

# FIRST REPORT OF "BREWSTER'S WARBLER" IN HISPANIOLA

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Since October 1992 winter resident warblers of 14 species have been color-banded in the Cordillera Central of the Dominican Republic in a study of the population turnover of migrants wintering in small versus large shade coffee plantations (Wunderle and Latta, unpubl. data). The most common migrant warblers present in these plantations are Cape May (*Dendroica tigrina*), Black-throated Blue (*D. caerulescens*), and Black-and-white (*Mniotilta varia*) warblers, American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), and Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). Rarely occurring species include the Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*), Northern Parula (*Parula americana*), Magnolia (*Dendroica magnolia*), Black-throated Green (*D. virens*), Yellow-throated (*D. dominica*), Prairie (*D. discolor*), and Palm (*D. palmarum*) warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*), and Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*).

On 2 November 1994, while searching for color-banded warblers in a coffee plantation 1 km west of Manabao, La Vega Province, Dominican Republic (elevation 760 m), I encountered an unbanded and previously unobserved individual. From a distance of approximately 5-10 m I observed this bird moving through the top of the coffee plants, 1.5-2.0 m from the ground, actively gleaning insects from the leaves. The bird was generally warm gray above, with a light yellow wash restricted to the upper back, and two broad white wingbars. The bird had a conspicuous yellow crown which graded into the gray nape, but which was highlighted by a pronounced black eyeline. The cheeks were gray. The bird was mostly white below with a pure white throat, lower belly, and undertail coverts, but with a broad yellow wash across the upper breast. After recording notes on the bird's plumage characteristics and feeding behavior I lost sight of it in the coffee. The bird reappeared, 10 min later, however, low in the understory of guaba (*Inga vera*) trees, where it actively fed for 5 min on caterpillars from the top and underside of leaves. The following day, J. M. Wunderle, Jr. spent 5 hrs in this coffee plantation but did not observe the bird.

I identified this bird as a "Brewster's Warbler," one of two phenotypes produced by the hybridization of the Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) and the Golden-winged Warbler (*V. chrysoptera*; Parkes 1951, Short 1963). Both forms are described by Curson et al. (1994). The individual I observed could be identified as a Brewster's Warbler by a combination of the distinctive black eye mark and mostly clear white underparts. Although this form is most commonly reported to have yellow wingbars, white bars are occasionally seen

(Curson et al. 1994). The bird was separated from other *Vermivora* species, and the somewhat similar female Golden-winged Warbler, by the strong eyeline and the plumage pattern of the head, and from the Blue-winged Warbler by the white underparts.

This report appears to be the first of a Brewster's Warbler in the Dominican Republic or in Hispaniola. Indeed, it appears to be the second report of this form outside the United States. The first Brewster's Warbler recorded in the West Indies was recently banded in Cuba (Rodriguez et al. 1995). Observations of the Brewster's Warbler in Hispaniola should not be entirely unexpected. Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers frequently hybridize (Parkes 1951, Short 1963), and although both species winter primarily in Middle America (American Ornithologists' Union 1983), reports indicate that the Blue-winged Warbler (Dod 1978, Bond 1985, Wunderle and Waide 1993; W. Arendt, pers. comm.) and the Golden-winged Warbler (Bond 1971, 1985) are rare winter visitors to Hispaniola and the Greater Antilles (Gochfeld 1974, Pashley 1988a, b). The presence of the Blue-winged Warbler, in particular, is supported by observations in a variety of habitats in the Dominican Republic (Dod 1978), including mangroves (Wunderle and Waide 1993) and pine forest (pers. obs., March 1994). Confirmed reports of Golden-winged Warblers in Hispaniola, beyond those of Bond (1971, 1985), are unknown. Although comparatively rare, *Vermivora* hybrids may be overlooked or under-reported by birdwatchers and biologists—particularly in wintering areas. Clearly the scarcity of these reports points to the need for more familiarity with these species and forms, and the need to clarify the status of these birds in Hispaniola and the other Greater Antilles.

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### COPULATORY STANCE OF THE PURPLE-THROATED CARIB, *EULAMPIS JUGULARIS*

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Wolf (Condor 77:140-144, 1975) saw a "ventral approach" to copulation by the Purple-throated Carib (*Eulampis jugularis*) in Dominica. By his account this "required both birds to hang somewhat below the perch in comparison to the regular perch position. The birds were sitting adjacent to each other and the abdomens met while each was fluttering somewhat to maintain its position".

At 09:30 on 31 March 1995 I noted a much more definitive "ventral approach" by this species. In the gardens of the Papillote Hotel near Tafalgar Falls, in the mountains approximately 7 km east of Roseau, Dominica, a pair of Purple-throated Caribs was chasing through the shaded lower portions of several patches of torch ginger (*Nicolaia elatior*). One bird, presumably a female, suddenly perched on a slender, horizontal stem of the ginger. The other, presumably a male, fluttered nearby briefly, then clutched the same stem

immediately beneath the female and hung upside down, directly under her, facing in the same direction. He then raised the rear portion of his body until he made cloacal contact with the female above him. Although the contact was brief, copulation appeared to have occurred. This action was repeated a few seconds later. Shortly after, the male flew from below the female to alight briefly on her back, where he attempted to copulate in the standard position, although this brief effort did not appear to be successful. After he dismounted, both birds left the immediate area and started feeding from torch ginger flowers. Dr. Richard Zusi (pers. comm.) has observed, but not reported, this same "face-to-face," male-beneath posture in this species, also in Dominica. I thank him for his comments on the first draft of this communication and for bringing the Wolf paper to my attention.

### EL GUACAMAYO AZUL Y AMARILLO (*ARA ARARAUNA*) EXÓTICO RESIDENTE DE PUERTO RICO

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Raffaele indica el haber observado a un individuo de Guacamayo Azul y Amarillo (*Ara ararauna*) el 25 de agosto de 1972 y luego, el mismo individuo, en septiembre en el área de Tintillo, Bayamón (Raffaele y Kepler 1992). En el verano de 1985 observé a otra de estas aves en Torrimar, Guaynabo (Pérez-Rivera 1992). Una tercera ave fue observada a partir de agosto del 1985 por Oscar Dfáz y Royeanne Salles entre Torrecilla Baja (Carolina) y Medianfa Alta (Piñones) (Pérez-

Rivera 1992). A mediados del 1986 observé a dos Guacamayos Azul y Amarillo en los alrededores de la urbanización Torrimar en Guaynabo. No obstante, los vecinos del área me indicaron que había desaparecido una tercera ave del grupo. A principios de diciembre de 1987 el colega Luis Lavergne, observó a cinco de estas aves en la urbanización Garden Hills. Presumí que las aves se habían reproducido por su incremento en número. A partir de entonces las aves comenzaron a variar en