

BIRDSCARIBBEAN ENDEMIC & THREATENED SPECIES WORKING GROUP (ETSWG)



NEWSLETTER

December 2024

- ETSWG @ BirdsCaribbean 24th International Conference
- Celebrating our emerging conservation leaders
- Spotlight on hurricanes
- Calls for collaborators
- Updates from the islands



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Thanks to Zoya Buckmire for copy-editing the English version. Translations of this newsletter are available in Spanish and French and were initially translated with DeepL. Thanks to Alexia Morales for their help with editing the Spanish translation. Find the French and Spanish version on the [ETSWG webpage](#).

We thank the BirdsCaribbean Seabird Working Group for their advice and sharing their newsletter template.

About the Endemics and Threatened Species Working Group [↑]

The Endemic and Threatened Species Working Group (ETSWG) was revived in 2017, with a renewed focus on endemic birds. The group's re-launch was galvanized by the members' efforts to compile a [Special Issue on The Status of Caribbean Forest Endemics](#), published by the Journal of Caribbean Ornithology in 2017. This publication arose from symposia on the conservation of Caribbean forest-dependent endemic birds at the BirdsCaribbean (BC) Conference in Jamaica in 2015, and subsequently at the North American Ornithological Congress (NAOC) in Washington DC in 2016.

In 2019, the group merged with BC's Alliance for Zero Extinction Working Group (AZEWG), a programme that focused on safeguarding Endangered or Critically Endangered species restricted to a single location. Since that time, the group has met regularly at BC biennial meetings, and quarterly in periods between the organization's biennial conferences.

The group is composed of managers, conservationists, funders, researchers, and educators working on studying and protecting populations of endemic and threatened bird species in the Caribbean. The goal of the group is to:

“promote the conservation and recovery of endemic and threatened birds of the Caribbean, through collaborative monitoring, research, education, outreach, capacity-building and implementation of effective policy, legislation and management.”

The ETSWG is currently managed by two co-chairs (below) and membership is open to anyone interested in Caribbean endemic and threatened bird species. **We are currently looking for an additional co-chair to help lead ETSWG initiatives.** If you have any questions or are interested in joining us, please contact us!

[Dr Howard Nelson](#), UK and Trinidad
howard.nelson@fauna-flora.org

[Dr Ellie Devenish-Nelson](#), UK
ellie.devenish@ed.ac.uk

Communications [↑]

Website

On the [ETSWG page on the BirdsCaribbean website](#), you will find links to background information on the working group, active projects, resources, and blog posts.

Meetings

The ETSWG meets online every quarter (and in-person at BirdsCaribbean conferences). Join our listserv (see below) to get updates on the date of our next meeting.

Social Platforms

Groups.io community

The ETSWG has a listserv with Groups.io: <https://birdscaribbean.groups.io/g/ETSWG>. Anyone interested can become a member and start interacting via email or through the Groups.io webpages. This platform will be the main communication tool for ETSWG co-chairs to share information with the whole Caribbean endemics community, but it is open to anyone to share knowledge, post questions, and list information on recent publications, jobs, events, grant opportunities, etc., that may be of interest to all. Visit the [Groups.io](#) webpage for details on how to join.

WhatsApp Group

Members of our community have a WhatsApp group to provide an informal network for those people interested in Caribbean endemic species and related topics. Anyone wanting to be added to the WhatsApp group should contact the ETSWG co-chairs. However, the Groups.io listserv will remain our main communication tool.

We would love to hear from you if you are keen to get further involved in any of our work!

Please be aware that we have a **zero-tolerance policy** for any actions by group members that compromise the safety, fairness, or productivity of our communications platforms.

Celebrating our Emerging Conservation Leaders [↑]

Here we celebrate the incredible contributions of graduate students, early-career and other emerging professionals who are advancing the study and conservation of Caribbean endemic birds. Through their hard work and dedication, our understanding of these unique and threatened birds continues to grow, paving the way for impactful conservation efforts across the region.



Andrea Thomen

Andrea Thomen, a project manager with Grupo Jaragua in the Dominican Republic and a PhD student at Manchester Metropolitan University in the UK, received the prestigious Founder's Award for the best student presentation at the BirdsCaribbean Conference held in the Dominican Republic in July 2024. Her presentation, titled *Seasonal occupancy of endemic forest birds across protected sites in the Dominican Republic* was praised for its scientific rigour and excellent communication style. Learn more about Andrea's work [here](#).

We also want to congratulate the following graduate students who received Special Commendation from the BC Founder's Award Committee for their oral presentations at the recent BirdsCaribbean Conference:

- **Michelle Moyer** for *Investigating male and female vocalizations of an understudied endemic Caribbean songbird.*
- **Gary Auguiste** for *Quantifying the population density and distribution of Amazona parrots of the island of Dominica post-hurricane maria.*
- **Kyle Kittleberger** for *Evaluating extinction risk among resident bird species on islands.*

Michelle Moyer

Michelle recently graduated from Kevin Omland's lab at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Her PhD research, a *Comparative Analysis of Female Song Structure and Function in Two Temperate and Tropical Oriole Species*, focused on the temperate Orchard Oriole and the Puerto Rican Oriole. Michelle was awarded a [BirdsCaribbean David S. Lee grant](#) to study vocalisations in the Puerto Rican Oriole. At this year's BirdsCaribbean conference, Michelle presented findings that while males sing during the dawn chorus, females sing regularly throughout the day—a discovery that advances our understanding of this species behaviour and will aid more accurate population monitoring. Michelle has recently been appointed as a Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor at William & Mary University and we wish her all the best in her new position!



Giselle Ragoonanan

Giselle is a co-founder of The Trinidad and Tobago Bird Observatory and Research Centre (TTBO). Though she discovered her passion for studying birds just a few years ago, she has quickly become a [dynamic leader in Trinidad's birding community](#). [Giselle spearheads bird-banding projects and engages her community](#), with a special focus on her home village of Brasso Seco, in the heart of Trinidad's Piping Guan/Pawi (*Pipile pipile*) habitat. At the BirdsCaribbean Conference in the Dominican Republic, [Brasso Seco was announced as the Caribbean's first Bird City](#), a designation Giselle worked tirelessly to achieve. We can't wait to see what Giselle accomplishes next!

Jean-Marry Exantus

Jean-Marry recently completed his doctoral thesis titled *Contribution To The Study Of Avifauna In The Republic Of Haiti In Urban And Natural Environments*, at the Université des Antilles in Guadeloupe. His research, supported by the Caribee Initiative and guided by Professor Frank Cezilly (Université de Bourgogne-Dijon) & Professor Etienne Bezault (Université des



Antilles) focussed on both urban and natural ecosystems of Haiti. Jean-Marry conducted significant [work on La Salle's Thrush \(*Turdus swalesi*\)](#), in the Massif de la Selle, and he also investigated the ecology of avian communities in urban areas of Haiti. This latter work highlighted the importance of urban forests as critical places of refuge for Haiti's endemic avifauna. Additionally, his research underscored the impact of deforestation on the relative abundance of forest-dependent species in Haitian protected areas.



Adrianne Tossas

Adrianne, President of BirdsCaribbean and a long-time ETSWG member, was honoured with the Partners in Flight (PIF) Leadership award at the BirdsCaribbean Conference in the Dominican Republic. This prestigious award recognises individuals for their outstanding contributions to landbird conservation across the Americas. Adrianne's impactful work in research, education, conservation, and advocacy has greatly advanced the protection of endemic and threatened birds in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. Last year, she shared insights into her

journey as a Latina in STEM [on a podcast](#).

Whether you are a student, early career, or a seasoned professional, the Endemics and Threatened Species Working Group is here to support you. Feel free to reach out directly to one of the co-chairs, on our listserv, or on social media if you have any questions or need assistance.

We encourage you to apply to research and conservation grants, [including those offered by BirdsCaribbean](#), and we can help with grant writing and fostering collaborations.

Photos: Andrea Thomen (Christel Mohammed), Michelle Moyer (Michael Ocasio); Giselle Ragoonanan (Steve Albert), Jean-Marry Exantus (<https://www.caribaea.org>), Adrianne Tossas with her students (third from right)(Miranda Cortés).

Calls for Collaborations [↑]

Below are projects or initiatives being developed by the BirdsCaribbean community, which are seeking collaborators for research, data-sharing, or information requests.

Abundance and distribution of endemic species in Puerto Rico – **Adrienne Tossas**

(agtossas@gmail.com), at the University of Puerto Rico, Ponce, is starting a project to assess the abundance and distribution of endemic species on the south coast of Puerto Rico using eBird data. Undergraduate students involved in this work will map current sightings, analyze distribution changes, and identify seasonal patterns. Additionally, in collaboration with colleagues from the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, US Forest Service, Para La Naturaleza, and BirdsCaribbean, we plan to reinstate a long-term bird banding program in the Guánica dry forest to study population trends of landbirds, starting early in 2025.

High elevation endemics and climate change - Howard Nelson, Fauna & Flora/University of Cambridge and **Ellie Devenish-Nelson**, University of Edinburgh. High elevation endemic species on islands are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts, since their upward movement is limited. Motivated by our research on bird communities in Trinidad and Grenada, we're interested in collaborating to explore cross-island patterns in high elevation species responses to climate change, how local communities value these species, and potential community conservation actions to manage these habitats. We'd love to hear from you if you're working on a high elevation species or habitat, and are interested in collaborating.

Birds of the World - if you are interested in contributing to a Birds of the World account for a Caribbean endemic or threatened species, please contact **Caroline Pott** caroline.pott@birdscaribbean.org, BirdsCaribbean's Birds of the World Coordinator. Current calls for information include for the Lesser Antillean Bullfinch (*Loxigilla noctis*). Did you know that [Birds of the World is now free to anyone living in the Caribbean islands?](#) Login to your existing eBird/Cornell account, or create a [new eBird/Cornell account](#) to access Birds of the World for free!

Flyway Reports - If you're involved in banding in the Caribbean, there's a call for contributions to the 2025 Flyway Report in the North American Bird Bander journal on banding efforts in the region. For more information on this report or to contribute to the next issue, please contact **Zoya Buckmire** at zoya.buckmire@birdscaribbean.org.

[Lost birds in the Caribbean](#) - according to the [Search for Lost Birds](#), there are several bird species not yet declared extinct that have not been observed with documentation for at least ten years. These include Cozumel Thrasher, Zapata Rail, Cuban Kite, Jamaican Petrel, Jamaican Pauraque, Semper's Warbler, St. Kitts' Bullfinch, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Eskimo Curlew, and Bachman's Warbler. The Search for Lost Birds published an [update](#) for 2024, but there were no updates from the Caribbean. Birders and ornithologists in the region are encouraged to report any recent sightings or submit requests for support to conduct searches, to **John Mittermeier** jmittermeier@abcbirds.org. Many of these species may be extinct, but perhaps hope is warranted for some. For example, top birders in St. Lucia are keen to search for the Semper's Warbler as potential undocumented sightings offer hope that the species may have survived since the last widely accepted observations in the 1960s.

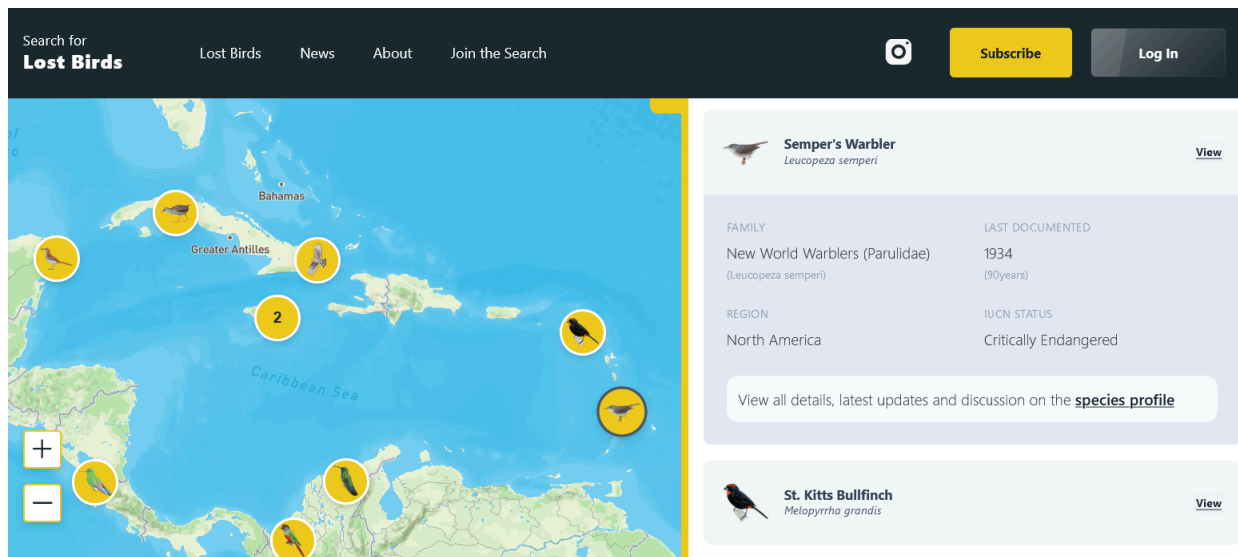


Image: <https://searchforlostbirds.org>

Caribbean Endemic Bird Species Taxonomy Update [↑](#)

The AOS recognised six new Caribbean endemic species in 2024, bringing the total to an impressive **185** species endemic to the region! These new additions result from taxonomic splits of existing species, based on differences in genetics, behaviour, plumage, morphology or vocalisations. The newly recognized endemic species are the Grenada Wren (*Troglodytes grenadensis*), St. Lucia Wren (*Troglodytes mesoleucus*), St. Vincent Wren (*Troglodytes musicus*), Kalinago Wren (*Troglodytes martinicensis*), Martinique Thrasher (*Ramphocinclus brachyurus*), and St. Lucia Thrasher (*Ramphocinclus sanctaeluciaae*). Learn more about these exciting changes [here](#) and on page 23.

One of these new species, the Grenada Wren, now has its own detailed species account published by [Buckmire et al. \(2024\) on The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Birds of the World.](#)



Photo: Kalinago Wren, *Troglodytes martinicensis* (Anthony Levesque)

BirdsCaribbean 24th International Conference [↑](#)

BirdsCaribbean held its 24th International Conference in the Dominican Republic from 18 to 22 July 2024, with the help of local host organization, Grupo Jaragua. Over 330 participants attended this fantastic week of inspiring keynotes, presentations, and interactive sessions, celebrating the conference's theme *From Mangroves to Mountains—Safeguarding our Avian Treasures*. You can read more about it on the BirdsCaribbean blog [here](#) and see the full programme ([here](#)). Conference abstracts will be published in an upcoming issue of the JCO.



Endemic and Threatened species birds were well represented throughout the conference. We had more abstract submissions on endemics than ever before! Endemics and their habitats and communities featured at the forefront of *Hispaniola Day*, which celebrated species ranging from the DR's endemic parrots, Ridgways' Hawk, and Palmchat to Haiti's Black-capped Petrel. We were inspired by Yolanda Leon, Chris Rimmer, and Steve Latta's keynote stories of studying and protecting endemic species in the DR.



There were two sessions on *Conserving Caribbean threatened and endemic birds* where we learnt about impacts of hurricanes on Caribbean psittacines and the Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk, vocalisations in the Puerto Rican Oriole and Adelaide's Warbler, social organisation in the Palmchat, the re-discovery of Ridgway's Hawk in Haiti, and much more. Endemic and threatened

species were also well-represented in the poster sessions, including updates on conservation of Bermuda's Cahow (Bermuda Petrel), the White-tailed Sabrewing, and the Puerto Rican Euphonia.

Across many other sessions we also learned about ongoing conservation and research of Caribbean endemic and threatened species, including habitat restoration efforts, community outreach, advocacy, and fundamental ecological knowledge.

Together with the Landbird Monitoring Working Group, the ETSWG hosted a symposium *Landbird and endemic monitoring – challenges, solutions, needs and results*. The symposium featured 12 presentations covering both long-term and newly established monitoring programmes, using techniques such as point counts, bird-banding, and passive acoustic monitoring, as well as the application of monitoring data through distribution and occupancy modelling. Presentations came from locations ranging from Trinidad and St Eustatius to Dominican Republic, Cuba, and The Bahamas, and covered species such as the Bay-breasted Cuckoo, Trinidad-Piping Guan, Oriente Warbler, Cuban Gnatcatcher and the insular Caribbean’s parrots. We learned how monitoring has contributed to new knowledge on species distributions and abundance, helped prioritize conservation efforts, and provided valuable insights for establishing new monitoring projects.



Members of the ETSWG also led the workshop on *Assessment of BirdsCaribbean’s capacity building initiatives and identification of priorities for the future*. In this session, we followed up on a survey and focus groups held prior to the conference to assess the impact of BirdsCaribbean’s programs on the capacity development of individuals and partner organizations. During breakout groups, the 40+ participants further explored the priority conservation capacity challenges threatening the

avifauna on their islands and discussed potential solutions. The session was well attended and generated valuable insights that will inform the development of future capacity-building programmes.

The ETSWG also led a Roundtable discussion *Red List, ACAD or ? Are prioritization assessments fit for Caribbean birds?*. This session included presentations from the Birdlife Red List assessment team and Partners in Flight ACAD team, highlighting the importance of assessments and how BirdsCaribbean members can engage in the processes. Participants explored various conservation prioritization processes and discussed how they could be better adapted to the unique needs of Caribbean birds. While the timing on the last day of the conference resulted in lower attendance, the 22 participants who joined engaged in a lively debate. There was general consensus on the value of assessments, but concerns were raised about their ability to fully capture the realities faced by Caribbean birds on the ground. Several ideas for improving these processes were proposed during the session.



We had so much fun reconnecting with our BirdsCaribbean family and making new friends and we're already looking forward to the BirdsCaribbean 2026 conference!

Photos: Chris Rimmer giving his keynote to a packed audience (Howard Nelson); Conference participants at the capacity building workshop (Ellie Devenish-Nelson); conference attendees spotting a Broad-billed Tody, *Todus subulatus*, during an early morning field trip to the National Botanical Garden (Ellie Devenish-Nelson).

Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival [↑]

For 22 years BirdsCaribbean has been celebrating the region's iconic birds through the vibrant Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival (CEBF). Held annually from April 22nd (Earth Day) to May 22nd (International Biodiversity Day), this festival aims to raise awareness and foster conservation support from local communities for the region's endemic bird species—all 185 and counting!



Coordinated by the dynamic duo, Eduardo Llegus and Aliya Hosein, the festival brings together Caribbean conservationists, environmental NGOs, agencies, artists, children, and adults from across the region to host a variety of exciting events that engage thousands of participants each year. From birdwatching trips and art contests to bird fairs and workshops, there's something for everyone!



BirdsCaribbean's provides free materials through our virtual celebration 'Endemic Bird of the Day,' featuring stunning illustrations of Caribbean endemic birds by Cuban ornithologist and scientific illustrator Arnaldo Toledo. These are accompanied by natural history information, coloring pages, photos, videos, puzzles, and activities for home and classroom use. [Check out our endemic bird library here](#). Additional resources, like bird origami and learn-to-sketch videos, can be found on the [BirdsCaribbean YouTube channel](#).



This year's theme, "[Protect Insects, Protect Birds](#)," highlighted the vital connection between birds and insects, emphasizing how insects sustain bird populations and maintain healthy ecosystems. Over 20 islands participated, making [this year's festival more impactful than ever!](#)

The CEBF returns in April 2025, and we invite you to join us in celebrating these extraordinary birds. If you are interested in hosting an event or volunteering with the CEBF team, please **contact Aliya Hosein at** CEBF@birdscaribbean.org, aliya.hosein@birdscaribbean.org, and copy lisa.sorenson@birdscaribbean.org.

BirdsCaribbean welcomes [contributions](#) to the Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival. Your donations help keep the festival accessible to everyone, ensuring that people of all ages can engage with and learn about our region's unique birds. Every donation helps provide educational resources, fun activities, and community events that inspire a love for birds and nature. Every gift makes a difference—thank you for considering a donation to help us continue this vital work!

Photos: Families participating from the activities of the festival; Insect display at Hope Gardens-Birdlife Jamaica Facebook page; Bird games organized by UHBG.



Caribbean Landbird Monitoring [↑]

The [BirdsCaribbean Monitoring Working Group](#) launched the BirdsCaribbean [Landbird Monitoring Program](#) in 2021, and has been building capacity to monitor and conserve landbirds across the region.

The Caribbean Landbird Monitoring Network is using the Programa de América Latina para las Aves Silvestres (PROALAS) survey protocols to monitor landbirds and engage local communities. Several CLM Training Workshops have been held over the last few years in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and St Vincent and the Grenadines. The CLM Small Grants Program provides network partners with funding to implement monitoring projects on their islands. These standardised methods are integrated with eBird, thus allowing long-term data storage and comparability of population trends within and between islands. In this way, important knowledge gaps are being filled about the status of Caribbean endemic species and their habitat use across space and time.



The [Caribbean Bird Banding \(CBB\) Network](#) aims to expand and unite bird banding efforts in the region. Annual CBB Training Workshops have been held in The Bahamas (March 2022), Dominican Republic (March 2023), and Grenada (March 2024), and [another to be held in the Dominican Republic in February 2025](#). Through a combination of field and classroom sessions, participants learn the basics of bird banding, as well as

banding ethics and theory. Through these workshops, intensive internships with partner bird observatories, and other training opportunities, banders can gain the experience that is necessary to band independently. Some experienced banders also have the opportunity to be certified by the North American Banding Council. The CBB Network also offers additional resources (e.g., bird bands, database) and connections with an active community of banders. Banding birds means we can increase our knowledge beyond what we can learn from points counts and other observational methods, such as collecting data on survival, body condition, phenology and much more. For many

endemic species, we know very little about such parameters, so the systematic collection of data from banding for these species is an incredibly important contribution.

Finally, great progress is being made with the [Caribbean Motus Collaboration \(CMC\)](#). The Motus Wildlife Tracking System uses automated radio telemetry to track tagged animals and has been widely used in North America for tracking migratory birds. It provides important information about bird movement and habitat use for both migratory and resident birds. In March 2022, there were no permanent active stations on the islands, as stations were either active for only short periods for specific projects or



were damaged by hurricanes. Since then, 18 Motus stations have been installed throughout the region – 11 of these have been installed by BirdsCaribbean and CMC partners in Puerto Rico, The Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, and USVI, with many more planned.

Also look out for the upcoming Inaugural Caribbean Flyway Review report by Daniela Ventura del Puerto and Zoya Buckmire in the North American Bird Bander (Vol 49 issues 3 & 4) on banding efforts in the region.

Contact: Maya Wilson, Landbird Monitoring Program Manager (maya.wilson@birdscaribbean.org) and **Holly Garrod**, Caribbean Bird Banding Network Coordinator (holly.garrod@birdscaribbean.org).

Photos: CLM photo Participants practice PROALAS survey techniques in the Dominican Republic (Holly Garrod); Daniela Ventura del Puerto instructs CBB Banding participants at the banding table in Grenada (Maya Wilson)

Updates from the Islands [↑]

A wide range of activities involving endemic and threatened species are taking place throughout the Caribbean, including those focused on monitoring, research, conservation, and education. Below we showcase some of the inspiring and important ongoing projects on the islands.

ETSWG Publication on Conservation Capacity

Members of the ETSWG recently published a conservation report in *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology* on the findings of a survey the group conducted in 2022. The survey assessed avian conservation priorities and current capacity for conservation action in the Caribbean in order to inform future ETSWG capacity development activities (e.g., the [Action Learning Roundtable held at the joint BirdsCaribbean/American Ornithology Society conference in 2022 in Puerto Rico](#)). We've since built on this study with the survey and focus groups earlier this year to assess the impact of BirdsCaribbean programmes on regional capacity development and our events at the conference in the Dominican Republic (see page 13).

Reference: Nelson, H. P., Ewert, D. N., Hulme, M., Lebbin, D. J., Mortensen, J., Robertson, H., Rusk, B., Sorenson, L., Haynes-Sutton, A. M., Tossas, A. Upgren, A., Wallace, G. E., Wilson, M. & Devenish-Nelson, E. S. (2024). An assessment of priority issues and capacity for conservation action of Caribbean endemic and threatened bird species. *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*, 37, 41-50. doi.org/10.55431/jco.2024.37.41-50



Photo: Action Learning Group Roundtable on Species Recovery at the BirdsCaribbean/AOS conference in Puerto Rico, 2022 (Ellie Devenish-Nelson)

Kirtland Warbler Update

Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*), the rarest North American migratory songbird, breeds mostly in Michigan, USA, and winters in The Bahamas. To better understand its ecology and conservation needs on the wintering grounds, the Kirtland's Warbler Research and Training Project started in 2002 with 3 goals: (1) evaluate the ecology and habitat of Kirtland's Warbler (KW) on the wintering grounds, (2) apply this research to KW conservation in The Bahamas, and (3) build conservation capacity in The Bahamas. This project set the stage for current and projected KW work in the country.



KW efforts are focused on three projects in 2025:

Mapping. **Mike Akresh**, Antioch University of New England, is leading an effort with Bahamas National Trust, the U.S. Forest Service, and American Bird Conservancy (ABC), to map habitats in the central Bahamas. This will provide a first estimate of the amount of suitable KW habitat, which is primarily early succession scrub (coppice). Results will help determine the most effective areas for KW habitat protection and management.

Plant propagation. **Tim Hauber**, One Eleuthera Foundation, and associates, are developing propagation techniques for wild sage and black torch, two shrubs that produce fruit favored by KW. Once techniques are established, these native shrubs could be planted around homes, schools, resorts, and elsewhere to enhance habitat for KW and other bird species.



Education and outreach. Steve Roels, ABC, recruited Alvanna Johnson as an ABC Community Engagement Fellow. Alvanna works with teachers, students, and others on KW outreach and education to increase appreciation for KW, and associated species, on the island of Eleuthera.



Contact: Steve Roels, American Bird Conservation (sroels@abcbirds.org)

Photos: Kirtland's Warbler (Sarah Bodbyl); White Sage, *Lantana involucrata*, flowers and fruit (Steve Roels); Alvanna Johnson, second to the right, leading an outreach group (Dave Ewert)

Pawi (Trinidad Piping-guan) Conservation

The University of the West Indies is conducting a survey of the Trinidad endemic, the Trinidad Piping-guan, *Pipile pipile*, known locally as the Pawi. Pawi surveys, community surveys, and workshops start in earnest in January 2025, funded by BirdsCaribbean, the Environmental Management Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, and the FAO.



Pawi are large, arboreal birds found in the forests of the Northern Range, Trinidad, but were previously found in forest across the island and are listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN with threats including illegal hunting and habitat degradation. Attempts to survey them in the past have had mixed results due to the terrain, the vegetation, and the Pawi's (surprisingly) cryptic nature. Luckily for us they have distinctive calls and wing-drum loudly during the dry season so we have a chance to deploy remote audio recorders between January and May to assess their distribution and relative abundance. In parallel, we will be training local stakeholders in survey techniques and passing on information about the importance of this bird for Trinidad's natural and cultural heritage. Based on the information gained, we will prepare a new Management and Recovery Plan for the Pawi.

Contact: Mark Hulme, University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
(mark.hulme@sta.uwi.edu)

Photo: Pawi (Mark Hulme)

St Lucia and Martinique Thrashers

After over a century of suspicion (e.g., [Cory 1887](#), [Ridgway 1907](#)) that the White-breasted Thrasher (*Ramphocinclus brachyurus*) was two species, the taxon was officially split by the American Ornithological Society's Committee on Classification and Nomenclature in April of 2024 ([Chesser et al. 2024](#)). The resulting island endemics are the Martinique Thrasher (*Ramphocinclus brachyurus*) and St. Lucia Thrasher (*Ramphocinclus sanctaeluciae*). This split adds one species to the West Indian Mimidae, an assemblage of now 6 species found on 29 islands, and considered the Lesser Antilles' only avian radiation. The decision underscores the region's rich biodiversity and the importance of recognizing distinct evolutionary lineages. Learn more about this split [here](#).

Early suspicions that these island-taxa were not interbreeding stemmed from notable and consistent differences in size and plumage between the birds on the two islands. St. Lucian birds are larger in nearly every measurement, with a more pronounced size difference between males and females. While both populations share the characteristic "white breast" of their former namesake, the St. Lucian birds have a richer, darker brown plumage and lack the fine scalloping on the head feathers that is distinct in the Martinique birds. These plumage and morphological differences hinted at a deeper genetic divide that recent studies have now confirmed.



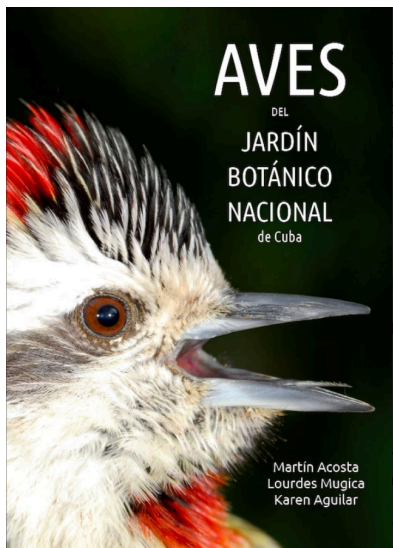
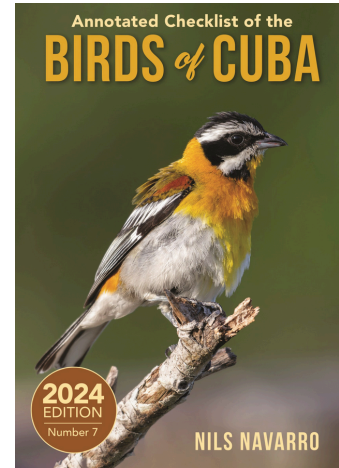
This split brings both opportunities and challenges. On the one hand, it allows us to tailor management efforts more precisely to the unique needs of each species. On the other hand, recognizing these birds as distinct taxa also means admitting that each one is more endangered than we previously thought. Recent estimates suggest that the population of the St. Lucia Thrasher is around 1,200 individuals, while the Martinique Thrasher population is estimated at just 300 individuals. These numbers highlight the precarious situation of both species. Ongoing

research and conservation efforts on both islands, focused on the effects of non-native mammalian predators, are helping to ensure the persistence of these newly recognized taxa, with continued collaboration and monitoring being key to their long-term survival.

Contact: Jen Mortensen, Journal of Caribbean Ornithology, (jen.mortensen@birdscaribbean.org)
Photo: St. Lucia Thrasher, *Ramphocinclus sanctaeluciae* (Hank Tseng and Adams-Toussaint)

News from Cuba

Earlier this year Nils Navarro published the annual Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Cuba (number 7), with six new records added. Three of these are new Cuban endemic species the Cuban Nightjar (split from Greater Antillean Nightjar to Cuban Nightjar and Hispaniolan Nightjar), Cuban Palm-Crow (from Palm Crow to Hispaniolan Palm-Crow and Cuban Palm-Crow) and the Cuban Bullfinch (from Cuban Bullfinch to the Grand Cayman and Cuban Bullfinch). Read more about the checklist [here](#), download [here](#) or buy a printed version on Amazon.



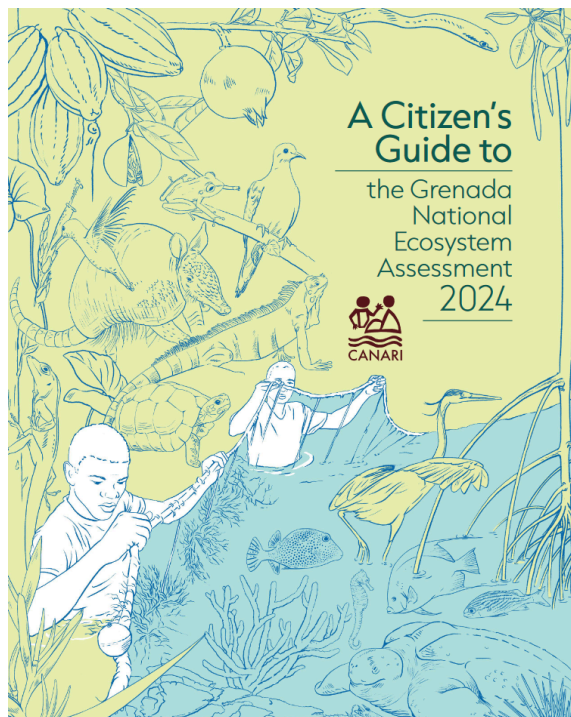
Another important recent Cuban publication is new field guide 'Aves del Jardín Botánico Nacional de Cuba' (Birds of the National Botanical Garden of Cuba) by Martin Acosta, Lourdes Mugica, and Karen Aguilar and funded by BirdsCaribbean's Betty Petersen Conservation Fund. The 500-hectare garden in Havana is home to many Cuban endemic species. This book provides a comprehensive photographic guide to the birds found there, as well as chapters on relationships between plants and birds and how to birdwatch. Read an interview with the authors [here](#).

BirdsCaribbean has funded several recent projects on Cuban endemics, including Claudia Mantilla, from the Center for Environmental Studies and Services of Villa Clara, who was awarded a David S. Lee grant to study the distribution of the Oriente Warbler, found only in central-eastern Cuba. Daniela Ventura from the University of Havana was awarded a David S. Lee grant to conduct bird banding to determine survival and phenology of the bird community in the national Botanical Garden, as part of BirdsCaribbean's Caribbean Bird Banding Network. Yaro Rodríguez from the Cuba Birders Club was granted a Betty Petersen Conservation Fund award to promote conservation of endemics through citizen science initiatives, including training communities to use eBird. Inés Fernández from Flora and Fauna Enterprise is implementing an Artificial Nest Program for the Cuban Parakeet and Cuban Parrot in Pico Cristal National Park that includes an education and awareness campaign, funded by a Betty Petersen Conservation Fund award. Read more about BirdsCaribbean funded research [here](#) and [here](#).

Images: Covers of the Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Cuba and 'Aves del Jardín Botánico Nacional de Cuba

Grenada National Ecosystem Assessment. Several BirdsCaribbean members, including Howard Nelson, Ellie Devenish-Nelson, Bonnie Rusk, Jody Daniel, Wayne Smart, Juliana Coffey, and Zoya Buckmire were authors of the recently completed [Grenada's National Ecosystem Assessment](#) (NEA). National Ecosystem Assessments (NEAs) inform the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation policy and management by assessing the benefits that nature provides to people. In 2023, Grenada was among the first Small Island Developing States to complete a NEA. Earlier this year in 2024, the [Summary for Policy Makers](#) was also published, as was a [Citizen's Guide to the Grenada NEA](#), which was the first such document for any national NEA.

The Grenada NEA also took a uniquely participatory approach to engage stakeholders and draw on local knowledge. Grenada's NEA provides evidence for the value of birds for ecosystem services and local livelihoods, including that of endemic birds to local communities. It has created an opportunity to strengthen relationships with local stakeholders, communities, and decision-makers that can lead to improved conservation for endemic and threatened species, their habitats and the communities that value them. This is especially pertinent given the current development pressures facing Grenadian ecosystems. For more about these developments, head over to the [Grenada Land Actors](#).



Reference: Agard, J., St. Louis, A., and Boodram, N. (eds.) (2023) Grenada National Ecosystem Assessment. St. Georges, Grenada: Government of Grenada; Barataria, Trinidad and Tobago: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute.

https://iki-cac.org/sites/default/files/content/documents/canari-nea-report-2023_final.pdf

Contact: Natalie Boodram, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (natalie@canari.org)

Image: Cover of the Citizen's Guide to the Grenada National Ecosystem Assessment

Elsewhere in the region [↑](#)

- *BirdsCaribbean*, the St. Vincent Department of Forestry, and Mike Akresh from Antioch University have received funding from a larger UNDP Crisis Response and Recovery Programme to monitor the Whistling Warbler (*Catharopeza bishopi*) and St. Vincent Parrot (*Amazona guildingii*) following the volcanic eruption on **St. Vincent** in 2021, which devastated substantial amounts of the native forest. Read more about the background to this project [here](#).
- *Justin Saunders from BirdLife Jamaica*, was a recipient of the BirdsCaribbean David S. Lee Fund to raise awareness of the Endangered Jamaican Blackbird (*Nesopsar nigerrimus*). He is working in partnership with the Jamaica Conservation Development Trust, Jamaica Environment Trust, and the National Environment Planning Agency to develop educational signs and a virtual tour of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park in **Jamaica** to promote the conservation of this species. Read more about Birdlife Jamaica's work [here](#).
- *Anderson Jean from [Action pour la Sauvegarde de l'Ecologie en Haïti \(ACSEH\)](#)*, received a BirdsCaribbean Betty Peterson Conservation Fund grant to conduct wider surveys following the re-discovery of the Critically Endangered Ridgway's Hawk (*Buteo ridgwayi*) in **Haiti** in 2019. He will also produce an outreach and educational campaign for local communities to increase awareness of the species and the threats it faces.
- *Qwahn Kent from Princeton University*, is investigating the social and spatial organization of the Palmchat (*Dulus dominicus*), thanks to a BirdsCaribbean David S. Lee grant. He is using social network analysis to explore their nesting behaviour. Qwahn presented his research at Hispaniola Day at this year's BirdsCaribbean conference, where he demonstrated how his models can predict nest locations. Palmchats are a monotypic genera endemic to the **Dominican Republic** and their nests provide nesting sites for Ridgway's hawks, and they are important seed dispersers. Read more of Qwahn's past research on Palmchats [here](#).
- *Michael Ocasio, a member of the Omland Lab at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County*, is studying the Puerto Rican Oriole (*Icterus portoricensis*) to determine why they have been experiencing low reproductive success. He is monitoring birds across **Puerto Rico** to determine their survival and reproductive success, which will contribute to the Puerto Rico State Wildlife Action Plan. Read more about the Omland lab's work in Puerto Rico [here](#).
- *SOH Conservación* is leading a Pino Criollo (*Pinus occidentalis*) campaign to protect pine forests in the **Dominican Republic**, raising awareness that 54% of this pine forest have been lost using an innovative social media strategy and car fresheners for vehicles in the shape of the 46% remaining of a pine tree that can hang from a rear-view mirror. This habitat is important for many of

Hispaniola's endemic birds, including the Hispaniolan Crossbill (*Loxia megaplaga*), which is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Learn more [here](#).

- Recent research on two endemic threatened species from **The Bahamas** includes research by [Garner et al. \(2024\)](#) describing habitat variables of the last remaining Bahama Nuthatches (*Sitta insularis*) prior to their disappearance following Hurricanes Matthew and Dorian, while [Pereira et al. \(2024\)](#) described the habitat preferences of Bahama Warbler (*Setophaga flavescens*) on Grand Bahama (prior to Hurricane Dorian in 2019, which decimated the warbler population on this island) as climax pine forest maintained under a standard fire regime, with preference for taller thatch palms.

Did we miss your endemics and threatened species project? We want to hear about it!

Please send updates by emailing us on the groups.io listserv or contacting Ellie or Howard directly.

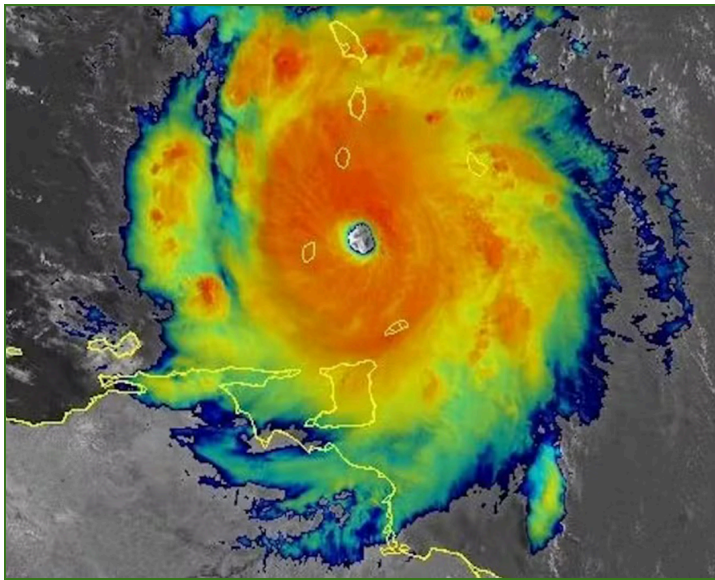


Photo: Palmchat, *Dulus dominicus*, Dominican Republic (Howard Nelson)

Spotlight on Hurricanes [↑](#)

Record-breaking climate-induced hurricane activity

This year the Caribbean again experienced the devastating effects of major hurricanes. In June 2024, Hurricane Beryl became the earliest forming Category 5 hurricane on record and the furthest east a hurricane has ever formed in June. It hit Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines on July 1st as a Category 4 hurricane, decimating the islands of Carriacou, Petite Martinique, Union Island, Mayreau, and Canouan. The human impact was immense, with families losing everything – their homes, businesses and schools. Read about the impact on Union Island [here](#).



More hurricanes in the region followed, with Tropical Storm Ernesto causing flooding in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands before hitting Bermuda as a Category 2 hurricane. Hurricanes Helene and Milton caused adverse conditions and flooding in the Cayman Islands, Cuba, and The Bahamas. Hurricane Rafael, the strongest major hurricane on record to form in November, struck eastern Cuba as a Category 3, which was still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Oscar, which had hit Cuba two weeks earlier.

As we learnt during Terry Root's convincing keynote at the BirdsCaribbean conference in the Dominican Republic, the Caribbean is facing unprecedented impacts of climate change. There is indisputable evidence that climate change is affecting the intensity and frequency of hurricanes, including leading to increasing extreme rainfall rates (e.g., see [Reed et al. 2022](#) and [Trenberth et al. 2018](#)). While Caribbean human and ecological systems are resilient to hurricanes, the increasing intensity and potential for increasing return rates, meaning islands are hit more frequently, means these systems have less time to recover. Island endemic species are particularly vulnerable to hurricanes, especially when the entire population of a species is restricted to one island, and affected by other anthropogenic threats such as habitat destruction.

There is a substantial body of literature documenting the impacts of hurricanes on birds and their habitats. [Jim Wiley and Joe Wunderle's 1993 paper](#) on the effects of hurricanes on Caribbean birds is a

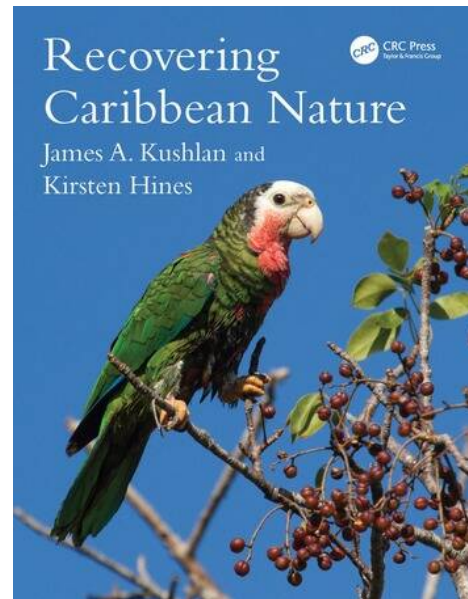
good starting point, as well as the research that has cited them since. The way birds respond to hurricanes is complex. Some species are particularly vulnerable to hurricane impacts, such as nectivores, frugivores, and seedeaters, due to the loss of the plant resources they rely upon. High elevation populations can take longer to recover because plant species take longer to grow in cooler, cloudy conditions. Short-term population declines following hurricanes have been widely documented, as have elevational or habitat shifts. Many species are resilient and can rebound from even substantial losses, such as the [Barbuda Warbler \(*Setophaga subita*\) that was thought to be extinct](#) after Hurricane Irma in 2017, while others are not so lucky, for example, Hurricane Dorian is thought to have ultimately caused the extinction of the Bahama Nuthatch in 2019 (see [Garner et al. 2024](#)). While our understanding of hurricane impacts on birds is growing, predicting how birds will respond to the climate-induced changes in hurricane intensity and frequency remains uncertain.



Why is it hard to understand and predict climate impacts? Predicting the impacts of climate change on island species and habitats is challenging. Aside from requiring long-term data on bird species distributions and abundance, analyses that are used to make predictions tend to rely on globally generated, future climate models. However, these climate models are often too coarse to capture the complexity of island topography that can drive large changes in precipitation and temperature over very small distances and elevations. Even the highest resolution climate models (e.g., with grids of 1km²) can mean islands with very small landmass are covered by a relatively small number of grids, including data that is incorrectly classed as ocean. Further, the meteorological data used in these global climate models is often very sparse on Caribbean islands. The number of weather stations is low in many islands, with maintenance challenges leading to data gaps, and stations typically located in populated areas or in lowland areas near the coast. These issues with meteorological data mean

global climate predictions lack accuracy, particularly for high elevations or remote areas, limiting our ability to relate current weather events to changes in species distributions and abundance.

What can you do? Immediately after a hurricane, get involved with recovery efforts to provide food for vulnerable birds, such as BirdsCaribbean emergency appeals. Take actions to reduce the impact of other threats e.g., habitat degradation and pollution, so that birds don't have to respond to so many interacting threats. Get involved with habitat restoration, including of private gardens, such as using the practical guidance in the book [Recovering Caribbean Nature](#), by James A. Kushlan and Kirsten Hines, which was launched at the BirdsCaribbean conference this year. Researchers can look to incorporate assessing the synergies of climate change with other threats into their projects, get involved in participating or funding long-term monitoring (including weather stations!), and if you're sitting on a long-term dataset, explore ways to make it available. These are just a few suggestions – there are many ways to have an impact and every individual contribution counts.



If you have a **long-term dataset that you want to publish** as a data paper, with a fully citable DOI, contact Stefan Gleissberg (stefan.gleissberg@birdscaribbean.org) at the Journal of Caribbean Ornithology to discuss your options.

If you want to **get involved in long-term bird monitoring**, contact Landbird Monitoring Program Manager, Maya Wilson (maya.wilson@birdscaribbean.org) or Caribbean Bird Banding Network Coordinator, Holly Garrod (holly.garrod@birdscaribbean.org).

Images: Hurricane Beryl over the Lesser Antilles (NOAA.gov); Bahama Nuthatch, *Sitta insularis* (Bruce Purdy); Cover of *Recovering Caribbean Nature*, by James A. Kushlan and Kirsten Hines; Photo:

Recent Endemic and Threatened Species Publications [↑](#)

Below is a list of selected recent publications on Caribbean endemic and threatened species. Most publications are free to access but, if that is not the case, we encourage asking the authors directly for a copy: authors are usually very keen to share their research.

Journal articles

[🔗 Observations of ground nesting, diet, and distribution of Stygian Owl \(*Asio stygius siguapa*\) on Isla de la Juventud, Cuba.](#) Amaro-Valdés, S. (2024) *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*, 37, 18-26. doi.org/10.55431/jco.2024.37.18-26

[Diets of small-island tropical birds suggest generalist/opportunistic foraging niches and the conservation value of diverse agroecosystems.](#) De Ruyck, C. C., & Koper, N. (2024). *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, 136(2), 179-195. doi.org/10.1676/23-00058

[🔗 Seasonal movements of small-island birds along habitat and elevation gradients highlights the conservation value of small-scale agroforests.](#) De Ruyck, C. C., & Koper, N. (2024). *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*, 375, 109195. doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2024.109195

[🔗 Aves en el área urbana del municipio Hato Mayor del Rey, República Dominicana.](#) de la Rosa, J. G., & Bobadilla-Peñaló, E. M. (2023). *Poeyana*, 514, 2-11.

[🔗 Effects of deforestation on foraging behavior, ectoparasites, and adult survival in the vulnerable La Selle Thrush, *Turdus swalesi*, in Haiti.](#) Exantus, J.-M., Vidal, A. & Cézilly, F. (2023). *Sustainability* 15: 16035. doi.org/10.3390/su152216035

[🔗 Composition of avian assemblage in a protected forested area in Haiti: Evidence for recent decline of both forest-dependent and insectivore species.](#) Exantus, J. M., & Cézilly, F. (2023). *Global Ecology and Conservation*, 46, e02607. doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2023.e02607

[🔗 Estimation of adult sex ratio and size-related sexual dimorphism based on molecular sex determination in the vulnerable La Selle thrush, *Turdus swalesi*.](#) Exantus, J.-M., Bezault, E., Cambrone, C. & Cézilly, F. (2024). *Animals* 14: 842.

[🔗 Gone with the wind: the proximate and ultimate causes of the decline and extinction of the Bahama Nuthatch *Sitta insularis*.](#) Gardner, M. A., Pereira, D. J., Geary, M., Collar, N. J., & Bell, D. J. (2024). *Bird Conservation International*, 34, e28, 1–7. doi.org/10.1017/S0959270924000236

- [!\[\]\(1207edb9a08751d3d55970560645ed23_img.jpg\) Apparent range expansion or recolonization of Puerto Rican Nightjars \(*Guabairo; Antrostomus noctitherus*\) on the Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge.](#) Grieves, L. A., Mann, Q. M., Morel, M. J., & Quinn, J. S. (2024). *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*, 37, 12-17.
- [!\[\]\(d7a34a706cfa4ef37c62a369101e1b36_img.jpg\) Rediscovery of the critically endangered Ridgway's Hawk \(*Buteo ridgwayi*\) in Haiti.](#) Jean, A., Fildor, M., Curti, M., Fernandez, E., Hayes, C. D., & Hayes, T. I. (2023). *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*, 36, 30-35. doi.org/10.55431/jco.2023.36.30-35
- [!\[\]\(7325769475e8f4bf67f57a0cbebc8ab9_img.jpg\) Factors affecting spatial occupancy and local abundance of the Forest Thrush, *Turdus lherminieri*, in Guadeloupe forests.](#) Jean-Pierre, A., Loranger-Merciris, G., Saint-Louis, L. J., & Cézilly, F. (2023). *European Journal of Wildlife Research*, 69(4), 76. link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10344-023-01698-8
- [!\[\]\(1a468f12cdfc63dc07896d0781cf55ec_img.jpg\) Comments on the taxonomic status and disappearance of *Mimocichla rubripes eremita* Ridgway, 1905, with a substitute name, and notes on the type material of *M. coryi* Sharpe, 1902.](#) Kirwan, G. M., & Collar, N. J. (2023). *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, 143(3), 362-369. 10.25226/bboc.v143i3.2023.a12
- [!\[\]\(a9a0baec8ceb7d7c04180806eca8d32a_img.jpg\) An assessment of priority issues and capacity for conservation action of Caribbean endemic and threatened bird species.](#) Nelson, H. P., Ewert, D. N., Hulme, M., Lebbin, D. J., Mortensen, J., Robertson, H., Rusk, B., Sorenson, L., Haynes-Sutton, A. M., Tossas, A. Upgren, A., Wallace, G. E., Wilson, M. & Devenish-Nelson, E. S. (2024). *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*, 37, 41-50. doi.org/10.55431/jco.2024.37.41-50
- [!\[\]\(c1ab807d6aebb565b3082513037b5622_img.jpg\) Inventario actualizado de la ornitofauna del Refugio de Fauna Laguna de Guanaroca - Punta Gavilan, Cienfuegos, Cuba.](#) Mantilla-Leiva, C. B., Ramos-Martínez, E., & Figueroa-Sánchez, J. C. (2023). *Revista Investigaciones Marinas*, 43, 36-52. doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10529650
- [Breakeven points in nest management of an endangered island endemic raptor.](#) McClure, C. J., Weaver, H. C., Murillo, M., Gallardo, J., & Thorstrom, R. (2023). *Journal of Raptor Research*, 57(1), 44-51. doi.org/10.3356/JRR-22-39
- [Changes in parrot diversity after human arrival to the Caribbean.](#) Oswald, J. A., Smith, B. T., Allen, J. M., Guralnick, R. P., Steadman, D. W., & LeFebvre, M. J. (2023). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(41), e2301128120. doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2301128120

- [🔗 Primer registro de nidificación del Gavilancito Cubano \(*Accipiter striatus fringilloides*\) y nuevos datos sobre su biología reproductiva y distribución.](#) Pacheco, N. N., Lara, R. J., Méndez, W. N., Montero, J. C. L., Lobaina, N. C., & Peraza, C. H. (2023). *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*, 36, 135-146. doi.org/10.55431/jco.2023.36.135-146
- [🔗 Distribution and habitat requirements of the Bahama Warbler *Setophaga flavescens* on Grand Bahama in 2018.](#) Pereira, D. J., Gardner, M. A., Geary, M., Bell, D. J., & Collar, N. J. (2023). *Bird Conservation International*, 33, e46, 1-8. doi.org/10.1017/S095927092200048X
- [🔗 Non-invasive sampling reveals low mitochondrial genetic diversity for an island endemic species: The critically endangered Grenada Dove *Leptotila wellsii*.](#) Peters, C., Geary, M., Hosie, C., Nelson, H., Rusk, B., & Muir, A. (2023). *Ecology and Evolution*, 13(11), e10767. doi.org/10.1002/ece3.10767
- [🔗 An annotated bibliography of scientific literature, records, and management plans pertaining to the recovery and conservation of the Kirtland's warbler \(*Setophaga kirtlandii*\).](#) Petrucha, M. E., Donner, D. M., & Bocetti, C. I. (2023). Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-214. Madison, WI: US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. doi.org/10.2737/NRS-GTR-214
- [An island 'endemic' born out of hybridization between introduced lineages.](#) Salter, J. F., Brumfield, R. T., & Faircloth, B. C. (2024). *Molecular Ecology*, 33(5), e16990. doi.org/10.1111/mec.16990
- [🔗 Hurricane-induced pollinator shifts in a tightly coadapted plant-hummingbird mutualism.](#) Schröder, T. S., Gonçalves, F., Vollstädt, M. G., Zhang, T., Jensen, R. D., Tarazona-Tubens, F. L., ... & Dalsgaard, B. (2024). *The New phytologist*, 244(1), 16-20. doi.org/10.1111/nph.19938
- [🔗 The Puerto Rican Tody \(*Todus mexicanus*\): what's in a name?](#) Sherry, T. W., Díaz, J. G., Torres, F. C., Pérez-Rivera, R. A., Proctor, J., Raffaele, H., & Tossas, A. (2024). *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*, 37, 27-34. doi.org/10.55431/jco.2024.37.27-34
- [🔗 Diversidad de aves en el campus de la Universidad Isa, Santiago de los Caballeros, República Dominicana](#) Vargas-Estevez, E. M., Collado-Abreu, G. A., & Bobadilla-Penalo, E. M. 2024 *Revista Chilena de Ornitología* 30 (1) , 25-40.
- [🔗 Multi-resolution habitat models of the Puerto Rican Nightjar *Antrostromus noctitherus*.](#) Vilella, F. J., & González, R. (2023). *Bird Conservation International*, 33, e74. doi.org/10.1017/S0959270923000278
- [🔗 Avian use of anthropogenic and natural habitats in a Small Island Developing State.](#) Williams, R. J., Warrington, M. H., & Koper, N. (2023). *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*, 36, 84-106. doi.org/10.55431/jco.2023.36.84-106

[🔗 Factors influencing home range size and overlap in nonbreeding Kirtland's Warblers on Eleuthera, The Bahamas.](#) Wunderle Jr, J. M., Akresh, M. E., Currie, D., Mercado, J. E., Helmer, E. H., & Ewert, D. N. (2024). *Avian Conservation and Ecology*, 19(2). doi.org/10.5751/ACE-02709-190209

[🔗 Avian use of avocado farms and intact forest in the northern Sierra de Bahoruco, Dominican Republic.](#) Young, A., Aborn, D., Latta, S. C., & Boyd, J. N. (2023). *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology*, 36, 147-161. doi.org/10.55431/jco.2023.36.147-161

Books and other resources

[Aves del Jardín Botánico Nacional de Cuba, Segunda Edición](#) [Birds of the National Botanical Gardens of Cuba, Second Edition]. Martín Acosta, Lourdes Mugica, and Martín Acosta, Lourdes Mugica, and Karen Aguilar. (2023). Universidad de La Habana, Cuba. ISBN 978-959-300-259-2.

[Recovering Caribbean Nature.](#) Kushlan, J. A., & Hines, K. (2024). CRC Press. ISBN 9781032489834.

[Building Resilience to Climate Change in Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\) in the Caribbean.](#) Metcalfe, C. D., & Bennett, E. R. (Eds.). (2023). Springer Nature. doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-37376-3

[Biodiversity in the Caribbean from 1950 to the Present.](#) Mohammed, R. S., & Fanovich, L. *In*: Biodiversity - Handbook of the Anthropocene in Latin America II. (Eds. Kaltmeier, O. Acker, A. Ávila Romero, L. E. and Horta Duarte, R.) (2024). doi.org/10.14361/9783839470121-021

[Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Cuba, 2024.](#) Navarro, N. (2024). Ediciones Nuevos Mundos (7).

[The Caribbean Realm.](#) Richardson, M. *In* Threatened and Recently Extinct Vertebrates of the World: A Biogeographic Approach (2023). Cambridge University Press. doi.org/10.1017/9781108863308.012

Journal of Caribbean Ornithology: Your venue to publish Caribbean endemic and threatened species research [↑](#)

Stefan Gleissberg, Managing Editor, presents the Journal of Caribbean Ornithology, a fully open-access resource to publish and access scientific articles and reports.

The Journal of Caribbean Ornithology (JCO) is an established resource for peer-reviewed ornithological and conservation work from the Caribbean. JCO grew out of “El Pitirre”, a newsletter started in 1988 by the late Jim Wiley. The journal has since evolved into a full-fledged scientific journal, now in its 37th year of continuous publication.

JCO is fully open-access, and articles receive a DOI (Digital Object Identifier), making it easy to find, reference, and download the PDFs of articles. Manuscripts are accepted in English, Spanish, and French, and all articles contain professionally translated abstracts. JCO’s publication fees remain low (and can be waived where needed) thanks to continued sponsoring of our operations by BirdsCaribbean and other donors.

JCO and its publisher, the not-for-profit BirdsCaribbean society, are enthusiastic about building capacity in the Caribbean. We particularly invite early-career researchers and conservationists, who may not have access to the resources of an academic department at a university, to consider publishing their results with us. JCO's approach is to pair rigorous external peer-review by experts in the field with comprehensive assistance in the development of manuscripts. From submission to publication, authors receive personalized guidance throughout peer review, revision, copyediting, and production stages, ensuring that your work will attain the highest-possible quality when published!

JCO encourages early-career investigators and conservationists to discuss their project with us early on. We can connect you to experts that can advise you on study design. When your project is well underway, we can discuss with you a suitable scope of a manuscript, how to structure it, how to deal with data and figures, etc.

JCO publishes not only full research articles, but also short observational research notes, as well as other formats (reviews, perspectives & opinions, book reviews, etc.). Conservation reports are a great way to portray multi-year local projects and initiatives. A good way to start envisioning your next publication with JCO is to browse the comprehensive archive. Importantly, don't allow your valuable data to be forgotten on a hard drive, or become inaccessible on an organization’s website.

Contact: Stefan Gleissberg (stefan.gleissberg@birdscaribbean.org)

Save the date - Upcoming Conferences [↑]

- The [Caribbaea Initiative](#) will be holding their conference on 10–13 June 2025 in Martinique. **The ETSWG is planning to hold an in-person meeting or training workshop in Martinique before or after this conference.** Join the groups.io listserv to get updates on this event.
- The [British Ornithological Union \(BOU\)](#) is holding their hybrid annual conference on ‘Frontiers in Ornithology’ on 1–3 April 2025, with the in-person event in Nottingham, UK. Early-Bird rates are available until 3 February 2025. #BOU2025
- The 143rd annual meeting of the [American Ornithological Society \(AOS\)](#) will be held on 11–15 August 2025, in St. Louis, Missouri, USA.

In Memoriam [↑]

This year the Caribbean bird community mourned three legends of the conservation world, Orlando Garrido, Simón Guerrero, and Virginia Sanz D’Angelo, who each made monumental contributions to the study and conservation of Caribbean endemic and threatened species.

Read the obituary of [Simón Guerrero by the Caribbaea Initiative](#) and the “in memoriams” in the Journal of Caribbean Ornithology for [Orlando Garrido](#) and [Virginia Sanz D’Angelo](#). An in memoriam will also be published for Simón Guerrero in the Journal of Caribbean Ornithology. Both Simon and Orlando were [honoured posthumously](#) at the BirdsCaribbean conference in the Dominican Republic this year.



Hispaniolan Parakeets by the Winner of the BirdsCaribbean 2024 Photo Contest (Rondell Smith)

For more amazing photos of Caribbean endemic birds see more of the winning entries [here](#).