

REPORT OF CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES OF MARTINIQUE IN 1998

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The office of government and the Association for the Preservation of Birds began several new activities in 1997-1998.

The Regional Natural Park financed the following research in 1997:

- Inventory of *Ramphocinclus brachyurus* in the Caravelle reserve in 1998
- Research on the presence or absence of *Ramphocinclus brachyurus* in areas of this reserve (actually a study by the Association d'Ornithologie de la Martinique (AOMA))
- Inventory and study of birds population present on the Natural Reserve of Sainte Anne Islands.

Reconditioning of the Wildlife and Hunting Reserve of "Piton des Carbet" National Forest Office (1880 ha, 15 April 1998) was begun.

The Regional Council has collaborated with Marcel Bon Saint Côme in the production of a video on the birds of Natural Reserve of Sainte Anne Islands.

The AOMA, a new association, has collaborated with the Regional Natural Park in different research projects.

The Association Carouge (Etude et Recherche pour la Preservation et Promotion de la Faune et de la Flore) has collaborated in developing an environmental education plan and in research into the possible disappearance of the Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*).

Beatriz Conde has collaborated with various official offices in the emergency care of injured birds. She is attempting to get an official agreement from the Wildlife Health Center Union, so her efforts can be officially recognized.

REPORT FROM DOMINICA

BREEDING BIOLOGY AND NESTING HABITS OF THE RED-NECKED OR JACO (*AMAZONA ARAUSIACA*) AND IMPERIAL OR SISSEROU (*A. IMPERIALIS*) PARROTS OF DOMINICA

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INTRODUCTION

The Forestry and Wildlife Division has been carrying out research on the Red-necked (*Amazona arausiaca*) and Imperial (*A. imperialis*) parrots, using its own resources, since 1994. Before 1994 funding was provided by Birdlife International.

Research includes nest-site monitoring, nest searches, study of inter- and intra-specific interactions, feeding habits, nestling development, and fledging and post-fledging activities. Environmental education is also an important component of the project.

PARROT MONITORING AND RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The parrot monitoring and research programme continued in 1995-1996, with observations made at three active Jaco (Red-necked Parrot) nests in the Syndicate area. In 1997, five active nests were discovered at Syndicate (3 nests), Morne Rchette (1 nest), and Carholm (1 nest). The May 1997 fledging of one of the Jaco chicks at Syndicate was captured on video tape for the first time. Four of five Jaco nests that were monitored during 1997 were discovered during the nesting season. For the 1998 nesting season, only three active Jaco nests were discovered at Syndicate (1 nest) and Carholm (2 nests). Data were also collected from these nests as well as at other monitored nests. A total of 25 Jaco El Pitirre 11(2)

fledglings were produced at nests monitored from 1995 to 1998. No active Sisserou (Imperial Parrot) nest has been discovered since 1994.

At the end of the 1997-1998 parrot breeding season, nine Jaco nests had been found in the Syndicate-Morne Diablotin area, two at Carholm, and one at Morne Plaisance. To date, only two Sisserou nests have been discovered, both in the Morne Diablotin area.

Also, during the early months of the 1998 parrot breeding season, Dr. Paul Reillo from the Palm Beach Zoo of Florida assisted the Division's parrot research activities with the use of a video-probe. Several visits were conducted to some of the known active and non-active parrot nest sites in the Syndicate-Diablotin, Morne Plaisance, and Carholm parrot areas. With the use of this equipment, Dr. Reillo and parrot research field staff were able to observe inside of the nest cavities, determine the stages of two active Jaco nests, and identify the problems affecting some of the non-active nests. Artificial nest boxes were also checked, and it was confirmed that they are not being used by the parrots.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

The Conservation Partnership Cooperative programme was developed in 1996 between the Palm Beach Zoo of