

JAMAICA

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Island Representative for Jamaica

BIRDLIFE JAMAICA

BirdLife Jamaica has been conducting a successful media campaign which has been coordinated by the Media Relations Officer, Mr. Leo Douglas. Frequent articles have appear in *The Observer* and *Children's Own*, and interviews have been broadcast on the Irie FM radio station.

The second printing of *A teacher's guide to the birds of the West Indies* has been completed and the feedback on this product has been useful and rewarding. For more information contact: BirdLife Jamaica, c/o 2 Starlight Avenue, Kingston 6, Jamaica, West Indies.

Jamaica's birding society was featured at a reception held at the Jamaican Embassy in Washington, DC on 24 May 1999. Laminated posters, brochures, and copies of *A teacher's guide to the birds of the West Indies* seemed to have been popular with those in attendance. The event entitled "Winged ambassadors" was a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Jamaican Embassy.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (NRCA)

The Ministry of Environment and Housing has undertaken to merge the Natural Resources Conservation Authority, the Town Planning Department, and the Land Utilization and Development Commission (NRCA News, 1999).

The announcement of the declaration of another protected area (Portland Bight Area) was made by the Minister of the Environment and Housing on Friday, 4 June 1999, as a prelude to Jamaica's Environmental Awareness Week. Portland Bight falls within the parishes of St. Catherine and Clarendon on Jamaica's southern coast.

Jamaica's Annual Environmental Awareness Week was held 5-11 June 1999 and included island-wide exhibits and displays, tours of national parks and protected areas, environmental seminars, for a, and workshops.

The NRCA is currently engaged in one of its most difficult battles, to protect Jamaica's conch resources – the largest in the world – from over-exploitation. Two of the island's leading conch exporters, DYC Fishing Ltd. and Seafood and Ting International Ltd., have taken NRCA to the supreme court because of restrictions on the quotas they were allowed to export. An injunction was granted which prevented the NRCA from barring the companies from exporting conch. The NRCA has subsequently filed a motion in the Court of Appeal seeking leave to appeal to the United Kingdom Privy Council.

CURRENT RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROJECTS

Project: Important Bird Areas in Jamaica
 Researcher: Catherine Levy
 Institution: BirdLife Jamaica and University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica

Project: Biology and Distribution of Psittacines in Jamaica
 Researcher: Herlitz Davis
 Institution: BirdLife Jamaica, Wildlife Preservation Trust International

Project: The Impact of Human Disturbance on Tropical Dry Limestone Forest of Jamaica on Resident and Migrant Bird Communities
 Researcher: Leo Douglas
 Institution: University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica and University of Tulane, USA

Project: West Indian Whistling Duck and Wetlands Conservation Surveys and Education Program
 Researcher: Collaborative effort among members of the Jamaica West Indian Whistling-Duck Working Group
 Institution: Society of Caribbean Ornithology