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**A New Subspecies of *Caprimulgus cubanensis* (Aves: Caprimulgidae)
from the Isle of Pines, Cuba**

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The Cuban Nightjar [*Caprimulgus cubanensis* (Lawrence)] is by no means a rare bird, either in Cuba or in the Isle of Pines (now called Isla de la Juventud), but like most caprimulgids it is nocturnal and difficult to see. It is usually detected at sunset and sunrise, when it incessantly repeats the syllables *gua-bai-ro gua-bai-ro* that give rise to its Cuban vernacular name. Because of its habits, few specimens exist either in Cuban or other museums.

The first report of the Cuban Nightjar from the Isle of Pines is that of Bangs and Zappey (1905: 203), who

mention a specimen shot in the dense woods south of the Ciénaga de Lanier. Unfortunately, the bird was so mangled that it could not be saved. For many years the only specimen from the island was an adult male flushed from a nest, also near the Ciénaga de Lanier, and collected by James Bond (pers. comm.). Recently, however, my former colleagues Natividad Hernández and Mario Fernández obtained a specimen in a most peculiar way during a field trip to the island to study the rodent *Capromys*. At 2300 they stopped their vehicle to make some observations, after which they

noticed a bird on the roof of their jeep. When they approached, the bird did not leave, being caught in the wires of one of their *Capromys* traps. This specimen was brought to me alive, and I immediately noticed that its coloration was different from that of birds from the Cuban mainland. Three additional specimens confirmed the distinctiveness of the population from the Isle of Pines.

***Caprimulgus cubanensis insulaepinorum*,**
new subspecies

Holotype.—Adult male IZ 2338; collected on the road between Cabo Pepe and Cocodrilo, southern part of the Isle of Pines, on 28 October 1979, by Natividad Hernández and Mario Fernández; deposited in the bird collection of the Institute of Zoology (IZ), Cuban Academy of Sciences.

Paratypes.—Male IZ 2334; collected at Rincón del Guanál, Isle of Pines, in December 1980, by Nilo Piñero. Female IZ 2351; collected between Cocodrilo and Rincón del Guanál, Isle of Pines, 17 September 1980, by Nilo Piñero. Female IZ 2352; same data as IZ 2351, but collected 18 September.

Diagnosis.—Closest to *Caprimulgus cubanensis cubanensis* but differing in its smaller size, shorter tail, and much darker coloration, especially of the pileum, back, breast, and wing coverts; barring on rectrices and primaries narrower and darker.

Distribution.—Apparently found throughout the Isle of Pines, Cuba, but much more common in the southern part and around the Ciénaga de Lanier. Mainland individuals from the Zapata Peninsula appear to be intermediate between *C. c. cubanensis* and *C. c. insulaepinorum*.

Description of holotype.—With the same design and color pattern of *Caprimulgus cubanensis cubanensis*, but darker. Pileum blackish-gray; wing coverts blackish-gray without traces of tawny or brownish. Vermiculations of upper rectrices grayish, not brownish. Breast feathers blackish mingled with grayish-cream, not ochraceous or brownish. Bars on the underside of the primaries somewhat thinner and blackish, those on the rectrices being rather inconspicuous.

Measurements of holotype.—Wing 168 mm; tail 121, culmen 13.5, tarsus 19; length of white tip of outermost rectrix 22.3.

Discussion.—Comparisons need be made principally with the nominate Cuban form, *Caprimulgus cubanensis cubanensis*, from which *C. c. insulaepinorum* was undoubtedly derived. The only other subspecies, *C. c. eckmani*, of Hispaniola, is similar to *C. c. cubanensis* in coloration but is immediately separable from that form and *insulaepinorum* by the much more extensive light-colored tips of the rectrices (Lönnerberg 1929, S. L. Olson pers. comm.). In specimens from Cuba and the Isle of Pines the light tail tips are not over 30 mm long (13–26.5 mm), whereas in *C. c. eckmani* they are much longer, from 34 to 63 mm. In size, however,

C. c. eckmani is more similar to *C. c. insulaepinorum* than to *C. c. cubanensis* (see Table 1). The Cuban specimens (with the exception of the birds from the Zapata Peninsula) are decidedly larger than the Isle of Pines birds.

Two females of *C. c. cubanensis* from outside of the Zapata area weighed 65 and 70 g, respectively, while a male weighed 80 g. Two females from the Zapata weighed 55 and 60.2 g. The Zapata weights are quite similar to those obtained from birds from the Isle of Pines—50 and 60 g for two females and 68 g for a male.

The birds from the Zapata Peninsula are clearly intermediate in coloration between *cubanensis* and *insulaepinorum*, being darker than specimens from elsewhere in Cuba but not as dark as the Isle of Pines race. In size, they are more similar to *insulaepinorum* (see Table 1).

Lawrence (1862: 14) based his original description of *Antristomus cubanensis* on two mounted specimens (male and female) sent by Gundlach. The male specimen in the Lawrence collection in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH 43856) had not been mounted (S. Olson in litt.) and thus cannot be the male cotype, which was probably returned to Gundlach. This specimen is probably the individual deposited with the Gundlach collection (number 213) now in the Institute of Zoology, Academy of Sciences of Cuba. As Gundlach (1898: 102) mentioned that he had obtained specimens of the Cuban Nightjar in the Zapata Swamp, there is a strong possibility that the birds sent by Gundlach were from this region, but the measurements of the abovementioned specimen are larger (wing 182 mm, tail 133 mm) than those of Zapata birds, and those given by Lawrence (1862) are even larger but may not be particularly accurate [length about 11½ inches (288 mm); wing 7½ inches (188 mm); tail 5¾ inches (144 mm); tarsus ½ inch (12.5 mm)].

Although the small series from the Isle of Pines is uniform in coloration, the specimen collected by Bond is larger and does not differ from Cuban specimens in measurements. The much larger Cuban series is very uniform as far as size is concerned, with the exception of two female specimens (La Güira and Manzanillo) that are as small as those from the Isle of Pines. The larger size of the specimen collected by Bond near the Ciénaga de Lanier may indicate that individuals of the northern population of nightjars on the Isle of Pines are larger than those of the south. Garrido (in press) has shown that several taxa of land vertebrates from the northern section of the island differ from those in the south and appear to have a closer affinity with taxa in western Cuba, whereas those in the southern section are more similar to taxa in the central and eastern regions of Cuba.

Natural history.—Bond (in litt.) obtained his specimen from the Isle of Pines "after flushing it from the eggs, and I was surprised to find it a male (with en-

TABLE 1. Wing and tail measurements (mm) of *Caprimulgus cubanensis*. (AMNH, American Museum of Natural History; ANSP, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; IZ, Institute of Zoology, Academy of Sciences of Cuba; MFP, Museo Felipe Poey, University of Habana; USNM, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.)

Locality	Wing	Tail
<i>Caprimulgus cubanensis cubanensis</i>		
♂ [Cuba] (Gundlach collection, 213—holotype?)	182	130
♂ Triscornia, Habana (Gundlach collection unnumbered)	182	130
♂ San Antonio de los Baños, Habana (MFP)	180	132
♂ El Veral, Guanahacabibes, Pinar del Río (IZ)	185	129
♂ [Cuba] (ANSP)	176	—
♂ [Cuba] (Lawrence collection, AMNH 43856)	183	142
♂ [Cuba] (USNM 106160)	177	130
♀ Barrancas, Manzanillo (MFP)	176	133
♀ Santiago de las Vegas, Habana (MFP)	180	130
♀ San Cristóbal, Pinar del Río (MFP)	180	133
♀ Bacuranao, Habana (MFP)	183	128
♀ Ceiba del Agua, Habana (IZ)	180	126
♀ La Güira, San Diego, Pinar del Río (IZ)	174	131
♀ [Cuba] (USNM)	181	132
<i>Caprimulgus cubanensis cubanensis</i> × <i>insulaepinorum</i>		
♂ Santo Tomás, Ciénega de Zapata (MFP)	174	124
♀ Santo Tomás, Ciénega de Zapata (MFP)	172	122
♀ Santo Tomás, Ciénega de Zapata (MFP)	177	124
♀ Santo Tomás, Ciénega de Zapata (USNM 395662)	175	128
♀ near Guamá, Ciénega de Zapata (IZ 2335)	169	125
♀ Los Sábalo, Ciénega de Zapata (MFP)	176	125
<i>Caprimulgus cubanensis insulaepinorum</i>		
♂ Between Cabo Pepe and Cocodrilo, Isle of Pines (IZ 2338, holotype)	168	121
♂ Rincón del Guanál, Isle of Pines (IZ 2334)	174	126
♂ Ciénega de Lanier, Isle of Pines (ANSP)	181	—
♀ Between Cocodrilo and Rincón del Guanál, Isle of Pines (IZ 2351)	176	122
♀ Between Cocodrilo and Rincón del Guanál, Isle of Pines (IZ 2352)	175	125
<i>Caprimulgus cubanensis eckmani</i>		
♂ Hispaniola (ANSP)	180	—

TABLE 1. Continued.

Locality	Wing	Tail
♂ Terrier Rouge, Haiti (USNM 327685)	173	143
♀ Mao, Yaguii, Dominican Republic (USNM 279260)	175	130
♀ Jeremie, Haiti (holotype, from Lönnberg 1929)	181	145
♀ La Vega, Dominican Republic (AMNH 477312)	175	135

larged testes)." Similarly, in April 1981, Marlene Quesada and I were walking along a wooded path in La Güira (San Diego de los Baños) when a bird was flushed that appeared nearly as large as a Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*). It flew off a few yards and began to perform an injury-feigning display in front of us, giving an identical performance on two occasions. It sat on a limb of a tree just in front of the path, about 12 m away, and began to shake wings and body for a few seconds, then stopped, and, as we were motionless, started the movement again. This was repeated several times until we walked toward the bird, which flew off suddenly into the woods, turned sharply, and disappeared. When we returned to the place 30 min later, the first bird's mate, obviously a smaller individual, was present and displayed differently, allowing me to get so close that I almost caught it with my hand, after which it flew off about 5 m, sat in the middle of the path, and also performed an injury-feigning display but with a more excited motion. As long as we stayed motionless, the bird kept shaking incessantly, not stopping at intervals as did its mate. I then collected the specimen, which proved to be a female. The pair had been incubating a clutch of two eggs. As with Bond's observation, it would appear that both sexes participate in the incubation of the eggs, and probably both sexes also assume parental duties after hatching, as in the North American Chuck-will's-widow (Bent 1940: 150).

Alayón (in press) observed the nidification of *C. cubanensis* in San Antonio de los Baños and commented that the behavior differed depending on whether the birds were incubating or raising chicks. He did not state, however, whether different sexes behaved differently or whether the same individual altered its behavior. This must be clarified by additional observations.

George Reynard and I have made recordings of the voice of *C. cubanensis* in Soroa (Sierra del Rosario) and Soplillar (Zapata Peninsula), and I have also heard birds calling in San Diego de los Baños. The vocalizations of birds from these regions are indistinguishable from one another but are quite distinct from those of *C. c. eckmani* recorded by Reynard in His-

paniola. I have not heard the voice of *C. c. insulaepinorum*, but, because of its geographic proximity and close morphological similarity to *C. c. cubanensis*, I would not expect it to be very different. It has been suggested that the Hispaniolan bird may be specifically distinct from the Cuban form, and Bond (1982: 3) remarks, "Vocalizations in Cuba (*cubanensis*) differ from those in Hispaniola (*eckmani*) as indicated by the vernacular names guabairo (Cuba) and pitanguá (Dom. Rep.). Haitians call this nightjar 'petonoi,' clearly a corruption of pitanguá, my interpretation 'peut-on voir' [being] incorrect."

I am indebted to Dr. Storrs L. Olson, who not only graciously provided me with the literature required for this paper and with notes and measurements for specimens of *Caprimulgus cubanensis* deposited in North American museums but also read, corrected, and retyped the manuscript. I am grateful to Dr. James Bond for his constant encouragement and advice as well as for data from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; to Dr. George B. Reynard for providing me with duplicates of voice recordings taken in Cuba and for sending a recording of the voice of *C. c. eckmani*; to Dr. Burt L. Monroe, who read the manuscript and gave some valuable suggestions; and to my former colleagues Natividad Hernández, Reynaldo Carnero, and Robert Negret for

arranging to obtain specimens from the Isle of Pines that were collected by the local peasant Nilo Piñero.

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Rediscovery of, and New Data on, *Molothrus armenti* Cabanis

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The Colombian Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus armenti* Cabanis) was described on the basis of three immature examples. They were collected by G. Haerberlin at Cartagena, northern Colombia early in 1826 and sent to the Berlin Museum, where they remained unstudied until 1851. Only one of these specimens has survived (see Friedmann 1933, 1957 for the history of *armenti*). In the American Museum of Natural History is an adult male example, labelled "Savanilla" (= Sabanilla, in the vicinity of Barranquilla), an area on the north coast of Colombia near the mouth of the Río Magdalena, about 100 km from the type locality. This specimen came to the museum from the George Lawrence Collection and dates back to before 1866. Since that time, only one other specimen has

been recorded, a live male acquired by the National Zoological Park, Washington, in 1957 and, since its death, preserved in the National Museum of Natural History. It was obtained, together with some other kinds of birds, from a dealer in Rockville, Maryland, who said that he had received all the birds in a commercial shipment of living birds from Leticia, on the Amazon River in extreme southeastern Colombia. At that time it was realized that the shipper in Leticia may have acquired his material from several places, some considerably remote from Leticia. Certainly, Leticia is not in the typical savanna country of Colombia, the nearest sizable savanna being in Caquetá, not less than 600 km to the northwest as the crow (or the cowbird) flies. The Leticia region and the nearby Tabatinga district of northwestern Brazil are actually rather heavily forested. In fact, the Amazonian rainforest extends for hundreds of kilometers around Leticia, but much of it near the two towns has been cleared by man for many years.

In 1969 and 1970, Dr. Gilberto Toro-García, who since January 1968 has been in charge of the newly established Parque Nacional de la Isla de Salamanca

¹ The untimely deaths of the two authors prevented them from finishing this paper on *Molothrus armenti*, which I have now completed from their notes and correspondence, forwarded to me by Dr. François Vuilleumier. This I have been glad to do because of my interest in the bird and because of my long friendship with the authors.—Herbert Friedmann, 350 South Fuller Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90036 USA.