

REPORT FROM THE SYMPOSIUM “ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION
OF CARIBBEAN SEABIRDS” AND THE ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION
“NEXT STEPS IN CARIBBEAN SEABIRD CONSERVATION”

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PATRICIA BRADLEY MODERATED the symposium and provided an overview of Caribbean seabird conservation issues as the first presentation. She mentioned that a new book, *An Inventory of Breeding Seabirds of the Caribbean*, was submitted in July 2007 (and subsequently accepted) for publication by University Press of Florida. It is the result of 4 yr of effort to compile information on breeding seabirds from partners across the region. The book's island reports and the associated regional spatial database of colonies reveal that many colonies are highly vulnerable, severely declining, or already extirpated. Threats vary from site to site, but are region-wide, including loss of habitat from development, human disturbance, invasive species, lack of legislation or its enforcement, all underpinned by a limited capacity to monitor and manage. Shared threats provide an opportunity for shared solutions, and the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) provides a network to support and connect those working for the conservation of seabirds on their islands. In addition, there are several conservation organizations that have regional scale programs in the Caribbean and which can provide tools and resources to help island efforts.

A menu of conservation measures, provided as the final chapter in the new book *An Atlas of Breeding Seabirds of the Caribbean*, was introduced and reinforced the need for multi-faceted approaches to address the myriad threats in the region.

Subsequent presentations explored the threats, needs, and approaches to seabird conservation in the region. Judy Pierce presented on the efforts to eradicate rats from offshore cays in the U. S. Virgin Islands (animal predation affects 11% of seabird colonies, according to *An Atlas of Breeding Seabirds of the Caribbean*); she emphasized the complexity of such projects, the need for preparation, and the very real possibility of re-invasion. Studies to understand the populations and habitat preferences of Audu-

bon's Shearwaters (*Puffinus lherminieri*) in the region were the subject of Will Mackin's presentation; he described how a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based approach provides reasonable estimates for a population that is 100 times lower than the historical population and still in decline. Diana Esclasans also reported on GIS development and the use of kites outfitted with cameras in surveying colonies, in this case for seabirds on Venezuelan oceanic islands. By compiling existing information, acquiring additional field data, and making findings widely available, she and her colleagues hope to provide a solid foundation for informed decision-making regarding use of island and marine resources, while simultaneously providing opportunities for conservation-related training and education. Jeremy Madeiros reported on the progress of the Cahow or Bermuda Petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*) Recovery Programme—a seabird conservation success story made possible by 50 yr of intense effort and careful study, innovative nest site enhancements and translocation techniques, and the sheer tenacity of the species in persisting on small, rocky islands. Finally, Claudia Lombard described how the viability of the Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) on St. Croix is also dependent on intense management to increase breeding productivity; moreover, immigration is a critical factor, thus necessitating an integrated, multi-scale conservation strategy for the region's colonies.

The symposium concluded with an invitation for the audience to engage in the subsequent Round-Table Discussion, during which regional scale institutions and programs relevant to seabird conservation would be explored. The objectives of the discussion were also to examine potential collaborative projects; therefore, the symposium included at the very end, a quick photo-essay of Pedro Bank in Jamaica by D. Brandon Hay, which, along with Venezuela and two other areas, is proposed as a focal area for SCSCB's Seabird Working Group.

SUMMARY OF ROUND-TABLE
SHARING AND DISCUSSION

The discussion commenced with the distribution of the menu of conservation measures introduced at the beginning of the symposium (Table 1). The round-table speakers were asked to consider this list of measures in their remarks; the audience was encouraged to inquire or elaborate on these measures. It was resolved to post this list to the Seabird Working Group website.

Representatives from several institutions and programs with multi-island or region-wide missions were invited to speak at the discussion. These included Waterbird Conservation for the Americas, SCSCB's Seabird Working Group, BirdLife International, The Nature Conservancy, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Caribbean Environmental Program of the United Nations Environment Programme (see Table 2 for more information on these organizations and their activities). A number of additional institutions/programs are known to be similarly relevant; though not discussed, these were listed by querying the audience.

In summary, there are numerous multi-island institutions and programs in place that provide an array of services, including coordination and networking, technical assistance, support for advocacy activities, funds or fundraising assistance, educational tools, and habitat and population restoration expertise. Training opportunities exist for these activities: site and habitat management, site and species action plans, creation and maintenance of site support groups, predator removal and control, and seabird inventory and monitoring. Members of the audience stressed to institutional representatives the importance of socio-economic stressors on birds and the resultant need for training and support for advocacy, the need for site support groups to often engage in policy, and to learn about tools such as economic valuation.

Will Mackin described the GIS on Breeding West Indies Seabirds, a project to which he has committed 9 yr of work. The system currently includes: 23 seabird species, 800 sites, and data from 3,100 surveys, based on 90 literature references and 85 contributors. More than 90% of sites have precise coordinates, although minor and some major location corrections must be made. All colonies are assigned a level of importance (2 = hosts > 5% of a regional population; 1 = hosts < 5%; and 0 = extirpated or severely impacted). The new book *An Inventory of*

Breeding Seabirds of the Caribbean presents all the colonies in the GIS, with tables of species and numbers. The real power of the GIS, however, is its analytical power. For example, the GIS can be queried for information on the most important colonies, or most threatened, or most poorly known. Also, it can be used to generate maps, and area and distance estimates for use in population or habitat conservation planning. Work is now underway to make the database information available online and set up a portal where people with access (members, etc.) can make queries and get access to the information and maps. Will Mackin may be contacted by e-mail at mackin@post.harvard.edu; his website is www.unc.edu/~mackin.

Seabird conservation in the Caribbean requires region-wide action, such as the existing programs represented at the round-table. The Seabird Working Group has a regional mandate and should take advantage of these tools and approaches. However, it was proposed that the Seabird Working Group also select to focus its efforts on some particular geographic areas and identify discrete tasks with measurable outcomes. Success at these tasks would give the group momentum, the ability to broaden its work, and ultimately to attract new funding. Four focal areas were proposed, based on a synthesis of information gathered for *Breeding Seabirds of the Caribbean*, and representatives from these areas were invited to present at the round-table (Table 3). These areas were selected based on specific reasons listed in the table and the presence of local support and involvement (evidenced by the speakers). Two additional areas were suggested.

Subsequent to the presentations, the audience was asked for input and comments: specifically, were they comfortable with the Seabird Working Group adopting a focal area approach? Comments indicated that this was an acceptable approach, provided that: commencing on the proposed four does not preclude adoption of additional focal areas; that the group advocate for ongoing monitoring to fill gaps and identify emerging needs; and that the group keep a "regional perspective" in guiding its work. It was noted also that "focal area" successes can have broad impact; conservation activities on behalf of one species will benefit other birds that share habitats or have a similar annual cycle; moreover, many of the stressors acting on an island's seabird population apply across their entire ranges, thus practices that benefit one island can be exported and applied elsewhere.

Table 1. Summary of proposals for action to conserve Caribbean seabirds, based on the Conservation chapter by Patricia E. Bradley in *An Inventory of Breeding Seabirds of the Caribbean*.

ISSUE: CAPACITY BUILDING

1. Reconstitute a Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) Seabird Working Group to provide support and coordination for seabird work in the Caribbean
2. Empower local non-government organizations (NGOs) to lobby for conservation
3. Ideally, find someone to do this full-time—a seabird coordinator
4. Raise local capacity by:
 - a. Using West Indian Whistling-Duck and Wetlands education model for increasing seabird awareness
 - b. Identifying opportunities for professional technical training

ISSUE: RESEARCH AND MONITORING

1. Agree on species prioritization to guide action; circulate and advocate around the region
2. Develop a “Corps of Seabird Specialists” to support monitoring by:
 - a. Establishing standardized techniques
 - b. Spearheading or assisting with surveys, and supporting training
 - c. Addressing gaps—new breeding surveys at targeted sites

ISSUE: CONSERVATION AT BREEDING SITES—PROTECTION

1. Complete identification and seek protection for seabird Important Bird Areas (IBAs)
2. Advocate protection for government-owned land
3. Work with private landowners to increase protection
4. Seek international funding to purchase priority sites
5. Advocate the introduction of a national Environmental Fund supplied by tourist taxes to buy and manage land for conservation
6. Protect at-sea foraging areas, drawing on the Marine IBA approach
7. Establish a consistent criteria to protect breeding sites with <1% of regional population but of local value

ISSUE: CONSERVATION AT BREEDING SITES—MANAGEMENT

1. Develop management plans for all protected areas
2. Advocate government national resource management planning, drawing on The Nature Conservancy’s Caribbean Decision Support System (a regional GIS database) for guidance
3. Seek new conservation legislation where needed, drawing on examples from other islands
4. Seek enforcement of existing legislation in protected areas and coastal waters; training, funding, and encouraging judicial support needed
5. Promote eradication or control of introduced predators on seabird islands
6. Advocate for governments to join or enact applicable international conventions
7. Develop strategies to combat or mitigate loss of habitat from sea level rise and increased storm activity (projected impacts from global warming)
8. Advocate to secure in-shore fish stocks

ISSUE: SUSTAINABLE NATURE TOURISM

1. SCSCB and NGOs should develop cooperation with regional tourist organizations, such as the Caribbean Tourism Association (CTA), Caribbean Cruise Association (CCA), and Caribbean Hotel Association (CHO), to develop best practice protocols for seabird sites; ask to fund training and management of sites used by organizations
 2. Explore Ecosystem Services concepts and user fees with the aim of revenue raising for conservation management; draw on The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Ecological Society of America guidance
 3. Develop ethical management practices at both protected and unprotected sites with regional and international NGOs and CTA, CCA, and CHO
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Table 2. Institutions and organizations with multi-island or regional missions relevant to seabird conservation.

Institution / Program (Representative)	Description and Relevancy to Seabird Conservation
Waterbird Conservation for the Americas (Jennifer Wheeler)	This is an independent, voluntary partnership which meets annually to link the work of individuals and institutions with an interest and responsibility for conservation of waterbirds and their habitats in the Americas. The Waterbird Conservation Council coordinates and facilitates the initiative's work, including planning at the regional scale. Various members of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) have been part of the Council including Eric Carey, Ann Sutton, Lisa Sorenson, and Lourdes Mugica, and the SCSCB has been the leader on waterbird-planning exercises and products for the Caribbean region. The Council, while it controls no independent funds, can endorse projects (for example, the NMBCA-funded, BirdLife-led project to assess waterbird populations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean). The Council can also weigh in on advocacy issues of international importance and serve as a conduit for technical assistance.
Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (Ann Sutton, SCSCB secretary and co-chair of the Seabird Working Group)	SCSCB has had a Seabird Working Group since 1999. The interest of the group has engendered numerous products, including surveys, training, education materials, and the book <i>An Inventory of Breeding Seabirds of the Caribbean</i> . The goal of the working group is to ensure conservation of seabirds by catalyzing a regional initiative that attracts more funding and support by facilitating communications, identifying shared interests and priorities, and clarifying of roles. Co-chairs are Ann Sutton, William Mackin, and Anthony Levesque. The group plans to expand its communications by building on the Seabirds Working Group page on the SCSCB webpage.
BirdLife International (David Wege)	BirdLife International (BLI) has created a Global Seabird Program which advocates for seabird conservation measures. For example, it promotes the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels, an international agreement to address bycatch and other threats to the most highly imperiled seabirds. Informational brochures on seabird conservation are available from BLI in both Spanish and English. BLI's Caribbean Program is working to identify Important Bird Areas with 1% or more of the Caribbean seabird population. The sites have been mapped and the data will be uploaded to the website. BLI's regional programs are collaborating with the Global Seabird Program to identify and map important seabird foraging areas. BLI also chairs SCSCB's Threatened Bird Working Group which has identified several petrel species in need of attention.
The Nature Conservancy (Phil Kramer and Ruth Blyther)	TNC has a 20 year history in the Caribbean. Through their Caribbean Marine Program, they undertake a range of activities, including development of the Caribbean Decision Support System—a complex GIS-based decision-making tool using assessments of biodiversity and socioeconomic setting, and facilitating activities at demonstration sites. Their objectives include supporting and increasing protected areas, improving site management, and helping countries meet their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity which includes having 10% of biodiversity protected in areas with management plans by 2015. The Caribbean Challenge is currently being planned to help countries in the region to establish trust funds for protected areas. TNC-Jamaica is working on a demonstration project at Pedro Cays, which has been offered as a training site. TNC is also working on economic valuation.

Table 2 continued.

Institution / Program (Representative)	Description and Relevancy to Seabird Conservation
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Sarah Sanders)	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) works through local partners to implement conservation work in United Kingdom Overseas Territories (UKOTs) (in the Caribbean, this includes Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos islands). RSPB's priorities are globally threatened species and IBAs. Many of the UKOTs have Important Bird Areas that are important for seabirds. They have some funds for site projects with local partners and help to leverage funds. RSPB also assists with technical advice, educational resources, and advocacy (national and global). RSPB staff are encouraged to take sabbaticals to work on international projects and this is an important opportunity to get assistance for specific projects. Sarah noted that advocacy targeting national governments is an extremely important activity for seabird conservation in the Caribbean. A promising tool for this is "economic valuation" (itemizing the economic value of the goods and services provided by natural resources); The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has produced such a tool for small islands (www.jncc.gov.uk) and RSPB is supporting a project on Montserrat (see www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/projects/montserrat/index.asp). Many UKOTs have large yachting communities whose assistance could be sought for monitoring programmes.
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	The United States (US) islands in the Caribbean include Puerto Rico (PR), US Virgin Islands (USVI), and Navassa. There are also strong links to United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Regions 4 & 5 (northeast and southeast Atlantic States) because critically endangered Caribbean seabirds forage there. Several programs of the USFWS are relevant to seabird conservation, including International Affairs, which is led by Herb Raffaele, a long-time supporter of Caribbean bird conservation.
Migratory Bird Man- agement Program (Stefani Melvin)	The USFWS's Migratory Bird Management Program supports conservation activities to specifically benefit species which spend at least part of their lifecycle in the US (including offshore waters). Its role is to identify, coordinate, and facilitate important projects, primarily involving survey and assessment in the US, but covering a broader suite of conservation activities outside the US. Stefani Melvin's goals are to improve communications and form liaisons with partners in the Caribbean, since effective conservation requires collaboration and synergy. She is also seeking to identify collaborative projects that can be funded if funds become available. USVI and PR are treated as a state for this purpose and both include priority species and habitats. Doug Ryan expressed an interest in the priority sites identified by the Seabird Working Group. The possibility of an integrated regional proposal for several sites could be discussed with him.
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (Doug Ryan)	The USFWS administers grants under the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA). The NMBCA focuses on conserving migratory birds that breed in North America and winter to the south (including the Caribbean). While Caribbean-breeding seabirds do not fall within this focus, Doug emphasized that the grant program appreciates overlapping objectives—it welcomes projects that benefit Caribbean breeders if linked to a project to benefit migrants. In addition to habitat projects, the NMBCA funds projects to increase awareness and capacity.

Table 2 continued.

Institution / Program (Representative)	Description and Relevancy to Seabird Conservation
	The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is a potential link to states for cooperative programmes as are the Atlantic Coast and perhaps Gulf Coast Bird Habitat Joint Ventures.
Ecological Services (Marelisa Rivera)	This branch of the USFWS is responsible for US-listed threatened and endangered species issues in the US Caribbean islands of PR and the USVI. Priorities include restoring critical habitat and addressing threats for marine bird populations (e.g. Brown Pelican [<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>], Roseate Tern [<i>Sterna dougallii</i>]). ES undertakes biological reviews, and funds some surveys and research (e.g., USFWS has identified US\$100,000 for Brown Pelican research in Puerto Rico).
Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (Maurice Anselme)	This program supports the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention); regional activity centers are hosted by national governments in the Caribbean in Barbados and Jamaica. The Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol currently requires management plans for several species and habitats listed in the various Annexes, but these provisions are under review.
Others	The following institutions and programs were also mentioned: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, the Darwin Initiative, Island Conservation Group, American Bird Conservancy, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, professional societies such as Waterbird Society and Pacific Seabird Group, France's Direction Regionale de l'Environnement, other U. S. agencies (National Forest Service, National Park Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Caribbean Marine Fisheries Council), and the on-line Eco-Index (a place to post projects and promote them).

CONCLUDING DISCUSSION

The discussion at the end of the session provided opportunity to raise additional important points:

1. It appears that there are opportunities for synergy from better networking between the institutions and programs operating in the region. The Seabird Working Group can provide this important nexus. Networking (communication and collaboration) is also important to reduce duplication of effort. Another benefit would be the development of a coordinated monitoring system, because of the metapopulation characteristics of many populations. Colonies change and relocate, so sharing information at a regional level is particularly important. From a regional perspective it is important to include the islands of the Caribbean coast of Central America (including the Venezuelan islands) because there is considerable evidence that they are part of the Caribbean population.

2. The importance of lobbying and including policy and policy-makers in projects was emphasized. SCSCB can help by writing letters. The Cayman National Trust has had a lot of success through training local people to lobby the government on development issues and this is a model that could be replicated.

3. All participants were cautioned about being too "bird-centric" or insular in their approach. Bird conservation is tied to the bigger issue of environmental conservation, and activities on behalf of birds should tie to the activities of potential partners working for the benefits of forests, coral reefs, mangroves, sea turtles, etc. One specific example was the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network. Predator control is likely to be of importance on many islands and is a strategy that benefits many other species.

4. We run the risk of "winning battles but losing

Table 3. Focal areas for the Seabird Working Group.

Proposed focal areas	Justification
Jamaica: Pedro Cays	<p>Caribbean populations of the species involved (Masked Booby [<i>Sula dactylatra</i>], Brown Booby [<i>S. leucogaster</i>], and Sooty Tern [<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>]) are under regional threat (based on endemism, state of colonies, decline over 20 years, vulnerability, and threats to habitat). These colonies may be of regional importance, but Sooty Tern and Brown Noddy [<i>Anous stolidus</i>] populations have been drastically reduced.</p> <p>TNC is implementing a comprehensive conservation project including development of an integrated management plan (leading to official protection) and seabird and turtle monitoring.</p> <p>Needs: Additional funding for more detailed survey work and implementation of management plan.</p>
Venezuela: Los Monjes Archipelago	<p>Hosts probably the largest colony of Masked Booby in the region (there are only three in the Caribbean). However, data are very old.</p> <p>Well-trained and eager researchers are planning new surveys; there is growing local capacity for seabird conservation. Diana Esclasans explained how there is a corps of trained biologists interested in these islands, undertaking action and with numerous creative ideas (ask her about flying a camera on a kite!). Though they have the motivation and technology, they require financial support to continue. Fortunately, they have a good relationship with the military which provides for transportation—one of the highest costs of the research. They are willing to support exchanges for people who want to learn more about their techniques.</p> <p>Needs: \$6000 is urgently needed to support this project.</p>
Anguilla: Cays, including Dog, Sombrero, Scrub, Prickly Pears (East and West), and others	<p>Regionally and internationally important populations of 11 seabird species including Sooty Terns, Brown Boobies and Masked Boobies, which are under threat. A seabird census has been conducted (June 2007), and there are promising developments regarding predator removal.</p> <p>Sarah Sanders, on behalf of Anguillan partners, explained how the Royal Society for the Protection Birds is helping Anguilla to monitor seabird populations. She explained that the cays need to be assessed and managed collectively as seabirds move from site to site depending on the conditions. They are also working on protection of Important Bird Areas, particularly a feasibility study to assess the potential for rat eradication from Dog Island.</p> <p>Needs: To secure a long-term commitment from the landowner to conserve Dog Island so that a rat eradication can take place. £200,000 to undertake the eradication.</p>
Hispaniola (Haiti and Dominican Republic): Highlands	<p>The Black-capped Petrel (<i>Pterodroma hasitata</i>), which is hopefully still breeding in remote, high altitude areas of Hispaniola, is in danger of extinction. Samson Compère from Haiti noted that there are two especially important sites for petrels, both of which have very challenging topography. They are the Macaya mountain range (55 km² at elevations of 950-2247 m) and the Massif de la Selle (Sierra de Bahoruco) at 2674 m. Several institutions both within and outside of Haiti, including Society Audubon Haiti and Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences, American University of the Caribbean, and Cornell University, are already working there but much remains to be done.</p>

Table 3 continued.

Proposed focal areas	Justification
	<p>Needs: Priority needs include surveys and monitoring of actual and potential petrel sites, education, and conservation (including rehabilitation of breeding sites). He stressed that research and monitoring is only one part of the conservation equation; education and habitat conservation to benefit people are just as crucial, if not more so. Thus, more workshops for students and others are needed as part of activities in Haiti.</p> <p>Eladio Fernández (Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola) noted that there has been little recent work on seabirds in the Dominican Republic (DR); however, informal surveys have identified new sites. The only known site for the petrels in DR is Loma del Toro, adjacent to Haiti's Macaya.</p> <p>Needs: They have developed a proposal that includes gathering data at nest sites in Loma del Toro for the first year followed by searches of less accessible sites in the second year. Assistance is needed with funding and logistics as well as methods to locate and census birds.</p> <p>Jeremy Madeiros, who has long experience with Bermuda Petrels (<i>Pterodroma cahow</i>), described how lessons learned in Bermuda in locating nest sites should be useful to conservation of the Black-capped Petrel. He noted the importance of accurate timing of surveys because there are very brief periods in which birds can be detected. He and his team are willing and able to assist with surveys. Surveys in the foraging areas off the Carolinas could be useful. Stefani Melvin offered to facilitate dialogue on this and other aspects of collaboration.</p>
Barbuda: Codrington Lagoon	An analysis of threats to the Magnificent Frigatebird (<i>Fregata magnificens</i>) colony is urgently needed.
St. Vincent and Grenadines	Data on the status of these colonies is incomplete. Surveys are urgently needed.

the war" unless we as a group focus on the very big solutions, namely funding for environmental work. Paul Baicich directed our attention to the proposals relating to sustainable nature tourism, as well as the proposals to advocate for the introduction of national environmental funds from tourist taxes, all in the menu of conservation measures. He suggested strongly that the Seabird Working Group, and SCSCB as a whole, learn more about these tools and take advantage of them.

The Seabird Working Group co-chairs (Ann Sutton, Will Mackin, and Anthony Levesque) concluded with their thanks and encouragement for involvement in the working group by all interested parties.

NEXT STEPS

1. Cooperation. The Seabird Working Group needs to seek ways to reenergize itself and to en-

gage more support from biologists and other interest groups. The first step will be the development of an e-mail list of interested persons. Participants should be asked to indicate whether they are willing to assist (e.g., volunteering to assist with surveys or mentoring) and the list of contacts posted on the website (see below). A request should be prepared and sent out on the BirdsCaribbean Yahoo! Group asking for people who want to be on the Seabird Working Group mailing list to identify themselves.

2. Discussion of priorities. On-going discussion of priorities is needed, as there was little time for this at the workshop.

3. Dissemination of information. Sharing and dissemination of information on techniques of surveys, detection, monitoring and education as well as real time results of surveys and observations is very important. This can be done through the email list and by expanding a page on the SCSCB site for the

Seabird Working Group, including a portal to the seabird database with links to Google Earth. This is currently under development by Will Mackin. Links for the page should include links to all on-going Caribbean seabird programmes that have websites. The draft Caribbean seabird survey manual developed by John Chardine should also be posted.

4. Project proposals. The need for an SCSCB integrated project to continue seabird conservation work needs to be discussed. In addition, if Seabird Working Group members need help for project proposal development they should be encouraged to seek help through the mailing list.