

Island Representative Reports — Jamaica (continued)

is Marcia Mundle and the funding agencies are the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and USAID.

- (2) partially responsible for the study of the *Biology, Distribution, and Natural History of the Jamaican Amazon Parrots*. The Project Leader is Susan Koenig (Wildlife Preservation Trust International [WPTI]) and the funding agencies are WPTI and Environmental Foundation of Jamaica.

- (3) providing support for the *Study of Effects of Habitat Fragmentation on Bird Communities in the Buffer Zone of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park*. The researcher is Suzanne Davis (University of the West

Indies) and the funding agencies are NFWF and USAID.

Schools and community groups have begun to value birds through wildlife education and the club has been flooded by requests for talks, slide shows, bird watches, and resource material. Consequently, the Gosse Bird Club is in the process of developing an illustrated teacher's guide and posters for distribution with the field guide *Birds of Jamaica* (Downer and Sutton 1990).

Much more work needs to be done to implement effective conservation strategies for birds. However, the increasing tendency toward information sharing, collaboration, and community involvement is encouraging and is definitely a step in the right direction.

ISLAND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

RESEARCH AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE BAHAMAS

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Representative for The Bahama Islands

RESEARCH

Several scientific researchers continue to conduct activities in the Bahamas. The following are the most recent research permits issued:

David S. Lee, North Carolina State Museum of Natural History — Study of neotropical migrant land birds, tropicbirds, and Audubon's Shearwater breeding in the Bahamas

Nancy Staus, University of Minnesota — Research on whistling-ducks in Long Island

Paul Allen, Cornell University, University of Montana — Breeding Bahama Swallows on Grand Bahama

James W. Armacost, Jr., Mississippi State University — Breeding biology of the Thick-billed Vireo

John Barlow and Marlene Walker, Royal Ontario Museum — Study of the inter-island variation of Thick-billed Vireos

Lowell Overton, University of Arkansas — Genetic studies of the West Indian Woodpecker

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER SIGHTING

Of note is David Lee's sighting of a Kirtland's Warbler in Abaco National Park in Fall 1996.

BAHAMAS NATIONAL TRUST ORNITHOLOGY GROUP

The Bahamas National Trust Ornithology Group is quite active, including:

- Beginning in 1994 the Group has conducted the annual Audubon Christmas bird count. The Bahamas were credited with the most species counted for the region in 1994.
- The Group conducts monthly walks, monitoring the Botanic Gardens for the Ministry of Agriculture and keeping an eye on other prime areas of habitat.
- They will begin to create a computerized data base with the information collected from the last four years this fall.
- They are also helping the Ministry of Tourism by organizing extra educational birdwalks for Bahamians working toward certification as bird tour guides.
- The Bahamas National Trust Ornithology Group, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the College of the Bahamas have entered into a partnership with the Partners-in-Flight Program of the North Carolina State Museum of Natural History

PERMITS ISSUED

- The Ministry of Agriculture has issued permission to Ardastra Gardens to collect young parrots from Inagua for their captive breeding program. Capture was attempted in 1995 and 1996, but to date has been unsuccessful.
- The Bahamas National Trust issued permission for collection of Greater Flamingos in Inagua this year. Collection was not possible because the flamingos did not nest in 1996. Records show that during exceptionally dry periods the flamingos have not nested.