

Sociedad de la Ornitología Caribeña

# EL PITIRRE

Society of Caribbean Ornithology

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## EL PITIRRE

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

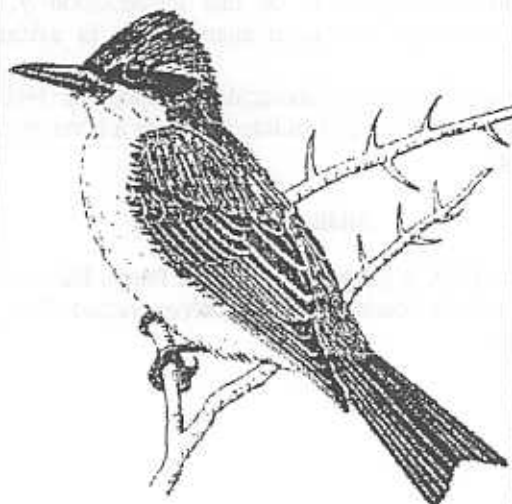
El Pitirre es el boletín informativo de la Sociedad de la Ornitología Caribeña.

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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, Petigre, 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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**TRANSITO DE BOMBYCILLA CEDRORUM  
(AVES: BOMBYCILLIDAE) EN LOCALIDADES  
DE LA CIUDAD DE LA HABANA**

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El Picotero del Cedro (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) es una especie que arriba a territorio cubano en grandes bandadas (Garrido y García Montaña, Catálogo de las aves de Cuba, Acad. Cienc. Cuba, 1975). Observaciones realizadas en diferentes localidades de la Ciudad de La Habana y aproximadamente para un mismo lapso (12 y 16 de marzo de 1990) han evidenciado la existencia de varios grupos de esta ave. En días consecutivos fueron vistas dos bandadas en la zona perimetral de un centro escolar, situado aproximadamente a 13 km al suroeste de la Bahía de la Habana. Una de la misma estaba conformada por alrededor de 20 individuos, mientras que la otra por 25. A ambas agrupaciones se les vió en vuelo y posadas en árboles del lugar, incluidos dos cedros (*Cedrela odorata*). Por otra parte, se observó una bandada de esta especie de 24 aves en el arbolado que conforma el Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, ubicado éste 23° N y 83° 25' W más al sur que la localidad anterior. Asimismo, en áreas aledañas a este lugar (Parque Zoológico Nacional) se contaron alrededor de 20 aves, las que forrajeaban en un árbol de majagua (*Hibiscus elatus*).

El 14 de marzo de 1991, coincidiendo con el período de observación del año anterior, fue vista una bandada de 8 individuos en el Instituto antes mencionado.

Estas observaciones demuestran la utilización del territorio de la Ciudad de La Habana por esta especie como zona de descanso y tránsito temporal durante su migración hacia Norte América. *Bombycilla cedrorum*, por tanto, debe ser un transeunte y es poco probable que resida en este territorio, lo cual sugiere la revisión de su estatus en diferentes regiones de Cuba, ya que O.H. Garrido la ha considerado como residente de paso irregular o invernadero (La migración de las aves en Cuba, Publicaciones de la Asociación de Amigos de Doñana, No. 0:7-47, 1988).

Los movimientos migratorios de esta especie y de otras aves, determinan el corredor que ha sido precisado recientemente a través de la utilización del radar (Godínez y Martínez, Aves migratorias en vuelo detectadas por radar sobre La Habana, Resúmenes, II Simposio de Zoología, La Habana 18-23 Junio:69,1991).

**LONCHURA MALACCA (AVES:  
ESTRIDIDAE), NUEVA ESPECIE PARA LA  
AVIFAUNA CUBANA**

Arturo Kirkconnell y Orlando Garrido  
Museo Nacional de Historia Natural  
Capitolio Nacional  
La Habana 2, Cuba

Durante un viaje a Soplillar (Ciénaga de Zapata), en agosto de 1991, Nelson García (guía local de los grupos de observadores de aves), entregó al autor senior un macho de *Lonchura malacca* que conservaba en congelación. El ave, un

*Lonchura malacca* en Cuba (continuado)

macho adulto, depositado actualmente en la colección de aves del Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Cuba (MNHNCU—1387), fue colectado en las arrozceras del Guanil, al nordeste de Bermejas, en el municipio de Aguada de Pasajeros, provincia de Matanzas. Según su colector, la especie es muy abundante en la zona, observándose numerosos adultos y jóvenes de ambos sexos. Evidentemente, de acuerdo con su abundancia, la especie debe llevar varios años de establecida en dichas arrozceras.

Indagando con varios "parajeros," o criadores de aves en cautiverio, ninguno conocía tal especie, lo que eliminaba la posibilidad de algún "escapado de jaula." Por otro lado, dos meses después de este hallazgo, el colega Rafael Quiñones, de San Antonio de los Baños, nos trajo una hembra adulta que había muerto en cautiverio. Este ejemplar está depositado junto al anterior (MNHNCU—1838). El ave había sido capturada viva en una jaula de trampa en las arrozceras al sur de Güines y Melena del Sur, en la provincia de La Habana, junto con varios otros individuos, por Sergio Rodríguez, el 17 de noviembre de 1991. Posteriormente, fue criado en cautiverio con otros cinco individuos hasta su muerte.

Según Quiñones (comun. pers.), son ya varios los "pajareros" de San Antonio de los Baños que se hallan criando esta ave en cautiverio. Su descubrimiento y eventual hallazgo data de solo pocos meses, lo que indica que la especie, al vivir en las arrozceras de la costa sur, aparentemente ha extendido su dispersión hacia el oeste. Con anterioridad a la localización de estas poblaciones, tampoco ningún criador local la conocía. Al igual que en el sur de Matanzas, en determinados lugares de la arrozceras, se hallan poblaciones bien establecidas.

El ave se adapta perfectamente bien al cautiverio y, teniendo en cuenta su establecimiento en arrozceras, no es de dudar que su dispersión se extienda pronto a otras regiones de la isla, no solo en arrozceras, sino posiblemente en campos de caña.

¿Cómo llegó esta especie a Cuba? Esta es una pregunta de especulación, pero el hecho de que no era conocida por ningún criador de aves en cautiverio, ni "pajareros," induce a pensar que su arribo a Cuba fue fortuito y natural, tal vez, los ciclones influyeron en su dispersión, transportando algunos individuos desde Puerto Rico. El resultado es que aparentemente la especie se estableció en Cuba por medios propios y no como producto de una introducción y, ya establecida, constituye un nuevo elemento de la avifauna nacional.

Queremos agradecer la colaboración brindada por Nelson García y Rafael Quiñones por su interés en dar a conocer este nuevo hallazgo.

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**OBSERVATIONS OF THE RED-NECKED  
PHALAROPE (*PHALAROPUS LOBATUS*) AND  
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*CALIDRIS BAIRDII*) IN  
PUERTO RICO**

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On 23 October 1990, 5 members of the Field Biology Training Program of Manomet Bird Observatory observed an adult Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) in non-breeding plumage at the southeastern lagoon at Cabo Rojo Salt Flats, Puerto Rico. The salt flats are composed of several ponds and shallow lagoons connected to the ocean by a culvert system. Initially, the phalarope was seen foraging with Stilt Sandpipers (*Calidris himantopus*). Its small size and persistent swimming easily identified it as a phalarope.

Like the Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) in winter plumage, the bird had black through and behind the eyes, but was easily distinguished from that species by its longer and thinner bill, smaller size, and proportionally shorter wings (Harrison 1983). The phalarope at Cabo Rojo also had white lines along the outer edges of the mantle and scapulars, which are absent in the Red Phalarope and Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) (Hayman et al. 1986).

The Red-necked Phalarope is normally a pelagic species, except when breeding or storm-driven (Hayman et al. 1986). New world populations breed in extreme northern America and winter in the Pacific, with no major wintering areas known for the Atlantic (American Ornithologists' Union 1983, Hayman et al. 1986). Few records exist of migrating individuals in the West Indies, and its appearance there is considered accidental. Bond (1985) reported the species from New Providence (11 October), Cuba (20 May, 10 December), and Jamaica (21 January; years not given). Raffaele (1989) reported two earlier records (30 December 1977, 24 April 1980) of Red-necked Phalaropes in Puerto Rico.

In October 1990, several storms hit Puerto Rico. Following one of the most severe of these storms (16 October), several uncommon species were observed in good numbers, including Hudsonian Godwits (*Limosa haemastica*), Lesser Golden-Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*), and Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*). These migrating birds remained in the area for only one day, perhaps recovering from the effects of the storm. I suggest that the Red-necked Phalarope seen at Cabo Rojo had been storm-driven to the region.

On 12 November 1991, I observed a juvenile Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) among a flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*) and Western Sandpipers (*C. mauri*) at one of the central ponds at the Cabo Rojo Salt Flats. The Baird's Sandpiper vocalized constantly, giving a *Krrrrt Krrrrt*, which was somewhat sharper than calls given by adults of this species and different from those of the White-rumped Sandpiper (*C. fuscicollis*), a species common in the area. The juvenile Baird's Sandpiper consistently flew separately and landed 3-5 m apart from the flock. It maintained its distance from the other birds on the ground.

In migration to and from North America, Baird's Sandpiper overflies Central America and follows the Andean ridge. In the

*Red-necked Phalarope and Baird's Sandpiper in Puerto Rico (continued)*

Caribbean, Baird's Sandpiper has been recorded from Trinidad (2 September 1976; French 1977), Barbados (specimen, 26 August, year not given; Bond 1962), St. Croix (27 August; Furniss 1983), and Puerto Rico (Pérez-Rivera 1987).

The Cabo Rojo Salt Flats represent one of the most important stop-overs and wintering areas for shorebirds that migrate to and from South America through the West Indies. During my observations, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Western Sandpipers, and Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*) were present in high numbers. This area is a breeding ground for Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) and also has the largest breeding population of the Caribbean race of the Snowy Plover (*C. alexandrinus nivosus*) in Puerto Rico (Gloria Lee, pers. comm.).

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#### ABSTRACTS OF CURRENT RESEARCH IN CUBA

#### REPRODUCTIVE ECOLOGY OF THE CUBAN PARROT (*AMAZONA LEUCOCEPHALA*) IN LOS INDIOS, ISLA DE LA JUVENTUD. I.—NEST SELECTION

Alejandro Llanes Sosa, Rosendo Martínez Montero, and  
Vincente Berovides Álvarez  
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Among the birds which use cavities for nesting, nest selection appears to be a critical factor. The current investigation was carried out to determine the structural components of the cavity and vegetative environment that influence nest selection within a natural population of Cuban Parrots (*Amazona leucocephala*).

la). Data were collected during 1988–1989 in the locality of “Los Indios,” Isla de la Juventud, which is characterized by sandy savannas with palms (*Colpothrinax wrightii*). Parrots used holes created by woodpeckers in the palms as nests. A total of 242 nests were analyzed, some of which were in planted palms. Eight variables were measured at each cavity in natural or planted palms. Five variables were examined in the surrounding vegetation. In 1988, 38.2% of the planted palms were occupied by parrots versus 12.5% of the natural nest trees. Similarly, in 1989 these values were 30.9% and 25%, respectively. Parrots preferred planted palms for nesting because those trees had cavities of greater depth, shorter distance from the entrance to the ground, and the lower density of other palms around the nest.

## REPRODUCTIVE ECOLOGY OF THE CUBAN PARROT (*AMAZONA LEUCOCEPHALA*) IN LOS INDIOS, ISLA DE LA JUVENTUD. II.—POPULATION DYNAMICS

Vincente Berovides Alvarez, Alejandro Llanes Sosa, and  
Rosendo Martinez Montero  
La Habana, Cuba

The reproductive success of Cuban Parrots (*Amazona leucocephala*) was studied in Isla de la Juventud, Cuba. The number of chicks fledged per nest was compared with the limiting factor of nest cavity quality in planted palms (*Colpothrinax wrightii*) and natural sites. Six variables of nest structure and two of the surrounding vegetation were measured for each nest cavity in natural and planted trees. We monitored 48 nests through fledging. A relationship was established between nest number and the structural and vegetative factors mentioned before, using a principal component analysis (PCA). Examining the reproductive outcome of all parrot pairs from 1982 to 1989 allowed us to analyze the population dynamics of the species and to calculate the intrinsic rate of natural increase. The structural component of the nest with the greatest influence on the number of chicks fledged was cavity depth. However, this relationship was significant only in nests in planted palms, which generally showed a better reproductive success than pairs using cavities in natural trees. Population increase during a year was linear and was estimated as 0.195. Abundance of the nest sites was examined, as well as the reproductive chronology in our study area.

## BOOK REVIEW

**A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad & Tobago, 2nd edition.**—Richard ffrench. 1991. Ithaca, New York, Comstock Publishing Associates, a division of Cornell University Press. xvii + 426 pp., plates and drawings by John P. O'Neill, portraits by Don R. Eckelberry.—This publication completely updates the first edition of this unique and indispensable work, which was published in 1976 and last revised in the early 1980s. Although that edition is still

usable, the new edition contains many improvements and a plethora of new information.

Illustrations are the heart of a field guide. The original paintings were very good, but I feel that an opportunity has been lost to eliminate confusion due to crowding. All of the color plates have been reprinted intact at the same size as in the first edition, even though the new edition features a larger page size. A better use of the larger page size would have been to reposition male–female pairs and to provide more space among species, especially on the plates of the hummingbirds, manakins, and tanagers. Many plates now depict rather small images of birds tightly clumped on pages with wide, unused margins.

John O'Neill painted one new color plate for this edition, illustrating such gorgeous, but unrelated, species as Channel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*) and Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*). The exceptional whiteness of the paper on which the plates are printed adds to the brilliance of the colors.

All of the portraits from the first edition have been consolidated at the center of the book, following the plates, which makes finding them much easier than before. The portraits would have been even more accessible had they been inserted in phylogenetic order among the plates rather than being lumped after them. The present arrangement, however, still is better than that in the first edition. As in the first edition, 24 species are illustrated as line drawings. A dozen of these drawings have been recast in far better detail than in the first edition.

As expected in a new edition, the information presented here has been updated and expanded from that in the first edition. The original introduction was so thorough that little could be added here except for a few timely updates, such as the recovery of certain species in Tobago. Several tables have been revised to reflect new information on the occurrence of migratory species in Trinidad and Tobago.

The body of the book consists of detailed accounts of more than 400 species of birds. Suffice it to say that ffrench has done another masterful job of pulling together the old and the new, and has added descriptions of several species new to Trinidad and Tobago. Birders familiar with the first edition will appreciate the large amount of new information that ffrench has added to the existing species descriptions, drawing on firsthand reports from competent birders, as well as the literature base. When one considers the length of time required to produce a book of this nature, it is amazing to find that it includes records as current as February 1991, only 6 months before publication.

Among the other improvements, ffrench has incorporated the latest American Ornithologists' Union names, substituting whistling-duck for tree duck, Common Piping-Guan for Trinidad Piping-Guan, Olivaceous Cormorant for Neotropic Cormorant, etc. Such consistency should ease the synonym problem for users comparing species descriptions among field guides. The titles of some of the plates have been changed to more accurately reflect their content; e.g., “Large Raptors” instead of “Hawks and Vulture,” “Medium-sized and Small Raptors” instead of “Kites and Falcons,” and “Hermits and Larger Hummingbirds” and “Smaller Hummingbirds” instead



of just "Hummingbirds."

Welcome evidence of editorial generosity pervades the text. The editor has been especially generous with eye-relieving white space, such as blank lines between table of contents items and between topics in the species accounts. Such breaks are especially helpful in allowing the eye to quickly locate section headings. In the same vein, almost all of the figures, maps, and photographs have been printed larger than in the first edition. Moreover, the resolution of the photographs has been enhanced. Finally, the type is set more tightly than in the first edition, which makes for easier reading.

Besides being technically accurate, the author has performed a valuable service by pointing out, in the species accounts, species that have been decimated by human disturbance and hunting. He calls for additional protection for species that, as everywhere, are being threatened by unrestricted clearing of land and unenforced restrictions or bans on hunting.

All books described as "field guides" should be portable. This edition meets that criterion, being midway in size between the National Geographic Society's Field Guide to Birds of North America and Stiles and Skutch's A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica. It fits comfortably into a belt-strap book pouch. Those who balk at the weight of the hardcover version (suggested list price US\$72.50) will welcome the availability of a rugged softback version (about US\$35).—William L. Murphy, 7202 Mathew Street, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770, U.S.A.

## 1992 MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology will hold its Fifth Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 31 July to 5 August 1992. The meeting will take place at El Convento Hotel, which offers exceptional accommodations for members' and Society activities. El Convento Hotel is centrally located for the scheduled field trips to the rain forest in the Sierra de Luquillo and the Cambalache Forest. This year, the meeting will feature two field trips, two workshops, meetings of the working groups (pigeons and doves, parrots, conservation, technical), as well as the scientific sessions. Forms for advanced registration, room reservation, and abstracts for papers to be presented will be mailed directly to members. Others can obtain these forms from:

Dr. Rosemarie Gnam  
23 Mount Vernon Ave.  
Alexandria, Virginia 22301  
U.S.A.

### Preliminary Schedule

Friday 31 July:	
2:00—6:00 P.M.	Registration
7:00 P.M.	Reception
7:30 P.M.	Board Meeting

Saturday 1 August:	
9:00 A.M.	Opening

### Saturday 1 August (Continued):

10:00 A.M.—4:30 P.M.	Paper sessions
5:00 P.M.	Business meeting

### Sunday 2 August:

Morning—evening	Field Trips
	Evening open for meetings

### Monday 3 August:

9:00 A.M.—4:30 P.M.	Paper sessions
8:00 P.M.	Plenary session

### Tuesday 4 August:

9:00 A.M.—4:30 P.M.	Papers/Workshops
7:30 P.M.	Banquet

### Wednesday 5 August:

All day	Parrot workshops/Field
Evening	Open

### Field Trips:

1. *Sierra de Luquillo, Caribbean National Forest*—Trip to the spectacular rain forest in eastern Puerto Rico. This 28,000 acre montane forest (elevation to 1,000 m) is the home of the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*), recently discovered Elfin Woods Warbler (*Dendroica angelae*), and many other endemics.

Cost—U.S. \$10

2. *Cambalache Forest*—The Cambalache Forest, near the north coast of Puerto Rico, is one of the finest examples of tropical karst in the world. The terrain appears as clusters of haystack hills ("mogotes"), separated from one another by rounded depressions. The 380 ha Forest, ranges from 5–50 m in elevation, and contains 3 vegetation life zones. Approximately 45 bird species are common in the Forest. Among these, 8 are endemic to Puerto Rico, 34 are breeding residents, and 11 are migratory.

Cost—U.S. \$10

### Workshops:

1. *Methods of Parrot Conservation*, including surveying methods, habitat management, captive management, and veterinary aspects—Francisco Vilella and Ernesto Garcia, co-leaders. [See additional information on page 6.]  
2. *Neotropical Migrant Land Birds of the Caribbean*—Joe Wunderle, Leader.

The deadline for room reservations and advanced registration is 15 May 1992. Abstracts for papers should be sent by 15 June 1992.

Hope you can make it!

## PSITTACINE WORKSHOP

A workshop on methodology in psittacine conservation will be conducted during the 1992 meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology. The workshop will be held in the Caribbean National Forest, home of the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*), and will consist of the following:

### Day 1, Morning [August 4].—ESTIMATING PSITTACINE POPULATIONS

1. Opening and Welcoming Remarks  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Supervisor  
Caribbean National Forest District Ranger
2. Psittacine Census Methodology  
(F.J. Vilella and J.M. Meyers)
  - a. Lowland areas (Meyers)
  - b. Montane areas (Vilella)
  - c. Ground level (Meyers)
  - d. Canopy level (Vilella)
  - e. Roost counts (Meyers)
  - f. Some possible differences between counting parrots and parakeets (Vilella and Meyers)

### Day 1, Afternoon.—HABITAT MANAGEMENT

1. Management Support Structures
  - a. Observation blinds
  - b. General principles of climbing safety and equipment
  - c. Observation platforms (canopy level)
2. Cavity Improvement
  - a. Cavity surveys
  - b. Cavity evaluation
  - c. Cavity improvement

### Day 2, Morning [August 5].—PSITTACINE VETERINARY MEDICINE (A.B. Arnizaut, D.V.M., and J. Torres, D.V.M.)

Topics to be announced

PUBLIC EDUCATION (Paul Butler)

CLOSING REMARKS (Workshop scheduled to end by noon)

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE 1992 MEETING OF THE COLUMBID WORKING GROUP

Frank F. Rivera-Milan  
Scientific Research Area  
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Apartado 5887, Puerta de Tierra  
Puerta de Tierra, Puerto Rico 00906

The 1992 meeting of the Working Group was held August 6, 1991, in St. Lucia. Frank F. Rivera-Milan was "elected" as Chairman of the Working Group. The following people were present at the meeting: Thomas Bancroft, Joanna Burger, Alexander Cruz, Michael Gochfeld, Simone Guerrero, Catherine Levy, Frank Rivera, Alexander Sprunt, and Jim Wiley.

The main theme discussed at the meeting was the Special

## Columbid Working Group Report (continued)

Symposium on Columbids to be held during 1993, probably in Cuba. The consensus reached by the members was the following:

1. The Symposium should be held at least two days before the beginning of the 1993 meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology.
2. The presentations should include columbids in the Caribbean region (i.e., as delineated by David Lack, 1976. *Island Biology*; and James Bond, 1983. *Birds of the West Indies*).
3. If possible, the presentations will cover the following topics:
  - a. Status, distribution, and abundance
  - b. Habitat use
  - c. Foraging and nesting ecology
  - d. Behavioral studies
  - e. Banding and telemetry studies
  - f. Taxonomy and ecomorphology
  - g. Captive breeding
  - h. Hunting statistics and regulation
  - i. Conservation biology
4. The members of the Working Group will contact agencies, universities, and local groups to encourage the participation of people doing research in the Caribbean region.
5. The members of the Working Group will contact the Chairman as soon as possible (say, early 1992) to help in the integration of all the available information.
6. The announcement of the Symposium (and the information received) will be published in newsletters, such as "El Pitirre" early in 1992.
7. The Symposium agenda should be announced early in 1993 together with the agenda for the 1993 annual meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology.

### Membership

A list of 41 active Working Group members was produced.

### Problems and Constraints

Ann M. Haynes-Sutton (1991 Chairperson) correctly identified the major problem faced by the Columbids Working Group when she wrote that "The Columbids Working Group itself seems to lack focus. There seems to be general agreement that everyone would like to know more, but the specific issues which need to be addressed have not been identified."

The two most important human-induced environmental problems affecting columbids in the Caribbean region are (1) habitat loss and deterioration, and (2) legal and illegal hunting.

As a first step, the Working Group can initiate efforts to standardize counts of columbids in several of the Caribbean islands (using the sampling scheme developed in Puerto Rico by the Department of Natural Resources as an example). These basic data, although not without technical problems, are probably the most cost-effective sampling alternative for the long-term study of columbid populations over broad spatial scales, such as life zones. This first step, however, is an expensive one. Hence, the first issue that we must address is related to funding. As a Working Group, we must identify and

contact adequate funding sources. (Ideas for proposals are welcome!). For example, PARTNERS IN FLIGHT and the United States Bureau of Land Management might provide partial funding, especially if we are willing to include non-game migratory birds in this sampling scheme.

There is a need to conduct intensive and extensive long-term studies in the Caribbean. Therefore, we must provide training opportunities for the interested amateurs of the different islands. It is good to know, for example, that the Gosse Bird Club of Jamaica conducted a Christmas Bird Count in 1990. Indeed, the exercise can be repeated during different seasons and years on the same (and perhaps new) counting areas, especially (although not necessarily) if the same interested volunteers are available. Of course, all these efforts will be more productive if a standard sampling scheme is developed, and the counts are conducted by trained personnel. The data, then, could be used to generate sound management and research recommendations. These data, of course, can be made available to interested investigators, for example, in the study of long-term population trends in the different islands, or the Caribbean as a whole.

Funding is our first priority. But we must write the correct words to the right people.

Thank you for your attention. Please contact me as soon as possible.

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#### DRAFT OF SOCIETY'S CONSTITUTION TO BE SENT TO MEMBERS

A draft of the Constitution for the Society of Caribbean Ornithology was completed by the Executive Committee during a meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, 28-29 February 1992. The draft Constitution will be mailed to Society members along with the 1992 Annual Meeting package. Members are urged to respond by signed mail ballot to Dr. Alexander Cruz by 15 May 1992.

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#### ALLAN KEITH STEPS DOWN AS SOCIETY'S TREASURER

Allan Keith has reluctantly left the position of Treasurer for the Society of Caribbean Ornithology, citing the need to attend to many other commitments and the demands of his professional career. Allan provided the Society with four years of outstanding service, and he will be missed.

Dr. Rosemarie Gnam has accepted the position as interim Treasurer until the summer of 1993.

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#### NEWS OF MEMBERS

As of 1 April 1992, Dr. Kelly Brock will begin a curatorial internship at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Her new address is:

Department of Mammals  
National Zoological Park  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Ms. Lourdes Mugica Valdes, of the Department of Biology, Universidad de La Habana, Cuba, is working on her Master of Science degree at Simon Fraser University. Lourdes expects to complete her degree in 1993. Until then, she can be contacted at:

Department of Biological Sciences  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, British Columbia V5A 1S6

Dr. José A. Ottenwalder has received his doctoral degree from the University of Florida, Gainesville. Congratulations José!

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#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Puerto Rican Parrot Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is requesting volunteers to provide assistance from June through August 1992. The project is in the rain forests of eastern Puerto Rico. The field work will require working long hours (16-18 hours maximum) in wet, steep, and hazardous terrain. Ability to work with minimum supervision is required.

Primary responsibilities include: monitoring Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*) reproductive activity from observation blinds, monitoring parrot activities and movements from lookout platforms in the canopy of the rain forest, collecting wild foods for the captive parrot population, and providing assistance at the Field Office aviary, where the captive flock of Puerto Rican Parrots is housed. At the aviary, volunteers will assist in the construction of nest boxes, preparation of parrot breeding cages, preparation of food for the captives, and general aviary maintenance.

Airfare, transportation, lodging, and a small weekly stipend will be provided by the Field Office. Volunteers with previous tropical experience will be considered as first choice. Ability to minimally communicate in Spanish, as well as basic knowledge of avian biology and animal behavior, are required. Applicants should send a resumé and two letters of recommendation to:

Dr. Francisco J. Vilella  
Field Coordinator  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Puerto Rican Parrot Field Office  
P.O. Box 488  
Palmer, Puerto Rico 00721

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#### REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

**PEWEES IN THE CARIBBEAN.** Many thanks to several members for study copies of their photographs or tapes of *Contopus caribaeus*. I would now greatly appreciate receiving close-up photos or tape recordings of calls or songs, particularly *Dawn Songs*, of the Lesser Antillean Pewee (*C. latirostris*), especially from St. Lucia. I will be glad to pay for them, or for tape, film, or postage costs.

George B. Reynard  
105 Midway St.  
Riverton, NJ 08077



## MEETINGS OF INTEREST

9-12 April 1992 - **The Wilson Ornithological Society** will meet with the Florida Ornithological Society at the Hilton Inn Gateway West, Kissimmee, Florida, U.S.A. (Roberta Geanangel and Herbert W. Kale will co-chair the Local Committee. Keith L. Bildstein, Department of Biology, Winthrop College, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29733, will chair the Scientific Program Committee).

20-26 April 1992 - **American Birding Association** Convention, Mobile, Alabama. (ABA Convention '92, P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80934-6599; telephone: 800-835-2473).

10-15 May 1992 - **International Symposium on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections**, Madrid, Spain. (Information available from: Cesar Romero-Serra, Department of Anatomy, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6, Canada; or Julio Gisbert & Fernando Palacios, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, José Gutierrez Abascal 2, 28006 Madrid, Spain).

10-17 May 1992 - **4th World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls**, Berlin, Germany. (World Working Group on Birds of Prey, 15b Bolton Garden, London SW5 0AL, United Kingdom; or Wangenheimstr. 32, 1000 Berlin 33, Germany).

31 May-6 June 1992 - **Society of Wetland Scientists**, 13th annual meeting, Clarion Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A. (Mary C. Landin, Program Chair, U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180-6199; telephone: 800-522-6937, ext. 2942, or 601-634-2942; fax: 601-634-4016).

1-6 June 1992 - **Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections**, 7th annual meeting, Nebraska State Museum. Conservation workshop on pest management. (Charlie Messenger, Local Committee Chair, Nebraska State Museum, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588, U.S.A.; telephone: 402-472-8366).

13-18 June 1992 - **The Animal Behavior Society**, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. (L. Ratcliffe or K. Wynne-Edwards, Department of Biology, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6 Canada).

22-25 June 1992 - **Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution (SAPE)** will hold its third symposium at the Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Those who wish to participate and to receive the next circular of information should notify D.S. Peters, Senckenberg Museum, Senckenberg-Anlage 25, D-6000 Frankfurt/M, Germany.

22-26 June 1992 - **Cooper Ornithological Society**, 62nd annual meeting, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. (David A. Manuwal [Local Arrangements Chair],

## Meetings of Interest (continued)

Wildlife Science Group, College of Forest Resources, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195, U.S.A.; Dennis Martin [Scientific Program Committee], Biology Department, Pacific Lutheran College, Tacoma, Washington 98447, U.S.A.).

24-27 June 1992 - **The American Ornithologists' Union** annual meeting, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, U.S.A. (Erwin E. Klaas, Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Science Hall 2, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011, U.S.A.; for information on the program, contact James Kushlan, AOU Program Coordinator, Department of Biology, University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi 38677; telephone: 601-232-7203; fax: 601-232-5144).

27 June-1 July 1992 - **Society for Conservation Biology**, 6th annual meeting, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, U.S.A. (Gerald Cross, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061-0321, U.S.A.; telephone: 703-231-8844; fax: 703-231-3330).

13-17 July 1992 - **International Symposium on "Biodiversity in Managed Landscapes: Theory and Practice,"** Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn, Sacramento, California, U.S.A. (Robert C. Szaro, USDA Forest Service, Forest Environment Research, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090; telephone: 202-205-1524; fax: 202-205-1551).

31 July-5 August 1992 - **Society of Caribbean Ornithology** annual meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico. (Dr. Rosemarie Gnam, 23 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, Virginia 22301, U.S.A.).

8-11 August 1992 - **Association of Systematics Collections**, Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A. (ASC, 730 11th St., N.W., 2nd Floor, Washington, D.C. 20001, U.S.A.; telephone: 202-347-2850).

9-14 August 1992 - **Society for Ecological Restoration**, 4th annual conference, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. (Society for Ecological Restoration, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, Wisconsin 53711, U.S.A.; telephone: 608-262-9547).

17-22 August 1992 - **Fourth International Behavioral Ecology Congress**, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey. (ISBE Committee, Daniel Rubenstein, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08544-1003).

10-11 September 1992 - **"The Conservation and Cultural Value of Tropical Forest Fragments."** (Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, National Zoological Park, Washington, D.C. 20008, U.S.A.).



**22-25 September 1992 – Neotropical Migratory Bird Symposium and Workshop**, Estes Park, Colorado. (General information: Tom Martin, Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701, U.S.A.; information on exhibiting: Deborah Finch, USFS, 222 South 22nd St., Laramie, Wyoming 82070, U.S.A.).

**2-4 October 1992 – Association of Field Ornithologists and American Birding Association**, joint meeting, Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut, U.S.A. (Robert Askins, Box 5416, Department of Zoology, 270 Mohegan Ave., Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut 06320, U.S.A.).

**14-18 October 1992 – Colonial Waterbird Society**, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi, U.S.A. (James Kushlan, Department of Biology, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi 38677, U.S.A.; telephone: 601-232-7203; fax: 601-232-1006).

**12-19 November 1992 – Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation in the 1990s—a Global Perspective**. Tradewinds Hotel, St. Petersburg, Florida. (Simon Nash, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester, GL2 7BX, United Kingdom).

**19-24 April 1993 – 58th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference**, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (Wildlife Management Institute, Suite 725, 1101 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, U.S.A.).

**15-17 April 1993 – Second Conference on Orientation and Navigation—Birds, Humans and other Animals**, Wadham College, Oxford University, England. (Abstracts of papers due by 1 July 1992; The Royal Institute of Navigation, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AT, England).

**21-27 August 1994 – XXI International Ornithological Congress**, Vienna, Austria. (Interconvention, A-1450 Vienna, Austria).

## THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY

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