

## NEW FIELD GUIDE PLANNED FOR WEST INDIES

A new field guide to the birds of the West Indies is planned by Robert M. Chipley, David Wilcove, and Bruce Sorrie. The focus of the book will be identification. The guide is intended for use primarily by birders, but will also be written for tourists with an interest in knowing birds of the region. The authors would like to learn if others are working on a similar guide for the region. They are also eager to establish contacts with ornithologists working in the area who would share notes on the birds, particularly those that would aid in identification. If you are writing a guide or would be willing to share information useful to the authors in their new book, please contact:

Dr. Robert M. Chipley  
Director, Preserve Selection and Design  
The Nature Conservancy  
1800 North Kent Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22209  
U.S.A.

## ST. LUCIA'S MARIA ISLANDS RESERVE

The Maria Islands Reserve consists of two windswept islets off St. Lucia's southeastern coast. The 29-acre Reserve offers refuge to several wildlife species that have been extirpated from the main island of St. Lucia, victims of the introduced mongoose. Caribbean martins, zenaida doves, and common ground-doves nest on the ground on the Reserve, whereas ground nesting populations of these birds have been eliminated from St. Lucia by the mongoose. The Reserve provides habitat for several seabirds, including magnificent frigatebirds, sooty and bridled terns, and red-billed tropicbirds. The islands also provide refuge for several species of reptiles, including the kouwes, possibly the rarest snake in the world.

The Maria Islands Reserve was established through the efforts of the St. Lucia National Trust and the Eastern Caribbean Natural Area Management Programme (ECNAMP) in cooperation with the World Wildlife Fund. An interpretation center located on a St. Lucia beach facing the Maria Islands was built through World Wildlife Fund support. Local residents trained as guides provide information to visitors, who can tour the islands by boat. Income from tourism is used for continued preservation of the islands.

For information about the Reserve, write:

Robert DeVaux  
St. Lucia National Park Trust  
P.O. Box 525  
Castries, St. Lucia  
West Indies

## MEETINGS OF INTEREST

11-13 May 1988 - Association of Systematics Collections, Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois. Includes a workshop on living collections used for research [13 May] and a workshop on endangered collections [12 May]. (K. Elaine Hoagland, ASC, 730 11th St. N.W., 2nd floor, Washington, D.C. 20001).

17-20 May 1988 - 2nd International Wildlife Symposium on Economics & Social Aspects of Wildlife, Calinda Acapulco Quality Inn Hotel, Acapulco Conventions Center, Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico (2nd International Wildlife Symposium, Organizing Committee, Mexico Chapter, The Wildlife Society, Apartado Postal 13-432 Mexico D.F., 03500. 553-9408 in Mexico City.)

20-22 May 1988 - "Themes in Caribbean Ornithology," a symposium organized by the Society for the Study of Caribbean Ornithology, Fredriksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (Jorge A. Moreno, Committee Chairperson, Department of EPO Biology, Campus Box b-334, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80309, U.S.A. 303/492-6685 [days] or 303/786-0365 [evenings]).

30 May - 3 June 1988 - Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA. The meeting will include symposia on museum conservation for natural history materials and health and safety issues for individuals working with such materials. (Duane A. Schlitter or Stephen L. Williams, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 5800 Baum Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15206-3706. Telephone - 412-665-2611). The SPNHC meeting will be followed (4-7 June) by a meeting of the American Association of Museums.

5-12 June 1988 - "Resource Availability and the Structure and Functioning of Tropical Ecosystems," an international symposium on tropical studies celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS), University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, U.S.A. (Jay M. Savage, Silver Anniversary Symposium, Department of Biology, University of Miami, P.O. Box 249118, Coral Gables, Florida 33124, U.S.A.).

6-9 June 1988 - Ecosystem Management Conference: Rare Species and Significant Habitats, State University of New York, College of Environmental Science & Forestry, Syracuse, NY. Conference topics include inventory and monitoring techniques, life history studies, habitat management and restoration techniques, public involvement and education, and effective interaction among scientists, managers, land-owners, and conservancies. (Dr. Donald J. Leopold, SUNY, College of Environmental Science & Forestry, Syracuse, NY 13210).

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