



Aves de la Sabana de Bogotá: Guía de Campo

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Classification and Regression Tree (CART) modeling of the occurrence of Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) and showed that host abundance is an important predictor of cowbird occurrence within recently colonized regions (eastern and western states, extending to both coasts), but is less important within the ancestral range of the cowbird (plains and prairies of the central Great Plains). On a smaller spatial scale, A.-M. Shapiro, S. J. Harper, and J. Westervelt used individual-based models and landscape simulation models to predict cowbird occurrence and develop management plans to reduce cowbird parasitism effects on populations of Black-capped Vireos (*Vireo atricapillus*) and Golden-cheeked Warblers (*Dendroica chrysoparia*).

Figure 65.1, the final one in the book, is the most sobering and interesting. J. Wiens presents a scatterplot illustrating observed versus predicted abundances (not occurrences) of Sage Sparrows (*Amphispiza belli*) on survey plots in western shrubsteppe. The predictive model was constructed from several measures of habitat structure taken from 1977–1982 at 14 sites in shrubsteppe of Oregon and Nevada. Although the relationship is a bit curvilinear, there is a solid fit with the data ($r^2 = 0.60$; $n = 52$) that any ecologist would be pleased with for a predictive model. But superimposed on the graph are 12 data points from a recensus of the sites same sites in 1997, fitted to the earlier habitat model. Those 12 points form an ugly scattershot and bear no resemblance to the earlier well-fitted model. The “rules” governing species occurrences keep changing through time, and that moving target is even more of a challenge to find than a stationary one.

We have moved beyond childhood games of Battleship, but there is still much work to be done in predicting where species occur. This volume is an excellent overview of the current state of the art. The book will appeal to ornithologists (many avian analyses), conservation biologists (detailed synthetic forecasts of species occurrences), and academic ecologists (new, worthwhile statistical tools). I am not usually a fan of contributed collections, but the papers in this collection were well edited. In spite of its massive size, the collection is concise, readable, and informative. Every conservation biologist and ecologist will find something of value in this sourcebook.—NICHOLAS J. GOTELLI, Department of Biology, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont 05405, USA. E-mail: ngotelli@zoo.uvm.edu

LITERATURE CITED

VERNER, J., M. L. MORRISON, AND C. J. RALPH, Eds. 1986. *Wildlife 2000: Modeling Habitat Relationships of Terrestrial Vertebrates*. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison.

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Aves de la Sabana de Bogotá: Guía de Campo.—F. Gary Stiles, Clara I. Bohórquez, Carlos D. Cadena, Susana De La Zerda, Matheo Hernández, Loreta Rosselli, Martin Kelsey, Iván D. Valencia, and Douglas Knapp. 2000. Asociación Bogotana de Ornithología, Corporación Autónoma Regional de Cundinamarca. 276 pp., 16 color plates by Robin Schiele, 2 color fold-out maps, 15 color photos of habitats. ISBN 958-96792-5-0. Softback, Price unavailable.—This handy little guide, measuring 5 × 8 inches, may have limited appeal to foreign birders because it is in Spanish and because of its small geographical focus. But its appearance—the work of Colombians and foreign residents—is a heartening reminder that, despite continuing civil strife and political chaos, there are still persons in Colombia committed to fostering understanding and appreciation of this country’s natural environment.

Colombia’s only modern countrywide bird book, *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia* by Hilty and Brown, was published in English in 1986. It has been widely heralded by foreign scientists and naturalists but, unfortunately, was expensive (for Colombians), never readily available within the country, and mainly used by a small minority of Colombians capable of reading English and able to obtain it through international conduits. A much-delayed Spanish edition, with a limited print run, was finally distributed within Colombia in the late 1990s. Both versions are aimed, in scope and detail, more at scientists and advanced naturalists than novices and young enthusiasts. The present *Aves de la Sabana de Bogotá*, although modest in scope, is a product with greater mass appeal to Colombians, especially those in the heavily populated Bogotá environs. In size, scope, and approach, this is a book largely by and for Colombians, and it should be especially helpful to students and younger naturalists learning birds, and in raising environmental awareness.

The book covers a bit less than 200 species—barely 10% of the more than 1,800 species now estimated to occur in Colombia. These are, however, the birds most likely to be seen around Bogotá, the most densely populated region of the country and one of the most degraded environmentally. Introductory chapters treat (1) habitats around Bogotá; (2) avifauna of the Sabana de Bogotá, including biogeography, ecology, migration, plumage, voice, and conservation; (3) basics of observing birds, and what we, as humans, can learn from birds; and (4) an overview of species accounts and a glossary of anatomical terms and colors used in describing and identifying birds—all aimed at helping those new to bird study.

The species account format is familiar—brief family introductions and an account for each species. Some accounts are nearly a page in length with subsections on identification, voice, habitat, nesting, status, distribution with elevations, and sometimes notes that discuss taxonomy, boreal and austral migrants, or infrequently reported species. Most welcome is the fact that a good portion of the information is new, not recycled. Another welcome inclusion is both a preferred Spanish name as well as one or more local Spanish names, something useful but rarely presented in Latin American bird guides. Taxonomy generally follows that in Hilty and Brown's *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia*, a convenience to students having access to both works, but the taxonomy of some groups (i.e. *Scytalopus*) has been updated to reflect recent changes.

Two color maps, one of the Sabana de Bogotá, the other of natural areas in the city of Bogotá, are detailed and accurate. The plates will certainly enable anyone to recognize the birds in the area of this book. Helpful is the fact that many female and immature plumages are included. The artist, however, received little mention, being noted only once at the bottom of an introductory page.

Rounding out this fully packed book are a series of appendices that provides lists of migrants, threatened species, species not discussed in the main text, extinct species, and a bibliography of 69 entries. This is a terrific little bird book for students and naturalists of the Bogotá area. One hopes that more like it, in Spanish, will appear for other areas in Colombia and elsewhere. —STEVEN L. HILTY, *Research Associate, University of Kansas, Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, USA. E-mail: slhilty@hotmail.com*

mostly focusing on the species' cavity trees. Jeffrey R. Walters, working mainly in North Carolina and the panhandle of Florida, has published extensively on the woodpecker's life history, population dynamics, and social system. Much of the book was derived from data collected from the populations studied by the authors. This is understandable; however, a more inclusive summary of what is known about Red-cockaded Woodpeckers from throughout their range would have contributed to a greater understanding of this endangered woodpecker and provided managers with more accurate information.

Chapter 1 is an overview of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, its habitat, and decline since the arrival of Europeans in North America. Chapter 2 characterizes the fire-maintained pine ecosystems on which the Red-cockaded Woodpecker depends. The history of the ecosystem (geologic and recent), and information on the various pine species used by the woodpecker, are detailed. Sections on the threats to the fire-maintained ecosystem, the longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) forest, other southern pines, and the animal community are informative. Chapter 3 outlines the evolution, taxonomy, and morphology of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. The morphological section is excellent and accurately describes woodpeckers as a group, as well as the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Chapter 4 sketches the past and present distribution of the woodpecker; chapter 5 presents information on cavity trees, including fungal decay, resin wells, cavity competition, cavity tree section, and cavity tree mortality. The latter chapter is detailed and complete. Chapter 6 summarizes the social behavior, population biology, and the general biology of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. The sections outlining the evolution of cooperative breeding, why helpers help, and population dynamics are clearly presented. Chapter 7 examines the foraging ecology of the woodpecker and covers substrates used, foraging behaviors, diet, and territory size. Chapter 8 thoroughly covers the relationship between Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and bark beetles. Chapter 9 outlines the reasons for the decline of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and clearly explains carrying capacity and vital rates. The chapter also explains the multiple factors currently affecting the carrying capacity of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers' habitat. Chapter 10 describes the legal status and the development of Red-cockaded Woodpecker management and introduces the reader to artificial cavities and translocation. Chapter 11 outlines the newest management strategies, provides successful examples of these strategies, critiques new management policies for various agencies and private lands, and introduces the reader to Safe Harbor Agreements and Habitat Conservation Plans. Chapter 12 addresses the future of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

Information is presented in an accessible format and editorial errors are rare. We found the writing

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The Red-cockaded Woodpecker: Surviving in a Fire-Maintained Ecosystem.—Richard N. Conner, D. Craig Rudolph, and Jeffery R. Walters. University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas. 363 pp., 15 color plates, and 76 black-and-white figures. ISBN 0-292-71234-0. Cloth, \$60.00. —Written by researchers who have spent most of their professional careers studying the species, *The Red-cockaded Woodpecker: Surviving in a Fire-Maintained Ecosystem* is a *tour de force* covering every aspect of the woodpecker's conservation, habitat, life history, and politics. Richard N. Conner and D. Craig Rudolph have published extensively on Texas Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) populations,