

OLIVE-THROATED PARAKEET (*ARATINGA NANA*) IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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On 1 July 1995 a single Olive-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga nana*) was observed by the author and three other observers at the El Embajador Hotel, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The bird was observed through binoculars and a Kowa telescope in flight and perched from about 18:00–19:30 hr. The bird was seen in the tree tops in good light from as close as about 50 m from a fourth floor balcony. Field marks noted at the time of observation included the *Aratinga* shape, with blue on the distal end of the primaries (secondaries not noted), lack of red underwing coverts, bold white eyering, green upperparts and belly, and brownish throat and upper breast.

A second observation occurred on 2 July 1995 while in southwestern Dominican Republic (Route 46 west of Barahona, in the Sierra de Bahoruco). The author and a party of five other observers encountered two birds at an elevation of about 730 m, and a flock of five birds between 490–550 m from 17:00–19:00 hr. These birds were also seen in flight and perched. The same suite of characters as in the Santo Domingo bird was noted. In neither locality was the expected Hispaniolan Parakeet (*Aratinga chloroptera*) found. In February 1996 A. E. Hill and party again found only *A. nana* in the same area west of Barahona (Hill, pers. comm.).

The blue distal end of the primaries rules out the expected Hispaniolan Parakeet and the green head excludes the Brown-throated Parakeet (*A. pertinax*), found in Panama, northern South America, and St. Thomas.

Olive-throated Parakeet is found in Jamaica and, if *Aratinga astec* is considered a population of *A. nana*, from Veracruz, Mexico south to the Almirante Bay region, Panama (Peters 1937, Forshaw 1973, American Ornithologists' Union 1983). I have found no earlier reports of Olive-throated Parakeets occurring on Hispaniola. Possible origins of these birds include natural vagrancy or escape from captivity from one or more sources, including cruise ships. Natural vagrancy possibilities include flight from Jamaica or, less likely, the mainland to Haiti and then east into the Dominican Republic. Smith (1996) notes that, because of the nature of cage bird traffic, if these are descendants of recently released birds they are more likely to be *A. astec*. The lack of reports from Haiti may be due only to a lack of careful observation. More reports are needed to better document the occurrence and distribution of Olive-throated Parakeets in Hispaniola.

LITERATURE CITED

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