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.

Bellema, E., E. Berrington, and R. E. Ricklefs. 2008. The dynamic evolutionary history of the Bananaquit (Coereba flaveola) in the Caribbean revealed by a multigene analysis. BMC Evolutionary Biology 8:240.—Multi-gene analyses were used to investigate the evolutionary history of the Bananaquit throughout the West Indies and South and Middle America. The resulting phylogeny supported a West Indian origin for continental populations. Multi-gene analysis also showed genetic remnants of successive colonization events in the Lesser Antilles, reinforcing earlier research demonstrating that Bananaquits alternate periods of invasiveness and colonization with biogeographic quiescence. Available at www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2148/8/240.

Garrido, O. H., and A. Kirkconnell. 2008. The first record of Black-headed Grosbeak Pheucticus melanocephalus in the West Indies. Cotinga 30:72.—E-mail: tody@amca.co.cu.

Keneffick, M. 2008. Verification of rare birds records from Trinidad & Tobago. Cotinga 30:75–79.—E-mail: martynkeneffick@hotmail.com.

Kirkconnell, A., and O. Gonzalez. 2008. Note: The nest of a rare Cuban endemic, Blue-headed Quail-Dove Starnoenas cyanocephala. Cotinga 30:79–80.—E-mail: tody@amca.co.cu.

Latta, S. C., M. L. Sondreal, and C. R. Brown. 2000. A hierarchical analysis of nesting and foraging habitat for the conservation of the Hispaniolan White-winged Crossbill (Loxia leucoptera megaplaga). Biological Conservation 96:139–150.—Crossbill abundance, foraging and nesting habitat was studied at three scales (individual tree, local patch, landscape) in the Dominican Republic. Results suggest that crossbills favor sites that have taller, more densely spaced pine trees, and that they respond negatively to forest fragmentation. Uncontrolled fires are the most important threat to the persistence of the crossbill, and could eliminate the species in 100-150 years. E-mail: steven.latta@aviary.org


Moyle, R. G., B. Slilas, L. A. Whittingham, D. W. Winkler, and F. H. Sheldon. 2008. DNA sequence assessment of phylogenetic relationships among New World martins (Hirundinidae: Progne). Wilson Journal of Ornithology 120:683–691.—The classification of New World martins (Progne) has relied on plumage traits that vary continuously across populations. The phylogeny of Progne was analyzed by analyzing mitochondrial cytochrome b DNA sequences and nuclear intron sequences. The Middle American taxa—Sinaloa Martin (P. sinaloae), Cuban Martin (P. cryptoleuca), Caribbean Martin (P. dominicensis), and Cental American populations of Gray-breasted Martin (P. chalybea)—form a well supported clade. This group is distinct from Purple Martin (P. subis), which has no particularly close relatives. The Cuban and Caribbean martins could be merged in view of their similar plumage and low genetic divergence (1.2%). E-mail: fsheld@lsu.edu.

Spellman, G. M., A. Cibois, R. G. Moyle, K. Winker, and F. K. Barker. 2008. Clarifying the systematics of an enigmatic avian lineage: What is a bombycilliid? Journal of Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 49:1036–1040.—Genomic DNA was used to identify a monophyletic bombycilliid lineage and to clarify the phylogenetic relationships among the members of this group. The authors recommend the common ancestry of all of the species within the clade should be recognized at the Family level (Bombycillidae). The well-supported clad s within the Bombycillidae, along with the monotypic lineages, should also receive subfamily recognition: Bombycillinae (Bombycilla), Ptilognataninae (Phainopepla, Phainoptila, Ptilognys), Dulinia (Dulus), Hypocoliinae (Hypocolius), and Hylocitrena (Hylocitrea). This proposal would result in the inclusion of the Palmchat (Dulus dulus) of Hispaniola, now considered an endemic Family (Dulidae), as part of the Bombycillidae. All generic and species nomenclature would remain the same. E-mail: garhsedman@bhsu.edu.