

totally covered by mosquitoes in the Zapata Peninsula, or riding his bike for many kilometres carrying his huge backpack full of equipment.

It was a Cuban doctor who recommended that he leave the country right away, to try to tackle the cancer that would ultimately take his life (albeit not until several years later). I tried to change his mind, but nothing could prevent him from continuing, thus he remained another three months in Zapata on this visit. Even to convince him to take a lift from somebody, instead of cycling everywhere along rough trails, proved futile. Some of the local people in Zapata referred to him as the biggest protector of the forest and its birds.

It is Jim's spirit, camaraderie and desire to share and help others that will live with me longest, and impressed me most, but he also possessed a quite amazing curriculum vitae that included more than 300 scientific publications. He also participated in several books, among them *A guide to the birds of the West Indies* (Raffaele *et al.* 1998)—the successor to Bond's field guide—and *The birds from Hispaniola: an annotated checklist* (Keith *et al.* 2003), but perhaps most importantly his sole effort, *A bibliography of West Indies ornithology* (Wiley 2000), a compendium project that perhaps only Jim, or someone of similarly unshakeable resolve, could have completed successfully. In addition, he was a founding member of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology and the first editor of its publication *El Pitirre* (now the *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*) overseeing, during his nine years at the helm, its transition from newsletter to fully fledged journal and helping countless young and inexperienced authors along the way.

Wiley's legacy was extraordinary, and his data and knowledge of Cuban endemic birds staggering, some of which will form part of a BOC checklist to the country's birds that is currently being edited for publication (Kirkconnell *et al.* in press). Jim's final research was focused on the largest of the West Indies, on the breeding and foraging ecology of Gundlach's Hawk *Accipiter gundlachi*, a study of cavity nesters such as Cuban Parrot *Amazona leucocephala*, Cuban Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium siju*, Bare-legged Owl *Margarobyas lawrencii* and the country's woodpeckers (Picidae), as well as Bee Hummingbird *Mellisuga helenae*. Jim's desire to know the intimate details of the natural history of Cuba's threatened and endemic birds was unsurpassed, because his commitment was to their conservation, the ultimate goal that drove every piece of research he conducted.

Jim was the recipient of several awards (including the Alexander F. Skutch and Gundlach medals) for his contribution to bird conservation. It is some measure of the respect in which he was held that he was the first foreigner to be recognised with the latter by the Cuban Zoological Society. I am deeply honoured to have counted as a friend such an outstanding ornithologist. A mutual friend wrote after he passed on 'It is a terrible loss to Caribbean ornithology, and we know that he achieved more than most people do in about three lifetimes.' Rest in peace dear friend, we all miss you!

Arturo Kirkconnell

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### Corrigendum. The melanistic variety of Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* continued

by Hein van Grouw, Ludovic Besson & Benoît Mellier  
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Following the publication of our paper regarding extant specimens of melanistic Red-legged Partridges (van Grouw *et al.* 2018), another such specimen, apparently not yet adult, came to our attention (Figs. 1–2). It was received by the Muséum des sciences naturelles d'Angers (MHNAn) from the Catholic University of the West in Angers (Université Catholique de l'Ouest = UCO). Freedom of teaching was granted in France on 1 July 1875 after many universities had been temporarily disbanded during the French Revolution. The French bishops decided then to found five Catholic universities and Angers, thanks to Bishop Charles Émile Freppel (1827–91), was chosen to serve western France. The university was founded in November 1875, and possesses some natural history collections from the 19th century. In late 2014, due to lack of space, the UCO asked MHNAn if the museum was interested in parts of the university's collections. Among the specimens was an '*atro-rufa*'; a melanistic Red-legged Partridge. Unfortunately, no labels or any associated data came with this specimen, so its origin appears unknown. However, we can speculate that it may be connected with Michel Honoré Vincelot (1815–77) and perhaps also Eugène Lemetteil (1822–90).



Figures 1–2. Mounted specimen of a melanistic Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*, originally part of the collection of the Université Catholique de l’Ouest, now in the Muséum des sciences naturelles d’Angers, France (Michel Beucher, © Musées d’Angers)

Lemetteil was a keen amateur ornithologist from Bolbec in Normandy, northern France. He had a melanistic partridge that was sent to him by Abbot Vincelot (Lemetteil 1869), but it seemed to be lost (van Grouw *et al.* 2018). Michel Honoré Vincelot (1815–77) was an abbot at Angers (Crépon 1877), an amateur ornithologist and a member of the Linnaean Society of Maine-et-Loire. He also was honorary canon at the Saint Maurice Cathedral of Angers and a member of the Departmental Council of Public Education (Port 1878), later the Catholic University of the West in Angers. Vincelot had an egg collection, including some eggs of *atro-rufa* (Vincelot 1867). Although he did not mention specimens, he must have had at least one melanistic Red-legged Partridge as he sent that to Lemetteil. Most of Vincelot’s egg collection is at UCO (BM pers. obs. 2018), and was probably donated by Vincelot himself or a next of kin. One can assume that, if Vincelot also had skins / mounts, these were donated to UCO too, meaning that the mounted specimen now at MHNAN can be assumed to have originated from Vincelot’s collection. Whether it was the specimen he had sent to Lemetteil initially, and perhaps was returned to him, or that Vincelot had a second specimen is a mystery.

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