maps which are conveniently placed on the same plate as the illustration of the species. Maps cover the entire region and are enhanced with river systems and political boundaries. Arrows are sometimes used to highlight very small or isolated populations, but unfortunately these arrows are so small as to be largely ineffective. General ranges of each subspecies are also indicated, although the authors caution that in most cases these are not well known.

In summary, this guide is extremely well thought out. I find that the book combines some of the best elements from a wide variety of field guides, while leaping forward with its recognition of the importance of subspecies and regional diversity, and its outstanding depictions of variation in plumages. This clearly represents a new generation of bird guides. I congratulate the authors, especially the senior author and illustrator Robin Restall, on a landmark publication that will advance ornithology and conservation in our region and beyond.—

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**RECENT ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE FROM THE CARIBBEAN**

With this issue of *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology* we are introducing a new column that will summarize recent ornithological literature from the Caribbean basin. Each article that appears in this column will include a full citation, usually a short summary of the main theme of the paper, and when possible, an e-mail address or website where a pdf of the article can be requested. We invite readers of the JCO to alert our compiler, Steven Latta, to other articles that should be highlighted in this section. We would also like to include here any unpublished theses, or other reports that may be difficult to find in more universally available abstract services. Our hope is that by providing these summaries we will increase the exchange of knowledge among Caribbean ornithologists and conservationists.—

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ENGMAN, R., D. WHISSON, J. QUINN, F. CANO, P. QUINONES, AND T. H. WHITE, JR. 2006. Monitoring invasive mammalian predator populations sharing habitat with the critically endangered Puerto Rican Parrot *Amazona vittata*. Oryx 40:95-102.—Tracking plates, monitoring blocks, and trapping were used to index populations of introduced mammal predators, whose abundance and pervasiveness posed a significant threat to nesting parrots. E-MAIL: thomas_white@fws.gov.


**RECENT ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE**

**Haley, M. M.** 2006. Length and asymmetry in naturally and sexually selected bilateral traits in *Melisuga* hummingbirds. Caribbean Journal of Science 42:144-146.–No relationship between wing and tail lengths, and asymmetry were found for *M. minima* and *M. helenae* males and females. The results are discussed in the context of sexual selection theories. E-mail: michael.haley@liu.edu.

**Hayes, F. E.** 2004. Variability and interbreeding of Sandwich Terns and Cayenne Terns in the Virgin Islands, with comments on their systematic relationship. North American Birds 57:566-572. E-mail: floyd_hayes@yahoo.com.

**Holmes, R. T.** 2007. Understanding population change in migratory songbirds: long-term and experimental studies of Neotropical migrants in breeding and wintering areas. Ibis 149 (suppl. 2):2-13. E-mail: richard.t.holmes@dartmouth.edu.

**Hunt, J. S., E. Bermingham, and R. E. Ricklefs.** 2001. Molecular systematics and biogeography of Antillean thrashers, tremblers, and mockingbirds (Aves: Mimidae). Auk 118:35-55.–A phylogenetic hypothesis for mimids is used to explain avian radiation within the Lesser Antilles. E-mail: eb@naos.si.edu.

**Johnson, M. D., T. W. Sherry, R. T. Holmes, and P. P. Marrra.** 2006. Assessing habitat quality for a migratory songbird wintering in natural and agricultural habitats. Conservation Biology 20:1433-1444.–Comparing demographic indicators of habitat quality for the American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) wintering in Jamaican citrus orchards, shade coffee plantations, mangrove, coastal scrub, coastal palm, and dry limestone forests, the authors conclude that local density may be useful as an approximation of winter habitat quality. E-mail: mdj6@humboldt.edu.

**Lahti, D. C.** 2003. A case study of species assessment in invasion biology: the Village Weaverbird *Ploceus cucullatus*. Animal Biodiversity and Conservation 26:1:45-55.–Based on the literature and field studies in the Dominican Republic, *P. cucullatus* is concluded to be a potential invader of concern in several regions, including elsewhere in the Caribbean. E-mail: lahti@bio.umass.edu.

**Lahti, D. C.** 2003. Cactus fruits may facilitate Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*) breeding in atypical habitat on Hispaniola. Wilson Bulletin 115:487-489.–The ability of *P. cucullatus* to breed in the dry desert may be a function of the availability of fruit of the columnar cactus which provide carbohydrates and water to the birds. E-mail: lahti@bio.umass.edu.

**Lahti, D. C.** 2005. Evolution of bird eggs in the absence of cuckoo parasitism. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA) 102:18057-18062.–Using introduced populations of Village Weavers (*Ploceus cucullatus*) in the Dominican Republic as a comparison, the author finds support for the hypothesis that egg appearance in *P. cucullatus* has been maintained by natural selection as a counter-adaptation to cuckoo brood parasitism. E-mail: lahti@bio.umass.edu.

**Lahti, D. C.** 2006. Persistence of egg recognition in the absence of cuckoo brood parasitism: pattern and mechanism. Evolution 60:157-168.–Using experimental parasitism of nests of introduced populations of Village Weavers (*Ploceus cucullatus*) in the Dominican Republic and at other sites, author finds support for the hypothesis that there has been no significant decline in the birds’ ability to recognize foreign eggs at sites devoid of egg-mimicking brood parasites. E-mail: lahti@bio.umass.edu.


**McNaír, D. B., E. B. Massiah, and M. D. Frost.** 2002. Ground-based autumn migration of Blackpoll Warblers at Harrison Point, Barbados. Caribbean Journal of Science 38:239-248.–The Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) is a generally infrequent and uncommon migrant at this site. The arrival of large numbers of grounded birds in 1997 was associated with a low barometric air pressure system. E-mail: dbmcnair@gmail.com.

**Olson, S.** 2005. Refutation of the historical evi-
Concludes that there is no credible evidence for the existence of a macaw species on Hispaniola in historical times. E-mail: olsons@si.edu.

Overton, L. C., and D. D. Rhoads. 2004. Molecular phylogenetic relationships based on mitochondrial and nuclear gene sequences for the Todies (Todus, Todidae) of the Caribbean. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 32:524-538.—The Todus group is monophyletic and most closely related to the motmots (Motmotidae). The Hispaniolan T. subulatus and T. angustirostris appear to be sister species, and T. angustirostris appears to be separated into two genetically distinct subpopulations.

Parchman, T. L., C. W. Benkman, and E. T. Mezquida. 2007. Coevolution between Hispaniolan crossbills and pine: does more time allow for greater phenotypic escalation at lower latitude? Evolution 61:2142-2153.—Results suggest that predator-prey co-evolution between Hispaniolan Crossbills (Loxia megaplaega) and Hispaniolan pine (Pinus occidentalis) over approximately 600,000 yr has caused substantial morphological evolution in both the crossbill and pine. E-mail: tparchical@nmsu.edu.


Ricklefs, R. E. and E. Bermingham. 2008. Likely human introduction of the Red-legged Thrush (Turdus plumbeus) to Dominica, West Indies. The Auk 125:299-303.—The weakly differentiated population on Dominica is 600 km and many suitable islands from the nearest conspecific population. Mitochondrial DNA sequences show that the Dominican population is practically indistinguishable genetically from that of Puerto Rico. This indicates a recent derivation of the Dominican population from Puerto Rico, likely the result of human introduction. E-mail: ricklefs@umsl.edu.


Smith, J. A. M., L. R. Reitsma, L. L. Rockwood, and P. P. Marra. 2008. Roosting behavior of a Neotropical migrant songbird, the Northern Waterthrush Seiurus noveboracensis, during the non-breeding season. Journal of Avian Biology 39:460-465.—Waterthrushes roost in red mangrove, traveling up to 2 km to selected sites. Most individuals roosted alone, but others were in loose aggregations. E-mail: smithjam@gmail.com.

Steadman, D. W., R. Franz, G. S. Morgan, N. A. Albury, B. Kakuk, K. Broad, S. E. Franz, K. Tinker, M. P. Pateman, T. A. Lott, D. M. Jarzen, and D. L. Dilcher. 2007. Exceptionally well preserved late Quaternary plant and vertebrate fossils from a blue hole on Abaco, the Bahamas. Proceedings of the National Academy of Science USA 104:19897-19902.—Vertebrate fossils from a water-filled sinkhole on Great Abaco Island included Caracara (Caracara creightoni), Cooper’s or Gundlach’s Hawk (Accipiter cooperii or A. gundlachii), an undescribed rail species (extinct; the first Bahamian flightless rail), a flicker (Colaptes spp.), Cave Swallow (Petrochelidon fulva), and Eastern Meadowlark (Sturnella magna). E-mail: dws@flmnh.ufl.edu.

Tossas, A. G. 2006. Effects of hurricane Georges on the resident avifauna of Maricao State Forest, Puerto Rico. Caribbean Journal of Science 42:81-87.—Studies with mist nets and point counts document initial increase in capture rates of birds in the understory, and longer term declines of most species after passage of the hurricane. Two species were not observed after the hurricane, including one of the five most abundant, Geotrygon montana. E-mail: agtossas@caribe.net.

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is pleased to announce the release of Neotropical Birds Online (neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/portal/home), a new online resource for life history accounts of Neotropical birds. The scope of Neotropical Birds Online is all bird species that regularly occur in the Western Hemisphere, from Mexico and the Caribbean south to southernmost South America. The emphasis is on species that breed within this region, but the long term goal is to provide accounts for all species that occur regularly in the region.

The format for Neotropical Birds Online is a series of life history species accounts similar to that of the Birds of North America series (bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna), but with one important difference: access to Neotropical Birds is free. Topics covered in each online account include appearance and identification, distribution, habitat, diet, foraging behavior, nesting biology, conservation status, and priorities for future research on that species.

Each species of Caribbean bird will be the subject of a separate account in Neotropical Birds Online, and each account is treated as a separate online publication. The online format allows authors to revise their species accounts to keep pace with new research and new findings. It also allows the incorporation of rich media such as sound recordings and video in the account.

Neotropical Birds Online is a collaborative project. Not only will it be useful to researchers, birders, and managers who are interested in birds of the Neotropics, but it will be “created” by that same community of specialists.

That means that we need your help. Currently we have completed accounts for only a few species of Caribbean birds. More accounts are in the pipeline, but we still are in need of authors for many species. The readers of the Journal of Caribbean Ornithology are just the people who have the expertise on Caribbean birds that we need to tap into. If you study any Caribbean birds or would like to author a species account, please contact the Neotropical Birds Online editors (neotropicalbirds@cornell.edu). You can contribute to this project not only through authoring a species account, but also by providing photographic images, sound or video recordings. Learn more about how to contribute at neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/portal/contribute.

Many thanks for your support of Neotropical Birds Online—we look forward to hearing from you.

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White, T. H., Jr., G. G. Brown, and J. A. Collazo. 2006. Artificial cavities and nest site selection by Puerto Rican Parrots: a multiscale assessment. Avian Conservation and Ecology 1(3):online.–Nest sites selected by Amazona vittata were characterized by greater horizontal and vertical visibility from the nest entrance, greater density of mature sierra palms, and a more westerly and leeward orientation of nest entrances than unused sites. Our results suggest that nest site selection in this species is an adaptive response to predation pressure, to which the parrots respond by selecting nest sites offering advantages in predator detection and avoidance at all stages of the nesting cycle. www.ace-eco.org/viewissue.php?id=3#Research_Papers.

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