

Sociedad de la Ornitología Caribeña

# EL PITIRRE

Society of Caribbean Ornithology

1989

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

## EL PITIRRE

El Pitirre is the bimonthly newsletter of the Society for the Study of Caribbean Ornithology.

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

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

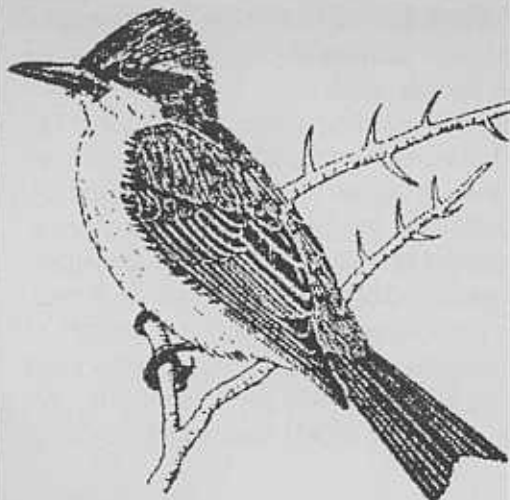
News, comments or requests should be mailed to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter.

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

The Society for the Study 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 para el Estudio 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

## CONTENTS

James Bond (1900-1989) .....	2
Tudy Dod Retires .....	2
1989 Meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology ..	2
Optimism Grows for Plain Pigeon Recovery .....	2
Genetics and Bird Conservation .....	3
Wildlife Legislation for Montserrat and Antigua .....	4
Request for Assistance .....	4
Announcements .....	4
Publications Available .....	4
New Journal .....	4
News of Caribbean Ornithologists .....	4
Meeting of Interest .....	4
Opportunities .....	6

### James Bond (1900-1989)

James Bond, the leading expert on West Indian avifauna and the author of "Birds of the West Indies," died on 14 February 1989. Bond, in his long association with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, first came to the West Indies in 1926, and from that trip began a series of life-long expeditions that took him to almost every island in the West Indies and established him as the authority on the region's avifauna.

Bond's "Checklist of Birds of the West Indies" (1940, 1950, 1956) and annual supplements (which he continued to publish through his later years) are among the most important references on the avifauna in the Caribbean.

### Annabelle Stockton de Dod Retires

Annabelle "Tudy" Stockton de Dod recently retired with her husband, Don Dod, to Berkeley, California. Don, a specialist in West Indian orchid biology, and Tudy lived in the West Indies since 1946, when they directed the project named "Centro de Servicio Cristiano" in Puerto Rico. In 1964, the Dods moved to the Dominican Republic, where Tudy became that country's leading expert on the local avifauna. Don and Tudy were instrumental in establishing the fine bird collections at the new Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, as well as developing the Museo's excellent public displays. Tudy was employed as the Museo's ornithologist for nine years before a three year stint with Parques Nacionales. Tudy was active in local conservation issues, and once she identified a problem, she untiringly labored to correct the situation with bulldog-like tenacity. Her role in regulating the formerly extensive bird trade in the Dominican Republic is legendary. The Dods produced a regular column in the local newspaper *Caribe*, entitled "Viajes en el Pais," which stimulated considerable interest in local conservation issues. In later years, Tudy published extensively on the avifauna of the Dominican Republic, including scientific papers and popular articles. Her books, "Las Aves de la República Dominicana," and "Guía a las Aves de la República Dominicana," contain the most up-to-date information on that country's birds.

Tudy and Don were made members of the Order of Cristobal Colon, Heraldica with the rank of Knight, by the President of the Dominican Republic in recognition for their contribution to the country's conservation program. Their energy and dedication will be missed by all us who have worked with the Dods for conservation of West Indian avifauna.

### Third Annual Meeting of Society to be held in Santo Domingo

The Society of Caribbean Ornithology will host its third annual meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, August 16-19, 1989. In addition to the general sessions, three symposia will be featured: Ecology and Evolution of Introduced Birds in the Caribbean, Bird-Plant Interactions in the Caribbean, and Legislation and Education in the Caribbean. Field trips will follow the meeting. Discount airfares and hotel rates are available. For further information, contact Jorge A. Moreno, Scientific Research Area, Department of Natural Resources, Apartado 5887, Puerta de Tierra, Puerto Rico 00906.

### Optimism Grows for Recovery of Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon

Optimism for the recovery of the endangered Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon (*Columba inornata wetmorei*), or Paloma Sabanera, has considerably increased within the past year, as the result of several successes in the program at the University of Puerto Rico. On April 22, 1988, a plain pigeon squab ("Gulliver") hatched from an egg incubated by a 4-year-old pair. The parents were also allowed to raise the squab through fledging. This was a first, as all other captive-produced plain pigeon chicks have been hand-raised by biologists or hatched and foster-raised by domestic ringed doves (*Streptopelia risoria*). Raul A. Perez-Rivera, Director of the Captive Program, and his associates believe this is a major achievement in the recovery of the race, since parent-reared birds are more desirable candidates for release into the wild than human- or surrogate-raised chicks, which are subject to imprinting on these inappropriate "parents." Another milestone in the program was the captive production of second-generation plain pigeons in 1988. Perez-Rivera feels these breakthroughs will now allow mass production of plain pigeons suitable for reintroduction into the wild.

Perez-Rivera's breeding program began in 1983 under a cooperative agreement among the University of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The first captive-produced squab hatched in 1984. A total of 47 plain pigeon squabs have been produced by the captive flock since then. The program has been so successful that the number of plain pigeons has outgrown the original aviary facility and a new, more modern facility will soon replace it. An additional aviary, at the Rio Abajo Forest release site in

Plain Pigeon (Continued)

northwestern Puerto Rico, is near completion. The first releases into the wild will occur once these facilities are finished and a sufficient number of birds is available for re-introduction.

### Genetics and Bird Conservation

by Kelly Brock, Department of Biology, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6

Population declines, such as those suffered historically by the Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*), have predictable biological consequences on the genetic diversity of species. Random genetic drift, inbreeding, and population bottlenecks result in dramatic reductions in genetic variability and fitness correlates. Phenotypic manifestations of reduced genetic diversity and inbreeding depression in small populations include decreased fertility and fecundity, poor parental care, increased juvenile mortality, and vulnerability to disease. With this in mind, recombinant DNA technology is being used in a new approach to the Puerto Rican Parrot conservation program. With the use of "DNA fingerprints," it will be possible to determine the degree of relatedness among individual parrots. These molecular profiles can be used to design a more effective captive breeding program, and they can also be used to assess the genetic structure of the wild flock. Genetic variation in the Puerto Rican Parrots will also be evaluated using other "DNA probes," such as the major histocompatibility complex (MHC), a highly variable gene complex involved in the immune system, and Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphisms (RFLPs). With insights into some underlying mechanisms involved in population biology of the Puerto Rican Parrot, such as at the molecular level, it will be possible to address management questions from a whole new perspective. As a result, it is hoped that a genetic management plan can be generated that will boost the recovery of the species.

Additional benefits can be reaped when molecular techniques are applied to conservation. For instance, DNA fingerprints and RFLPs can be maintained in a species data management system, such that molecular "tags" can be used to trace the origin of individuals, as well as conduct pedigree analyses. These applications of recombinant DNA technology may have significant impact on wildlife law enforcement.

### Draft Forestry and Wildlife Legislation for Monsterrat and Antigua

Legislation has been drafted for forestry and wildlife for both Monsterrat and Antigua under the terms of reference of a Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Project. This legislation may be of interest to other Caribbean countries. Further information can be obtained by contacting the author, Thomas J.P. McHenry, 444 South Flower Street, Fifth Floor, Los Angeles, California 90071, U.S.A. (telephone 213-623-2322).

### Requests for Assistance

One aspect of the molecular study of the Puerto Rican Parrot involves an investigation of the phylogenetic relationship of the Greater Antillean parrots. Small blood samples are needed from the Jamaican Black-billed (*Amazona agilis*) and Yellow-billed (*A. collaria*) parrots and the Yellow-lored Parrot (*A. xantholora*). If anyone has, or knows of, individuals of these species in captivity and is willing to cooperate in this project, please contact Kelly Brock, Department of Biology, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 3N6 (telephone: 613-545-6124).

As part of an ongoing conservation project on the endangered Bahama Parrot on Abaco Island, Bahamas, information is needed on feral cat control programs on islands. Bahama Parrots are extremely vulnerable to nest predation by feral cats because of the parrot's subterranean nesting habitat. In 1988, 53% of the parrot nests in our study areas suffered from feral cat predation. The Bahamas National Trust chapter on Abaco is hoping to begin a feral cat control program in 1989 and seeks logistical advice. Please send information to Rosemarie Gnam, Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York, NY 10024, U.S.A.

Sound recordings are needed for a forthcoming cassette of voices of New World pigeons and doves. Sounds of over 50 of the 70 species have been assembled, but a recording of vocalizations of the Antilles Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon martinica*; island of Martinique) is needed. If you can supply this recording, please write to John W. Hardy, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, U.S.A.

---

#### Request for Assistance (Continued)

We are interested in locating all specimens of the Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) collected in the Bahamas, Turks, and Caicos islands. If you curate a collection containing Kirtland's Warblers taken in the West Indies, please contact Paul W. Sykes, Fish and Wildlife Service, School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602, U.S.A. (telephone: 404-546-3216).

---

#### Announcements

Manomet Bird Observatory has developed a computer program for data entry of bird banding data (IBM XT/AT and compatibles). It is designed for use in the laboratory or field, and records can be opened for several birds simultaneously. Band number, wing length, weight, and several other variables are checked for accuracy on entry. Thus, errors can be corrected before the bird is released. Data can be exported to an ASCII file for analysis or processing by the Bird Banding Lab schedule program. For more information, write John M. Hagen, Manomet Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 936, Manomet, Massachusetts 02345, U.S.A.

---

#### Publications Available

Tropical Rainforests: Diversity and Conservation. Edited by Frank Almeda and Catherine M. Pringle. Pacific Division, AAAS and California Academy of Sciences. 1988. 320 pages. Cloth: \$30 (+ \$2.25 per order for postage and handling). Make check payable to: California Academy of Sciences. Address orders to: Pacific Division, AAAS, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118 U.S.A.

The Conservation Directory - 1989. Names, addresses, phone numbers, and descriptions of the program areas of governmental and private environmental organizations. Cross-indexed. 313 pp. US\$15.00 + \$3.25 postage. National Wildlife Federation, 1400 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-2266, U.S.A.

---

#### New Bird Journal

**Bird Populations**, a new journal of dynamic avian biogeography dedicated to fostering a global approach to studies of changes in the numbers, distributions, and ecological relationships of birds, is soliciting manuscripts. Bird

---

#### New Journal (Continued)

Populations plans to publish refereed papers of original research, reports from all the major avian biomonitoring projects around the world, and review, synthesis, and commentary articles. The journal will be in English with abstracts in several other languages. The annual journal will begin publication in late 1990. Manuscripts (3 copies), requests for information, or comments should be sent to David F. DeSante, Editor, Bird Populations, P.O. Box 554, Inverness, California 94937, U.S.A.

---

#### News of Caribbean Ornithologists

David W. Johnston has taken a position as Senior Environmental Scientist at the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.

Fred C. Schaffner has joined the Florida Bay Research Group, National Audubon Society Research Department, 115 Indian Mound Trail, Tavernier, Florida 33070 (telephone: 305-852-5092).

Robert L. Norton has accepted a position as Director of the British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust in Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands (telephone: 809-494-3904).

Joseph Wunderle spent three weeks in January examining the effects of Hurricane Gilbert (September 1988) on the bird populations of Jamaica.

---

#### Meetings of Interest

5-8 June 1989 - International Symposium on Vertebrate Biogeography and Systematics in the Tropics, Bonn, West Germany. (Gustav Peters, Vertebrate Symposium '89, Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig, Adenauerallee 150-164, D-5300 Bonn 1, West Germany).

11-17 June 1989 - American Behavior Society, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, Kentucky, U.S.A.

14-16 June 1989 - Association of Field Ornithologists, Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire. Housing and meals will be at the Appalachian Mountain Club's Pinkham Notch Camp at the foot of Mt. Washington. (Carol Foss, New Hampshire Audubon, P.O. Box 528b, Concord, NH 03301 U.S.A.). For information about the scientific program

Meetings (Continued)

(including inquiries about paper/poster/ workshop submission), contact Peter F. Cannell, Division of Birds (NHB mail stop 116), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560 U.S.A.

15-16 June 1989 - Caribbean Division, AAAS, Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

22-26 June 1989 - 59th Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho. A symposium titled "Long-term ecological studies of birds" will be held. (Dr. J. Michael Scott, USFWS, Department of Fish & Wildlife, College of Forestry, Wildlife & Range Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843, USA).

18-22 July 1989 - Fifth National Bird-Banders Meeting, Brasilia, Brazil. The scientific program will emphasize migration, banding, and neotropical ornithology. (Roberto B. Cavalcanti, Depto. de Biologia Animal, Universidade de Brasilia, 70910, Brasilia, Brazil).

23-28 July 1989 - Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, fourth Annual Meeting, co-hosted by Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Drumheller, and Biological Sciences Department, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. (SPNHC Conference Secretary, Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, P.O. Box 7500, Drumheller, Alberta T0J 0Y0, Canada. Fax 403-823-7131).

6-10 August 1989 - Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting, University of Toronto. In association with the Organization for Tropical Studies, Association of Tropical Biology, and Society for Conservation Biology. A symposium entitled, "Nutrient dynamics in streams draining Caribbean rain forests," has been organized by Catherine Pringle and Allen Covich.

7-10 August 1989 - American Ornithologists' Union, 107th Stated Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (Kenneth C. Parkes and Robert Raikow, co-chairs of Local Committee).

7-10 August 1989 - The Society for Conservation Biology, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. (For information on local arrangements, consult the spring issue of Conservation Biology or contact: Valanne Glooschenko, Ministry of Natural Resources [Wildlife], Whitney Block, Queen's Park [Room 4640], Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3, Canada;

Meetings (Continued)

telephone: 416-965-7641. For general program information, contact: Larry Harris, Department of Wildlife and Range Sciences, 118 Newins-Ziegler Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0301, U.S.A.; telephone: 904-392-4851).

9-17 August 1989 - XXI International Ethological Conference, Utrecht, Netherlands. (XXI International Ethological Conference, c/o QLT Convention Services, Keizersgracht 792, 1017 EC Amsterdam, Netherlands).

16-19 August 1989 - The Society of Caribbean Ornithology, Third Annual Conference, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana. (Jorge A. Moreno, Depto. de Recursos Naturales, P.O. Box 5887, Puerta de Tierra, Puerto Rico 00906).

8-14 October 1989 - Joint meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., and the ICBP World Working Group of Birds of Prey, Hotel Mocambo, Veracruz City, Veracruz, Mexico. Major theme will be Biology and Conservation of Tropical Raptors. Approximate costs will be US\$420 for single and US\$300 for double occupancy, including breakfast and dinner. (Romeo Dominguez Barradas, Local Arrangements Committee, RRF/WGGBP Meeting, P.O. Box 63, Xalapa, Veracruz, 91000 Mexico).

25-29 October 1989 - The Colonial Waterbird Society, Key Largo, Florida. (John Ogden, Local Chairman, South Florida Research Center, Everglades National Park, P.O. Box 279, Homestead, FL 33030, U.S.A. Herbert W. Kale, Program Chairman, Florida Audubon Society, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751, U.S.A.).

7-9 December 1989 - Ecology and Conservation of Neotropical Migrant Landbirds, Massachusetts. The symposium will focus on breeding, wintering, and migration ecology and population trends in North American migrant land birds. The purpose is to update knowledge since the 1977 Smithsonian symposium. Invited and contributed papers will be presented. Abstracts are due 1 Feb. 1989. (John M. Hagan, Manomet Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 936, Manomet, MA 02345 U.S.A. Telephone: 508-224-6521).

10-17 December 1989 - Primero Congreso Latinoamericano de Ecología, Montevideo, Uruguay. (Sr. Eduardo Gudynas, Ier CLAE Coordinator, Grupo Ambiente y Desarrollo, CIPFE, Casilla Correo 13125, Montevideo,

---

---

Meetings (Continued)

15-18 March 1990 - National Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, U.S.A.

16-21 March 1990 - 55th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Denver, Colorado, USA.

31 May-3 June 1990 - The Wilson Ornithological Society and The Association of Field Ornithologists, joint meeting, Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

10-15 June 1990 - Animal Behavior Society, State University of New York, Binghamton, New York, U.S.A.

25 June-1 July 1990 - Joint meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

1-7 July 1990 - ICSEB-IV, International Congress on Systematics and Evolutionary Biology, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, U.S.A. Theme: "The unity of evolutionary biology." (Congress Secretary, ICSEB-IV, Dept. of Microbiology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, U.S.A.).

21-27 November 1990 - 20th World Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation, Hamilton, New Zealand.

2-9 December 1990 - XX Ornithological Congress, Christchurch, New Zealand. (Dr. Ben D. Bell, Secretary-General, XX Congressus Internationalis Ornithologicus, Department of Zoology, Victoria University, Private Bag, Wellington, New Zealand)

1991 - IV Neotropical Ornithology Congress, Quito, Ecuador. (Humberto Alvarez-Lopez, President; Nancy Hilgert de Benavides, Local Arrangements Committee).

---

### Opportunities

Research, Teaching, Thesis Advisor - Two full-time positions available in June 1989 in Latin American Wildlife Graduate Program. Ph.D. or M.S. in wildlife ecology or equivalent. Fluency in Spanish; experience in Neotropics, in ornithology, and/or mammalogy. Send credentials to: Christopher Vaughan, Dir., PMVS/UNA, Heredia, Costa Rica (telephone: 506-37-70-39).

---

---

### THE SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY

President: Jorge A. Moreno, Department of EPO  
Biology, University of Colorado, Campus  
Box B-334, Boulder, CO 80309  
(Temporary address during fieldwork:  
Scientific Research Area, Department of  
Natural Resources, Apartado 5887, Puerta de  
Tierra, PR 00721)

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

Treasurer: Allan Keith, P.O. Box 325, New  
Vernon, New Jersey 07976

Board of Governors:

James Wiley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Southwest Research Group, 2140 Eastman  
Ave., Suite 100, Ventura, CA 93003

Fred Sladen, P.O. Box 4106, Christiansted, St.  
Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00820

Ronald Wauer, P.O. Box 2145, Kingshill, St.  
Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00850

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

José Colón, P.O. Box 23163, UPR Station, Río  
Piedras, Puerto Rico 00931

Paul Butler, P.O. Box 1277, Kingstown, St.  
Vincent, West Indies

---

---

## SAINT LUCIA

Paul Butler, P.O. Box 1277, Kingstown, St. Vincent, West Indies

LOCATION: 13°55'N 60°59'W, between Martinique (30 km north) and Saint Vincent (30 km south)

AREA: 616 sq km    POPULATION: 120,300 (census 1980)    CAPITAL: Castries

Climate is tropical with two distinct seasons: a dry season from January to April, and a wet season from June to November. Annual rainfall varies seasonally and with altitude in the range 1,500 - 3,500 mm, mean temperature is 27°C. The island is subject to hurricanes; the most recent (Hurricane Allen 1980) caused widespread damage to housing, agriculture, forests and reefs.

St. Lucia supports most of the major vegetational associations found in the Lesser Antilles; there are small areas of cloud forest on the summits, rainforest on the lower slopes, dry woodland on the lower ground near the coast, cactus scrub in the north, and extensive littoral woodland vegetation on the east coast. Few good stands of mangrove remain.

AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR WILDLIFE:

Forest and Lands Department  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Castries, St. Lucia  
809 45 23231  
Chief forest Officer: Gabriel Charles

LEGISLATIVE PROTECTION FOR WILDLIFE: Avifauna protected under 1980 "Wildlife Protection Act" St. Lucia is a signatory of CITES.

PROTECTED AREAS: In addition to the Government Forest Reserves which comprise 16,800 acres, a further 22 areas have been set aside comprising mangrove and off shore islets important for seabirds.

NATURE TRAILS: Edmund Forest - Mahaut (Rainforest)  
Union (Dry Scrub Forest)  
Pigeon Island National Park (Littoral Woodland, Seascapes)

AVIFAUNA: St. Lucia supports four single-island endemic species (Danforth 1935, Bond 1956, Johnson 1988, ICBP in press): St. Lucia Parrot *Amazona versicolor* (E = endangered), post-hurricane (1980) population estimate 150 (Butler and Jeggo 1980) which had increased to estimated 200-250 birds by 1986 (Jeggo 1986); St. Lucia Black Finch *Melanospiza richardsoni* widely distributed in all habitats, but uncommon everywhere (Trail and Baptista 1989) and regarded as threatened (Collar and Andrew 1988); Semper's Warbler *Leucopseza semperi* (E) inhabits forest understory, probably nests on/near ground and is therefore vulnerable to mongoose predation, only five recorded in last 40 years, and not located during a systematic survey in 1987 (Woods 1987); St. Lucia Oriole *Icterus laudabilis* recorded recently as generally distributed throughout most habitat types and in no immediate danger, provided habitats are not destroyed (Faaborg and Arendt 1985). However, the Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) that arrived in St. Lucia in 1931 (Danforth 1932) may pose a threat. In the Greater Antilles the Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus dominicensis*) and the Troupial (*Icterus icterus*) are frequently parasitized (Wiley 1985, Perez-Rivera 1986, Cruz and Wiley 1989), and it is probable that other species of *Icterus* in the Antilles are affected. While no direct information on parasitism rates of the St. Lucia Oriole is available, an adult oriole was observed feeding two fledgling cowbirds at Vanard in July 1984 (Post 1984, Cruz and Nakamura 1985, Post *et al.* Ms).

A total of eight species endemic to the Lesser Antilles occur on St. Lucia (AOU 1983, ICBP in press); Lesser Antillean Swift *Chaetura martinica* (Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and possibly Nevis); Purple-throated Carib *Eulampis jugularis* (Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, Antigua, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent); Lesser Antilles Flycatcher *Myiarchus oberi* (St. Kitts, Nevis, Barbuda, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia); Forest Thrush *Cichlherminia lherminieri* (Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Lucia); Trembler *Cinclocerthia ruficauda* (Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent); White-breasted Thrasher *Ramphocinclus brachyurus* (Martinique, St. Lucia); Scaly-breasted Thrasher *Margarops fuscus* (Saba, St. Eustatius, Barbuda, south of Grenada and Barbados, possibly extirpated on Barbuda and Grenada); Lesser Antillean Bullfinch *Loxigilla noctis* (Virgin Islands, Lesser Antilles from Anguilla and Saba south to St. Vincent and Barbados, also on Grenada).

The following threatened birds are listed by King (1978-1979) in addition to the threatened single-island endemic species given above: Tundra Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus tundrius* (E); St. Lucia Wren *Troglodytes aedon mesoleucus* (E), formerly believed to be restricted to the Grand Anse Valley in the north-east, but recently found elsewhere at Caille Des, Louvet, Marquis, and Petite Anse, although no longer present at Chastanet, Piton Flore or Edmond Forest where it was once widespread (Woods 1987); St. Lucia White-breasted Thrasher *Ramphocinclus brachyurus sanctaeluciae* (E), population believed to be at most 75 pairs in 1971 confined to dry scrub in five valleys of the north-east coast between Grand Anse and Louvet in an area 8 km by 1.5 km (King, 1978-1979), and estimated at 60 pairs (Woods 1987) of which 50% breed in the Ravine de la Chaloupe where suitable riverine vegetation persists. St. Lucia Forest Thrush *Cichlherminia lherminieri sanctaeluciae* (E), restricted to La Sorciere and La Chaloupe ravines in the north-east, where it inhabits semi-arid forest, populations of the other subspecies on Guadeloupe and Montserrat being thought to be more plentiful (King, 1978-1979) while the density on Dominica is known to be 0.5-1.0 individuals per ha in closed canopy forest (Evans 1986). A subspecies of the Rufous Nightjar *Caprimulgus rufus otiosus*, a South American species, occurs only on St. Lucia in the Caribbean. Woods (1987) located it in dry scrub woodland at Grand Anse, Caille Des, Louvet, Maly bon and near Petite Anse River.

Information on seabirds on St. Lucia is poor: Halewyn and Norton (1984) list the following species as probably breeding: Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*; White-tailed Tropicbird *P. lepturus*; Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*; Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*; Bridled Tern *S. anaethetus*; and Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*.

#### AVIFAUNA RESEARCH IN THE PAST DECADE:

##### St. Lucia Parrot

- Butler. P. 1978. St. Lucia Research Report North East London Polytechnic. pp. 1-30.
- Butler. P. 1980. St. Lucia Parrot - its changing status and conservation. *In* Conservation of New World Parrots. Proceedings of ICBP Parrot Working Group Meeting. St. Lucia, 1980.
- Butler. P. 1987. St. Lucia Parrot, *Amazona versicolor* - Recipe for Success. GOSL.
- Jeggo. D., 1980. The effects of Hurricane Allen on the status of the St. Lucia Parrot. Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust Report 17.
- Jeggo. D. A survey of the St. Lucia Parrot in 1982. Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust Report 19



### Purple-throated Carib Hummingbird

Schuchmann, K. L. and G. Schuchmann-Wegert. 1984. Notes on the displays and mounting behavior in the Purple-throated Carib Hummingbird (*Eulampis jugularis*). Bonn. zool. Beitr. 35:327-334.

### Antillean Crested Hummingbird (*Orthorhyncus cristatus exilis*)

Schuchmann, K. L. 1979. Notes on the song, territorial behaviour and the display of the Antillean Crested Hummingbird *Orthorhyncus cristatus exilis*. Bull. Brit. Ornith. Soc. 99:30-32.

### St. Lucia Wren, Rufous Nightjar, Semper's Warbler, St. Lucia Oriole, White-breasted Thrasher

Woods, P. 1987. ICBP/Univ. of East Anglia St. Lucia Expedition 1987. Summary Report. Unpubl.

### St. Lucia Black finch

Trail, P. W. and L. F. Baptista 1989 The behavior, status, and relationships of the endemic St. Lucia Black Finch. Nat. Geogr. Res. 5:82-97.

### Lesser Antillean Bullfinch (*Loxipasser noctis*)

Bird, J. R. 1983. Behavioral and ecological comparisons of Lesser Antillean Bullfinches: A study of the evolution of sexual dimorphism and monomorphism. Unpub. Ph. D. Diss. Univ. of Montana. 201 pp.

Bennett, D., Cruz, A. and T. K. Nakamura. 1986. Breeding biology and ecology of the Lesser Antillean Bullfinch. Amer. Ass. for the Adv. of Science and the Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Science. Abstract.

### The Shiny (Glossy) Cowbird

The Shiny Cowbird an avian brood parasite, is endemic to South America, Trinidad and Tobago, but during the last 100 years the species has spread through the West Indies, reaching St. Lucia in 1931 (Danforth 1935; Post and Wiley 1977, Cruz et al. 1985, 1989). From 1982 to 1985, the biology of the Shiny Cowbird and its interactions with potential host species in St. Lucia were studied by researchers from the Univ. of Colorado and the Charleston Museum.

Post, W. 1984. Shiny Cowbird Project: Lesser Antilles (St. Lucia): Report submitted to the government of St. Lucia, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, and Fisheries. 8 pp.

Cruz, A. and T. K. Nakamura. 1985. The breeding biology of the Shiny Cowbird and host species in St. Lucia - 1984 breeding season. Report submitted to the government of St. Lucia, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, and Fisheries. 18 pp.

Nakamura, T. K. and A. Cruz. 1986. The breeding biology of the Shiny Cowbird and host species in St. Lucia - 1985 field season. Report submitted to the government of St. Lucia, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, and Fisheries. 20 pp.

Post, W., T. K. Nakamura, and A. Cruz. Ecology of the Shiny Cowbird in St. Lucia - comparisons with other islands. Ms.

### Avifaunal Assessments

Faaborg, J.R. and W. J. Arendt. 1985. Wildlife assessments in the Caribbean. Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, Institute of Tropical Forestry.

RESEARCH REQUIRED (AVIFAUNA): Research expeditions should be encouraged and special attention paid to:

The Forest Thrush  
The Semper's Warbler

Bird banding work should be carried on a regular basis with special emphasis placed upon the banding and study of our migratory birds.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Checklist of North American birds. 6th edition. American Ornithologists Union, Washington, D.C.
- Bennett, D., Cruz, A. and T. K. Nakamura. 1986. Breeding biology and ecology of the Lesser Antillean Bullfinch. Amer. Ass. for the Adv. of Science and the Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Science. Abstract.
- Bird, J. R. 1983. Behavioral and ecological comparisons of Lesser Antillean Bullfinches: A study of the evolution of sexual dimorphism and monomorphism. Unpub. Ph. D. Diss. Univ. of Montana. 201 pp.
- Bond, J. 1956. Check-list of Birds of the West Indies. Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 214 pp.
- Butler, P. 1978. St. Lucia Research Report North East London Polytechnic.
- Butler, P. 1980. St. Lucia Parrot - its changing status and conservation. *In* Conservation of New World Parrots. Proceedings of ICBP Parrot Working Group Meeting. St. Lucia, 1980.
- Butler, P. 1987. St. Lucia Parrot, *Amazona versicolor* - Recipe for Success. GOSL.
- Collar, N. J. and P. Andrew. 1988. Birds to watch: the ICBP world checklist of threatened birds. Cambridge: ICBP Techn. Publ. no. 8.
- Cruz, A., T. Manolis, and J. W. Wiley. 1985. The Shiny Cowbird: a brood parasite expanding its range in the Caribbean region. Pp. 607-620 *In* Neotropical Ornithology. P. A. Buckley, M. S. Foster, R. S. Ridgley, and F. G. Buckley, (eds.) Ornithological Monographs 36: American Ornithologists' Union, Washington D.C.
- Cruz, A. and T. K. Nakamura. 1985. The breeding biology of the Shiny Cowbird and host species in St. Lucia - 1984 breeding season. Report submitted to the government of St. Lucia, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, and Fisheries. 18 pp.
- Cruz, A. and J. W. Wiley. 1989. The decline of an adaptation in the absence of a presumed selection pressure. *Evolution* 43:55-62.
- Cruz, A., J. W. Wiley, T. K. Nakamura, and W. Post. 1989. The Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* in the West Indian Region - biogeographical and ecological implications. *In* C. A. Woods (ed.), Biogeography of the West Indies: past, present, and future. Bull. Flor. State Museum. *In Press*.
- Danforth, S. T. 1932. The Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis minimus*) in St. Lucia. *Auk* 49:96-97.
- Danforth, S. T. 1935. The Birds of Saint Lucia. Univ. of Puerto Rico. Monog., Series B. 129 pp.

- Evans, P.G.H. 1986. Dominica multiple land use project. *Ambio* 15:82-89.
- Faaborg, J.R. and W.J. Arendt. 1985. Wildlife assessments in the Caribbean. Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, Institute of Tropical Forestry.
- Halewn, R. van and R. L. Norton. 1984. The status and conservation of seabirds in the Caribbean. Pp. 169-222 in J. P. Croxall, P.G. H. Evans and R. W. Schreiber (eds.). Status and conservation of the world's seabirds. Cambridge, ICBP Techn. Publ. no. 2.
- ICBP (in press). The ICBP list of single-island endemic birds. Cambridge, ICBP.
- Jeggo, D., 1980. The effects of Hurricane 'Allen' on the status of the St. Lucia Parrot Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust Report 17.
- Jeggo, D. A survey of the St. Lucia Parrot in 1982 Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust Report 19.
- Johnson, T. H. 1988. Biodiversity and conservation in the Caribbean: profiles of selected islands. ICBP Monograph 1.
- King, W. B. 1978-79. Red data book 2. Aves. 2nd edition. Morges, Switzerland, IUCN.
- Nakamura, T. K. and A. Cruz. 1986. The breeding biology of the Shiny Cowbird and host species in St. Lucia - 1985 field season. Report submitted to the government of St. Lucia, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, and Fisheries. 20 pp.
- Perez-Rivera, R. A. 1986. Parasitism by the Shiny Cowbird in the interior parts of Puerto Rico. *J. Field Ornithol.* 57:99-104.
- Post, W. 1984. Shiny Cowbird Project: Lesser Antilles (St. Lucia): Report submitted to the government of St. Lucia, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, and Fisheries. 8 pp.
- Post, W., and J. W. Wiley. 1977. The Shiny Cowbird in the West Indies. *Condor* 79:119-121.
- Post, W., T. K. Nakamura, and A. Cruz. Ecology of the Shiny Cowbird in St. Lucia -- comparisons with other islands. Manuscript. 26 pp.
- Schuchmann, K. L. 1979. Notes on the song, territorial behaviour and the display of the Antillean Crested Hummingbird *Orthorhyncus cristatus exilis*. *Bull. Brit. Ornith. Soc.* 99:30-32.
- Schuchmann, K. L. and G. Schuchmann-Wegert. 1984. Notes on the displays and mounting behavior in the Purple-throated Carib Hummingbird (*Eulampis jugularis*). *Bonn. zool. Beitr.* 5:327-334.
- Trail, P. W. and L. F. Baptista. 1989 The behavior, status, and relationships of the endemic St. Lucia Black Finch. *Nat. Geogr. Res.* 5:82-97.
- Wiley, J. W. 1985. Shiny Cowbird parasitism in two avian communities in Puerto Rico. *Condor* 87:165-176.