

Sociedad de la Ornitología Caribeña

# EL PITIRRE

Society of Caribbean Ornithology

1990

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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.

EDITOR: James W. Wiley, 1863 Ciprian Avenue, Camarillo, California 93010.

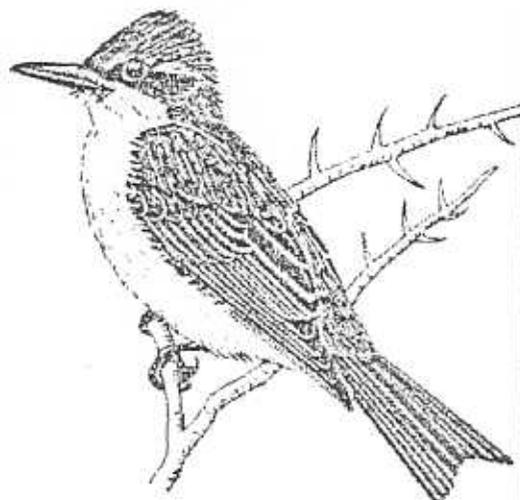
News, comments or requests should be mailed to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter.

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

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.

*Tyrannus dominicensis*



Pitirre, Gray Kingbird, Pestrige, Petchary

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## Second Symposium on Zoology Scheduled for Havana, Cuba, 1991

The Second Symposium on Zoology will be held in Havana, Cuba, from 18-23 June 1991. All persons interested in zoology may participate in the Symposium as delegates. The registration fee (amount to be announced later) will include attendance to work sessions, documents, accommodations, and social functions. Special rates will be available for students and accompanying persons. The Organizing Committee is arranging scientific tours related to the Symposium. Concurrent with the Symposium, a scientific exhibition will be presented. The official languages of the symposium will be Spanish and English. Simultaneous translation will be provided for plenary sessions and main lectures. Paper abstracts and full texts may be submitted in Spanish or English for their publication.

### *Scientific Program*

Papers will be presented in work sessions and as posters. The main topics of the Symposium will be:

1. Systematics
2. Ecology
3. Ethology
4. Zoogeography
5. Anatomy
6. Paleontology
7. Population Genetics
8. Applied Zoology
9. Medical Zoology
10. Preservation and better use of natural resources

### *Plenary Sessions*

Opening and closing sessions, as well as main lectures, will be conducted as plenary sessions.

### *Free Papers and Posters*

Time allotted for scientific paper presentations will be 10 minutes with 5 minutes for debate.

### *Satellite Meetings*

Scientific societies devoted to zoology may hold work meetings during the Symposium. The Organizing Committee will be pleased to receive applications. Interested scientific societies and organizations should contact the Executive Secretary of the Symposium.

### *Accommodations*

Havana has numerous fine hotels of different categories, including:

- First class hotel
  - single room
  - double occupancy
- Tourist class hotel
  - single room
  - double occupancy

## Cuba Meeting (Continued)

To receive a Provisional Application Form (necessary to be included in future mailings), contact:

Rafaele Alayo  
Secretario Ejecutivo  
II Simposio de Zoología  
Palacio de las Convenciones  
Apartado 16046  
La Habana, Cuba

## Manomet Bird Observatory's Field Biology Training Programs

The Manomet Bird Observatory, in association with Ohio Wesleyan University, Earlham College, and Wheaton College, is offering several Field Biology Training Programs of interest to Society members in 1990-91, including:

*Bird Communities of the Tropical Forest* (28 January - 10 May 1991; U.S.\$1,000 travel expenses). Students will join the Observatory's research expedition to Belize to document the species, abundance, and habitat preferences of neotropical avian migrants during the northern winter. Belize has large areas of undisturbed habitat and much wildlife. Habitats include tall tropical forests, pine woodlands, savanna, small lakes, and river systems. Many animal species extinct or endangered elsewhere are common in Belize, including jaguar, howler monkey, tapir, and Ocellated Turkey. Whereas the present status of habitats and organisms in Belize is good, the natural ecosystem are beginning to deteriorate under pressure from increasing development and human populations. The results of the Observatory's baseline studies will be valuable to Belize's conservation efforts.

Introductory seminars on the ecology of tropical birds will take place at Manomet preceding field work. Traveling to Belize, the research team will explore the unspoiled rain forest of the Río Bravo Conservation Area in northern Belize. Students will participate in bird banding and censusing, documenting vegetational structure, and determine resource partitioning of non-breeding migrant and tropical resident birds. The research team will return to Manomet Bird Observatory to analyze and write up results.

*Coastal Populations of Birds in Belize* (28 January - 10 May 1991; U.S.\$1,000 travel expenses). Alan Poole and Kathy Parsons will lead students in exploration of the keys and mangrove islands of coastal Belize. A remarkable assemblage of birds,

including Ospreys, Snail Kites, Noddy Terns, Magnificent Frigatebirds, and numerous species of herons, egrets, and ibises, is found in the study area and remains unstudied.

After preparatory seminars at Manomet Bird Observatory, the research team will spend five weeks at a marine facility on Wee Wee Key, five miles offshore near Belize's barrier reef. Students will document bird diversity and abundance. Research will emphasize colony-site selection and the habitat requirements of colonially nesting waterbirds. The ecology of inhabited islands will be compared to similar, nearby sites that are not being used by nesting birds. Students will assist in aerial and water surveys of the majority of Belize's coastal islands. Students will enjoy opportunities to explore a tropical lagoon ecosystem and to become familiar with conservation problems in a developing country.

*Shorebird Use of the Cabo Rojo Salt Flats, Puerto Rico* (12 August - 13 December 1991; U.S.\$500 travel expenses). Students will join Society members Brian Harrington and Jaime Collazo on the extensive Cabo Rojo Salt Flats, a primary stopover site for shorebirds in the Caribbean. The Cabo Rojo Salt Flats provide 1,100 acres of wetland habitat for 24 species of sandpipers and plovers. The salt flats system is the largest and most important shorebird habitat on Puerto Rico. More than 40,000 shorebirds (primarily "peep" species - Semipalmated, Least, and Western Sandpipers) pass through the area during fall migration. Four species, including the Snowy Plover, are breeding residents. The diverse community of waders offers unlimited opportunities for the study of migratory and resident ecology, wetlands use and population dynamics.

The documented use of Cabo Rojo by shorebirds, coupled with the persistence of four endangered plant species, has prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to name the privately owned salt flats as an area of critical wildlife value. Yet several development schemes threaten continued use of the wetlands by birds. Currently in place are salt extraction lagoons which affect water and salinity levels of the area. Conservation of natural resources in the Caribbean is a critical issue. Students' work will help in formulating a conservation strategy and management plan for the Cabo Rojo Salt Flats.

Students will join Brian Harrington for five weeks of preparatory seminars at Manomet Bird Observatory. During this time, they will also gain experience in shorebird identification and banding techniques. The research team will travel to Puerto Rico in late September to begin study of shorebird use of the Cabo Rojo flats, including turnover rates and activity budgets. Students will focus on

shorebird research under Dr. Collazo's direction, but will also be exposed to other research projects investigating the effects of reforestation on montane bird communities and the ecology of several species of sea turtles.

Students will be housed at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service headquarters at the Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge, Boquerón. The field station provides comfortable living and work space, including computer facilities.

*Tropical Forest Communities in Puerto Rico* (12 August - 29 November 1991; U.S.\$950 travel expenses). Economic pressures are causing widespread destruction of one of the world's richest, most complex, and least understood ecosystems: tropical rain forest. This field semester in Puerto Rico immerses students in a rain forest Environment, as they conduct research with applications toward conserving the endangered biological diversity of the tropics. Since 1974, Manomet Bird Observatory's Nick Brokaw has studied forests of Central America and Puerto Rico. Students will join him in studies of factors controlling the structure, species composition, and consequences of disturbance in a Puerto Rican rain forest.

Students will begin the semester at Manomet with four weeks of reading and discussion about tropical biology, the ecology of tropical plants, the natural history of Puerto Rico, conservation issues of the tropics, and field methods. Then, during four weeks in Puerto Rico, research will concentrate on the ecology of trees in the Tabonuco Zone of the Luquillo Forest, but students will also visit upper montane, cloud, palm, and dry forest types. The research objectives are twofold: to test hypotheses about what produces and maintains biodiversity in tabonuco forest, and to study the process of forest recovery from disturbances, including logging. Such questions are especially important in the tropics, whose biological richness and vulnerability will be seen on this island in the West Indies.

A brochure with further descriptions of these and other Field Biology Training Programs, as well as application procedures, can be obtained by writing to:

Field Biology Training Program  
Manomet Bird Observatory  
Box 936  
Manomet, Massachusetts 02345  
U.S.A.  
telephone: (508) 224-6521

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### Photographs of West Indian Birds Needed

Jorge Moreno is putting together a collection of slides of the Caribbean Islands avifauna for use by Society members. If you have good slides of Caribbean taxa and are willing to let the Society make copies, please contact Jorge by telephone (809) 722-7517, FAX (809) 724-0365, or write him at the Departamento de Recursos Naturales, P.O. Box 5887, Puerta de Tierra, Puerto Rico 00906.

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### Books for Nature

Books for Nature is a grass roots organization that sends field guides, technical literature, and basic field research equipment to libraries, teachers, and field biologists in developing countries. Their goal is to encourage the growth of conservation biology as a science and an ethic by increasing knowledge of the natural world. Books for Nature tries to get their books and field equipment free or at considerable discounts and sends them where they are needed with visiting researchers or by post. If you would like to donate money, books, journals, or basic field research equipment, please contact Books for Nature (c/o Bernie Tershy, Neurobiology and Behavior, Seeley G. Mudd Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853, U.S.A.; telephone 607-255-2255 extension 370) first by letter. The organization would also like to hear from researchers who have contacts with needy institutions and can deliver material directly.

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### North American Breeding Bird Survey

The North American Breeding Bird Survey Program seeks participants to conduct surveys. For the past 25 years the Breeding Bird Survey has remained the only program in the world that provides continental information, within a statistically reliable framework, for populations of any group of vertebrates. They have surveys in every state, province and territory on the continent. However, the program exists only through an international network of volunteer surveyors. To qualify, an observer must have good hearing and know all the songs and calls of the local birds. This year, the Program is placing special emphasis on recruiting observers for Puerto Rico. If you can help, please contact Breeding Bird Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland 20708, U.S.A. (telephone: 301-498-0330). The Program can provide researchers and managers with population trends, annual indices, and raw data for North American bird populations using both magnetic and paper media.

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### Special IOC Session for Bird Collection Managers

Curators, collection managers, and preparators who plan to attend the XX International Ornithological Congress this winter in New Zealand are urged to participate in a Special Interest Group discussion of "Current Ideas in the Management and Preservation of Specimen Collections of Birds." The intent is to share knowledge of (1) techniques, materials, and treatments for specimen preparation and storage, (2) undesirable materials and treatments, (3) organizations and suppliers that provide expertise, materials, training, and publications relevant to bird collections, and (4) techniques for the management of specimen data. If you are interested in participating in this discussion at the IOC, please notify Kimball L. Garrett, Section of Ornithology, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90007, U.S.A. (telephone: 213-744-3368).

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### Intra-Neotropical Migrant Survey

Betsy Trent Thomas is collecting the scattered references and unpublished data on migration and/or seasonal movements of neotropical bird species. She is seeking correspondence with those interested in this subject, and solicits data relating to such movements not only from studies and observations of individual species, but also from regional and site birds lists kept by month. If interested, please contact Ms. Thomas at: Waterfield, Rt. 1 Box 212c,

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### Opportunity

The Raptor Research Foundation will provide a U.S.\$600 grant from the Stephen R. Tully Memorial Fund for research, management, or conservation of birds of prey. Students and serious amateurs are encouraged to apply. Send five copies of a succinct proposal (5 pages maximum) outlining your background, study goals, and methods, anticipated budget, and other funding requests to James H. Enderson, Chairman, Tully Grant Committee, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903, U.S.A. Applications must be received by 10 September 1990.

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## Meetings of Interest

13-16 August 1990 - Society of Caribbean Ornithology, College of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica (Jorge Moreno, Departamento de Recursos Naturales, Apto. 5887, Puerta de Tierra, Puerto Rico 00906)

22-26 August 1990 - Third International Conference of Behavioural Ecology and Foraging Behaviour, Uppsala, Sweden. (Steffan Ulfstand, Department of Zoology, Box 561, S-751, 22 Uppsala, Sweden)

23-30 August 1990 - "Granivorous Birds as Pests of Agriculture and Epidemiological Vectors," a symposium within the 5th International Congress of Ecology, Yokohama, Japan. (Jan Pinowski, Department of Vertebrate Sciences, Dziekanow Lesny, 05-092 Lomianki, Poland)

29 August - 4 September 1990 - 11th International Symposium on Biotelemetry, Yokohama International Conference Center, Yokohama, Japan. (Dr. Akihiko Uchiyama, School of Science & Engineering, Waseda University, 3-4-1, Ohkubo, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169, Japan; telephone: 03-203-13-4141, extension 73-3413).

13-16 September 1990 - The Second International Parrot Convention, Tenerife (Canary Islands). The theme of the convention will be "Captive Breeding for Conservation." The primary language of the Convention will be English, with simultaneous translations into Spanish and German. The cost of the Convention is U.S.\$175, which includes participation in all conferences, excursions, some meals, and a guided tour of Loro Parque. Hotel and meal packages are available. (Loro Parque, 38400 Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Spain. Telephones: 3422-38 30 12 or 3422-38 30 90. Fax: 3422-38 73 21; Telex: 92398 LORO)

18-20 September 1990 - Challenges in Conservation of Biological Resources: Exploring New Tools for Managers, Planners, and Educators, Sheraton Inn & Conference Center, Ithaca, New York, U.S.A. (Deborah Walsh Grover, Conservation of Biological Resources Symposium, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853-3001; telephone: 607-255-2115)

Late September 1990 - The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Caribbean Division will hold its annual meeting at the Mayaguez Hilton in Puerto Rico in late September. The session will be held jointly with National Science

## Meetings (Continued)

Foundation's EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitiveness in Research). (Dr. George Hillyer, Pathology Department, School of Medicine 617-A, GPO Box 5067, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936)

22-25 October 1990 - "Biodiversity and Landscapes: Human Challenges for Conservation in the Changing World," Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Penn., U.S.A. (K.C. Kim, 117 Land and Water, Center for BioDiversity Research, Pennsylvania State, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802, U.S.A. Telephone: 814-863-0159)

24-28 October 1990 -- Raptor Research Foundation, annual meeting, Allentown Hilton, Allentown, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. (Judy Wink, Carbon County Environmental Education Center, P.O.Box 7, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania 18229, U.S.A.; Hope Carpenter, PRWA, R.D. 1, Box 1470, Mt. Bethel, Pennsylvania 18343, U.S.A.)

11-14 November 1990 - National Symposium on Urban Wildlife, Stouffer Five Seasons Hotel, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, U.S.A. (Lowell Adams, Symposium Program Chairman, National Institute for Urban Wildlife, 10921 Trotting Ridge Way, Columbia, Maryland 21044, U.S.A.; telephone 301-596-3311)

11-15 November 1990 - Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry's 11th Annual Meeting, "Global Environmental Issues: Challenge for the 90's," Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia, U.S.A. (Meggin Nagle, Meeting Coordinator, SETAC, 1101 14th St. N.W., Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20005; telephone 202-371-1275; FAX 202-371-1090)

21-27 November 1990 - 20th World Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation, Hamilton, New Zealand. Although a meeting of the official constituency (sections, representatives, member organizations, specialist groups), ICBP members are welcome as observers and should write for information to Conference Makers Limited, P.O. Box 9126, Newmarket, Auckland, New Zealand.

2- 9 December 1990 - XX International Ornithological Congress/XX World Conference ICBP, Christchurch, New Zealand. The general theme is "The World of Birds -- a Southern Perspective." The scientific program will consist of 8 events, including 4 plenary addresses and 6 symposia. (Dr. Ben D. Bell, Secretary-General, XX Congressus Internationalis Ornithologicus, Department of

Meetings (Continued)

Zoology, Victoria University, Private Bag, Wellington, New Zealand; and Dr. Charles G. Sibley, President, XXth International Ornithological Congress, Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, San Francisco State University, Box 855, Tiburon, California 94920, U.S.A. Telephone: 415-435-1717).

14-17 January 1991 - Conservacion de la Biodiversidad Caribeña, Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana. (Michael Smith, Department of Ichthyology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024, U.S.A.; and Sixto J. Incháustegui, Departamento de Biología, Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana)

21-24 March 1991 - Association of Field Ornithologists, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, U.S.A. Featuring a symposium, "Avian Conservation: Problems and Solutions," sponsored by the Clark Fund. (Edward H. Burtt, Jr., Department of Biology, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio 43015)

22-26 March 1991 - The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, Edmonton Convention Centre, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (Harry E. Hodgdon, Executive Director, TWS, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, U.S.A.; telephone: 301-897-9770)

22-27 March 1991 - 56th North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference, Edmonton Convention Centre, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. (L.L. Williamson, Wildlife Management Institute, Suite 725, 1101 14th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, U.S.A.; telephone 202-371-1808)

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, Nacogdoches, Texas 75962 U.S.A.)

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

Meetings (Continued)

Convenciones, Apartado 16046, La Habana, Cuba)

13-17 August 1991 - 109th Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. (David Bird)

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.

1992 - The Wilson Ornithological Society will meet with the Florida Ornithological Society near Orlando, Florida, U.S.A.

### 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

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