversity...Toward the 21st Century." (I.D. Thompson, Forestry Canada, Box 6028, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1C 5X8. Telephone: 709-772-4903, fax: 709-772-2576 [Canada code=1]).

15-21 August 1993 – **Asia-Pacific Symposium on Mangrove Ecosystems**, Hong Kong. (Linda Yam, Conference Secretariat, Research Centre, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong).

10-12 September 1993 – **Association of Field Ornithologists** annual meeting, Shoals Marine Laboratory, offshore from Portsmouth, New Hampshire. (Greg Butcher, American Birding Association, P.O. Box 251, Etna, New York 13062. Telephone: 607-254-2412).

19-25 September 1993 – **International Wildlife Management Congress**, San Jose, Costa Rica. (IWMC Secretariat, The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-2197, U.S.A.. Telephone: 301-897-9770).

6-10 October 1993 – **Colonial Waterbird Society** annual meeting, Le Sambuc, France. (David Nettleship, Canadian Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1006, Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 4A2, Canada. Telephone: 902-426-3274).

26-29 October 1993 – **Workshop on the Use of Mist Nets to Monitor Bird Populations**, Tomales Bay, California. (C.J. Ralph, U.S. Forest Service, Redwood Sciences Laboratory, 1700 Bayview Drive, Arcata, California 95521, U.S.A. Telephone: 707-822-3691).

mid-June 1994 – **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. FAX: 512-828-5911).

26 June 1994 – **The American Ornithologists' Union, The Cooper Ornithological Society, and The Wilson Ornithological Society**, joint meeting, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana, U.S.A.

24-30 July 1994 – **Animal Behavior Society**, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. (James C. Ha, Regional Primate Research Center, University of Washington, 1-421 Health Sciences Building, Seattle, Washington 98195, U.S.A.).

20-25 August 1994 – **XXI International Ornithological Congress**, Hofburg, Vienna, Austria. (Interconvention, Friedrichstrasse 7, A-1450 Vienna, Austria. Telephone: +43-1-586-7260).



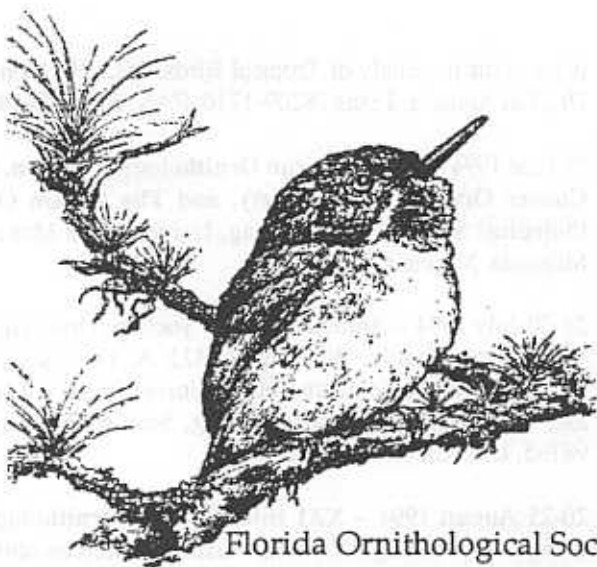
ENDANGERED & ENDEMIC BIRDS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

by
ANNABELLE S. DOD

In this charming book that makes us feel as though we were in the forest accompanying her, Mrs. Dod gathers the tales, myths, and scientific facts about the birds of the Dominican Republic, creating an ornithological document as well as a cultural treasure in one volume. Says Robert Arbib of *American Birds*, "Your stories about the endangered and endemic birds of Hispaniola are most interesting. They are a good mixture of popular and scientific facts, which makes for good educational material. Keep up the good work."

ISBN 1-879384-12-4. \$12.00 paperback + \$1.50 postage.

Please make checks payable to Annabelle S. Dod, at 2001 Woolsey St., Berkeley, California 94705, U.S.A.



Florida Ornithological Society Special Publication No. 5

**WEST INDIAN BIRD RECORDS IN AMERICAN BIRDS AND AUDUBON FIELD NOTES
(1947—1990): SPECIES INDEX BY ISLANDS**

by
Robert W. Loftin

This is a taxonomically arranged species index to records of birds from 125 islands and keys of the West Indies (including Bermuda) published in *American Birds* and its predecessor *Audubon Field Notes*, volumes 1 through 44. Included are records from seasonal reports, articles, and photographs. Records are listed by islands, with only records pertaining to a particular island included. Islands are listed alphabetically under five regional headings: Bermuda, Bahama Islands, Greater Antilles, Lesser Antilles, and Southern Islands. An alphabetical index to the islands, as well as an index of Christmas Bird Counts are appended.

1992, 90pp. Paper.

Copies are available at \$8.00 (USD) plus \$1.00 for shipping and handling from Jim Wiley, Society of Caribbean Ornithology, 2201 Ashland St., Ruston, Louisiana 71270, U.S.A.

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