me. In a review of evidence for the existence of the Hispaniolan Macaw (Ara tricolor), Olson (2005) refers to "...an obscure reference that was long overlooked, Armas (1888)..." Lo and behold, that was it—a missing reference from Wiley's bibliography!

But really, there is little need to criticize this work. I can only begin to imagine what it took to track down, collate, and index this massive quantity of material. Personally, I would have liked to see the bibliography include more recent works beyond 1994, but of course a deadline needs to be established at some point. As it stands, this accomplishment should be widely hailed, and this bibliography should be found in the libraries and collections of all who have an interest in Caribbean ornithology and conservation. It is indispensable. The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology should be saluted for publishing this work, and of course, Jim Wiley should be thanked for the years of work that must have been involved in its production. The publication of this bibliography really is a service to all of us who continue to build on the studies listed here, as we benefit from the experience of those who preceded us and who are represented in Wiley's outstanding bibliography.—STEVEN C. LATTA, Department of Conservation and Field Research, National Aviary, Allegheny Commons West, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, USA; e-mail: steven.latta@aviary.org.

LITERATURE CITED


From Dominica comes another delightful introduction to island birds! Continuing the outstanding contributions made by United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of International Conservation, and with the donation of the plates from Herb Raffaele and co-author's A guide to the birds of the West Indies (Princeton University Press), this guide to 65 common birds of Dominica breaks new ground with its wonderful use of history and culture in presenting the island's birds.

Following introductory notes on the interaction of birds and humans, an historical overview of ornithologists on Dominica, and a brief summary of legislation to protect birds on the island, the reader reaches some of the more innovative chapters of the book. The authors have scoured the island and interviewed many people to assemble a list of place names, plants, club and group names, and children’s games which reflect the importance of birds to society. Even more impressive and entertaining is a list of proverbs, expressions, and metaphors that refer to birds. For example, one Creole expression translates as, "It is imperative that one sleeps among the chick-
birds will drive a person mad; and the presence of the House Wren (Troglodytes aedon) indicates a boa constrictor (Constrictor constrictor) is nearby. Finally, each species is illustrated with a figure from the Raffaele guide, although a few species accounts are supplemented with a photograph of the bird or other artwork. The book concludes with complete indices of English, scientific, and local names; appendices of plant names mentioned in the text; local (Creole) words pertaining to birds; a short English-Creole dictionary of bird terms; and a short list of references of Dominican ornithological works.

I have few criticisms of this informative and entertaining book. I found the species accounts to be somewhat inconsistent, with some species given only the most basic identification points and descriptions of habitat and nest characteristics, while other species were awarded much longer and more detailed accounts topped off by significant folkloric histories. A few accounts even added sections on symbols and legends associated with the species. I thought some of the bird images could have been reproduced in a larger format, as some are quite small and there often appeared to be a fair amount of wasted white space on the page. For some reason the image of the beautiful Rufous-throated Solitaire (Myiastes genibarbis) is missing entirely, and some of the photographs are reproduced in a slightly inferior way. I found no spelling or typographic errors, except that a few of the subheadings in the species accounts were not in bold-face type.

But these are really minor problems. The book’s value is really in providing a sterling example of how ornithologists and conservationists can draw on rich cultural traditions to help bring people to better appreciate birds, and to support more fervently efforts to conserve birds and their habitats. Building a conservation ethic is sometimes the first and greatest battle in protecting our natural resources, and this fine book from Dominica shows us a wonderful example of one way to move forward in the good fight.—STEVEN C. LATTAL, Department of Conservation and Field Research, National Aviary, Allegheny Commons West, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15212; e-mail: steve.latta@aviary.org

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