RECENT ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Readers are invited to submit literature citations that should be highlighted in this section to STEVEN C. LATTA, National Aviary, Allegheny Commons West, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, USA; e-mail: steven.latta@aviary.org.

ACOSTA, M., L. MUGICA, D. BLANCO, B. LOPEZ-LANUS, R. ANTUNES DIAS, L. W. DOODNATH, AND J. HURTADO. 2010. Birds of rice fields in the Americas. Waterbirds 33:105–122.—Data on waterbird and landbird use of rice paddies was compiled from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, USA, and Venezuela. At least 169 waterbirds and 166 landbirds have been recorded in the paddies of the region. In all countries, rice fields are considered important feeding areas and heavily used as migratory stop-over and wintering sites. E-mail: macosta@fbio.uh.cu.


DEXTER, K. G. 2010. The influence of dispersal on macroecological patterns of Lesser Antillean birds. Journal of Biogeography 37:2137–2147.—Dispersal is often assumed to be a major force in shaping macroecological patterns. Here macroecological patterns of distribution for Lesser Antillean birds of the rain forest and dry forest are described, and then population genetic data used to assess if differences in dispersal ability could be responsible for the groups’ contrasting patterns. Results suggest that differences in dispersal ability are a plausible explanation for the contrasting macroecological patterns. But historical factors, such as the taxon cycle and Pleistocene climate fluctuations, may have also played a role in shaping the distribution patterns. E-mail: kgdexter@gmail.com.


HAYES, F. E., B. SANASIE, AND I. SAMAD. 2009. Status and conservation of the critically endangered Trinidad Piping-Guan (Aburria pipile). Endangered Species Research 7:77–84.—E-mail: fhayes@puc.edu.


KENNEDY, C. M., P. P. MARRA, W. F. FAGAN, AND M. C. NEEL. 2010. Landscape matrix and species traits mediate responses of Neotropical resident birds to forest fragmentation in Jamaica. Ecological Monographs 80:651–669.—The authors investigated whether Neotropical resident bird communities in limestone forest patches differed if they were embedded in three different human-dominated matrix types (agriculture, peri-urban development, and bauxite mining) relative to sites in continuous forest in central Jamaica. Species richness, community composition, and abundances were matrix-dependent, with agricultural landscapes supporting greater avian diversity and more intact community assemblages than either peri-urban or bauxite landscapes. This study reinforces the importance of differentiating among land cover and land uses in frag-
ment research and lends support to the hypothesis that resource availability may be a primary factor driving Neotropical bird responses to fragmentation. E-mail: cmk6@umd.edu.


Nijman, V. 2010. The importance of small wetlands for the conservation of the endemic Caribbean Coot, Fulica caribaea. Caribbean Journal of Science 46:112–115.—This study used data from 19 sites in the Netherlands Antilles, and records of 49 sites > 5 ha throughout its range, to analyze the relationship between number of coots and wetland size, and the relationships between wetland size, inclusion in the protected area network, and threats to the sites or coots.—E-mail: vnijman@brookes.ac.uk.

Marín, G., Y. Carvajal M., and J. Muñoz G. 2010. Primer registro de Thalassarche chlororhynchos en la cuenca del Mar Caribe, Cotinga 32:159–160.—E-mail: gediom@yahoo.com.


Rodríguez-Santana, F. 2010. Reports of Cooper’s Hawks (Accipiter cooperii), Swainson’s Hawks (Buteo swainsoni), and Short-tailed Hawks (Buteo brachyurus) in Cuba. Journal of Raptor Research 44:146–150.—E-mail: freddy@bioeco.ciges.inf.cu.

Rusello, M. A., C. Stahala, D. Lalonde, K. L. Schmidt, and G. Amto. 2010. Cryptic diversity and conservation units in the Bahama Parrot. Conservation Genetics 11:1809–1821.—Mitochondrial DNA-based population genetic and phylogenetic analyses revealed the distinctiveness of the Abaco, Inagua, and now extirpated Acklins populations, detecting diagnostic character support and reciprocal monophyly indicative of three phylogenetic species. Congruent results were obtained for the Abaco and Inagua populations based on Bayesian clustering analyses of microsatellite genotypic data. Overall, results suggest that the conservation status of the Abaco phylogenetic species should be immediately elevated to reflect its historical isolation, recent population decline, and continued threats to its persistence. E-mail: michael.russello@ubc.ca.

Sly, N. D., A. K. Townsend, C. C. Rimmer, J. M. Townsend, S. C. Latta, and I. J. Lovette. 2010. Phylogeography and conservation of the endemic Hispaniolan Palm-Tanagers (Aves: Phaenicophilus). Conservation Genetics 11:2121–2129.—A multilocus phylogeographic approach was used to identify evolutionarily distinct populations of Phaenicophilus poliocephalus and P. palmarum on Hispaniola. Results support the recognition of two palm-tanager species, confirming P. poliocephalus as Haiti’s only endemic bird species and underscoring the need to protect the species’s single primary forest reserve. E-mail: nds22@cornell.edu.


Townsend, J. M., C. C. Rimmer, and K. P. McFarland. 2010. Winter territoriality and spatial behavior of Bicknell’s Thrush (Catharus bicknelli) at two ecologically distinct sites in the Dominican Republic. Auk 127:514–522.—Radiotelemetry was used to investigate the spatial behavior of wintering Bicknell’s Thrushes at a mid-elevation rainforest site and a high-elevation cloud-forest site. Blood stable carbon isotopes and fecal samples were analyzed to compare thrush diets at these sites. Exclusive territoriality was the predominant winter social system, and we suggest that both arthropods and fruit are defensible resources for wintering Bicknell’s Thrushes. E-mail: jatownse@syr.edu.

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