

the SCSCB Executive Committee.

2. The possibility that a similar resolution could also be signed by multiple international conservation groups was also raised.

3. Establishment of a Haitian Bird Habitat Conservation Steering Committee, whose role would be strictly advisory in helping Société Audubon Haiti and the Ministries of Agriculture/Environment implement bird conservation. Such a group might lend legitimacy, increase international visibility, and help ensure oversight and accountability to in-country conservation efforts. It was pointed out that such a committee must be composed largely of Haitians, with a small but select representation of committed participants from other countries.

4. Establishment of a Haiti Bird Habitat Conservation Fund, administered by Société Audubon Haiti with oversight from the above Steering Committee. Such a fund could essentially be a "trust fund" to help implement needed conservation measures, ranging from enhancing the capacity of Société Audubon Haiti through increased staffing to providing infrastructure for protected areas management. Most likely, initial funds would target the Macaya Biosphere Reserve and might complement anticipated funds from other sources. The Vermont Institute of Natural Science has agreed to launch a fundraising drive in the Northeast, with a goal of raising \$100,000. It is hoped that this "seed" money

could be used to leverage additional funding of \$900,000 from the international community.

5. While an influx of funding is crucial to achieve avian conservation in Haiti, roundtable participants agreed that the bottom line is creating capacity (human resources) to deliver conservation. Bird conservation *must* be linked to the Haitian people and their socioeconomic conditions. Integration and local buy-in are key.

6. Involving and investing Haitians currently living outside Haiti in conservation of their home country could provide critical resources. The means of accomplishing this pose a significant challenge, but it should be investigated.

7. The exploratory nature of this roundtable discussion precluded the identification of formal follow-up actions or the creation of actual working subgroups. Société Audubon Haiti, in cooperation with Chris Rimmer of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, will pursue the ideas and potential actions identified above. An immediate goal is to secure funding to enable the Société Audubon Haiti to increase its staffing and devote resources to promoting a cohesive bird conservation agenda in Haiti. Longer-term goals include coordinating a multi-taxa field expedition to Macaya Biosphere Reserve in February of 2006, and beginning implementation of a locally-based program to achieve sustainable conservation of Macaya.

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CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRD FESTIVAL WORKING GROUP

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THE CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRD FESTIVAL (CEBF) completed its fourth edition in 22 May 2005 with the participation of 17,072 persons from 12 countries. During the 15th meeting of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds held in Guadeloupe from 1-5 August, 2005 the results of this year's event were presented by the regional coordinator Adrienne Tossas. Certificates of appreciation were awarded to coordinators or their representatives from nine countries by the regional coordinator and SCSCB president Andrew Dobson

during the general meeting of the society. A meeting with the coordinators was held on 4 August in which the outcomes of the first four editions of the festival and ideas for further improving the event were discussed. Changes for the 2006 CEBF include a new regional coordinator, Sheylda Díaz (otoarina77@yahoo.com), and the participation of five new islands/countries (Haiti, Trinidad & Tobago, Montserrat, British Virgin Islands, and Venezuela).