making this book more “user friendly.” However, the authors correctly surmise that the more advanced birders will enjoy the “collection of new photographs of the many interesting and sometimes rare or unexpected birds species.”

Further details on the occurrence of these rare species, along with a more technical summary on the avifauna of Mustique, were recently published in the previous issue of this journal (Paice and Speirs 2010).—FLOYD E. HAYES, Department of Biology, Pacific Union College, 1 Angwin Ave., Angwin, CA 94508; e-mail: floyd_hayes@puc.edu; and EDWARD B. MASSIAH, Johnson Road, Fitts Village, St. James, Barbados; e-mail: ebmassiah@hotmail.com.

LITERATURE CITED

RECENT ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE FROM THE CARIBBEAN

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.


ARENDETT, W. J. 2006. Shell properties, density, and water vapor flux in eggs of the Pearly-eyed Thrasher (Margarops fuscatus). Caribbean Journal of Science 41:283–295.—E-mail: waynarendt@mac.com.


DALSGAARD, B., G. M. HILTON, G. A. L. GRAY, L. AYMER, J. BOATSWAIN, J. DALEY, C. FENTON, J. MARTIN, L. MARTIN, P. MURRIN, W. J. ARENDT, D. W. GIBBONS, J. M. OLESSEN. 2007. Impacts of a volcanic eruption on the forest bird community of Montserrat, Lesser Antilles. Ibis 149:298–312.—Analysis of monitoring data from 1997 to 2005 indicates that counts of most species were substantially lower following major ashfalls associated with the eruption of the Soufrière Hills volcano. However, this effect was short-lived, with rapid population recovery in subsequent years. Furthermore, levels of seasonal rainfall appear to have been at least as important in determining population trends as ashfall. Overall, most species were at least as abundant at the end of the study as at the start, and no forest bird species have been extirpated from Montserrat. E-mail: waynarendt@mac.com or b.dalsgaard@zoo.cam.ac.uk.

The most specialised hummingbird-pollinated plants are found in the highlands where they are pollinated by mainly large, long-billed hummingbirds. At the other extreme, highly generalised plants growing in the dry and warm lowlands are pollinated by small, short-billed hummingbirds and numerous insect species. E-mail: b.dalsgaard@zoo.cam.ac.uk.

DOUGLAS, L. 2002. Impact of human habitat degradation on resident and Neotropical migratory birds occupying the Tropical Dry Forest Life zone of southern Jamaica. M. S. Thesis, University of the West Indies, Jamaica. E-mail: knowbout@yahoo.com.

DUPUIS, A. P., P. P. MARRA, AND L. D. KRAMER. 2003. Serologic evidence of West Nile virus transmission, Jamaica, West Indies. Emerging Infectious Diseases 9: 860–63. —E-mail: marrap@si.edu.


GARVIN, M. C., MARRA, P. P., AND CRAIN, S. K. 2004. Prevalence of hematozoa in overwintering American Redstarts (Setophaga ruticilla): no evidence for local transmission. Journal of Wildlife Disease 40:115–118. —American Redstarts were examined for protozoan blood parasites on their wintering grounds to determine whether transmission of these parasites occurs prior to spring migration. A total of 73 blood smears from 37 birds were examined for presence and intensity of infection. Thirty-six birds were sampled in the fall, soon after arriving from northern breeding grounds, and the spring prior to departure. Two (5%) of the samples collected in the fall were positive for Haemoproteus fringillae and one (3%) had detectable infections of Trypanosoma avium. None of the birds had detectable infections when resampled prior to spring migration the following March. E-mail: mary.garvin@oberlin.edu.

HERNÁNDEZ, B. 2002. Relationship of nest density and predation intensity on eggs in covered nests. M. S. thesis, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras. —E-mail: jmwanunder@gmail.com.

JOHNSON, M.D., AND T.W. SHERRY. 2001. Effects of food availability on distribution of migratory warblers among habitats in Jamaica. Journal of Animal Ecology 70:546–560. —The authors tested the hypothesis that food availability influences the distribution of migratory canopy-foraging insectivorous warblers wintering in Jamaica. Warbler abundance varied significantly among 24 sites and habitats and was significantly dependent on measures of arthropod biomass. Vegetation characteristics, resident bird competitor abundance, and predator abundance were not correlated with migrant abundance. These results document a strong association between arthropod biomass and warbler abundance in time and space, suggesting that warblers wintering in Jamaica distribute themselves in response to food resources. Whether food availability determines habitat quality remains to be investigated. E-mail: mdj6@humboldt.edu.


JOHNSON, M.D., A.M. STRONG, T.W. SHERRY, AND A. MEDori. 2005. Migrants in tropical bird communities: an assessment of the breeding currecny hypothesis. Journal of Animal Ecology 74:333–341. —Explanations for the integration of migratory and resident birds in the Neotropics have been complicated by the paradox that arthropod abundances are low when bird abundances reach their annual peak. The breeding currency hypothesis offers an explanation for this paradox by postulating that resident birds are limited in the breeding season by the availability of large arthropods suitable for reproduction, whereas the carrying capacity of all birds in the non-breeding season is limited by the availability of arthropods suitable for self-maintenance of adults. Field data from Jamaica supported this hypothesis. However, other factors may interact with the availability of food for nestlings to limit the populations of resident birds below carrying capacities set by non-breeding season arthropod abundance, thereby creating a set of resources available to non-breeding migrants. E-mail: mdj6@humboldt.edu.

KABAN, J. 2000. Food resources used by three Neotropical migrant warblers wintering in a Jamaican shade coffee plantation. Senior Honors Thesis, Tulane University, LO.—E-mail: tsherry@tulane.edu.

route for snake predation on parrot nests. Bird Conservation International 17:79–91.—E-mail: jmwunderle@gmail.com.

LATTA, S. C. 2003. Effects of scaley-leg mite infestations on body condition and site fidelity of migratory warblers. Auk 120:730–743.—Rates of infestation by the scaley leg mite (Knemidokoptes jamaicensis) were examined on two overwintering Neotropical migrants, the Palm Warbler (Setophaga palmarum) and the Prairie Warbler (S. discolor) in the Dominican Republic. Prevalence of ectoparasites varied between years and generally increased within winters, with mean rates of infestation reaching as high as 25% among Palm Warblers in late-winter. Infestation had a significant effect on overwinter site persistence and annual return rates; no infected individuals ever returned the following year. Data suggest that environmental variables and host behavior may affect parasite infestation rates.
E-mail: steven.latta@aviary.org.

LATTA, S. C. 2005. Complementary areas for conserving avian diversity on Hispaniola. Animal Conservation 8:69–81.—This is a broad-scale look at the distribution of species of conservation concern among protected areas in Haiti and the Dominican Republic to determine where conservation activities might be focused to serve avian conservation interests. Parks are prioritized by the presence/absence of species of concern and prioritized a second time with individual species first being weighted by species-specific extinction risks and then by uniqueness in terms of endemism at the island or regional level. Parks of highest importance are the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park and Jaragua National Park, but the importance of other protected areas to avian conservation is also documented and discussed.
E-mail: steven.latta@aviary.org.

LATTA, S. C. AND J. FAAOBORG. 2009. Migratory birds in the Caribbean: benefits of studies of overwintering birds for understanding resident bird ecology and promoting critical development of conservation capacity. Conservation Biology 23:286–293.—The authors argue that funding of ecological research and monitoring of Neotropical migratory birds on their over-wintering grounds often provides information about the ecology and demography of little-known tropical resident birds. But migrant-focused research may also have an underappreciated effect on the development of conservation capacity and conservation efforts in host countries. Funding agencies should consider the broader impacts of migratory-bird research and monitoring efforts; researchers in the tropics should use protocols that provide the most information about all the birds that use the study areas involved and be aware of important opportunities that they may have to build capacity in host countries.
E-mail: steven.latta@aviary.org.


SILLETT, T.S., AND R.T. HOLMES. 2002. Variation in survivorship of a migratory songbird throughout its annual cycle. Journal of Animal Ecology 71:296–308.—Demographic data from both breeding and non-breeding periods are needed to manage populations of migratory birds, many of which are declining in abundance and are of conservation concern. Here survival rates of these birds at different parts of their annual cycle are presented for the Neotropical migrant songbird, the Black-throated Blue Warbler (Setophaga caerulescens). Annual and seasonal survival estimates from breeding grounds in New Hampshire, USA, and from winter quarters in Jamaica were used to calculate warbler survival for the migratory periods. Apparent mortality rates were at least 15 times higher during migration compared to that in the stationary periods. More than 85% of apparent annual mortality of S. caerulescens occurred during migration. Additional data from multiple species will improve our understanding of the relative impacts of the breeding, migratory, and winter periods on population dynamics of migratory birds.
E-mail: sillett@nzi.psi.edu.

TOWNSEND, J. M., AND C. C. RIMMER. 2006. Known natal and wintering sites of a Bicknell’s Thrush. Journal of Field Ornithology 77:452–454.—We banded a nesting Bicknell’s Thrush (Catharus bicknelli) in southern Vermont and recaptured the same individual 19 months later on its wintering territory in the Dominican Republic. Such recaptures, where both the natal or breeding site and wintering location of a bird are known, are rare. This instance, the second documented for Bicknell’s Thrush, highlights the strong links between the species’ geographically restricted breeding and wintering habitats.
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