

WESTERN HEMISPHERE MIGRATORY SPECIES
INITIATIVE PROJECT

*Long-term Bird Monitoring in the Caribbean –
Why, What, Where and How?*
FINAL PROJECT REPORT



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BACKGROUND

The contract for the project was signed on 11 December 2008 and the first payment was received on 16 January 2009. In anticipation of this, the Society for Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) began to implement the project according to the agreed work plan in December 2008. The First Report (Inception Report) was submitted on the 16 December 2008 and the Second Report (First Implementation Report) was completed and submitted on 28 January 2009. The Third Report (Second Implementation Report) was completed and submitted on the 28 February 2009. This document constitutes the Final Report.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

WORKPLAN AND SUMMARY OF OUTPUTS

The main outputs of the project included:

- Bird Monitoring Training Workshop (19-23 March 2009)
- Caribbean Birdwatch manual – How to design and implement a bird monitoring programme for the Caribbean. This 160 pp manual including background information to monitoring and protocols specifically designed for use in the Caribbean has been developed and will be sent separately.
- Caribbean Regional Bird Monitoring Database (provided separately) developed to support design of Capacity Building Strategy, and development of next steps
- Capacity Building Strategy
- Conservation Monitoring Coalition established and promoting monitoring in the region.

Table 1 summarises the activities, deliverables and indicators of success identified in the project workplan.

Table 1: Activities, deliverables and indicators of success

ACTIVITY	DELIVERABLES	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	STATUS 20 March 09
Development of Capacity Building Strategy	Virtual conservation coalition established to work on monitoring issues, including CLO, IITF, USFS,	At least 4 major organizations actively participating in project development and implementation	Five major organizations who supported the workshop are among the institutions committed to continuing this initiative. They include RSPB, Klamath Bird Observatory, USFWS and Wetlands International and The National Aviary.



ACTIVITY	DELIVERABLES	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	STATUS 20 March 09
	TNC, BLI, NA and SCSCB and many other organizations		
	Capacity Building Strategy developed	Strategy developed circulated for review and finalized	First draft complete. This process will continue beyond the end of the project.
Development of materials	Protocols agreed and manual produced	Manual produced and printed; DVD produced with manual, workshop presentations, protocol data sheets, etc.	First draft of manual is complete and ready for printing and circulation. CD prepared and provided to all workshop participant, including workshop presentations, protocol data sheets. Caribbean Birdwatch ConserveOnline Workspace set up as location for Monitoring Working Group members to access materials as they are updated, host discussions etc.
Monitoring Training Workshop	Workshop held	-Total no of participants -Representation of special interest groups (decision-makers, protected area managers, scientists, volunteers) -Variety of modules - Responses on evaluation sheets	26 participants, including directors of protected areas and national organizations, conservation officers from government agencies and NGOs, protected area wardens and volunteers. Modules covered all steps in the monitoring process from design to presentation of results as well as presenting SCSCB protocols for monitoring major groups of common birds in the Caribbean. Evaluation sheets and report completed. Responses were very positive.
		Workshop report produced	Complete.
Additional in depth training for selected participants	Identify internships for persons with interest, talent and opportunity e.g. with US banding stations on-going regional projects	Number of opportunities identified Number of persons accepted for further training	Opportunities identified with Bird Observatories and other monitoring programmes. To little time has elapsed since the workshop for this deliverable. On-going beyond end of project.
Project development for funding	Develop project for funding e.g. Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act	March 2009	Project ideas for NMBCA and Ramsar have been identified and are being developed. Efforts underway to find other funding sources.

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL BIRD MONITORING DATABASE

A regional database of projects, protocols, reports and resource persons involved in monitoring birds in the Caribbean was compiled with the assistance of an intern from Boston University. The database was



used in developing the workshop materials and identifying next steps. The Excel worksheet is provided separately.

CONSERVATION MONITORING COALITION AND PROJECT SPONSORSHIP

Coalition partners including US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Division of International Conservation, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Optics for the Tropics, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Bahamas National Trust (BNT), Klamath Bird Observatory, National Aviary, Wetlands International (WI), US Forest Service, BirdLife International (BLI), private donors and other organizations provided massive support, including donations of materials, financial support for additional participants, staff time for attending the workshop and preparing materials and the use of facilities and support staff. At the workshop the participants identified the need for long-term mentoring support and the facilitators agreed to provide it. It is expected that several other regional experts would be willing to provide such support and the arrangements for a Caribbean monitoring mentoring partnership will be worked out by the SCSCB Monitoring Working Group.

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL BIRD MONITORING CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGY

The capacity building strategy was developed to support the workshop and identification of the next steps.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The workshop took place 19-23 February in Nassau, Bahamas and was attended by 26 people from across the region. It was very well received (see report and powerpoint presentation). The edited presentations have been made available for download on Caribbean Birdwatch, a workspace set up on ConserveOnline to enable Monitoring Working Group members to access documents from the workshop so that they can update their skills and train others.

CARIBBEAN BIRDWATCH MANUAL – HOW TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A BIRD MONITORING PROGRAMME IN THE CARIBBEAN

The first draft of the manual has been prepared. It includes a simple introduction to monitoring birds and SCSCB's standard protocols for the major groups of birds. This is expected to be a living document, which will be reviewed and updated as the protocols are tested and developed. This will form the basis for a coordinated regional monitoring programme of bird monitoring, featuring shared minimum standards and arrangements for information storage and sharing across the region. The first step will be the implementation of the Caribbean Waterbird Census to complement the Neotropical Waterbird Census in partnership with Wetlands International. Planning for this activity is already underway.



STRATEGY FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

SCSCB continued to seek funding and support for monitoring to be implemented in the long-term, which has long been identified as a priority for the SCSCB's Monitoring Working Group. In the course of the meeting the possibilities for joint proposals for funding from WHMSI (no information on dates as yet), Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (due November 2009) and Ramsar (July 2009) were discussed. Initial enquiries to Ramsar have indicated that a regional project to establish the Caribbean Waterbird Census might be well received. Meanwhile several participants expressed their intention to train their colleagues using the materials supplied by the project on their return. Others have already requested and received mentoring assistance.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR SELECTED PARTICIPANTS:

Information about the Partners in Flight Internships which was provided by Carol Beidelman of US National Park Service, was circulated through the SCSCB listserve (BirdsCaribbean) and to all the applicants to the workshop, as well as other selected individuals. Discussions are underway for the development of further opportunities for participants and a follow up workshop that will be held in Antigua in July 2009, at the next SCSCB's meeting.

APPENDIX 1: OTHER DOCUMENTS SENT SEPARATELY

The following documents are being sent separately:

- Workshop report (including word document, powerpoint presentation and 1000 word summary)
- Financial report
- Caribbean regional bird monitoring database
- Manual - Caribbean Birdwatch – How to design and implement a bird monitoring programme for the Caribbean
- Edited Powerpoint presentations – available for download from Caribbean Birdwatch (ConserveOnline workspace)
- Caribbean Regional Bird Monitoring Capacity Building Strategy
- Summary workshop report
- Press release.

