

Sociedad de la Ornitología Caribeña

# EL PITIRRE

Society of Caribbean Ornithology

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## EL PITIRRE

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

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

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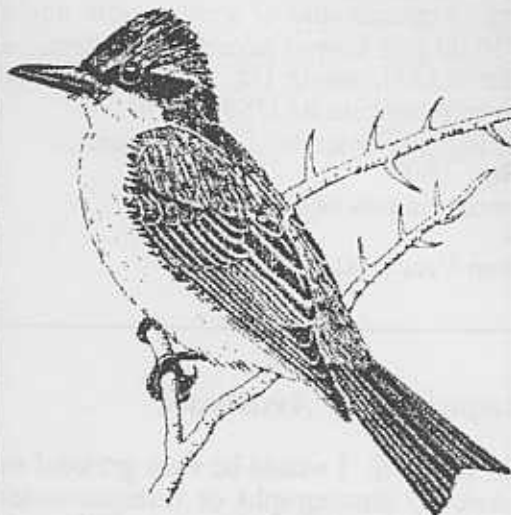
News, comments or requests should be mailed to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter.

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

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, Pestige, Petchary

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**LA TÓRTOLA STREPTOPELIA  
DECAOCTO (AVES: COLUMBIDAE) EN  
CUBA**

ORLANDO H. GARRIDO Y ARTURO  
KIRKCONNELL

*Museo Nacional de Historia Natural  
La Habana, Cuba*

A partir de la década del 30 la Tórtola Eurasiática, *Streptopelia decaocto* Frivaldsaky, 1852, comenzó una explosión demográfica que la llevó a dispersarse en poco tiempo por toda Europa y el norte de África.

La especie fue traída por el hombre al continente Americano. En 1974 escaparon algunos individuos de un aviario de Nassau, Bahamas, y otros fueron liberados intencionalmente. Ya en 1975 se observaron las primeras parejas criando en estado silvestre y, a partir de esa fecha la dispersión de esta tórtola en otras islas de las Bahamas no se hizo esperar.

La fecha de su entrada a los cayos del sur de la Florida, así como en la propia península, no puede establecerse con seguridad debido a que esta paloma fué, y es confundida con la Tórtola Doméstica, *Streptopelia risoria*. *Streptopelia decaocto* se informó criando por primera vez en 1980 en los cayos de Isla Morada y a partir de esa fecha se ha expandido su distribución a muchas áreas de la península de la Florida (Smith 1987).

A la caída de la tarde del 11 de marzo de 1990, Alexander y Orlando Garrido, mientras atendían el palomar de la casa de uno de nosotros (Garrido) en un barrio de la ciudad de La Habana, a 1,300 m del litoral encontraron una tórtola que había bajado a comer al patio. El autor principal comprobó el hallazgo, que resultó ser la Tórtola Euroasiática. La paloma permaneció en el lugar hasta el anochecer y durmió en un árbol cercano.

Durante los tres días siguientes la tórtola visitó el mismo patio, al menos en horas de la tarde.

Esta tórtola, que es muy parecida a *Streptopelia risoria*, la que no vive en Cuba en estado silvestre, es algo mayor, de coloración más oscura y poseedora de un vuelo rápido, semejante al de la Paloma Aliblanca *Zenaida asiatica*.

Es interesante traer a colación el informe que un año antes hiciera a Kirkconnell un trabajador de Cayo Coco (al norte de la provincia de Ciego de Avila) sobre tres tórtolas grises observadas allí en los alrededores de un palomar. Aunque hasta el presente este informe permanece como hipotético, constituye el primer record de esta tórtola en nuestro territorio.

**LITERATURA CITADA**

CRAMP, S., & K.E.L. SIMMONS. 1985. Handbook of the birds of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Vol. IV. Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford.

*Streptopelia decaocto* en Cuba (Continued)

FISHER, J. 1953. The Collared Turtle Dove in Europe. Br. Birds 46:153-181.

SMITH, P.W. 1987. The Eurasian Collared-Dove arrives in the Americas. Am. Birds 41(5): 1370-1379.

**Reduced Membership Rates to the American  
Ornithologists' Union**

To increase the number of members of the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.) outside of North America, the A.O.U. has begun charging membership fees based on the geographic location of the member. The membership fee for everyone living in Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean islands (including the U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico), now is US\$18.00 per year (before it was US\$35.00). *The Auk* will be sent by surface mail unless the member pays an extra fee of US\$30.00 for air mail. To become a member of the A.O.U., send a letter with your address and US\$18.00 to:

Ornithological Societies of North America  
P.O. Box 1897  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044-8897  
U.S.A.

Visa and MasterCard also are accepted.

Para aumentar el número de socios del American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.) fuera de Norte America, la A.O.U. ha comenzado cobrar una cuota de socio basado en el país en que se ubica el socio. La cuota de socio para todos que viven en México, América Central, América del Sur, y las islas de Caribe (incluso Puerto Rico y las Islas Virgenes de los E.E.U.U. y Inglaterra), ahora es US.\$18.00 por año (antes US\$35.00). *The Auk* será enviado por correo marítimo a menos que el socio pague cuota extra de US\$30.00 por correo aéreo. Para llegar a ser un socio del A.O.U., envíe Ud. una carta con su dirección y su giro bancario de US\$18.00 a:

Ornithological Societies of North America  
P.O. Box 1897  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044-8897  
U.S.A.

Tambien aceptan Visa y MasterCard.

**Requests for Assistance**

**Photographs needed:** I would be very grateful to receive any close-up photographs or transparencies of Greater Antillean Pewees (*Contopus caribaeus*)

from the Dominican Republic or Haiti, particularly, and also from Cuba, the Bahama Islands, or Jamaica. Please write:

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

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

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

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### New Books Available

**Birds of Jamaica**, by Society members Audrey C. Downer and Robert Sutton, is now available for about U.S.\$20.00 from Cambridge University Press (Press Syndicate of University of Cambridge, 40 W. 20th St., New York, New York 10011, U.S.A.). The field guide is illustrated with excellent photographs by Yves-Jacques Rey-Millet.

Those members who saw Robert and Esther Tyrrell's beautiful slide show at the Society's Jamaica meeting as well as the many island biologists who helped this husband and wife team in obtaining information and photographs will be pleased to learn that the Tyrrell's new hummingbird book is now available. The 238 page **Hummingbirds of the Caribbean** is published by Crown Publishers, Inc., and can be ordered from

R.A. Tyrrell  
P.O. Box 5926  
El Monte, California 91734-1926  
U.S.A.

for U.S.\$40.00, plus \$2.50 postage for the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Postage will be higher to other countries and it is suggested that non-United States residents write to the above address to get an estimate of postage cost.

### Announcements

**The Library of Natural Sounds** will conduct a workshop on recording bird sounds, 8-15 June 1991, at San Francisco State University's Sierra Nevada Field Research Station. The course will consist of field recording and lecture sessions, and will use microcomputer based software to analyze recordings and performance of equipment. Topics to be covered are selection and application of recorders and microphones, recording theory, and techniques, metering, and documentation for sound recordings. Participants may obtain 2 college credit hours, at \$60/hr, through San Francisco State's Biology Department. The course fee is \$550, including rustic, but comfortable lodging. Participation limited to 16, enrollment first-come first-served. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 reserves a space; balance due by 17 May. VISA or MasterCard accepted. Participants must have their own recording equipment. For details, contact Greg Budney, Laboratory of Natural Sounds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, U.S.A.; telephone: 607-254-2404.

**Dr. David Blockstein** received a grant from the Conservation Small Grants Fund of the American Federation of Aviculture in 1990 for his study of Bird Conservation in Grenada.

**Rare Center for Tropical Bird Conservation** received a grant from the Conservation Small Grants Fund of the American Federation of Aviculture in 1990 for educational materials for the Lesser Antilles.

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### Opportunities

**An Assistant Position** is available for an individual with an interest in tropical waterfowl ecology and conservation in a joint project between Ducks Unlimited: Mexico, and the Center for the Study of Tropical Birds. Duties will include field observations and censusing of Masked Ducks in southern Mexico during the spring of 1991. Applicants should be able to communicate in Spanish and have some prior field experience, preferably with waterfowl. No stipend is available, but travel and food and lodging expenses are provided. For additional information, contact The Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, Inc., 218 Conway, San Antonio, Texas 78209-1716, U.S.A.; Fax: 512-828-5911.

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**Opportunities (Continued)**

**Field Assistants needed** for ongoing study of the social breeding behavior of Carib Grackles in central Venezuela. Positions run from June/July to December 1991. Duties include various behavioral observations, monitoring of nests, brood manipulations, measuring and banding, and taking blood samples. Some relevant field experience is required, and an enthusiasm for long hours under hot and humid conditions is essential. Expenses in Venezuela will be covered. Send letter of interest, resume, and references to David Lemmon, Department of Biology, SUNY Albany, Albany, New York 12222, U.S.A.

**Field Assistant wanted** May-November 1991 for a study of nest site competition among several species of birds in Venezuela. Assistant will help with mist netting, banding, nest watches, and censusing. Experience with birds desirable. Applicants should enjoy heat, mosquitos, and slogging through mud. Living expenses in Venezuela will be covered. Please send a letter of interest and resumé with names and telephone numbers of 2 references by 15 February to Catherine Lindell, Harvard University Biolabs, 16 Divinity Ave., Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, U.S.A.; telephone: 617-495-8792.

**Volunteer Field Assistant needed** for study of clutch size in tropical House Wrens at Monteverde, Costa Rica, 1 April to 15 July 1991. Duties include monitoring nest boxes for nesting activity, censusing individual birds, observing both free-living and caged wrens, and sampling insects. Qualifications include experience working in the field and mist-netting small birds, as well as some Spanish and willingness to live with a rural Costa Rican family. Room and board, up to \$500 travel expenses, plus a fantastic working environment (i.e., guaranteed toucan, quetzal, and monkey sightings) will be provided. Please send letter of interest, resumé, and list of 3 references (including telephone numbers) as soon as possible, and certainly before 1 February, to Bruce Young, Apdo. 10165-1000, San José, Costa Rica; Fax 506-61-1104.

**Two Field Assistants needed** 1 April to mid-August 1991 for a study of the effects of brood parasitism by the Shiny Cowbird on interior forest birds in southwestern Puerto Rico. This ongoing research focuses on the effects of forest edges and forest roads on parasitism rates, and on a comparison of the anti-parasite behaviors of Black-whiskered and Puerto Rican vireos. Study area is dry subtropical forest. Experience identifying birds by sight and sound preferred. Must be willing to learn native

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**Opportunities (Continued)**

avifauna. Transportation to and from Puerto Rico, room and board provided. Send letter describing qualifications and interests to Bethany L. Woodworth, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, University of Minnesota, 318 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, U.S.A.; telephone: 612-625-0611 or 612-375-9070.

**Bilingual (Spanish-English) position open** to work on two projects: (1) catalyzing and assisting North American groups to support Central and South American conservation organizations with services, equipment and funds; and (2) the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Familiarity with current conservation issues, a background in biology, and experience living in Latin America highly desirable. Good organizational and people skills a must. Modest salary plus free housing if single. Starts 1 February 1991. For full job description, write to Latin America, MBO, Box 936, Manomet, Massachusetts 02345, U.S.A.

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**Position Wanted**

**Peruvian Ornithologist** with degree in Forestry and Wildlife Management, currently in Manomet's Field Biology Training Program, experienced in studies of Psittacidae and Falconidae in Peru, is interested in temporary position and opportunity for graduate school. Curriculum Vitae and references available. Can begin in late December 1991. Please write to Alfredo J. Begazo, Manomet Bird Observatory, Box 936, Manomet, Massachusetts 02345, U.S.A.

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**Meetings of Interest**

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. Burt, 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).

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

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

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

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

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

19-23 May 1991 - **Third Annual Conference of**

**the Society for Ecological Restoration**, Orlando, Florida, U.S.A. Features special session on the tropics. Deadline for abstracts 15 January 1991. (Society for Ecological Restoration, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, Wisconsin 53711, U.S.A.; telephone: 608-262-9547).

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

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

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

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

13-16 September 1991 - **Ornithological Atlas Conference**. (Hugh Kingery, Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, Colorado 80205, U.S.A.)

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**, Charolette, North Carolina, U.S.A.

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

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

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

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*Please advise the editor of changes in addresses.*