

ENDEMIC IN DANGER



Many of the unique birds in the Caribbean are in danger. Different birds face different problems. Here are a few of these threats:

- Some birds are losing their homes. Many birds need a special type of habitat to make their home, like a forest or a marsh. When people clear these areas to build cities, the birds don't have anywhere to live or raise their families.
- Birds can be hurt by animals that don't belong in the Caribbean. Humans brought many new animals to the Caribbean. Sometimes it was on purpose, but often it was by accident. Many of these animals can hurt birds. Rats can eat bird eggs and mongooses can eat birds. If there are too many goats in one place they can eat all the plants, leaving less habitats for birds.
- People hunt and capture birds. Some birds are hunted for food and others are put in cages to be sold as pets. But wild birds belong in the wild.
- Hurricanes and other natural disasters can kill birds and destroy their homes. Birds have great survival skills, but if a bird is already in danger in other ways, a big storm can be really bad. On a small island there may be nowhere for them to go to get away from a storm. It is important to help birds all the time so they are strong when a storm comes.

You Can Help Birds!

Plant a Tree

You can help birds by planting a tree in your backyard or school. Or you can make a garden with lots of flowers and shrubs that birds like. Trees provide food and shelter for birds. Native trees are the best. Native plants and native birds have adapted together over time to help each other. You can ask your teacher or a local nature group what trees and flowers are best on your island.



Keep Your Island Clean

Litter is bad for animals and wild spaces. Especially plastic, which can stick around for hundreds of years. Birds and other animals can get sick and die if they accidentally eat plastic. You can make a difference. Avoid buying plastic if you can, and never throw trash on the ground. You can even organize a clean-up day to pick up trash around your school or home.

Protect Birds from Pets

Cats and dogs are great pets, but if you let them outside on their own, they can hurt or kill birds. It's not because they are bad, but it is their natural instinct. You can love your pets and protect birds at the same time. Keep your dog on a leash when you are out in nature and keep your cat indoors.

