

- 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

STEPHEN DURAND

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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

lands are expected to be included as part of the Morne Diablotin National Park.

BIRD NEST MONITORING

Bird nest monitoring was conducted by Benito Espinal and Bertrand Jno Baptiste, who expect to publish their data later this year. This research activity has resulted in an exciting discovery for Dominica; i.e., it has been confirmed that the Bare-eyed Thrush (*Turdus nidigenis*) is a resident breeder in an area known as Pentiwax. This study also confirmed that both the Bare-eyed Thrush and the Red-legged Thrush (*Turdus plumbeus*) are using soil in the construction of their nest. Several other bird nests were observed (including Barn Owl *Tyto alba*, House

Wren *Troglodytes aedon*, Broad Wing Hawk *Buteo platypterus*, and Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Overseas visit – November 1998, Trinidad – FAO Workshop on Management of wild bird population in the West Indies.
- Training for Tour Guides in Fauna and Flora of Dominica.
- Participation in International Migratory Bird Day and World Birdwatch Day.
- Search for Bare-eyed Thrush in several habitats around the island.

ISLAND REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

ST. LUCIA

DONALD ANTHONY

ISLAND REPRESENTATIVE—ST. LUCIA

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This report is a summary of the main activities within the Wildlife Section of the Forestry Department in St. Lucia from August 1998 to July 1999.

PARROT PROJECT

Before the parrot breeding season, all known and climable St. Lucia Parrot nests trees in the Quilese and Edmund area were inspected. Most of the nests inspected were dry and ready for the nesting season. A few had to be drained of water and in some nests inspection doors had to be replaced. In March alone, over 25 climbs were made to inspect parrot nests and to verify activity. Wild honey bees occupied some parrot nest sites or cavities near nesting sites, making occupation by parrots and inspection by humans impossible. Nest monitoring continued this year and we found that nest success was particularly poor, with seven active nests failing.

Parrots are increasing their range into new areas like Forestiere and La Sociere in northern St. Lucia, we we interpret as a sign of population growth. Nest searches in the Forestiere area were fruitless, but it is possible that parrots will be nesting there soon.

Three tree top observation platforms were replaced in Quilese. They had been in place since September 1994, but succumbed to the elements in the forest canopy.

For the first time ever the fully decomposed remains of an adult parrot were found in the wild. Only the bones and feathers were found at Parrot Hill in Quilese, and apparently the bird died from natural causes.

ST. LUCIA WHIPTAIL TRANSLOCATION PROJECT

Monitoring of the translocated population of the St. Lucia whiptail lizard (*Cnemidophorus vanzoi*) from Maria Island Major to Praslin Island is continuing. From the original seven pairs translocated to Praslin Island in 1995, today there are over two hundred whiptails on the island. Trapping of rats that apparently swim across to Praslin Island is ongoing. In the dry season the whiptails can be easy prey for American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*), as most trees shed their leaves and the forest on Praslin Island becomes quite dry. Presently, the Whiptail population on Praslin Island is healthy and there have been no signs of rats for some time.