

BIRDERS' BOOKSHELF

Birds of the Cayman Islands

Patricia Bradley, 1985. Photographs by Yves-Jaques Rey-Millet. Foreword by H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. Published by the author, Box 1326, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, B.W.I. 245 pages, 72 color photographs. Hardbound. \$25.00 includes postage and handling. Available in the United States from ABA Sales, P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80934 (303/634-7736).

THE CAYMANS ARE A GROUP OF three low-lying limestone islands totaling almost 100 square miles, situated between Cuba and Jamaica. Off the main tourist routes, the Caymans remained largely "undiscovered" until the 1970s. While development pressures have since increased dramatically, the population density of this contented British colony is still one of the lowest in the Caribbean region, and per-capita income is one of the highest.

Patricia Bradley has consolidated much of the information about the Caymans' birdlife into a well-produced,

extraordinarily thorough and useful pocket-sized guide. For each of the 45 current breeding species (the Grand Cayman Thrush and the endemic form of the Jamaican Oriole are both believed extinct), the author presents the scientific, English (A.O.U.), and local vernacular name; field characters; world and Cayman range; habitat preferences; habits; and status in the Caymans. Endemic subspecies and interisland variations are also discussed. Each breeding species is illustrated by at least one color photograph, taken mostly by Yves-Jaques Rey-Millet. For the most part,

“ . . . a well-produced, extraordinarily thorough and useful pocket-sized guide.”

the photographs are esthetically superb, and the few exceptions, such as the Black-whiskered and Yucatan vireos, are fine for identification purposes. An additional 130 species characterized as visitors, rare transients, or accidentals are treated in a similar although less thorough fashion, and are not illustrated. Virtually all these non-breeders

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are well covered by the standard North American guides.

This book is not simply limited to status and identification, however. There are discussions concerning the derivation of the avifauna and the islands' ecosystems and habitat zones (with several color photographs). Directions and maps to the better birding areas are also included. There is even a section of photo tips by the photographer, as well as an ornithological bibliography. In short, the book is as complete a compendium of the avifauna of a small island nation as I have encountered. Even the graphics are way above average!

The real test of a guide like this is in its usefulness to the first-time visitor. My wife and I spent a few days on Grand Cayman in the spring of 1987. Using the guide, we easily located several good birding areas, and within 36 hours we had found and confidently identified all the island's breeding species except the West Indian Whistling-

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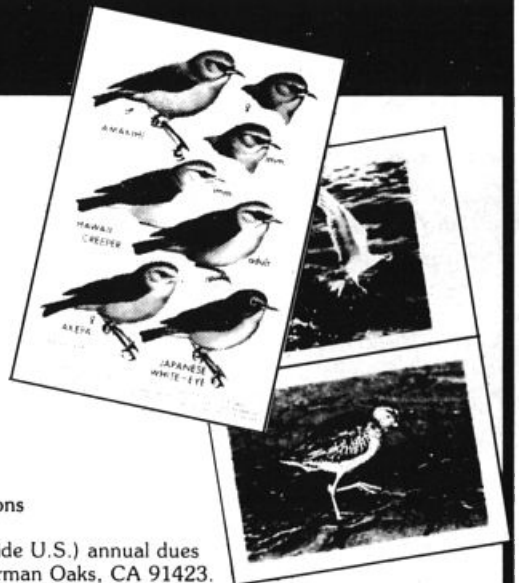
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- Conservation roles, current trends, issues, and controversies of the Forest Service, National Park Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service
- Fish and Wildlife Service Programs: endangered species protection, wetlands preservation, the National Wildlife Refuge System
- Thirteen appendices, including: directories for key federal offices, personnel, and programs; budget overviews; congressional contacts.

CONTENTS: Foreword by *Donal C. O'Brien, Jr.*, Chairman, National Audubon Society Board of Directors. **The Featured Agency.** The Bureau of Land Management. **Federal Agencies and Programs.** Federal Grants for State Wildlife Conservation. Migratory Bird Protection and Management. Federal Inland Fisheries Management. Federal Marine Fisheries Management. The Federal Endangered

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Species Program. Marine Mammal Protection. Federal Wetlands Protection Programs. Water Projects and Wildlife. The Federal Animal Damage Control Program. The National Wildlife Refuge System. Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service. Wildlife and the National Park Service. International Wildlife Conservation. Federal Fish and Wildlife Agency Budgets. **Species Accounts.** The Walrus. The Mission Blue Butterfly. The Wood Duck. The Bobcat. The Lynx. The Cui-ui. The Running Buffalo Clover. The Black-footed Ferret. The Southern Sea Otter. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker. The Elk. The Piping Plover. The Black Bear. The Rough-leaved Loosetrife. The Paiute Trout. **Appendices.** A. Forest Service Directory. B. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Directory. C. National Park Service

Directory. D. Bureau of Land Management Directory. E. Wetlands Management Directory. F. Federal Offices Involved in the Management of Marine Fisheries and the Conservation of Marine Mammals. G. Budget Information Contacts on Federal Fish and Wildlife Programs. H. Congressional Contacts and Addresses. I. The Federal Endangered and Threatened Species List. J. The National Wildlife Refuge System Directory. K. The Land and Water Conservation Fund: Appropriations by Area, 1981-1987. L. The National Forest Plan Status Report. M. Federal Wildlife Agency Budgets. Index.

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Duck, which is rare and nocturnal. Thus, from our perspective, the book works. It is helpful, informative, simple to use, and pleasing to look at. Errors and omissions are inconsequential. Thus, if you think you might go to the Caymans, buy it. Use it as a starting model if you're planning to write a book for a small region with a limited native avifauna. And by all means add it to your library if you think someday you will want to know what a Zenaida Dove, Caribbean Elaenia, Loggerhead Kingbird, Thick-billed Vireo, Stripe-headed Tanager, or some other West Indian specialty occurring in the Caymans and sometimes reported in the United States, *really* looks like!—P.W.S.

ICBP Technical Publications

- No. 1** *Conservation of New World Parrots*. R. Pasquier, Ed. 1980. 485 pp. \$14. Available from Smithsonian Inst. Press.
- No. 2** *Status and Conservation of the World's Seabirds*. J.P. Croxall, Ed. 1982. 790 pp. £26.90. Avail. ICBP.
- No. 3** *Conservation of Island Birds*. Ed. P.J. Moors. 1982. 288 pp. £16.50. Avail. ICBP.
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Thirty-sixth Supplement to the Check-List of North American Birds

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THE JULY 1987 ISSUE OF *THE AUK* (Vol. 104: 591–596) contains the latest (second) supplement to the A.O.U. Check-List. This supplement, as future ones will be, is intended only to correct errors in the Sixth Edition of the Check-List and to include any new distributional records and taxonomic decisions that substantially alter the status of a species within North America. If you are worried about your life list decreasing, rest assured that no species are lumped. If you are hoping to expand your life list, you will have better success visiting a new biome than by reading this supplement.

First, there is just a single taxonomic change that alters the number of species on the Check-List. Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*), once again is separated from Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), primarily because recently published biochemical data substantiate its behavioral and morphological distinctiveness from other forms of the Red-eyed Vireo. The South American Chivi Vireo remains united with Red-eyed Vireo. Incidentally, there may be several other cases of "overlumped" vireos emerging; stay tuned for details as the supporting data are published.

Now for the "bookkeeping" changes. The generic name of the Antillean Crested Hummingbird is corrected to *Orthorhyncus*, and that of Laysan and Nihoa Finch to *Telespiza*. Euler's Flycatcher is transferred to a newly recognized genus, *Lathrotriccus*, and Central American seedfinch populations formerly listed as Great-billed Seedfinch now are recognized as a separate species, Nicaraguan Seedfinch (*Oryzoborus nuttingi*). Two species, Cape Petrel and Swallow-tailed Gull, are relegated to Appendix B of the Check-List because none of the records from North America is believed to be satisfactory. (The

We thank the following book reviewers for their careful reading and comments. The initials at the end of each review correspond to these names: P. William Smith; Paul A. DeBenedictis.

Committee had not reviewed the recent report of Swallow-tailed Gull from California.) The Mexican record of Southern Fulmar probably deserves similar treatment. A hummingbird recorded once from Panama was misidentified and all records of Gorgeted Woodstar, (*Alcestrura heliodor*), actually pertain to Purple-throated Woodstar (*Calliphlox mitchellii*), new to the Check-List. Nine species are new to the main list of species (species in boldface have occurred north of Mexico): Peruvian Booby (*Sula variegata*), **Oriental Pratincole** (*Glareola maldivorum*) (also a family new to the Check-List), **Little Curlew** (*Numenius minimus*), Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) (Hawaii), Inca Tern (*Larosterna inca*), **Great Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dendrocopos major*), **Gray-breasted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa dauurica*) (this bird often has been called [Asian] Brown Flycatcher [*Muscicapa latirostris*], but that scientific name apparently is invalid), **Siberian Blue Robin** (*Luscinia cyane*), and Yellow-collared Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia flavirostris*). Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*) is moved from the "hypothetical" list to the main list of species because of new substantiated records, Mugimaki Flycatcher (*Ficedula mugimaki*) is added to Appendix A and three species—Yucatan Vireo, Crescent-chested Warbler

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and Flame-colored Tanager—are given A.O.U. numbers because of recent records north of Mexico. The Check-List Committee explicitly mentioned the recent reports of Greenish and Caribbean Elaenia (because of identity) and of Gray Silky-Flycatcher (because of mode of origin) from the Gulf Coast as being unsatisfactory to warrant giving these species A.O.U. numbers. They have provided a clear statement as to their philosophy in accepting or rejecting distributional records, but other

checklist committees need not be bound by these criteria. A number of new taxonomic proposals are pending before the committee, and there already are several substantiated additions to the list of species since this Supplement was prepared. The Committee welcomes any evidence that documents a significant change to the list of North American birds. Correspondence may be directed to any Committee member (the current Chairperson is Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr.).—P.A.D.

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