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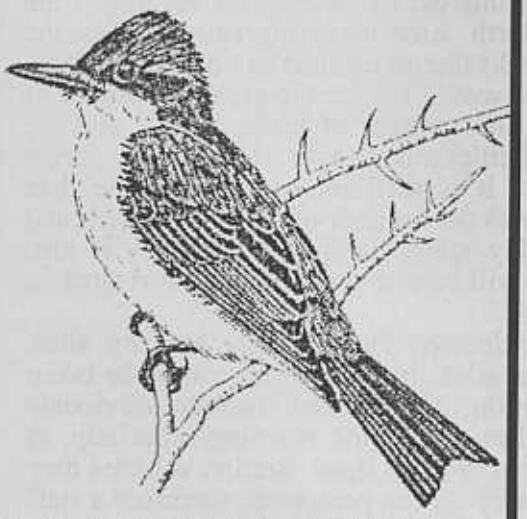
News, comments or requests should be mailed to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter.

Noticias, comentarios o peticiones deben ser envíadas 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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Meeting of the Society for Caribbean Ornithology

The Third Annual Meeting of the Society for Caribbean Ornithology was held at the Hotel Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 19-23 August 1989. Ninety-two people attended the four days of meetings, field trips, and symposia, including 60 from outside the Dominican Republic. Forty papers were presented (see abstracts of selected papers in this and future issues of "El Pitirre"). The meeting opened with Dr. Herbert Raffaele's workshop, "Proposal Writing and Funding Sources for Caribbean Ornithologists," which was attended by 30 participants.

Papers were presented in eight sessions: I. "Habitat Characteristics and Avian Population Responses," II. "Conservation Overviews in the Caribbean," III. "Status of Some Parrot Species in the Caribbean," IV. "Avian Taxonomy/Exotic and Colonizing Species Biology," V. "Aspects of Avian Captive Propagation," VI. "Biology of Seabirds and Shorebirds," VII. "General Ecology," and VIII. "Legislation and Conservation." Ten resolutions were submitted and voted on by the attendees; all were approved. Three subgroups were formed: Caribbean parrots, Caribbean columbids, and technical assistance. Ms. Annabelle ("Tudy") Stockton de Dod, who was unable to attend, was given the Society's Distinguished Ornithologist Award.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the Society will be in Jamaica in 1990.

Hurricane Hugo

On September 18, 1989, Hurricane Hugo, savaged the Virgin Islands and the eastern end of Puerto Rico, where, with sustained winds of 155 mph (gusts to 200 mph), it was considered a Class IV storm. Forest habitat in the Luquillo Mountains, the last stronghold of the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*), was particularly hard-hit by the hurricane. Some sections of the forest were completely stripped of leaves and fruits, although some protected slopes sustained very little damage. All 38 captive Puerto Rican Parrots survived the storm within the indoor aviary facilities in the forest. A forest-wide count of the wild population held 1 week after the storm yielded a minimum of 22-23 Puerto Rican parrots. Pre-hurricane surveys showed a minimum of 47 parrots in the Luquillo Mountains.

The area of Cidra, east-central Puerto Rico, home of the endangered Puerto Rican Plain Pigeon

(*Columba inornata wetmorei*), sustained only light-to-moderate storm damage. Post-hurricane counts of the Cidra plain pigeon population yielded a minimum of about 200 pigeons.

The outlook for the very small (<15 birds in recent years) population of the endangered Yellow-shouldered Blackbird (*Agelaius xanthomus*) at Ceiba is less optimistic. The hurricane apparently passed directly over this area, and severely damaged the remnant blackbird habitat. Post-hurricane surveys failed to reveal surviving blackbirds.

Bird Banding on Andros Island, Bahamas

By Joanne Dewey
(Reprinted from *The Ottawa Banding Group Newsletter*, 1989, Vol. 6[2])

In February 1989, several Ottawa Banding Group members, including myself, went south to visit our feathered friends of summer on Andros Island, Bahamas. We stayed, as before, at Forfar Field Station, run by International Field Studies, Inc., of Columbus, Ohio. The purpose of the trip was to do some exploratory banding and to further examine the possibility of studying North American migrants on their wintering ranges. We first banded on Andros in 1983 (March 20 to 25) and again in 1984 (March 10 to 17), and later Tracey Dean banded whenever she had spare time while working at the field station from April 1984 to March 1985 [1,2]. [A total of 1,251 individuals (474 in 1989) of 51 species have been banded on Andros by the Ottawa Banding Group.] In the future, we would like to band more regularly on the island. Below, I have summarized the results of each banding site and the banding highlights of the trip.

Our main interest in banding on Andros is the capture of North American migrants and, in the future, we would like to establish two, maybe three, sites where we would realize the greatest number of these birds. The number of birds banded and the percentage of migrants caught at each site varied considerably. It is difficult to evaluate the data comparatively as the number of nets used varied and the time of day when banding took place is also variable. We will have a set pattern for our work in the future.

When selecting the potential banding sites, location and availability of transport must be taken into consideration. More distant locations obviously dictate an earlier start in the morning especially, as nets must be put up each time. Station vehicles may only be driven by station personnel, therefore a staff

member must be available for an early departure. It would be a vast expense for us to have our own vehicle.

The field station is the easiest place to band as it is "home." Unfortunately, large numbers of birds are not caught, probably because there are no features to attract or concentrate them. The vegetation surrounding the station is typical of northern Andros; i.e., Caribbean pine with a thick understory of silvertop pine, poisonwood, and shrubs. Therefore, it can be argued that we obtain a representative sample of birds using the main vegetation type of the island.

Owen's Town is an abandoned logging camp and is an area of shrubs, fruit trees, and flowers. Although the number of birds has not always been high, North American migrants have consistently comprised about half the catch. In 1989, Owen's Town was by far the best place to catch birds. We attribute this success to arriving at the site at dawn and knowing where to place the nets.

Goby Lake and Somerset Beach were each visited once.. Neither site was reached until later in the morning and it is possible they may be more productive at other times. Goby Lake is surrounded by vegetation similar to that at Forfar, while Somerset Beach has a mangrove swamp edge. Lengthy travel time to both these sites is a deterrent.

In the past, San Andros Airport was an ideal choice, but this year the area was undergoing construction and expansion with much of the vegetation destroyed or disturbed. If the development continues as planned, this area may no longer be suitable. Close to the airport is a Central Experimental Farm that we have not explored. Its potential looks good, as the field edges have low shrubs and the birds appear plentiful. Special permission will be needed to band there and hopefully we will obtain this before our next visit.

In the future, we plan to concentrate our efforts at the field station and at Owen's Town and do some exploratory banding at the Farm.

Although the banding on Adros has been sporadic, we have caught some interesting birds. For example, at Owen's Town: Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Wilson's, and Nashville warblers have been caught. D.W. Buden [3] lists these warblers as rare. With further investigation we may better establish their status.

In spite of the relatively low numbers of birds caught, we have some very interesting records. One, an Indigo Bunting caught a the airport in 1984, had been banded in Florida during the previous winter and was later found dead in Nova Scotia in May 1986 [4]. Another, a Magnolia Warbler banded December 12, 1984, at Forfar Field Station, was found December 15, 1985, nearby on Andros Island.

A Black-faced Grassquit, banded in 1984, was recaught in 1989, making the bird at least 5 years old.

When we banded for three winter seasons in a row, we did recapture birds banded in a previous year. Many were Bahamian residents, but some were North American migrants, indicating that some birds show a winter site fidelity. The migrants returning included: Yellow-throated Vireo, Ovenbird, Gray Catbird, Palm Warbler, and Prairie Warbler [2].

We are waiting for information [from the Bird Banding Laboratory] on a Greater Antillean Bullfinch and a Thick-billed Vireo we captured with someone else's bands. It will be very interesting to see where these normally resident birds were initially banded.

It is hoped that Ottawa Banding Group members will band on Andros for two weeks in November and again in March next winter. At that time we would like to do some exploratory banding at the Farm and concentrate the rest of our efforts at Forfar Field Station and Owen's Town. If we can band consistently at a few spots and establish a firm data base, then we should be able to obtain better information on winter site fidelity and which migrants stay on Andros throughout the winter. Although our main concern is the migrants, our banding can't help but yield further information on Bahamian species.

If you are interested in joining the next Andros expedition, please contact Janette Dean, 45 Preslir Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7V6, Canada.

Literature Cited

[1] "Banding in the Bahamas." 1984. Ottawa - Banding Group Newsletter Vol. 1(2).

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[3] Buden, D.W. 1987. The Birds of the Southern Bahamas. B.O.U. Check List No. 8, British Ornithologists' Union.

[4] "A Remarkable Traveller." 1988. North American Bird Bander Vol. 13(2).

Membership in the Ottawa Banding Group may be obtained ($10.00/year) through Beryl Johnson, Membership Secretary, Ottawa Banding Group, P.O. Box 3633, St. C, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J7 Canada. All donations are gratefully received and will be used to purchase bird feed, mist nets, and banding equipment. A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued on request for donations over $2.00.

When Will the U.S. Navy Bring Itself into Full Compliance with the Sikes Act at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico?

Fred Charles Schaffner
National Audubon Research Department
115 Indian Mound Trail, Tavernier, Florida 33070
USA

The U.S. Navy for many years has maintained a large reservation, Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, encompassing substantial lands and waters in eastern Puerto Rico, from Ceiba to the island of Vieques. The Navy controls most of the land on Vieques, and as a result of the exclusion of people from portions of this land, some beautiful habitats have been inadvertently preserved. Attendees at the recent Conference of the Society for Caribbean Ornithology in Santo Domingo had the pleasure of viewing some of these gems of Caribbean natural history indirectly, through a fine presentation by Myrna Pagan of the Vieques Conservation and History Trust. Yet, the Navy's stewardship of its lands, and its relationships with local fishermen and cattlemen have not been without controversy. Many people may not be fully aware that responsible stewardship of military lands has been mandated by an act of the U.S. Congress, and that the extent to which the Navy is in compliance with this act at Roosevelt Roads has been a matter of some considerable debate.

The Sikes Act is an act of the U.S. Congress (16 U.S.C. 670o), enacted in 1985 and renewed in 1988, "To enhance the carrying out of fish and wildlife conservation and natural resource management programs on military reservations, and other purposes".

Section One of the Sikes Act authorizes money to the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Interior to carry out the purposes of the Sikes Act on military lands. It also authorizes money to be spent by the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Interior to carry out the purposes of the Sikes Act on other public lands, including those of the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Department of Energy Lands.

Section Two of the Sikes Act states, "The Secretary of each military department shall manage the natural resources of each military reservation within the United States that is under the jurisdiction of the Secretary-

(1) so as to provide for sustained multipurpose uses of those resources; and

(2) to provide the public access that is necessary or appropriate for those uses; to the extent that those uses and that access are not inconsistent with the military mission of the reservation." In ordinary

English this means that each military department must manage the natural resources within its jurisdiction for sustained multiple use, and public access appropriate and necessary for those multiple uses should be provided, although public access is required only to the extent that it does not interfere with the military mission of a given reservation (for example(?), the U.S. Navy allowed Clint Eastwood to use Vieques to make a movie about the Grenada invasion).

Section Two also requires that the development, implementation, and enforcement of fish and wildlife management activities on U.S. military installations be provided by Department of Defense personnel with professional training in those activities (for example, the Navy employs two full time professionally trained biologists (with graduate degrees in biology) to manage its lands in San Diego, California).

The Secretary of each military department is required to prepare and submit to Congress a detailed report of all fish and wildlife management related expenditures on their installations. The report is to be submitted to the Committees on Armed Services and on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and on Armed Services of the House of Representatives. The report shall be submitted within 180 days after the close of the fiscal year.

Section Three of the Sikes Act authorizes the development and implementation of fish and wildlife conservation plans cooperatively agreed to by the Secretaries of Defense and the Interior and appropriate state (or in this case Commonwealth) fish and wildlife agency. These plans must be reviewed by the participating parties at least every five years. During the development and review of multiuse natural resource management plans, the cooperative fish and wildlife plan will be treated as the as the exclusive component of that plan for managing wildlife, fish and game conservation and rehabilitation. This section also clarifies that proceeds from fees for special state hunting and fishing permits ("Installation Permits") for military lands may only be used at the military installation on which the fees are collected, and will remain available until expended (one example would include the special hunting permits for the U.S. Marine Corps' land at Camp Pendleton, California, and a special State of California Game Warden to oversee those hunting activities).

Section Three also requires that, after the parties have agreed to a cooperative fish and wildlife plan, no sale or leasing of land, or sale of forest products from land within the military reservations covered by the cooperative plan is permitted unless the effects of

the sale or leasing are compatible with the purposes of the cooperative plan. In the event that the Department of Defense elects to provide these services through contract, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the appropriate state (or in this case Commonwealth) fish and wildlife agency should receive priority for award of these contracts.

Will the Navy ever bring itself into full compliance with the Sikes Act at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads? The Navy is at a crossroads in its relationship with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in land use and conservation issues. The old saying about taking lemons and turning them into lemonade could be brought to very real fruition at Roosevelt Roads if the Navy acts in a responsible manner.

With proper stewardship of the lands and waters under its authority, Roosevelt Roads could in fact become a conservation showcase, and a major positive influence towards the preservation of some of Puerto Rico's precious few remaining natural areas. Two major issues in conservation and wildlife biology being loss of habitat and direct human exploitation, it should not surprise anyone that, for example, Puerto Rico's last remaining Brown Pelican nesting colony is located adjacent to a bombing range, or that the waters of the Roads have become an important refuge for the West Indian Manatee. Over the long term, active responsible stewardship can only improve the Navy's relations with its neighbors. In the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo, this becomes even more important.

The Navy has done a better than expected job of managing its lands around San Diego, California, and Camp Pendleton is a well-known example of management practices which historically have reduced civilian pressure for acquisition of the land. Given these precedents, it is possible (and relatively inexpensive) for the Navy to become a major voice, and a leader in the conservation movement in the Caribbean Basin. Possible, yes, but will they ever actually do it?

Grupo Jaragua, Inc.

The Grupo Jaragua, Inc., a private, non-profit organization of the Dominican Republic, just signed a cooperative agreement with the National Direction of Parks (Dominican Republic) to work for the development of the Jaragua National Park, in the southwest of the country.

The Jaragua National Park is the largest park in the Dominican Republic and in the Antilles. The Park includes a broad system of coastal lagoons and little- or un-disturbed natural forests, which serve as permanent or temporal residence to thousands of

aquatic and terrestrial birds. The Park encompasses the important Oviedo Lagoon and Beata and Alto Velo islands.

The Grupo Jaragua, Inc., wishes to develop a relationship with members of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology. For more information, please write to:

Sixto J. Inchaustegui
Grupo Jaragua, Inc.
Casimiro de Moya 104
Gazcue, Santo Domingo
República Dominicana
Telephone: 689-0465 535-1455
Telex: 4112 CODE TLX (Att.: Grupo Jaragua)

Grupo Jaragua, Inc.

El Grupo Jaragua, Inc., grupo privado sin fines de lucro de la República Dominicana, acaba de firmar un convenio de cooperación con la Dirección Nacional de Parques (República Dominicana) para impulsar el desarrollo del Parque Nacional Jaragua, en el suroeste del país.

El Parque Nacional Jaragua es el más grande del país y Las Antilles. Incluye un amplio sistema de lagunas costeras y la Laguna de Oviedo, que sirven de residencia permanente o transitoria a miles de aves acuáticas. Además, el parque incluye bosques naturales poco o no perturbados, con una gran diversidad de aves terrestres e incluye los islas de Beata y Alto Velo, importantes por su ornitofauna.

El Grupo Jaragua, Inc., desea expresan por este medio su deseo de mantener intercambios con la Sociedad de la Ornitología Caribeña. Para más información, se pueden referir a:

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Current Research Projects
Joseph M. Wunderle, Jr.

I am currently involved with research projects at the Institute of Tropical Forestry (two year temporary position) and at the University of Puerto Rico (my home position). The projects are summarized by the institutional affiliation:

Institute of Tropical Forestry

1. My primary research focuses on the fate of

North American migrants which overwinter in the Caribbean. This involves surveys of migrants to determine the types of habitats used by the migrants and the future of these habitats. The work has involved surveys in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Cuba, and the Bahama Islands. This work is done in collaboration with Robert B. Waide and is supported by the World Wildlife Fund.

2. Population biology and sexual habitat segregation of Black-throated Blue Warblers overwintering in Puerto Rico.

3. An analysis of the impact of Hurricane Gilbert on bird populations in Jamaica. The results of this work will be useful for reserve design and conservation of threatened and endangered wildlife species. This work is done in collaboration with Robert B. Waide and D. Jean Lodge.

4. Study of the development of foraging behavior in captive Hispaniolan Parrots to determine the optimal time for release of captive-produced parrots into the wild. This work is in collaboration with Marcia Wilson.

University of Puerto Rico

1. Population consequences of song learning by the Bananaquit. This three year study focuses on song and singing behavior of individuals and populations to understand the development and maintenance of song dialects by Bananaquits. Presently, two students, William Carromero and Rafael Cortes, are involved in the project.

2. Master's thesis supervision of a dissertation project by Iris Velazquez on observational learning in the Shiny Cowbird.

Requests for Information on Seabirds

Joanna Burger, Jaime Collazo, Michael Gochfeld, Jorge Saliva, and Kelly Wolcott are developing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recovery plan for the Caribbean Roseate Tern. Anyone able to provide information on this species in the Caribbean should contact one of the above individuals. Information needed include (1) present and local colony sites with estimated numbers of nests and habitat information, (2) estimates of reproductive success, (3) human intrusion or exploitation such as egging, (4) types and impact of predators, (5) feeding areas, food availability, and food types, (6) distribution outside the breeding season, and (7) management successes or failures. Joanna Burger can be reached at Biological Sciences, Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey 08855, U.S.A.

Joanna Burger and Michael Gochfeld are preparing a report on management of seabirds in the Caribbean for the 1990 I.C.B.P. meetings. Persons

interested in participating on and co-authoring the report should contact Joanna Burger.

Abstracts of Selected Papers Presented at the Third Annual Meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology

Is the Pearly-eyed Thrasher a True Supertramp Species? Wayne J. Arendt. The results of an 11-year study of the ecology of the Pearly-eyed Thrasher (*Margarops fuscatus*) show that this widespread Caribbean bird is a prime example of a superior colonizer, but poor competitor and is a classic example of Jared Diamond's "supertramp" species. The Pearly-eyed Thrasher (1) is a strong flier, showing excellent dispersal and homing abilities, (2) is a habitat generalist, (3) is omnivorous, (4) occupies multiple spaciotemporal foraging niches, (5) obtains high population densities, (6) is sexually dimorphic, and (7) shows intra- and inter-island morphological variation, possibly as a result of ecological release.

Subspecific Taxonomy of the Mangrove Cuckoo, *Coccyzus minor*. Richard C. Banks and Robert Hole, Jr. Up to 13 subspecies of the Mangrove Cuckoo are currently recognized, depending on which authority is followed. Taxonomic confusion started early, when only two of the names had been proposed. Descriptions of most of the subspecies were based on only a few individuals, and there has never been a thorough study of variation in the species. Variation within populations is extensive and encompasses variation supposed to occur between populations. We believe that only three subspecies should be recognized. Birds on Dominica, Monserrat, and St. Vincent (*C. m. dominicae*) are consistently large and the ochraceous color is usually pronounced; Bahamas (*maynardi*) have extensive gray over the breast and are generally pale. We assign all other populations, including those on the mainland of South and Central America, to the nominate form, *minor*. We believe that the spread of the species has been from east to west, probably the result of storms like last year's Hurricane Gilbert.

Response of Young Terns to Human Handling Joanna Burger and Michael Gochfeld. Seabird young are exposed to predators and people as nestlings, and their behavior when handled may affect whether they are subsequently eaten, harmed or escape. We examined the behavior of young of several terns (Sooty, Roseate, Royal, Sandwich terns and Brown Noddies) on Culebra since 1983 to determine species

and individual differences. Generally, Sooty Terns were the most aggressive, calling loudly, struggling and biting; and Sandwich and Roseate Terns were least aggressive. For Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies individual defensive behaviors were highly correlated, whereas they were not correlated for Royal and Sandwich terns. Most tern chicks, when released, moved to cover so they were less visible than before the disturbance. We discuss reasons for the behavioral differences among species.

Cowbirds in South Florida - Potential Threats from Opposite Directions. Alexander Cruz. Recent changes in the range of two brood parasites, the Shiny Cowbird (Molothrus bonariensis) and the Brown-headed Cowbird (M. ater), have brought them into contact with avian communities in south Florida that have never experienced brood parasitism. Originally confined to South America, Trinidad and Tobago, the Shiny Cowbird has spread dramatically into the West Indies during the past century, and since 1985 it has been recorded in Florida. From the opposite direction, the North American Brown-headed Cowbird has spread rapidly through peninsular Florida since the 1950's. In addition to providing a unique opportunity to study brood parasitism at an early interfacing of host and parasite populations, the presence of these formerly non-sympatric cowbird species are expected to have important negative consequences for Florida breeding passerines. Both cowbird species are obligate brood parasites that use a generalist strategy in host selection; more than 200 host species have been recorded for each cowbird species. The potential negative implications for host species in south Florida are discussed based on work in the West Indian region and North America.

Effect of Vegetation Structure on the Feeding Behavior of Warblers (Aves: Parulidae) in Puerto Rico. Roberto Díaz and R.F. Ramos. During 1985-88 we made a total of 942 observations on feeding behaviors of warblers in relation to foraging modes, habitat selection, tree specis and substrates used in three contrasting habitats in Puerto Rico: low-montane, mangrove and albizia forests. We found that forests with high tree species diversity may have fewer warbler specis but more abundance than monospecific forests. This may be attributed to the fact that different tree species account for more available substrates, providing more opportunities for different foraging behaviors. Vegetation structure on canopy and understory are important to certain species which depend on them for their foraging. Ecological similarities and niche overlap in habitat use are discussed on a multivariate approach basis.

Population Estimates for the Bahama Parrot (*Amazona leucocephala bahamensis*) on Abaco Island, Bahamas. Rosemarie Gnam, Ian Lothian, and Albert Burchsted. As part of a long-term study of the biology of the endangered Bahama Parrot of Abaco, population counts were done during the nonbreeding season to estimate the relative size of this population and assess its relative stability. Since 1986, we have conducted 3 population counts. The only previous census of the Abaco population was done in 1976 and the then total population was estimated to be between a minimum of 450 birds and a loosely defined maximum of 650 to 800 birds. Since parrots on Abaco roosted communally at night and dispersed from/to roosts in flocks, survey counts were made at roosts and along flight paths to roosts. In 1989, we counted a minimum of 830 to a maximum of 1082 birds on southern Abaco. Present threats to this population include: (1) nest predation by feral cats, (2) poaching and (3) unprotected habitat.

Banding and Recaptures of Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies at Morant Cays, Jamaica. Ann Haynes-Sutton. Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies were first banded at Morant Cays, Jamaica, in the 1960's. The programme was continued irregularly in the 1970's and 1980's. The banding programme is discribed and the results concerning immigration, recruitment, non-breeding dispersal and longevity are examined.

Foraging Behaviour in Cattle Egrets: Is Grazer Association Beneficial? W. Hunte and D. Riven. The effects of grazer association on individual foraging rates of cattle egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) was investigated in Barbados. Almost twice as many egrets foraged without grazers as with grazers. This was not the consequence of non-availability of grazers, since only 40% to 60% of available grazers were used by egrets. Mean group size of associated birds (1.7) was smaller than that of non-associated birds (5.8), reflecting the localized food source for associated birds, and implying that access to the food source can be controlled by single birds. At group sizes >3, the foraging rates of associated egrets decline and were lower than the foraging rates of non-associated birds over all group sizes. This suggests that egrets can improve their foraging rates by feeding without grazers rather than with grazers at group sizes >3. In dry months when prey availability may be low, variation in foraging rates of associated egrets at a given group size was lower than that of non-associated egrets, and the percentage of egrets associating with grazers was higher. It is concluded that feeding with grazers may not maximize feeding rates, but may decrease the

probability of obtaining very low rates when food availability is low. This suggests that egrets may be 'risk-sensitive' foragers, switching from 'risk-prone' to 'risk-averse' behavior as mean food availability decreases.

Roost Use by Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) in Barbados. E. Drebs and W. Hunte. Weekly variation in the number of roosting cattle egrets in a permanent non-breeding colony (site A) and in two breeding colonies (sites B and C) was investigated in Barbados. No nesting activity has occurred at site A during six years of continuous occupation, although the population at this site is twice the population at site B and half the population at site C. This suggests that population size at the roost is not the only prerequisite for establishing a breeding colony at a roost site. Roost population sizes at sites B and C greatly exceeded the nesting population at all times, indicating that breeding colonies function both as nesting and roosting sites. The number of egrets declined at sites B and C and increased at site A in non-breeding months, suggesting that some adults relocated to the non-breeding colony after breeding. Numbers at the breeding colonies increased again at the start of the subsequent breeding season. In spite of the apparent movement of birds between roosts, use of space by individual birds at a given roost is predictable. Even in the non-breeding season, individually marked adult birds at site B consistently returned to the same location within the roost on every observation day.

Breeding Biology and Habitat Use Patterns of the Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) at the Cabo Rojo Salt Flats, Puerto Rico. Gloria Lee, Jaime A. Collazo, and John R. Sweeney. The Wilson's Plover is one of the three resident plovers in Puerto Rico. Baseline data on its breeding biology and habitat use patterns are scarce. Data obtained in this study were used to determine breeding chronology and success, to examine overall activity budgets, and to determine frequency of occurrence on each major habitat type. In addition, cover characteristics of nesting habitat were assessed. Seventeen nests were found at the salt flats, beginning in February 1988. Peak breeding occurred in May and overall nest success was 0.75. Plovers used semipermanently flooded areas more frequently than expected for resting, locomotion, and feeding. Roosting occurred more frequently during the afternoon hours. Maintenance activities were observed in higher frequencies during the morning hours. Agonistic behavior occurred at a higher frequency during the mid-day hours. The immediate vicinity of nests was characterized by live vegetation or rubble, as

Abstracts (Continued)

compared to randomly selected sites. These data highlight the importance of understanding species' habitat requirements in order to formulate appropriate conservation practices.

Abundance and Distribution of Cattle Egrets in Barbados. D. Riven and W. Hunte. Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) first appeared in Barbados during the 1950's, when range extension was occurring from South America through the Caribbean islands. The first colony was formed on the south coast of the island. Four roosting colonies were present in Barbados at the time of the study (1980-88); three of which were also nesting colonies. The stabilization in the number of birds at the original colony when the three new roosts were being formed suggests that they were formed by birds leaving the first roost. The second colony was formed on the north coast of the island, the third on the east and the fourth (the present non-breeding colony) on the west coast. This sequence suggests that egrets have attempted to maximize inter-colony distances, and may imply that new colonies are formed to reduce competition for food near colony sites. The population size of cattle egrets in Barbados was estimated at 8000 birds in 1988. The island population continues to increase through increases in the number of birds at the three newest colonies.

Announcements

Centro de Documentacion para America Latina. BIODOC es un centro de documentación para América Latina que apoya en la búsqueda de literatura poco conocida o escasa sobre manejo de vido silvestre en la región. BIODOC está preparando un boletín trianual en el cual anunciará adquisiciones recientes a su colección. BIODOC está en constante búsqueda de literatura publicada y no publicada sobre vida silvestre y recursos naturales en Latinoamérica. Si Ud. puede contribuir con t^tulos o si desea ser incluido en nuestra lista de envío, sírvase enviar su nombre, dirección y afiliación institucional a:

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Heredia, Costa Rica
Telephone: 506-37-6363, anexo 2440

Wildlife Documentation Center for Latin America
BIODOC is a Wildlife Documentation Center for Latin America that helps locate difficult-to-find

literature for wildlife researchers in the region. BIODOC is planning to produce a quarterly bulletin, announcing recent acquisitions to their collection. The Center is continuously seeking published and unpublished literature on wildlife and natural resources in Latin America. If you can contribute with titles or you are interested in being on their mailing list, send your name, address, institution name, and address to:

Susana Salas Frazier
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[*from Vida Silvestre Neotropical 1989, vol. 2(1)*]

ICBP's Small Grants Program. The Pan-American Continental Section (PACS) of ICBP provides small grants for worthy conservation projects in Central and South America and the Caribbean. A new set of guidelines for preparing proposals to PACS has been drawn. Project proposals must contain specific conservation objectives and activities. Authors must follow the guidelines for the format of their proposals (incomplete proposals may be returned). Projects must be limited to seven pages of single-spaced text, not including curricula vitae and support materials.

Projects will be reviewed twice per year, in May and December. For more information and for the new set of guidelines, contact:

Pan-American Office, ICBP
Box 1369
Melrose, Florida 32666, U.S.A.

[*from Vida Silvestre Neotropical 1989, vol. 2(1)*]

Kathleen S. Anderson Award. An award of U.S.$1,000 is offered to promote important ornithological research in the Americas. Studies may include: migration, feeding ecology, habitat fragmentation, population studies, competition, shorebirds, and endangered species. Applications should be in English and the application deadline is December 1, 1989. Send applications to:

Kathleen S. Anderson Award
Manomet Bird Observatory
Box 936
Manomet, Massachussetts 02345, U.S.A.
Telephone: 508-224-6521

Shorebird Research and Conservation. The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) has established a small fund to be used for shorebird projects in the Americas. Project proposal guidelines are similar to those for the Pan American Section of

Announcements (Continued)

ICBP. The WHSRN has established a grant-size limit of U.S.$2,000 per project. Proposals should be sent to the Pan American Office of ICBP. For additional information and deadlines for submission of proposals write:

Charles S. Luthin
Pan American Office, ICBP
P.O. Box 1369
Melrose, Florida 32666, U.S.A.
Telephone: 904-475-1510

Natural Resources Directory for Latin America and the Caribbean. *Natural Resources Directory: Who is Doing What, Where in Latin America and the Caribbean*, 206 pp., 1988 (First Edition), compiled by the Partners of the Americas and sponsored by the Tinker Foundation. The Natural Resources Directory lists over 400 conservation organizations working in Latin America and the Caribbean. The publication is a useful reference for professionals and instutuions working on natural resource issues in the region. The directory is broken down by country and contains activities, addresses, and names of contacts for governmental, non-governmental, and educational organizations with a resource management focus. The price for U.S. orders is U.S.$15 (including postage and handling). For overseas requests, inquire by writing:

Partners of the Americas
Attn: Natural Resources Directory
1424 K Street, NW Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005, U.S.A.

Checklist of Threatened Birds. *Birds to Watch, the ICBP World Check-list of Threatened Birds*, by N. Collar and P. Andrew, Technical Publication #8, ICBP. This is a comprehensive listing of threatened birds of the world, as an abbreviated update to the 1978-79 Bird Red Data Book, and as a condensed preface to the new series of Red Data Book (including the American RDB now being prepared). Over 1,000 (of approximately 9,000 bird species) are listed, accounting for 11% of the world's avifauna. The Americas contain the highest number (358) of threatened species of any region in the world, of which 346 are in Latin America and the Caribbean. The cost is U.S.$18 and is available from:

ICBP Secretariat
32 Cambridge Roads
Girton, Cambridge CB3 OPJ England
Telephone: 0223-277318
Telex: 818794 ICBP G

[*from Vida Silvestre Neotropical 1989, vol. 2(1)*]

Caribbean Islands, Species and Conservation. *Biodiversity and Conservation in the Caribbean*, by T. Johnson, Monograph #1, published by ICBP.

The eleven islands featured in this book were selected according to two criteria: at least one endemic bird species and smaller than 20,000 square kilometers. Each "profile" contains seven major sections, including: biodiversity and conservation summary, general information (describing the island), important fauna and flora (covering mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, invertebrates, and plants), important ecosystems, conservation infrastructure, conservation action, and references. The sections on conservation action describe ongoing projects, educational and research needs, and recommendations for the island wildlife and habitats. The cost is U.S.$15 and is available from:

ICBP Secretariat
32 Cambridge Road
Girton, Cambridge CB3 OPJ England
Telephone: 0223-277318
Telex: 818794 ICBP G

[*from Vida Silvestre Neotropical 1989, vol. 2(1)*]

Pan American Office Discontinued. The Pan American Office of ICBP, first established in 1985, is unfortunately being discontinued due to lack of funding. The Secretariat of ICBP is actively seeking funding to continue the Office, as this is an important asset to the conservation program of ICBP in the Americas. When additional funding is found to continue the Pan American Office, the Secretariat will be seeking applicants for the position of Pan American Officer. Those interested should send an updated curriculum vitae to the ICBP Headquarters in Cambridge.

All correspondence regarding the Pan American Section of ICBP should now be addressed to Dr. Mercedes Foster (Chairman, ICBP - PACS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Museum of Natural History, Rm. 378, 10th and Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.). Project correspondence should be sent directly to Dr. Michael Rands (Program Director, International Council for Bird Preservation, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 OPJ, England).

ICBP/FFPS Conservation Expedition Competition. ICBP and the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society are offering expedition grants to ambitious university students undertaking field research which involves wildlife conservation. Four grants will be awarded in two categories, including birds (ca. U.S.$1,700 and ca. $1,350) and other wildlife and plants (ca. $1,700 and ca. $1,350) to proposals which are pertinent to ICBP/FFPS conservation priorities. Follow guidelines established in the "ICBP/FFPS Conservation Expedition Guide," available from the ICBP Secretariat:

Announcements (Continued)

ICBP/FFPS Conservation Expedition Guide
ICBP
32 Cambridge Road
Girton, Cambridge CB3 OPJ England
Telephone: 0223-277318

Private Grants for Field Research. In 1990, EARTHWATCH will award grants of U.S.$10,000 to $100,000 for 110 projects addressing significant questions in the sciences and humanities. The Center for Field Research invites scholars engaged in ornithological field research to apply for awards of funds and volunteer staff. Proposals will be considered from scholars of any nationality, covering any geographical region. All funds are derived from the contributions of participating volunteers selected from the EARTHWATCH membership; therefore non-specialist volunteers must be integrated into the research design. Preliminary proposals can be made by telephone or by a detailed letter to the Center. Upon favorable review, full proposals will be invited to be submitted 12 months before the proposed fielding date of the project. For information:

The Center for Field Research
P.O. Box 403
Watertown, Massachusetts 02272, U.S.A.

FAO Publications for Latin America.

- *Flora, Fauna, y Areas Silvestres*, tri-annual bulletin about wildlife and protected areas in Latin America.
- *Sistemas nacionales de areas silvestres protegidas en America Latina..*
- *Manual de planificacion de sistemas nacionales de areas silvestres protegidas en America Latina..*
- *Manejo de fauna silvestre y desarrollo rural. Informe sobre siete especies de America Latina y el Caribe.*
- *Informe de taller internacional sobre planificacion de sistemas nacionales de areas silvestres protegidas.*
- *Informe de taller sobre manejo de areeas protegidas costeras tropicales.*
- *Informe de curso-taller sobre manejo de recursos naturales en areas silvestres protegidas.*

All publications are distributed free of charge to interested persons or institutions working on the subject. Requests should be sent to:

FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
Casilla 10095
Santiago, Chile

News from the Caribbean

Dominica -- In October 1988, ICBP signed an historic Memorandum of Agreement with the Dominican

Dominican Government for long-term continuity of the ICBP program for research on and conservation of the island's two endemic Amazon parrot species, the Imperial Parrot (*Amazona imperialis*) and the Red-necked Parrot (*A. arausiaca*). Funds have been raised for ICBP's Dominica project by the National Federation of Zoos in England, as well as by private aviculturists interested in the conservation of these species.

Bahama Islands - A new chapter of the Bahamas National Trust has been established on Abaco Island. For information:

Mr. Franklin Russell
Abaco Chapter, The Bahamas National Trust
P.O. Box 407
Marsh Harbor, Abaco, The Bahamas

St. Lucia - The St. Lucia Naturalists' Society celebrates its 10 year anniversary in 1989. The Society produces a newsletter, "News and Views."

Membership and general information:
St. Lucia Naturalists' Society
P.O. Box 783
Castries, St. Lucia
West Indies

Meetings of Interest

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 landbirds. 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 Latino Americano de Ecologia, Montevideo, Uruguay. (Sr. Eduardo Gudynas, ler CLAE Coordinator, Grupo Ambiente y Desarrollo, CIPFE, Casilla Correo 13125, Montevideo, Uruguay).

17-21 December 1989 - World Climate Conference, Cairo, Egypt. (Climate Institute, Suite 403, 316 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003, U.S.A. 202-547-0104).

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

16-20 March 1990 - The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, Sheraton Denver Tech Center Hotel, Denver, Colorado, U.S.A. (Harry E. Hodgdon, Executive Director, TWS, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, U.S.A. 301-897-9770)

16-21 March 1990 - 55th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Sheraton Denver Tech Center Hotel, Denver, Colorado, U.S.A. (L.L. Williamson, Wildlife Management Institute, Suite 725, 1101 14th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, U.S.A. 202-371-1808)

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.

12-16 June 1990 - Malaysia International Conference on Conservation of Tropical Biodiversity, "In Harmony with Nature," Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (Ministry of Science, Technology & Environment, 50662 Kuala, Lumpur, Malaysia).

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.).

15-17 August 1990 - Managing Predation to Increase Production of Wetland Birds Symposium, Jamestown, North Dakota, U.S.A. (Alan B. Sargeant, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, P.O. Box 2096, Jamestown, North Dakota 58402, U.S.A. 701-252-5363).

Meetings (Continued)

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

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

19 November - 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 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).

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. 202-371-1808)

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

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