

NATURE

FOCUS ON...

After the storms

How BirdsCaribbean helped the region's birds after last year's hurricanes

The 2017 hurricane season was a painful one for the Caribbean. Everyday life was turned upside down on more than a dozen islands – for people and for birds. Stories poured in of pigeons standing in the road, dazed and exposed, and of hummingbirds trying to feed on bright-coloured trash because no flowers survived.

BirdsCaribbean sprang into action, calling on US-based bird-feed suppliers, who responded generously. Lizzie Mae Bird Seed donated 10,000lb of seed, and several companies donated or discounted nectar feeders, which were shipped to 18 islands.

BirdsCaribbean started a fundraising campaign on the Mightycause crowdfunding site. "Over 500 generous donors from around the world responded and

we raised about US\$126,000," says Executive Director Lisa Sorenson. "We used some funds to buy and ship the bird feed; other funds are being used to help partners recover from losses and undertake restoration projects."

BirdsCaribbean dealt with endless paperwork to arrange the multi-island shipments. Volunteers in Miami and across the islands worked hard to ensure that shipments reached every island, even at damaged ports.

Once the supplies arrived, local partners and volunteers held giveaway events, and many schools received feeders. New feeders were jammed with hungry birds, and many people fed birds for the first time, delighted to help their feathered friends, even when they themselves had a tarp for a roof and no electricity.

Hurricane Maria decimated once-lush Dominica. Director of Forestry, Wildlife and Parks, Minchinton Burton, thanked BirdsCaribbean: "Your timely and generous support assisted us in being able to respond in a tangible manner to some of the urgent needs of the birds, particularly our two endemic parrot species, whose habitat was severely impacted."



Green Mango Hummingbird

MANUEL TORRES



Zenaïda Dove

TED EUBANKS

HELPING NATURE: THE NUMBERS

After Hurricanes Irma and Maria, BirdsCaribbean shipped...

4,201
nectar feeders

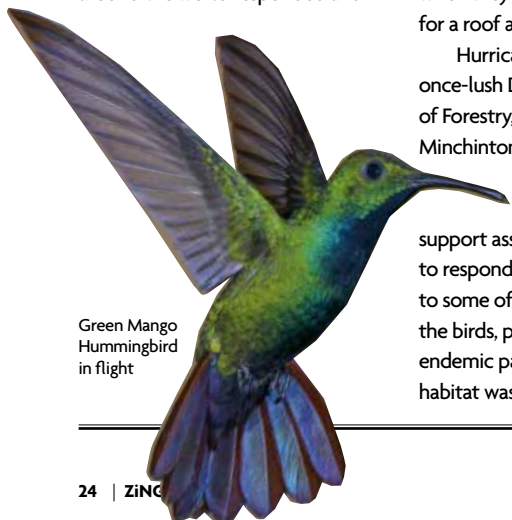
10,000
pounds of bird seed

1,850
bottles of nectar concentrate

100
tube feeders

It's estimated that BirdsCaribbean helped...

60+
species of birds



Green Mango Hummingbird in flight

THANKS TO EMMA LEWIS AND LISA SORENSON (BIRDSCARIBBEAN). VISIT WWW.BIRDSCARIBBEAN.ORG, FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK (SEARCH "CARIBBEAN BIRDS"), TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM (@BIRDSCARIBBEAN). BIRDSCARIBBEAN IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION COMMITTED TO CONSERVING CARIBBEAN BIRDS.