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Martin K. McNicholl

Alejandro Llanes Sosa

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Appropriate Band Size for Key West Quail-Dove

Martin K. McNicholl
218 First Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M4M 1X4, Canada

Alejandro Llanes Sosa
Barbara Sanchez Oria
Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática
Carretera de Varona km 3½
Capdevila, Boyeros
La Habana, Cuba

As part of a Canadian-Cuban cooperative bander training and forest bird survey project in Cuba (Gonzalez Alonso et al. 1990; Sirois et al. 1990; Wallace 1991; McNicholl 1992), we established sets of mist nets at six sites in the Cienaga de Zapata of southwestern Cuba in late January and early February 1992.

During a net check at our El Brinco study area (McNicholl 1992: Figure 1) on 2 February, McNicholl found a Key West Quail-Dove (*Geotryon chrysia*) running along the shelf of a mist net and managed to catch it before it could escape. On returning to the banding station, he gave it to Llanes Sosa to band (Figure 1). Although the banding manual (Anonymous 1991, p. 5-17) lists size 2 as the recommended band size for this species, a check of the bird's leg with a Len Soucy leg gauge confirmed our suspicion that size 2 was too small. In fact, size 2 would not even fit around the bird's leg, and sizes 3 and 3B also seemed much too snug. We determined size 3A to be preferable and size 4 acceptable.

On 11 February another Key West Quail-Dove flew past McNicholl and Ronald C. Ridout at our Caleta del Toro study site (McNicholl 1992: Figure 1) into a net just as Steve Wendt was walking past. Wendt secured the bird, and it was banded by Sanchez Oria after we again determined size 2 to be impossible, sizes 3 and 3B too small, size 3A preferable and size 4 acceptable. A check of the banding records showed that a Key West Quail-Dove banded at our El Cenote study area in February 1991 (Wallace 1991) was also fitted with a size 3A band.

The Key West Quail-Dove occurs in North America only rarely (Kaufman 1979; Sorrie 1979). It is a resident of the Bahamas and Greater Antilles (Goodwin 1967; American Ornithologists' Union 1983). It is rarely banded, but several have been caught and banded in the Guanico Forest of Puerto Rico (Faaborg and Winters 1979; Faaborg and Arendt 1989, 1992). These Puerto Rican birds were also fitted with size 3A or 4 bands (John Faaborg pers. comm. to McNicholl August 1992). Thus, geographical differences in leg size do not likely apply.

In conclusion, we recommend that the recommended band size for Key West Quail-Dove be changed from 2 to 3A-4. This corresponds closely with the recommended size 4 for the similarly sized Ruddy Quail-Dove (*G. montana*) (Anonymous 1991).



Figure 1. Key West Quail-Dove, El Brinco study area, Cienaga de Zapata, Cuba.

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