

ISLAND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

BAHAMA ISLANDS

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PARTNERS-IN-FLIGHT

Ongoing partnership with North Carolina through Dr. David Lee has encouraged several projects:

1. In the Exumas, banding and color marking of tropicbirds and shearwaters has been undertaken by Dave Lee and others. The Outer Continental Shelf and Gulf Stream are being monitored for sightings of marked or other banded birds. Further monitoring of nesting areas will reveal how often individual adults return to feed chicks. Researchers will track chick weight gain and loss, and mark some nest sites to see if the same parents use the same holes each year. A graduate student, Will Mackin, is presently working in the field on Audubon's Shearwater breeding biology.
2. A 75-slide program, with script on the ecology of the pine woodlands of the Bahamas, has been produced through a grant from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with the assistance of Kathy Oliver, Eric Carey, and Bruce Hallett. This presentation will be mass-produced and available by October 1999.
3. Further research is in progress in Grand Bahama, with the cooperation of the staff of the Rand Nature Centre, on the stratification of birds in winter pine communities, and another on the use of agave by wintering birds in Grand Bahama.
4. In conjunction with The Nature Conservancy and the Partners-in-Flight program, there is now heightened awareness of the importance of The Bahama Islands as the wintering grounds of the endangered Kirtland's Warbler. Two years ago, several Bahamians visited Michigan during the warbler's breeding season to see, first-hand, the local efforts for recovery of this bird. Now focus is increasing on the survival of the warbler through the winter, and Eric Carey has been invited to serve as a member of the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team. During last winter, the Ornithology Group on New Providence concentrated on monitoring possible Kirtland's Warbler habitat, but only accomplished one positive sighting there. The preferred winter habitat of the warbler is still vague.
5. Eric Carey and Dave Lee are working on a Cat Island natural history booklet as a basic, but scientifically accurate, publication for use in schools and by the general public. If this project is successful, the plan is to extend the effort to other islands.
6. The Bahamas government is being pressured to deal with increased levels of interest in hunting. Through the partnership, Eric Carey will be visiting North Carolina to look at some of the hunting preserves and clubs in operation and will contact personnel in the state game commission and biologists for future exchanges of information.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Through Mrs. Lynn Gape, the Bahamas continues to play a very active role in the West Indian Whistling-Duck project. In May 1999, a Workbook Task Force, consisting of Dr. Lisa Sorenson, Mrs. Patricia Bradley, Mr. Martin Keeley, Mrs. Kate Wallace, Miss Monique Clarke, Mrs. Karen St. Cyr, and Mrs. Lynn Gape, met at The Bahamas National Trust. The purpose of this weekend workshop was to coordinate and draft the regional workbook.
2. Major development on Paradise Island by Sun International is of concern. Despite the developers consulting with The Bahamas National Trust, there is fear for the future of several important species through habitat loss, particularly the White-cheeked Pintail. Dr. Lisa Sorenson is making a presentation to Sun International, emphasizing the importance of the ponds on Paradise Island for the survival of this duck.
3. The Bahamas National Trust Gamebird Committee continues to monitor, census, and band White-crowned Pigeons. An important breeding island, Big Green Cay, was recently

- sold, but through the efforts of the Wildlife and Gamebird committees, Government is acquiring this important cay for future protection.
4. The local Ornithology Group on New Providence continues to conduct monthly field trips and monitor the various ecosystems still present on the island. Major construction and land sale in the last few years has seen an enormous increase in land clearance on this island, which supports at least half the native human population of the entire Bahama Islands and a large percentage of the tourists. Development on some of the other islands in the chain is also on the increase.
 5. Paradise Island is now under severe strain from development, which includes:
 - a. a new 23-story hotel
 - b. total clearance of native vegetation on a large part of the island
 - c. plans for expansion and redesign of the golf course, and an extensive gated community to be built in the vicinity of the golf course. The airport will be closed and the land incorporated in this project.
 6. The Bahamas National Trust is about to present to Government a proposal for the protection of the Wilson/Harold ponds area on New Providence. This was the subject of a resolution by the Society of Caribbean Ornithology at the 1997 annual meeting in Aruba.
 7. There is little reported local activity from many of the other islands of The Bahamas, other than Grand Bahama through the staff of the Rand Nature Centre. Many ornithologists and birders visit The Bahamas privately, some passing their check-lists to The Bahamas National Trust. Tony White continues to monitor and record unusual sightings.

ISLAND REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

DOMINICA CONSERVATION REPORT
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE DIVISION, DOMINICA

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PARROT RESEARCH AND MONITORING

In 1999, the monitoring of nesting activities of Dominica's two parrot species was continued by the Division's research staff along with Dr. Paul Reillo from Rare Species Conservatory Foundation (RSCF). The research staff was successful in discovering one active Sisserou Parrot (*Amazona imperialis*) and two new active Red-necked Parrot (*Amazona arausiaca*) nests within the Syndicate Forest Reserve. Coincidentally, the field staff witnessed courtship and copulation activities at each nest site at the time of discovery. This was a particularly important achievement in the case of the Sisserou, because these activities have never been observed before in the wild. Unfortunately, fledging activities were not observed at any of the nest sites.

During the nesting period several nest searches (mainly for Sisserou nests) were conducted in the rainforest within the northern foothills of Morne Diablotin. Other field work was restricted to video recording of one Red-necked Parrot nest (with use of a time-lapse video recorder), intra-video recordings of active and non-active redneck nests, and monitoring feeding habits of both species, mainly with the Syndicate and Carholm Reserve Forest.

The RSCF has continued to support the study of these species by donating research equipment (including a camcorder, incubator, brooder, and climbing ropes). RSCF along with Dr. Reillo are feverishly working to raise the necessary funds required to purchase 1,300 acres of privately owned lands within the Syndicate Forest Reserve. These