

over the land.

“I think it actually adds more fuel to the fire,” Mr. Warren said.

The two sides do agree there's guano in them thar' rocks. “We found a book at William and Mary [College] called ‘My Memoirs of Navassa,’ written

by the Navassa Phosphate Company's chief geologist,” Mr. Warren said. “In 1886 he wrote about the island and its ecology and its bird guano. ...he said the entire island is solid sea-bird guano.”

“I will not be stopped and I believe I will win island ownership,” Mr. Warren said.

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## BIRDLIFE JAMAICA

On 15 July 1998 BirdLife Jamaica came into being. This is the new name for the former Gosse Bird Club and the change signifies a developmental leap to meet the future. The name change marks the culmination of a series of events which have taken place over a number of years, and it embodies the organization's flight to become an increasingly recognized beacon for the conservation of Jamaica's native bird life. The change also produces an obvious alliance with BirdLife International, the oldest environmental group in the world, and one with the greatest influence at regional and international levels with respect to bird conservation. BirdLife Jamaica is the partner-designate of BirdLife International.

With the highest number of endemics in the Caribbean region, and having one of the highest rates of endemism for islands worldwide, Jamaica is important in the context of global biodiversity. There are 30 species of birds found on our island and no where else on earth. Unfortunately there is an overwhelming need for conservation action to safeguard their existence. Habitat loss, along with the introduction of exotic predators, has been blamed for the extinction at least three of Jamaica's unique bird species and at present another 10 are considered threatened or vulnerable. BirdLife Jamaica is the only local organization which specifically focuses on the conservation of our island's birds and their habitats.

The organization's publication, the *Broadsheet*, has appeared twice a year without fail since its inception in 1963 and this year the organization celebrates the appearance of the 70<sup>th</sup> issue. This publication is the only journal that reports on the natural history of Jamaica's birds, and the only one in the Caribbean devoted to the study of birds and their habitats.

The activities of BirdLife Jamaica incorporate the

interests of casual observers of wild birds with intensive research projects and initiatives sponsored by various local and international organizations, including the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, Wildlife Protection Trust International and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All these projects involve young Jamaican ornithologists and biologists who are both studying and working for the conservation of our bird life and for the biodiversity of our island.

At present, the priorities of BirdLife Jamaica will be to strengthen its ability to carry out its strategic objectives, including the education of Jamaicans on the uniqueness and increasingly threatened nature of our bird life. Ultimately BirdLife Jamaica aims to encourage and facilitate the acquisition of the knowledge, expertise and resources for the conservation and management of Jamaica's birds and their habitats.

BirdLife Jamaica's office is in the Department of Life Sciences of the University of the West Indies and is staffed by two part-time employees and several volunteers who contribute to important activities such as the educational programme.

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