

TOWARDS A GLOBALLY THREATENED BIRD PROGRAM FOR THE CARIBBEAN

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OVER 10% OF THE CARIBBEAN'S AVIFAUNA (57 of 560+ species) is considered globally threatened following the IUCN Red List criteria. Twelve of these are Critically Endangered, 21 Endangered and 24 Vulnerable, with an additional 18 species Near Threatened (see Table 1). These birds will be the next to go extinct (due to a number of different threat factors), and thus it is our collective responsibility to focus our attentions on their conservation. While conservation actions and monitoring activities are focused on some of these birds, for many we have no idea on a year to year basis whether their status is improving or declining, or whether anyone is addressing any of their conservation needs. While site protection may be the answer for the majority of the birds (e.g., through the Important Bird Area program which identifies sites for globally threatened birds), a number will need species-specific actions to address threats such as illegal trade, hunting, invasive alien species, etc. The focus of species conservation provides an excellent opportunity for the SCSCB to engage all of its members in monitoring, evaluating and conserving these most threatened of our Caribbean species.

The workshop, which continued after the Guadeloupe meeting via email, focused on a number of critical issues related to Threatened Caribbean birds and what the SCSCB response could be. The aim was to start investigating ways of engaging more people, stimulating urgent research, identifying "species champions," reviewing the threatened species list and the conservation actions proposed, and also establishing a monitoring scheme.

*Questions.*—The following questions were discussed:

1. Does the current list of threatened birds in the Caribbean need revision in terms of the species and the status of the species listed?

2. Are there obvious species champions (or advocates) for each of the 57 Caribbean threatened species?

3. Are there any priority actions that need to be added to the published conservation action list for each species, and what level of funding would be required to implement the identified activities?

4. Would it be valuable for SCSCB to form a Threatened Bird Working Group?

5. What would be the focus of such a group, and how would this relate to existing Working Groups?

*Outputs.*—The following outputs were discussed:

1. There are 57 globally threatened and 18 near threatened species on the IUCN Red List for the Caribbean (Table 1). The workshop identified 17 species that should be reassessed with a view to them being listed as globally threatened and 9 species (already listed) that should be reviewed in terms of their category of threat. For 8 of these it was suggested that the species were more at risk than currently suggested.

2. Workshop participants identified potential advocates (or caretakers, champions, etc.) for 38 of the 57 globally threatened species.

3. Additional conservation actions were identified for 23 globally threatened species. For 17 species, the type of grant required (small, medium or large) to implement the conservation actions was documented.

4. There was enthusiasm (after the workshop and in follow-up emails) for the formation of an SCSCB Threatened Bird Working Group (TBWG).

5. The TBWG would aim to coordinate and engage the SCSCB membership in monitoring, evaluating and conserving the most threatened of our Caribbean bird species. It would need to do this by developing explicit terms of reference and working in close collaboration with the existing Caribbean Parrot, West Indian Whistling-Duck, and Monitoring Working Groups to provide added benefit to these groups and, recognising the potential for overlap, avoid duplication of effort.

Table 1. Globally threatened and endemic birds of the Caribbean and their IUCN Red List status. The workshop identified those species for which a review of status should be undertaken, and also potential “species advocates” or “champions” for the globally threatened birds.

English name	Scientific name	Red List status	Status review needed?	Threatened species advocate identified?
Bermuda Petrel	<i>Pterodroma cahow</i>	EN		Yes
Jamaican Petrel	<i>Pterodroma caribbaea</i>	CR		Yes
Black-capped Petrel	<i>Pterodroma hasitata</i>	EN		Yes
West Indian Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna arborea</i>	VU		Yes
Cuban Kite	<i>Chondrohierax wilsonii</i>	CR		Yes
Gundlach’s Hawk	<i>Accipiter gundlachi</i>	EN		Yes
Ridgway’s Hawk	<i>Buteo ridgwayi</i>	CR		Yes
Trinidad Piping-Guan	<i>Pipile pipile</i>	CR		
Black Rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	NT		
Zapata Rail	<i>Cyanolimnas cerverai</i>	EN		Yes
Caribbean Coot	<i>Fulica caribbaea</i>	NT		
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	NT	Yes	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	NT		
White-crowned Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas leucocephala</i>	NT	Yes	
Ring-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas caribbaea</i>	VU		Yes
Plain Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas inornata</i>	NT	Yes	
Grenada Dove	<i>Leptotila wellsi</i>	CR		Yes
Grey-headed Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon caniceps</i>	VU	Yes	Yes
Key West Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon chrysia</i>			
Crested Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon versicolor</i>	NT	Yes	
Blue-headed Quail-Dove	<i>Starnoenas cyanocephala</i>	EN		Yes
Hispaniolan Parakeet	<i>Aratinga chloroptera</i>	VU		Yes
Cuban Parakeet	<i>Aratinga euops</i>	VU		Yes
Black-billed Parrot	<i>Amazona agilis</i>	VU		
Yellow-billed Parrot	<i>Amazona collaria</i>	VU		
Cuban Parrot	<i>Amazona leucocephala</i>	NT		
Hispaniolan Parrot	<i>Amazona ventralis</i>	VU		Yes
Puerto Rican Parrot	<i>Amazona vittata</i>	CR		Yes
Red-necked Parrot	<i>Amazona arausiaca</i>	VU		
St. Vincent Parrot	<i>Amazona guildingii</i>	VU		
Imperial Parrot	<i>Amazona imperialis</i>	EN		
St. Lucia Parrot	<i>Amazona versicolor</i>	VU		
Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Piaya pluvialis</i>			
Bay-breasted Cuckoo	<i>Piaya ruficularis</i>	EN	Yes	Yes
Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo	<i>Saurothera longirostris</i>			
Great Lizard-Cuckoo	<i>Saurothera merlini</i>		Yes	

## MEETING REPORTS

Table 1. (Continued)

English name	Scientific name	Red List status	Status review needed?	Threatened species advocate identified?
Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo	<i>Saurothera vetula</i>			
Puerto Rican Lizard-Cuckoo	<i>Saurothera vielloti</i>			Yes
Ashy-faced Owl	<i>Tyto glaucops</i>			
Puerto Rican Screech-Owl	<i>Otus nudipes</i>			
Cuban Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium siju</i>			
Bare-legged Owl	<i>Gymnoglaux lawrencii</i>			
Jamaican Owl	<i>Pseudoscops grammicus</i>			
Antillean Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles gundlachii</i>		Yes	
Jamaican Poorwill	<i>Siphonorhis americanus</i>	CR		
Least Poorwill	<i>Siphonorhis brewsteri</i>	DD		
Cuban Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus cubanensis</i>			
Hispaniolan Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus eckmani</i>			
St Lucia Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus cayennensis</i>		Yes	
Puerto Rican Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus noctitherus</i>	CR		Yes
Antillean Palm-Swift	<i>Tachornis phoenicobia</i>			
Lesser Antillean Swift	<i>Chaetura martinica</i>		Yes	
White-tailed Sabrewing	<i>Campylopterus ensipennis</i>	NT		
Antillean Mango	<i>Anthracothorax dominicus</i>			
Jamaican Mango	<i>Anthracothorax mango</i>			
Green Mango	<i>Anthracothorax viridis</i>			
Purple-throated Carib	<i>Eulampis jugularis</i>			
Blue-headed Hummingbird	<i>Cyanophaia bicolor</i>		Yes	
Puerto Rican Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon maugaeus</i>			
Cuban Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon ricordii</i>			
Hispaniolan Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon swainsonii</i>			
Red-billed Streamertail	<i>Trochilus polytmus</i>			
Black-billed Streamertail	<i>Trochilus scitulus</i>			
Bahama Woodstar	<i>Philodice evelynae</i>		Yes	
Vervain Hummingbird	<i>Mellisuga minima</i>			
Bee Hummingbird	<i>Calypte helenae</i>	NT		
Cuban Trogon	<i>Priotelus temnurus</i>			
Hispaniolan Trogon	<i>Temnotrogon roseigaster</i>	NT		
Narrow-billed Tody	<i>Todus angustirostris</i>			
Puerto Rican Tody	<i>Todus mexicanus</i>			
Cuban Tody	<i>Todus multicolor</i>			

Table 1. (Continued)

English name	Scientific name	Red List status	Status review needed?	Threatened species advocate identified?
Broad-billed Tody	<i>Todus subulatus</i>			
Jamaican Tody	<i>Todus todus</i>			
Antillean Piculet	<i>Nesocittes micromegas</i>			
Guadeloupe Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes herminieri</i>	NT		
Puerto Rican Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes portoricensis</i>			
Jamaican Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes radiolatus</i>			
Hispaniolan Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes striatus</i>			
West Indian Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes superciliaris</i>			
Cuban Green Woodpecker	<i>Xiphidiopicus percussus</i>			
Fernandina's Flicker	<i>Colaptes fernandinae</i>	VU		Yes
Ivory-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus principalis</i>	CR		Yes
Jamaican Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis cotta</i>			
Greater Antillean Elaenia	<i>Elaenia fallax</i>			
Greater Antillean Pewee	<i>Contopus caribaeus</i>			
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	NT		
Hispaniolan Pewee	<i>Contopus hispaniolensis</i>			
Jamaican Pewee	<i>Contopus pallidus</i>			
Puerto Rican Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus antillarum</i>			
Sad Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus barbirostris</i>			
Grenada Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus nugator</i>		Yes	
Lesser Antillean Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus oberi</i>		Yes	
La Sagra's Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus sagrae</i>			
Stolid Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus stolidus</i>			
Rufous-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus validus</i>			
Loggerhead Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus caudifasciatus</i>		Yes	
Giant Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus cubensis</i>	EN		Yes
Jamaican Becard	<i>Pachyramphus niger</i>			
Bahama Swallow	<i>Callichelidon cyaneoviridis</i>	VU	Yes	
Golden Swallow	<i>Kalochelidon euchrysea</i>	VU		Yes
Cuban Martin	<i>Progne cryptoleuca</i>			
Palmchat	<i>Dulus dominicus</i>			
Zapata Wren	<i>Ferminia cerverai</i>	EN		Yes
Antillean House-Wren	<i>Troglodytes martinicensis</i>		Yes	
Bahama Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gundlachii</i>			
White-breasted Thrasher	<i>Ramphocinclus brachyurus</i>	EN		Yes

## MEETING REPORTS

Table 1. (Continued)

English name	Scientific name	Red List status	Status review needed?	Threatened species advocate identified?
Scaly-breasted Thrasher	<i>Alenia fusca</i>			
Grey Trembler	<i>Cinlocerthia gutturalis</i>		Yes	
Brown Trembler	<i>Cinlocerthia ruficauda</i>		Yes	
Cuban Solitaire	<i>Myadestes elisabeth</i>	NT		
Bicknell's Thrush	<i>Catharus bicknelli</i>	VU		Yes
White-chinned Thrush	<i>Turdus aurantius</i>			
White-eyed Thrush	<i>Turdus jamaicensis</i>			
La Selle Thrush	<i>Turdus swalesi</i>	EN		Yes
Forest Thrush	<i>Cichlherminia lherminieri</i>	VU		
Cuban Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila lembeyi</i>			
Cuban Sparrow	<i>Torreornis inexpectata</i>	EN		Yes
Cuban Bullfinch	<i>Melopyrrha nigra</i>			
Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>	NT		
Cuban Grassquit	<i>Tiaris canora</i>			
Yellow-shouldered Grassquit	<i>Loxipasser anoxanthus</i>			
St. Lucia Black Finch	<i>Melanospiza richardsoni</i>	EN		
Puerto Rican Bullfinch	<i>Loxigilla portoricensis</i>			
Greater Antillean Bullfinch	<i>Loxigilla violacea</i>			
Puerto Rican Tanager	<i>Nesospingus speculiferus</i>			
Lesser Antillean Tanager	<i>Tangara cucullata</i>			
Black-crowned Palm-Tanager	<i>Phaenicophilus palmarum</i>			
Grey-crowned Palm-Tanager	<i>Phaenicophilus poliocephalus</i>	NT	Yes	
Chat Tanager	<i>Calyptophilus frugivorus</i>	VU	Yes	Yes
Stripe-headed Tanager	<i>Spindalis zena</i>			
Jamaican Euphonia	<i>Euphonia jamaica</i>			
Orangequit	<i>Euneornis campestris</i>			
Bachman's Warbler	<i>Vermivora bachmanii</i>	CR		
Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	NT		
Cerulean Warbler	<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	VU		
Elfin-woods Warbler	<i>Dendroica angelae</i>	VU	Yes	Yes
Kirtland's Warbler	<i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i>	NT		
Arrowhead Warbler	<i>Dendroica pharetra</i>		Yes	
Olive-capped Warbler	<i>Dendroica pityophila</i>			
Vitelline Warbler	<i>Dendroica vitellina</i>	NT		
Plumbeous Warbler	<i>Dendroica plumbea</i>			

Table 1. (Continued)

English name	Scientific name	Red List status	Status review needed?	Threatened species advocate identified?
Barbuda Warbler	<i>Dendroica subita</i>	NT		
Whistling Warbler	<i>Catharopeza bishopi</i>	EN		
Semper's Warbler	<i>Leucopeza semperi</i>	CR		
Bahama Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis rostrata</i>			
Green-tailed Warbler	<i>Microligea palustris</i>			
Yellow-headed Warbler	<i>Teretistris fernandinae</i>			
Oriente Warbler	<i>Teretistris fornsi</i>			
White-winged Warbler	<i>Xenoligea montana</i>	VU		Yes
San Andres Vireo	<i>Vireo caribaeus</i>			
Thick-billed Vireo	<i>Vireo crassirostris</i>			
Cuban Vireo	<i>Vireo gundlachii</i>			
Puerto Rican Vireo	<i>Vireo latimeri</i>		Yes	
Jamaican Vireo	<i>Vireo modestus</i>			
Flat-billed Vireo	<i>Vireo nanus</i>		Yes	
Blue Mountain Vireo	<i>Vireo osburni</i>	NT		
Greater Antillean Oriole	<i>Icterus dominicensis</i>			

*Follow-up actions.*—The following actions were recommended:

1. Draft a vision statement and Terms of Reference for the TBWG and share with the SCSCB membership and existing Working Groups to ensure coherence and appropriateness. [David Wege; Lisa Sorenson; Steven Latta; Verónica Anadón; Chris Rimmer; Mayra Vincenty]

2. Set up a Threatened Birds Yahoo group, and invite people to participate. Explore other tools to manage new information and discussions on threatened species within the Caribbean. [Verónica Anadón; David Wege]

3. Follow up, through the Yahoo group, on the various recommendations for changes in species threat status, additions to the threatened species list, and changes to the listed conservation actions. Work in close collaboration with the IUCN Red List

review process (coordinated by BirdLife International). [David Wege; Verónica Anadón; Chris Rimmer; Mayra Vincenty]

4. Follow up, through the Yahoo group, and with the named individuals, the concept of species champions or advocates, and whether this is could form a network that both engages SCSCB members and could help monitor the status of threatened species. [David Wege; Verónica Anadón; Chris Rimmer; Mayra Vincenty]

5. Build on the dynamism generated to develop an SCSCB Threatened Bird Conservation Program. [David Wege; Lisa Sorenson; Chris Rimmer; Verónica Anadón]

6. Liaise closely with the Monitoring Working Group (and potentially others) to develop joint initiatives. [Steven Latta; Lisa Sorenson; David Wege]