

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.

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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, Pestige, 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

THE DISCOVERY OF THE ELFIN WOODS WARBLER — AN INSIDE LOOK. <i>Kenneth C. Parkes</i> .....	2
SECOND RECORD OF BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (CALIDRIS BAIRDII) FOR TRINIDAD, WITH NOTES ON ITS OCCURRENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN. <i>William L. Murphy</i> .....	3
TALLER EXPERIMENTAL DE ESTUDIOS DE AVES MIGRATORIAS EN CUBA. <i>Hiram Gonzalez Alonso</i> .....	5
REPORT FROM THE COLUMBID WORKING GROUP. <i>Ann M. Haynes-Sutton</i> .....	5
NEW BIRD PUBLICATIONS FROM THE FRENCH WEST INDIES.	6
REVIEWS:	
OISEAUX DES PETITES ANTILLES, by Édouard Benito-Espinal .....	6
A L'ECOUTE DES OISEAUX DE GUADELOUPE ET DE MARTINIQUE, by Patricia Hautcastel and Max Guérin ...	7
A L'ECOUTE DES OISEAUX DE GUADELOUPE ET DE MARTINIQUE, by Patricia Hautcastel, Max Guérin, and Eric Igabille .....	8
1991 MEETING OF THE SCO IN ST LUCIA .....	8
ANNOUNCEMENTS .....	9
REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE .....	9
NEWS OF SOCIETY MEMBERS .....	9
MEETINGS OF INTEREST .....	9

## THE DISCOVERY OF THE ELFIN WOODS WARBLER -- AN INSIDE LOOK

Kenneth C. Parkes

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The ornithological community, especially the experts on the birds of the West Indies, suffered a major shock with the announcement in 1972 of a new species of warbler from Puerto Rico. This bird, the Elfin Woods Warbler, was the first new species to have been described from the West Indies since 1927, and the first from Puerto Rico in the Twentieth Century. The formal description of *Dendroica angelae* Kepler and Parkes appeared in *The Auk*, vol. 89. That paper, based on the combined expertise of a Puerto Rico-based field ecologist and a taxonomist long interested in the Parulidae, was exceptionally thorough in its analysis of the habitat and the relationship of the new warbler. But, as is almost always the case, the formal *Auk* paper omitted much of the background of this discovery, many details of which would have been out of place in a formal scientific journal. I have been encouraged by my Puerto Rican colleagues to go on record with some of the anecdotes about incidents connected with the discovery, collection of specimens, and publication of the Elfin Woods Warbler.

I had known Cam and Kay Kepler for some years before they began their respective studies of the Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*) and the Puerto Rican Tody (*Todus mexicanus*). They urged me to visit them at their new home in the Luquillo Experimental Forest, and in March 1971 my wife and I were able to go to Puerto Rico for our vacation. While we were with the Keplers, they told us about some little birds that they had been noticing that did not seem to be in any of the books on West Indian birds. They had sent a description of these birds to James Bond, who suggested that they may have been stray Black-throated Gray Warblers (*Dendroica nigrescens*) from western North America. Bond would not consider the possibility of an unknown species in Puerto Rico. Having understandably rejected Bond's tentative identification, the Keplers felt that there were several reasons, including year-round observations, to consider that these warblers might belong to an endemic breeding population, and possibly (though most improbably) a new species. As a non-taxonomist, it had also occurred to Cam that they might represent an isolated population of some species known from elsewhere in the New World tropics; there is precedent for such a distribution in, for example, the Hispaniolan population of the Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*). Kay, who is an excellent artist, showed me a sketch she had made of the mystery bird. I replied

Discovery of the Elfin Woods Warbler (continued)

immediately that I could tell them two things about their warbler: it was a species entirely unknown to science, and that its nearest relative was the Arrow-headed Warbler (*Dendroica pharetra*) of the Jamaican highlands. We went out to one of the areas where the Keplers had encountered these birds, but it was a gloomy, foggy March day, and the birds were not singing. Cam and I agreed that it was vitally necessary to secure one or more specimens in order to write a formal description of the new species, and he promised to send me progress reports.

For the next couple of months, "progress" was perhaps not the appropriate word to use. Cam had no collecting gun, so he wrote to Washington, D.C., to his employers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, requesting that a gun be sent to him. He received the gun fairly promptly, but discovered that it had no firing pin. So he wrote to Washington again. Back came a firing pin -- the wrong size! So, understandably impatient, Cam borrowed a pellet gun, and on 18 May 1971 he collected the first specimen of the bird we had already agreed to call *Dendroica angelae* for Kay, whose full name is Angela Kay Kepler. Cam wrote me that he wasn't very good at making bird skins, and planned to take or to send the frozen specimen to Washington, to have a proper skin made by the legendary Roxie Laybourne. I wrote back to say that it wasn't such a good idea to haul this unique bird all over the place, and suggested that he keep it in the freezer until I could get back to Puerto Rico. I could then do the detailed description necessary for our planned paper, and prepare the skin myself.

Thanks to the Edward O'Neil Fund of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, I flew to Puerto Rico that July. At the Kepler's house, I thawed out the warbler specimen. It was soaking wet, so I spent the next hour or so drying and fluffing up the plumage with hot cornmeal, keeping a pan on the stove to replenish the cornmeal as it got soggy.

After I had written a detailed description of the complicated plumage pattern, I was faced with the problem of the preparation of the study skin. I had discovered that the pellet that had brought the bird down had opened a great hole in the lower back. Normally I would begin skinning a bird by making an incision down the length of its belly. Had I done this with the warbler, however, I would have ended up with two strips of skin, thanks to the big hole already present on the back. So I decided to skin out the bird *through* the shot hole. This meant, in effect, encountering the bird's anatomy in a reverse sequence. I had prepared waterfowl skins with a dorsal incision, but never as small a bird as a warbler.

Cam Kepler has reminded me that while I was working on the specimen, I wandered into another room and said, in an awestruck tone, "Just think,



I'm the only person in the world who has ever had Elfin Woods Warbler fat under my fingernails!"

Fortunately the skinning went well, and the gap in the back of the specimen is concealed by the folded wings. But the pellet had also completely smashed the bird's pelvic area, and I was unable to find any trace of the gonads. Cam was sure it was a male, because before he shot it he had seen it singing from a series of song perches. I thought it undesirable for the type specimen of a new species to be a bird whose sex had not been verified anatomically. Cam, who had not previously been involved in taxonomic descriptions, was under the impression that the first specimen actually collected was automatically the type specimen. I reassured him on this point, and suggested that we hike up to the elfin woods and collect another specimen, this time with more appropriate ammunition for a tiny bird. This we did, luckily getting both an adult and a young bird in the greenish "immature" (= first basic) plumage.

Back at the Keplers' house, I wrote a detailed description of the adult, which I could verify as a male, noting some minor differences from the first specimen. I had to do this before preparing the study skin, as some of the complex pattern of *Dendroica angelae* is concealed or somewhat distorted in a museum specimen. Next I turned to the young bird. We had had to arise at something like 3 AM to be able to get to the elfin woods habitat by dawn, and I was exhausted. I found myself preparing the skin of the young bird almost in my sleep, having had enough experience in this technique to do it almost as a series of reflexes. When finished, I realized to my horror that thanks to my fatigue, I had completely overlooked the necessity of writing the plumage description before skinning the bird. I apologized to Cam, and told him we would have to go back and get another young bird. He is, fortunately, a patient and tolerant individual, and we repeated our trip up the mountain and did indeed collect another of the green-plumaged birds. Our respective talents combined well during this adventure, as Cam is a better shot than I am, but wasn't happy about his skinning abilities. Thus, the first four specimens of *Dendroica angelae* were all collected by Cameron Kepler and prepared by me.

The second young bird, which proved to be a male, was duly written up, and a good specimen made of it while I was reasonably awake. It and the second adult, which became the type specimen, were deposited in the United States National Museum, and Carnegie Museum of Natural History houses the 18 May male and the first immature bird, a female. The conformation of the study skin of that young bird is a constant reminder of my having prepared it in my sleep!

The late Oliver L. Austin, Jr., was the Editor of *The Auk* at that time. He was excited by our

paper, and was able to get the consent of the author scheduled to have the lead article in the next available issue (January 1972) postponed to make room for the *Dendroica angelae* bombshell. I telephoned my friend Don Eckelberry, who had previously done a painting for me for a frontispiece to accompany a journal paper, and asked him whether he would like to do a painting of a new species. Don was not enthusiastic, as he knew that I was heavily involved with studies on Philippine birds (as I am still), and he thought I meant a new Philippine species. When I explained that this was a bird from Puerto Rico, he perked up immediately. I knew already that Don didn't like to paint any bird that he had not seen alive himself (or at least seen a closely related species). I urged him to try to get down to Puerto Rico and see the Elfin Woods Warbler himself. He was able to arrange to take a few days in his busy schedule and join Cam and Kay Kepler in the field. He made sketches of the warbler and of the plants in its habitat, and painted the fine portrait that appeared as the frontispiece in the January 1972 *Auk*. Some years later Don generously presented the original painting to the Keplers.

Unfortunately, in the haste necessary to get the journal issue out promptly, there was not adequate time to allow the artist to see the color proofs. In the reproduction of the frontispiece the contrast was set too high, so that the pattern of the lower figure, the immature bird, stands out too boldly, whereas the actual markings of this plumage are relatively subtle. We also found three typographical errors, and after checking up, Cam found that the blame for these could be allotted evenly: he, I, and the Editor were each responsible for one error.

It is difficult to believe that almost twenty years have elapsed since the discovery of the Elfin Woods Warbler. I treasure the memory of this adventure that the Keplers allowed me to share. I will probably never again experience the eerie feeling of standing under a tree watching a family group of birds that, as far as the world of ornithology was concerned, did not exist!

**SECOND RECORD OF BAIRD'S  
SANDPIPER (*CALIDRIS BAIRDII*) FOR  
TRINIDAD, WITH NOTES ON ITS  
OCCURRENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN  
BASIN**

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A Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) in juvenal plumage was observed on 17 November 1989 at the Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, wastewater treatment ponds (10°23'N, 61°09'W), inland approximately 1.6 km from the Gulf of Paria, by six members of a

Peregrine Enterprises, Inc., birding group. This sighting is the second record for Trinidad. Identifying characters included a typical horizontal posture, wingtips extending well beyond the tip of the tail, overall brownish coloration, pointed black bill with a slight droop at the tip, black legs, very dark tertials with whitish edgings (giving a typical scaly appearance), dark rump and upper tail coverts, white chin and throat, a buffy wash across the finely streaked breast, and clear white flanks. Two adult White-rumped Sandpipers (*C. fuscicollis*) were nearby for comparison; in North America, Baird's Sandpiper often associates with White-rumped Sandpipers (pers. observ.). Other *Calidris* species present included a Red Knot (*C. canutus*), Western Sandpiper (*C. mauri*), and an undetermined number of Western and Semipalmated (*C. pusilla*) sandpipers.

Baird's Sandpiper is virtually unreported from the northeastern part of South America (Jehl 1979), to which the avifauna of Trinidad has strong affinity. Hilty and Brown (1986) have no records from Colombia east of the Andes, although de Schauensee and Phelps (1978) listed one inland record in Venezuela (Ocumare, Aragua; 725 km west of Trinidad) in October and Wetmore (1939) listed several sight records from the lowlands of Venezuela, again in late October. Baird's Sandpiper also is very uncommon in Central America. Stiles and Skutch (1989) described its status in Costa Rica as a very uncommon, but probably regular, fall migrant (September to early November), chiefly in the highlands but also sparingly along the Pacific coast.

Baird's Sandpiper has been recorded only four times previously from the Caribbean. ffrench (1977) published the only other record from Trinidad (2 September 1976, at Waller Field), and he remarked (ffrench 1988) that similarity to other sandpipers may have precluded its identification in Trinidad on other occasions. Bond (1962, 1985) included in his list of vagrants to the West Indies a specimen from Barbados (present 26 August - 5 November, year not given), shot from a flock of five birds. Most recently, Pérez-Rivera (1987) reported a Baird's Sandpiper from Puerto Rico (1 September 1980) and Fred Sladen observed this species on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (27 August 1982; Norton 1983).

Hayman et al. (1986) wrote that Baird's Sandpiper migrates south through the North American prairies, overflying Central America, and following the Andes, with the first juveniles reaching Argentina by late August. Vagrants have been reported from northern and southeastern Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Japan, Hawaii, the Galapagos Islands, the Falkland Islands, South Africa, Senegal, the Azores, and northwestern Europe east to Sweden and Poland. Although vagrants have exceptionally win-

tered in Europe, there are no documented records for North America after December (Hayman et al. 1986).

Juvenile Baird's Sandpipers migrate later than adults (Jehl 1979). Their migration is much more protracted than that of the adults, which can take as little as five weeks. The slower, broader movements of juveniles in part account for the fact that among fall-taken specimens, juveniles are more than five times more common than adults (Jehl 1979).

The west coast of Trinidad along the Gulf of Paria is a haven for migrant shorebirds (pers. observ.). Morrison et al. (1989) reported that of 13,600 Nearctic shorebirds found in Trinidad in February 1982, all but 39 were found on the west coast. They noted that more shorebirds were found there than on the Venezuelan coastline of the Gulf of Paria, with Trinidad sectors accounting for 60.3% of 22,600 shorebirds found.

I thank Claudia P. Wilds and Robert L. Norton for reviewing the manuscript.

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## TALLER EXPERIMENTAL DE ESTUDIOS DE AVES MIGRATORIAS EN CUBA

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Algunos resultados obtenidos en Cuba en cuanto a diseños experimentales sobre técnicas de captura de aves con redes ornitológicas, anillamientos, métodos de conteos, medición de vegetación y detección de rutas migratorias a través de radares fueron analizados y discutidos entre ornitólogos cubanos, canadienses y estadounidenses. Estos intercambios se vienen realizando desde 1988 en localidades de la Ciénaga de Zapata. Los especialistas cubanos han desarrollado estos trabajos en Península de Hicacos, Gibara, Guanahacabibes y Cayo Paredón Grande. Como continuación de estos intercambios, especialistas de estos tres países aplicaron estas técnicas y llevaron a cabo investigaciones sobre las comunidades de aves entre el 4 y el 15 de febrero de 1991 en áreas boscosas de la Ciénaga de Zapata, obteniéndose resultados experimentales de gran valor ornitológico y conservacionista para la región del Caribe. Este Taller fue auspiciado por el Laboratorio Cubano de Aves Migratorias (Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, A.C.C.), la Facultad de Biología (Universidad de la Habana) y el Ministerio de Agricultura, Cuba; el Servicio Canadiense de la Vida Silvestre (Environment Canada) y el Observatorio de Aves de Long Point (Ontario).

Para información adicional, pregunta Hiram Gonzalez Alonso, o George Wallace, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1MO, Canada.

## FIELD STUDIES OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN CUBA

**Hiram Gonzalez Alonso**

Since 1988, Cuban, Canadian, and United States ornithologists have collaborated in capture and banding techniques, counting methods, vegetation sampling, and monitoring bird migration in winter at several study sites in the Zapata Swamp, Matanzas Province, Cuba, since 1988. Cuban participants have developed additional studies in Hicacos Peninsula, Gibara, Guanahacabibes Peninsula, and Grand Paredon Cay. Biologists from the three countries continued their joint investigations of bird communities from 4-15 February 1991 in 2 additional forested sites in the Zapata Swamp.

Results obtained in 1991 will be both interesting ornithologically and useful for the conservation of birds in the Caribbean region. The joint work in 1991 was made possible by the Cuban Laboratory of Migratory Birds of the Institute of Ecology and Systematics of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, the Faculty of Biology of the University of Havana, the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture, the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada, and the Long Point Bird Observatory of Ontario, Canada. For further information, contact: Hiram Gonzalez Alonso, or George Wallace, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1MO, Canada.

## REPORT FROM THE COLUMBID WORKING GROUP

**Ann M. Haynes-Sutton**

*Marshall's Pen, P.O. Box 58, Mandeville, Jamaica*

The objective of the Columbid Working Group is to promote an integrated Caribbean approach to columbid research, conservation, and management in the region, and to facilitate the exchange of information between those concerned with columbids in the Caribbean. The group has met twice so far, in Santo Domingo in 1989, and in Jamaica in 1990. People who have expressed interest in working with the group include Ann M. Haynes-Sutton (Chairperson), Alexander Cruz, Wayne Hoffman, Carlos Ruiz, Peter Vogel, Davide Ramos, Oscar Díaz, Frank Rivera Milan, Joanna Burger, and Audrey Downer.

The immediate task which the group set for itself was to collect information on the following topics:

1. Species distribution, biogeography, population status, and trends of Caribbean columbids.
2. Laws affecting management of columbids, especially concerning game species, seasons, dates, bag limits, data collection by hunters, issuance of licenses (including hunter proficiency tests), and systems of enforcement and their effectiveness.
3. Sources of published and unpublished information concerning columbids in the Caribbean.
4. Sources of local and international funding and technical support for research (including the possibility of intra-regional transfer of skills and standardization of programs).
5. People working on columbids in the Caribbean (including researchers, resource managers, and representatives from hunter's organizations, etc.) and their projects.

An international banding program may be necessary to enable researchers to attempt to determine patterns of migration among the islands of the

Caribbean. Consideration would have to be given to how a unified program could be established in the region. This project would be expensive and time consuming and has to be considered a long term commitment. In the meanwhile, banding efforts could be concentrated on certain migrants, such as the White-crowned Pigeon (*Columba leucocephala*), White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), and Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*).

The next meeting of the Working Group will take place during the August 1991 annual meeting of The Society of Caribbean Ornithology in St. Lucia. It is hoped that a symposium on the status and distribution of columbids in the Caribbean will be included in the meeting schedule.

Any other persons who are interested in working with the Group or who have suggestions about its focus should contact Ann M. Haynes-Sutton, Marshall's Pen, P.O. Box 58, Mandeville, Jamaica.

### NEW BIRD PUBLICATIONS FROM THE FRENCH WEST INDIES

M. Édouard Benito-Espinal, renowned resident ecologist and ornithologist in Guadeloupe and Martinique, has announced the availability of several new publications on the birds of the Lesser Antilles. These valuable contributions to the knowledge of the region's birds are available as follows:

**Oiseaux des Petites Antilles/Birds of the West Indies**, by Édouard Benito-Espinal, (1990). Les Editions du Latanier, Guadeloupe. A guide book of birds of the Lesser Antilles, focusing on those of Martinique and the Guadeloupe Archipelago. Available at 100 French francs (about US\$17) from: Editions du Latanier, Anse des Lézards, 97133 Saint-Barthelemy, French West Indies.

**A l'écoute des Oiseaux de Guadeloupe et de Martinique [Songs of the birds of Guadeloupe and Martinique]**, by Patricia Hautcastel and Max Guerin, under the direction of Édouard Benito-Espinal. Guidebook, 2 audio tapes, and 40 color slides of resident birds. Available at 500 French francs (about US\$ 83) from I.G.E.R.O.C., B.P. 795, 97173 Pointe-à-Pitre cédex, Guadeloupe, French West Indies.

**A l'écoute des Oiseaux de Guadeloupe et de Martinique [Songs of the birds of Guadeloupe and Martinique]**, by Patricia Hautcastel, Max Guerin, and Eric Igabille, under the direction of Édouard Benito-Espinal. Single audio tape, with printed notes on species covered.

Available at 100 French francs (~US\$ 17) from I.G.E.R.O.C. (as above).

**Informative 40 x 60 cm color posters** produced by the Institut Guadeloupéen d'Etude et de Recherche Ornithologique de la Caraïbe (I.G.E.R.O.C.). One of the "Gligli," or American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), the other of the "Grive Gros-bec," or Streaked Saltator (*Saltator albicollis*) of Martinique.

For further information, see the following reviews of these products.

### REVIEWS

**Oiseaux des Petites Antilles/Birds of the West Indies.**—Édouard Benito-Espinal. 1990. Saint-Barthelemy, Guadeloupe, French West Indies, Faune & Flore des Tropiques, Les Editions du Latanier. 128 pp., 74 color plates, 3 maps, numerous tables and black-and-white line drawings of bird distribution. ISBN 2-9502284-5-3. Cloth 100 French francs (~US\$17).—This small (11 x 22 cm), attractive volume is packed with valuable information on the birds of the Lesser Antilles. The text is presented in bilingual form, with each section or species account having an English translation (by Sandy Schopbach) of the original French text. In his foreward, Benito-Espinal notes that until this volume arrived, the Lesser Antillean avifauna has been largely neglected, aside from James Bond's *Birds of the West Indies*, and Father F.R. Pinchon's *Les Oiseaux* (1976). This volume fills the void with its extensive coverage of the region's avifauna. In a preface, Dr. Fortuné Chalumeau describes the value of the volume to our knowledge of birds in the region, and to conservation efforts. Benito-Espinal then gives an overview of the birds of the region, as well as suggestions for bird-watching. The species covered include most of those nesting in Martinique and the Guadeloupean archipelago, as well as many that migrate to or through these islands. The author states that, "although this book essentially refers to the birds of Guadeloupe and Martinique, it may be used throughout most of the West Indian archipelago where, on the whole, the same species live." Presented in the Introduction are conventions used through the guide and a presents a map of the Lesser Antilles, including the islands from Anguila south to Grenada. This is followed by a section on the islands of Guadeloupe and its dependencies, and Martinique, wherein Benito-Espinal discusses the



sizes of the islands, geographical characteristics, and general habitat descriptions. There is a map of the Guadeloupe Archipelago and Martinique showing geographic features and sites mentioned in the text.

In a section entitled, "What is a bird?", the author details the unique characteristics of birds that set them aside from other animals, as well as some general classification information.

The main body of the guide consists of 84 accounts of the resident and some migrant species of the Lesser Antilles. Each species account includes French and English (following the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist) common names, various local names used among the islands covered, the scientific name, the species' length in centimeters and inches, and, for migrants, the period when they occur according to records. The main text for the accounts relates valuable description, status, and habitat information, although the reader is left wanting more on the natural history of each species. A map displays each species' distribution among the Lesser Antilles. In addition, each species' habitat distribution among the nine islands intensively covered (Martinique and the Guadeloupean Archipelago) is characterized in a table. Every species is illustrated with a color plate, of which all but two (one a painting) are photographs taken by the author. These photographs range from exceptional shots of wild birds in natural habitats to staged captives and hand-held birds. Some species are shown in several plumages, showing age and sex differences, and inter-island variation.

The species accounts are followed by an extremely useful "Check-list of birds spotted by Édouard Benito-Espinal in the Guadeloupean Archipelago and Martinique," a 5 page description of the status of 167 species in the islands of Guadeloupe, Marie-Galante, Les Saintes, Désirade, Petite Terre, Saint-Martin, Saint-Barthélemy, and Martinique.

Benito-Espinal has presented several useful indices, including an Index of Scientific Names, which are cross-indexed with French and English names, then separate indices for French, English, and "common" names for the 84 species covered in the main body of the book. Finally, the author provides the reader with a bibliography of 32 references.

**A l'écoute des oiseaux de Guadeloupe et de Martinique.**—Patricia Hautcastel and Max Guérin, under the direction of Édouard Benito-Espinal. Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe. 60 pp. booklet, 2 audio tapes, 40 color slides. Packaged in a plastic container with a color jacket. 500 French francs (~US\$83).—This companion package to M. Benito-Espinal's new guide to the birds of the Lesser Antilles is an equally impressive piece of work. The 60 page text of the companion booklet (in French) opens with an introduction by Benito-Espinal in

which he describes the scope of the effort, and includes a map of the Lesser Antilles, highlighting the islands of particular concern (Martinique and Guadeloupe and its dependencies). Sections on Guadeloupe and Martinique contain maps, characteristics of the archipelago, habitats, and a discussion of their avifaunas. The section, "Contenu des cassettes," lists the French common and scientific names of the species whose voices are presented on the audio tapes. Twenty-one species are on Cassette 1, side A, and 19 on side B. Each side has about 25 minutes of recordings. The recording quality is excellent for the most part, with the subject species clearly presented without distracting background "noise." The second tape (Cassette 2) presents lovely extended (22 minutes) "Concerts" of bird voices, including "Abiance columbidés" (3 species), the Lesser Antillean Flycatcher (*Myiarchus oberi*), the Rufous-throated Solitaire (*Myadestes genibarbis*), and the Forest Thrush (*Cichlherminia lherminieri*) on side A, and delightful choruses of 11 passerine and columbid species on side B.

The authors then give species accounts (following those of Benito-Espinal's new guide) of the 40 birds recorded. These accounts include measurements and the French, English and local names, as well as the scientific name of each species. Species are treated separately for each island group, if they occur on more than one island. The authors provide a map of distribution on those islands, showing sites of occurrence, a table of the species' distribution among the eight islands in the Guadeloupe archipelago, and a table of habitats used by the species. In addition, they present a chart displaying the period (by month) and level of vocal activity for each island group. Finally, in the section, "Quelques zones d'écoute et d'observation conseillées," they make suggestions where one can see and hear that species.

In the next section, "Partitions," the authors present musical scores for the songs of four species: Rufous-throated Solitaire (5 song types), Forest Thrush, Lesser Antillean Pewee (*Contopus latirostris*), and Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*). The following section includes sonograms of the vocalizations of 11 species: Zenaida Dove (*Zenaida aurita*), Bridled Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon mystacea*), Ruddy Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon montana*), Purple-throated Carib (*Eulampis jugularis*), Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*), Forest Thrush, Tropical Mockingbird, Trembler (*Cinlocerthia ruficauda*), Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*), Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), and Black-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris bicolor*).

The authors provide several tables of bird names, including cross-references of scientific names with common French names, local with French common names, and English with French common names.

The third part of this package is a splendid set of

40 color slides, which illustrate the species covered in the audio tapes. The slides are in a plastic fold-out sleeve, with a one-page sheet of vernacular (specific for Martinique and Guadeloupe) and scientific names. Each of the slides is attractively labelled with the species' scientific and local names. Most (30) of the slides are different from the plates in Benito-Espinal's guide, and again include a range of styles, from a painting to hand-held captives to beautiful photographs of birds in the wild. In addition to the species illustrated in Benito-Espinal's guide, the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) is included in this package.

**A l'écoute des oiseaux de Guadeloupe et de Martinique.**— Patricia Hautcastel, Max Guerin, and Eric Igabille, under the direction of Édouard Benito-Espinal. 1987. Produced by RMP Biological Ltd. and Canatron Electroics, Ontario. Audio tape 100 French francs (~US\$17).—This well-produced tape presents the calls and songs of 41 species of birds from Guadeloupe and Martinique. In addition to the vocalizations on the more recent package of two tapes (see above), the authors include vocalizations of the Caribbean Martin (*Progne dominicensis*). The tape comes with notes on the recordings, and a list of the species (French and English common, local, and scientific names) and a discussion of the islands' avifaunas by Édouard Benito-Espinal. Each species is announced with its scientific name and the number of the track for that species. Typically, more than one vocalization track is presented for each species. Recordings are crisp and clear for the most part, with only moderate background noise of insects and non-target bird species.

Each of these publications is an outstanding contribution to our knowledge and enjoyment of the birds of these poorly covered islands. The low cost makes them even more attractive. M. Benito-Espinal's fine publications, along with Peter Evans' new Book on the birds of Dominica and Allan Keith's forthcoming checklists for St. Lucia and Barbados, add up to something of an exciting renaissance of interest in the avifauna of the Lesser Antilles.—James W. Wiley.

### 1991 MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY IN ST. LUCIA

The 1991 Annual Meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology will convene in St. Lucia, 4-8 August. Accommodations for attendees have been arranged at the Saint Lucian Hotel. Registration and accommodations should be arranged through Allan Keith, P.O. Box 325, New Vernon, New Jersey 07976, U.S.A.

For air travel from the United States, the following is suggested: fly to San Juan, Puerto Rico, then use American Eagle from San Juan to VIGIE AIRPORT, St. Lucia. Although the flight arrives late in the evening at Vigie, this airport is only about 15 minutes taxi ride (~US\$10) from the Saint Lucian Hotel, rather than the 1-1/2 hour drive (and ~US\$30-40!) from the island's other airport. No official greeter will meet attendees, but there are plenty of taxis and everyone knows the way to the St. Lucian.

#### Daily Schedule

##### Sunday, August 4

Business Meeting during the day  
Welcome cocktail in the evening

##### Monday, August 5

9:00 AM — Official opening  
9:45-10:00 AM — Coffee Break  
10:00 AM -12:00 noon— Scientific Sessions -  
presentation of papers  
14:00-16:00 PM— Scientific Sessions - presentation  
of papers  
17:00 PM — Working Groups

##### Tuesday, August 6

9:00 AM - 12:00 noon— Scientific Sessions -  
presentation of papers  
14:00-16:00— Scientific Sessions - presentation of  
papers  
17:00 PM— Working Groups

##### Wednesday, August 7

9:00 AM - 12:00 noon— Closing Session  
14:00-17:00 PM— Workshops  
19:00 PM— Banquet

##### Thursday, August 8

Field Trips:

1. Dry east coast at Ravine La Chaloupe and Anse Louvet to search for rare endemic White-breasted Thrasher (*Ramphocinclus brachyurus*) and St. Lucia Nightjar (*Caprimulgus otiosus*), as well as common species. (maximum — 7 persons)
2. Mahaut - Quillesse rainforest walk to search for St. Lucia Parrot (*Amazona versicolor*), Lesser Antillean Bullfinch (*Loxigilla noctis*), St. Lucia Oriole (*Icterus laudabilis*), Lesser Antillean Pewee (*Contopus latirostris*), and other forest birds. (maximum — 50 persons)

If enough people express interest, trips to St. Vincent or Dominica may be arranged.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Association of Avian Veterinarians announces the availability of 2 scholarships to assist veterinarians from Central or South America in attending its annual conference, 23-28 September 1991, in Chicago, Illinois. Preference will be given to veterinarians who are actively involved in avian medicine or aviculture and have demonstrated an interest in conservation. All applications must be in English and include: 1. Name, address, telephone number of applicant; 2. Veterinary college and year of graduation; 3. Nature of professional activity; 4. Organization memberships (professional, scientific, and conservation); 5. Brief sketch of professional background and statement describing how attending the conference will be of benefit to the avian population with which the applicant works; and 6. Supporting letters of recommendation from local conservation organizations are encouraged. Recipients will be asked to make a short presentation (in English) on avian medicine, aviculture, and conservation in their native countries. Applications are due no later than 15 May 1991; results will be announced on 15 June. Applications should be submitted to Association of Avian Veterinarians—Central Office, Dr. R.B. Altman, Chairperson, Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 299, East Northport, New York 11731, U.S.A.

## REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Photographs needed: I would be very grateful to receive any close-up photographs or transparencies of Greater Antillean Pewees (*Contopus caribaeus*) from the Dominican Republic or Haiti, particularly, and also from Cuba, the Bahama Islands, or Jamaica. Please write:

Dr. George B. Reynard  
105 Midway St.  
Riverton, New Jersey 08077  
U.S.A.

Field guides needed: Bill Murphy would like to purchase copies of Richard French's "Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago." The guides will be used for his guided bird tours to the islands. If you have a copy you are willing to part with, please contact:

William L. Murphy  
7202 Mathew Street  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770  
U.S.A.

## NEWS OF SOCIETY MEMBERS

Chandler S. Robbins was presented the 1991 Chuck Yeager Award, sponsored by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The award is presented to a wildlife management or research professional who demonstrates exemplary field work on behalf of fish and wildlife populations. With the award goes a \$15,000 grant to be applied to any conservation project Chan believes worthy of support.

Joseph W. Wunderle, Jr., has accepted a position as Research Wildlife Biologist with the Institute of Tropical Forestry, Southern Forest Experiment Station, USDA Forest Service, Call Box 25000, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico 00928-2500 (telephone: 809-887-6924).

## MEETINGS OF INTEREST

16-19 April 1991 - **Management for Biotic Diversity Workshop**, Fort Collins, Colorado, U.S.A. (Richard L. Knight or Luke George, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521, U.S.A.; telephone: 303-491-6714).

26-28 April 1991 - **Eastern Bird Banding Association** will hold its annual meeting at the Sheridan Inn, Wilmington, Delaware. Host organizations include the Delaware Museum of Natural History and the Delaware Nature Society.

6-11 May 1991 - **Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections**, hosted by the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. (G.R. Fitzgerald, Canadian Museum of Nature, Earth Sciences (Paleobiology), P.O. Box 3443, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 6P4).

15-19 May 1991 - **Joint annual meetings of the Cooper and Wilson Ornithological Societies**, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, U.S.A. (Gary D. Schnell, Local Committee; Richard N. Conner, Scientific Program Committee, U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 7600, S.F.A. Station, Nacagdoches, Texas 75962, U.S.A.).

16-18 May 1991 - **The Association of Systematic Collections**, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, U.S.A. Features a workshop on "Biodiversity and Collections." (ASC, 730 11th St. N.W., Second Floor, Washington, D.C. 20001, U.S.A.; telephone: 202-347-2850).

19-23 May 1991 - **Third Annual Conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration**, Orlando, Florida, U.S.A. Features special session on the tropics. (Society for Ecological Restoration, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, Wisconsin 53711, U.S.A.; telephone: 608-262-9547).

1-6 June 1991 - **Animal Behavior Society annual meeting**, University of North Carolina at Wilmington. (Janet Driscoll, ABS Secretary, 2550 W. 43rd Ave., Denver, Colorado 80211-1732, U.S.A.).

7-11 June 1991 - **The 4th Symposium on the Natural History of the Bahamas**, Bahamian Field Station, San Salvador, Bahamas. (Dr. Donald T. Gerace, Executive Director, Bahamian Field Station, Ltd., P.O. Box 2488, Port Charlotte, Florida 33949-2488, U.S.A.; telephone: 813-743-7954).

18-23 June 1991 - **Second Symposium on Zoology**, La Habana, Cuba. (Sr. Rafael Alayo, Second Symposium on Zoology, Palacio de las Convenciones, Apartado 16046, La Habana, Cuba).

3-7 August 1991 - **The Society of Caribbean Ornithology**, St. Lucia, Lesser Antilles. (Jorge Moreno, P.O. Box 5887, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00906; or James Wiley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Research Group, 2140 Eastman Ave., #100, Ventura, California 93003, U.S.A.).

6-11 August 1991 - **American Federation of Aviculture**, San Diego, California, U.S.A. (AFA, P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, Arizona 85079-6218, U.S.A.).

13-17 August 1991 - **109th Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union**, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. (Dr. David Bird, Box 193, MacDonald Campus, McGill University, Ste. Anne De Bellevue, PQ H9X 1C0, Canada; telephone: 514-457-2000).

22-29 August 1991 - **22nd International Ethological Conference**, Otani University, Kyoto, Japan. (22nd IEC Secretariat, c/o Simul International, Inc., Kowa Bldg. No. 9, 1-8-10, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 107 Japan).

13-15 September 1991 - **Ornithological Atlas Conference**, Keystone, Colorado, U.S.A.. (Hugh Kingery, Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, Colorado 80205, U.S.A.)

23-28 September 1991 - **Association of Avian Veterinarians**, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. (AAV, Central Office, P.O. Box 299, East Northport, New York 11731, U.S.A.).

17-20 October 1991 - **Colonial Waterbird Society annual meeting**, Fort Magruder Inn and Conference Center, Williamsburg, Virginia, U.S.A. (Ruth Beck, Biology Department, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185, U.S.A.; telephone: 804-221-2217).

24-30 November 1991 - **IV Neotropical Ornithology Congress**, Quito, Ecuador. (Humberto Alvarez-Lopez, President; Nancy Hilgert de Benavides, Local Arrangements Committee, Corporación Ornitología del Ecuador, Casilla 9068 S-7, Quito, Ecuador; telephone: [593-2]-240-642).

27 March - 1 April 1992 - **57th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference**, Charlotte, North Carolina, U.S.A.

9-12 April 1992 - **The Wilson Ornithological Society** will meet with the Florida Ornithological Society at Kissimmee, Florida, U.S.A.

10-15 May 1992 - **International Symposium on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections**, Madrid, Spain. (Julio Gisbert & Fernando Palacios, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Jos Gutierrez Abascal 2, 28006 Madrid, Spain).

13-18 June 1992 - **The Animal Behavior Society**, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. (L. Ratcliffe or P. Colgan, 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.

24-27 June 1992 - **The American Ornithologists' Union annual meeting**, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, U.S.A.



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## THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY

President: Jorge A. Moreno, Chief of Terrestrial Ecology, Scientific Research Area, Department of Natural Resources, Apartado 5887, Puerta de Tierra, Puerto Rico 00906

Secretary: Alexander Cruz, Department of EPO Biology, University of Colorado, Campus Box B-334, Boulder, Colorado 80309

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Tomás Vargas Mora, Secretaría de Agricultura, Sección de Vida Silvestre, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana

Anne Haynes-Sutton, Marshall's Pen, P.O. Box 58, Mandeville, Jamaica

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NOTE: Please check your mailing label for your Society of Caribbean Ornithology membership status. *M* = Member, dues paid for 1991. *A* = Associate Member, membership dues for 1991 provided by SCO. *Inst* = Institutional Member, dues paid for 1991. *SM* = Student Member, dues paid for 1991.

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