

# BIRDSCARIBBEAN ENDEMIC & THREATENED SPECIES WORKING GROUP (ETSWG)



## NEWSLETTER

2025



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Cover page photo: St Vincent Parrot (*Amazona guildingii*), St Vincent. Credit: Faraaz Abdool.

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Translations of this newsletter are available in Spanish and French and were initially translated with Deepl. The French and Spanish version on the [ETSWG webpage](#).

We thank the BirdsCaribbean Seabird Working Group for their advice and sharing their newsletter template and Christel Mohammed for help distributing and promoting the newsletter .

## About the Endemics and Threatened Species Working Group <sup>↑</sup>

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  
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## Communications <sup>↑</sup>

### 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.

## Caribbean Endemic Bird Species Taxonomy Update <sup>↑</sup>

The AOS recognized two new endemics to the region in 2025, resulting from the Greater Antillean Elaenia and Red-legged Thrush splits. This brings the new total number of species endemic to the region to 187! The Greater Antillean Elaenia (*Elaenia fallax*) has been split into two Blue Mountain Elaenia (*Elaenia fallax*) and Hispaniolan Elaenia (*Elaenia cherriei*). The Blue Mountain Elaenia is endemic to Jamaica and the Hispaniolan Elaenia is endemic to the island of Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic). The Red-legged Thrush (*Turdus plumbeus*) has been split into the Western Red-legged Thrush (*Turdus plumbeus*) and Eastern Red-legged Thrush (*Turdus ardosiaceus*). The Eastern Red-legged Thrush is endemic to Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic), Puerto Rico, and Dominica, while the Western Red-legged Thrush is endemic to The Bahamas, Cuba, and the Cayman Islands (specifically Cayman Brac).

Learn more about these exciting changes [here](#).



Photo: Blue Mountain Elaenia (*Elaenia fallax*) in St Thomas, Jamaica. Credit: Patrick Maurice.

## BirdsCaribbean 25th International Conference [↑](#)

BirdsCaribbean's 25th International Conference will be held in Trinidad & Tobago, July 23–27, 2026. Our conferences are the most important ornithological networking events in the region. We bring together researchers, practitioners, educators, decision-makers, amateur ornithologist and many more people who are all interested in building a positive future for birds and people in the Caribbean.



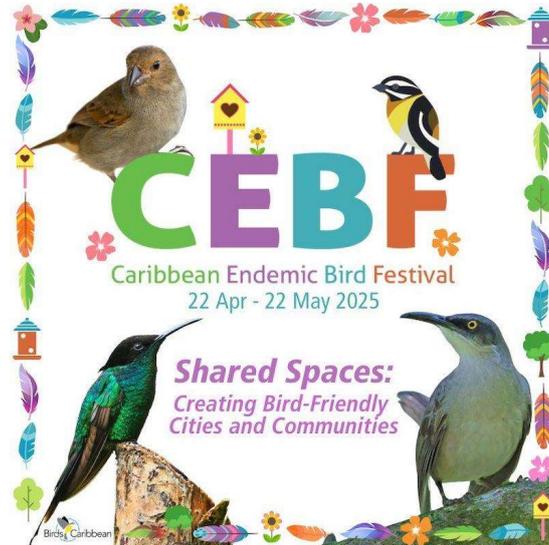
Join us for keynotes from regional and global conservation leaders, workshops to in monitoring, education and more, updates on latest research on ecology, habitat, monitoring, ecotourism, education, policy, and community engagement and networking with local, regional and global professionals.

There will also be opportunities to take part in cultural experiences and to go on field trips to unforgettable birding locations, including the Asa Wright Nature Centre, Caroni Swamp, Nariva Swamp, the Main Ridge Forest Reserve (Tobago).

The ETSWG looks forward to seeing you in Trinidad and Tobago!

## Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival [↑](#)

For the past 23 years BirdsCaribbean has been celebrating the region's iconic birds. The vibrant Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival, which runs from April 22nd (Earth Day) to May 22nd (International Biodiversity Day), is a fantastic initiative aimed at raising awareness and rallying conservation support from local communities for the region's endemic bird species.



Coordinated by the dynamic duo, Eduardo Llegus and Aliya Hosein, the festival brings together Caribbean conservationists, environmental NGOs and 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 to art contests, bird fairs and workshops, there's something for everyone!

Photo: Bird feeder made from plastic bottle and spoons, Environmental Awareness Group, Antigua (Photo by Sherrel Charles).

Under the 2025 theme, "[Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities](#)," communities came together to make their islands more welcoming to birds. From planting native trees and habitat cleanups to workshops on creating bird feeders and advocacy for keeping wild birds where they belong—in the wild, locals reconnected with nature and discovered the power of collective action in preserving their island’s natural heritage. Over 7 000 participants joined in the festivities, making this year’s festival more impactful than ever!



BirdsCaribbean’s virtual CEBF celebration ‘Endemic Bird of the Day’ features stunning artwork from Cuban ornithologist and scientific illustrator Arnaldo Toledo, of Caribbean endemic birds accompanied by natural history information, coloring pages, photos, videos, puzzles, and activities for home and the classroom.

Photo: Birdwatching with park rangers and kids, Margarita Island (Photo by BioZoe).

A heartfelt thank you to all the coordinators, volunteers, and participants for your incredible efforts in raising awareness about Caribbean endemic birds. Let’s continue to celebrate and protect our unique avian treasures!

The CEBF returns next April 2026 and we would love for you to join us in celebrating these incredible birds. If you are interested in hosting your own event or volunteering with the CEBF team, please contact [CEBF@birdscaribbean.org](mailto:CEBF@birdscaribbean.org), [Aliya.Hosein@birdscaribbean.org](mailto:Aliya.Hosein@birdscaribbean.org) and copy [Lisa.Sorenson@birdscaribbean.org](mailto:Lisa.Sorenson@birdscaribbean.org)

## 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 team were busy in 2025, holding a 3-day conservation action planning workshop in St Vincent, a bird banding working in Puerto Rico and a PROALAS data analysis workshop in the Dominican Republic. In 2026, the team will be holding a [Motus tagging training workshop in Puerto Rico](#) and a [Caribbean Bird Banding Training Workshop](#) in Trinidad. Stay tuned for more training opportunities!

Photo: PROALAS Monitoring Data Analysis Training Workshop, Dominican Republic.

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

## 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 by our members.

### Jamaica

In October 2025, Jamaica was hit by the category 5 Hurricane Melissa, with 185mph winds causing widespread devastation to lives, property and nature. Melissa was the most powerful hurricane to ever hit Jamaica. Approximately one third of the island was severely affected. The threat to endemic birds following the destruction of Hurricane Melissa remains largely unknown, although Dr Ann Haynes-Sutton reported that she received many reports of birds dying after in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane. Compared to previous hurricanes to hit Jamaica, where damage tended to be quite patchy, the damage caused by Melissa was much more extensive. The [BirdsCaribbean Hurricane Melissa appeal](#) has received a lot of support, but much more is needed to ensure the recovery of Jamaica's endemic birds and their habitats and the human populations that rely on them for livelihoods and wellbeing.



Photo: Aerial view Black River Jamaica after Hurricane Melissa, October 30 2025. Credit: Matias Delacroix.

## Trinidad

It's been a busy year for a BirdsCaribbean funded project on the Trinidad Piping-guan (*Pipile pipile*), locally known as the Pawi. Bioacoustic surveys led by Dr Mark Hulme at the University of the West Indies, were conducted from January to June and the focus is now on analyzing the data. The surveys covered the island's Northern Range, since the eastern part of these mountains has been the Pawi's stronghold since hunting pressure and habitat degradation caused significant declines and extirpations across the rest of the island. Initial results indicate that natural range expansion may be taking place, with the birds moving westwards in the Northern Range, although densities in the west remain very low. The project team believe this expansion may be in part due to positive impacts of past education and awareness efforts in the north-east of the island.

## St Vincent

In July 2025, BirdsCaribbean was one of many partners, including Re:wild and the St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) Forestry Department, who led a [Conservation Action Planning Workshop for the St. Vincent Amazon \(\*Amazona guildingii\*\) and Whistling Warbler \(\*Catharopeza bishopi\*\)](#). This workshop brought together multiple stakeholders to collaboratively develop action plans to conserve these endemic species, which are in urgent need of conservation attention following habitat loss and illegal



poaching for the pet trade. BirdsCaribbean together with Dr Mike Akresh from Antioch University and colleagues from Florida International University, have also been continuing their work with the SVG Forestry Department on improving their monitoring of warbler and parrot, including audio monitoring for landbirds and developing a database of SVG birds.

Photo: Whistling Warbler, La Soufriere Windward Trail SVG. Credit: Jonathan Slifkin

## Dominican Republic

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) are supporting a number of projects in the Dominican Republic. These including work on expanding the Bosque de las Nubes reserve and promotion of bird friendly coffee to support Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) conservation. Thus far, their projects have restored 215ha with a current NMBCA grant. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) are funding a project run by Island Conservation with SOH to plan invasive species eradication on Isla Alto Velo island, primarily targeting endemic reptiles but which could provide future habitat for the Black-Capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*). In addition, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) has recently received funding for 3-4 more Motus stations in the Dominican Republic, to track birds including Bicknell's Thrush.

## The Bahamas

It's been another busy year for Kirtlands' warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*) conservation and research with the American Bird Conservancy (ABC). The ABC Kirtland's Warbler Community Engagement Fellow (Alvanna Johnson) has been conducting outreach activities with schools and working with students to produce drawings for entries for a Young Artist's calendar. The One Eleuthera foundation completed a nature trail on their property to highlight endemics and is also propagating key Kirtland Warbler habitat species, Black Torch (*Erithalis fruticosa*) and Wild Sage (*Lantana involucrata*). Work to map Kirtland's Warbler habitat continues, with an aim to understand if habitat might be limiting on The Bahamas wintering grounds, including potential climate impacts for the bird and its habitat. For this project, Dr Mike Akresh from Antioch University has been training Bahamian students in habitat mapping. Ongoing challenges with obtaining research permits in The Bahamas, has restricted the research that can be conducted on the birds in the islands, and the team has been nanotagging birds in North America in an effort to better understand causes of mortality throughout the life cycle.



Image: ABC LinkedIn post about Alvanna Johnson, ABC's Kirtland's Warbler Community Engagement Fellow.

Source: [www.linkedin.com/company/american-bird-conservancy](https://www.linkedin.com/company/american-bird-conservancy)

## Grenada

In October 2025, Gaea Conservation Network, supported by ABC, BirdsCaribbean, and Re:wild, held a Conservation Action Plan workshop to bring together a wide group of stakeholders to collaboratively [develop a new Action Plan for the Critically Endangered Grenada Dove \(\*Leptotila wellsi\*\)](#). The Grenada Dove's habitat is under imminent threat from development that is leading to habitat loss and degradation in and around the Mt Hartman National Park and Perseverance Dove Sanctuary. Together with other pressures including invasive species, lack of enforcement and climate change, the Dove is facing increasing risk of extinction. The new action plan has now been drafted and will be submitted to the Government of Grenada for endorsement in early 2026. In other news, look out for a forthcoming update to the Birds of the World account for the Grenada Dove.



Photo: Group photo Grenada Conservation Action Planning workshop. Source: Gaea Conservation Network.

## Black-capped Petrel

In May 2020, a fledgling Black-capped Petrel was successfully rescued and released from a construction site in the Morne Trois Pitons National Park in Dominica. Construction workers found the young petrel on the morning of May 19, 2025 while working at the "Boiling Lake" station of the future cable car. The presence of down feathers on the bird's thighs confirmed that it was a fledgling. More information can be read in this [newspaper article by Mr. Arlington James](#). This is the stronger evidence that the species is persisting and nesting on Dominica since searches for the species began in the region decades ago. This exciting news provides hope that the species may be nesting undiscovered on other Caribbean islands. The annual update on the conservation of the endangered Diablotin Black-capped Petrel may be found [here](#).

The International Black-capped Petrel Working Group created a Database of Nest Monitoring Data for the Black-capped Petrel. The database coalesces all the nest monitoring data collected annually from the 2011-2012 to the 2023-2024 breeding seasons by Grupo Jaragua, Environmental Protection in the Caribbean, and Action pour la sauvegarde de l'écologie en Haïti. Twenty-five nests had more than 10 years of monitoring data, and nine nests had more than 10 years of consecutive monitoring data. The creation of this comprehensive Database of Nest Monitoring Data for the Black-capped Petrel will allow for standardized comparisons between nests, nesting areas, and across years and for future nest monitoring data to be entered as it is collected. The International Black-capped Petrel Conservation Group is also trialling eDNA for detecting Black-Capped Petrel populations. Keep up to date through the [BirdsCaribbean Black-Capped Petrel Working Group](#).

## BIRDCARIBBEAN SEABIRD WORKING GROUP NEWSLETTER

June 2025



Read the [BirdsCaribbean Seabird Working Group 2025 Newsletter](#) for the latest seabird news, including the creation of a Caribbean Roseate Tern Working Group, seabird monitoring in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the creation of a new marine protected area in the Dominican Republic, how seabird guano helps maintain resilient coastal ecosystems and much more.

### BirdsPlus Index

ABC has been developing an acoustic-based metric of conservation value for sites based on birds called the BirdsPlus Index. ABC hope this will be a cost-effective tool for using Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) to monitor restoration sites and regenerative agriculture to show conservation benefits of bird-friendly management practices. They see such a tool as needed in the marketplace to help drive non-philanthropic funding towards conservation (e.g., impact investment). ABC recently submitted two papers about their BirdsPlus Index for peer-review and uploaded the manuscripts to the biorxiv pre-print server. The [first paper](#) provides species scores for all the world's birds based on multiple functional traits including IUCN Red List status. The [second paper](#) demonstrates an application including modelling site scores across six US states. There are likely numerous potential applications of this in the Caribbean.

### Threatened bird gap analysis

ABC is also working to publish a gap analysis of which birds in Latin America are under-protected and prioritize areas for protection to guide their own work as well as the conservation work of others. This paper is in review at Bird Conservation International, and also uploaded to [biorxiv here](#).



Unfortunately, they had to exclude the Caribbean from this analysis – however, they are still interested in the Caribbean and doing a similar analysis within the region, where a number of globally threatened birds would qualify as under-protected (e.g., St. Lucia Thrasher) – but expect to modify the methods and perhaps goal thresholds to be regionally appropriate, and the need for expert opinion in mapping due to the small geographic scale of the islands. If anyone is interested in

this exercise for the Caribbean, please contact Dan Lebbin [dlebbin@abcbirds.org](mailto:dlebbin@abcbirds.org).

Photo: Grenada Dove. Credit: Arthur Daniel.

### [BirdsCaribbean Grantees](#) ↑

The ETSWG congratulates all the recent recipients of the David S. Lee Fund for the Conservation of Caribbean Birds, and the James A. Kushlan Research and Conservation Fund! We are excited that several of these projects are focused on endemic species:

- Conservation Ecology of the Puerto Rican Oriole - *Michael Ocasio, University of Maryland, Baltimore County*
- Reproductive and Trophic Ecology of Gundlach's Hawk (*Astur gundlachi*), an Endemic and Threatened Bird of Cuba - *Ernesto Vergara Llano, Faculty of Biology, University of Havana*
- Action Plan for the Conservation of Psittacidae in the Pico Cristal National Park, Cuba - *Inés Lourdes Fernández Rodríguez, Empresa Flora y la Fauna Santiago de Cuba*
- Impact of Nest Temperatures on Mortality Rates of the Endangered Yellow-shouldered Blackbird (*Agelaius xanthomus*) in Southwestern Puerto Rico - *Retsel Gonzalez, University of Puerto Rico*
- Ecology of Bare-legged Owl (*Margarobyas lawrencii*) an endemic strigid in Cuba - *Jean Michel De Jongh González, Botanical National Garden, Havana University.*

Read more about these exciting projects [here](#).

### [Elsewhere in the Region](#) ↑

The [5th Caribaea Initiative Scientific Conference](#) took place from June 10 to 12, 2025 in Martinique. This conference brought together researchers, professionals, and conservation stakeholders from across the region, with sessions including 'Regional cooperation for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in Haiti' and 'Hunting, wildlife management and conservation in the insular Caribbean'. There were some interesting presentations on endemic birds, including 'Combining citizen science and camera traps to study population trends and habitat selection of the Bridled Quail Dove, *Geotrygon mystacea*', presented by Bryan Leborgne, 'Quantifying the population density and distribution of the *Amazona imperialis* and *Amazona arausiaca* of the island of Dominica post Hurricane Maria', presented by Garry Auguiste and 'Unveiling 10 years of population trends for two endemic pigeon species across the Caribbean' presented by Christopher Cambrone.

Read the full book of conference abstracts [here](#).

[The Caribbean Natural History Conference](#), hosted by Eagle Hill Institute, took place online from December 2-3, 2025. Sessions on Caribbean Ornithology included presentations on endemic species, including ‘Discovering the Hidden Life on an Endemic Cuban Owl’ presented by Jean Michel De Jongh, ‘Habitat Preferences and Population Trends of Eight Landbird Species in Guánica State Forest, Puerto Rico’ presented by Adrienne Tossas, ‘Post-Eruption Assessment and Habitat Associations of the Whistling Warbler using PROALAS Surveys’ presented by Michael Akresh and ‘Conservation of Psittacids in Cuba’ presented by Maikel Canizares Morera.

See the schedule of talks [here](#) and [here](#) and the book of abstracts [here](#).

**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: Western Red legged Thrush, Cuba. Credit: Suzanne Labbé

## 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

- [🔗](#) Cummings, W.J., Goodman, D.D., Layne, C.D., Singer, K.I. and Thomas, M.W., 2025. [Vitelline Warbler \(\*Setophaga vitellina\*\) songs, calls, and habitat preferences: novel acoustic descriptions of a range-restricted Caribbean songbird](#). PLoS One, 20(4), p.e0312636.
- [🔗](#) De Ruyck, C.C. and Koper, N., 2025. [Ecological Drivers of Molt-Breeding Overlap, an Unusual Life-History Strategy of Small-Island Birds?](#). Ecology and Evolution, 15(1), p.e7060
- [🔗](#) Exantus, J.M., Cambrone, C., Bezault, E. and Cézilly, F., 2025. [Avian conservation value of two small protected areas in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, Haiti](#). Ornithology Research, 33(1), p.34.
- [🔗](#) Fink, L.H., Donacik, D., Erickson-Harris, G., Guy, B., Harrison, J.O., Reinoso-Pérez, M.T., Navarro-Vélez, K. and Dhondt, A.A., 2025. [Intra-and interspecific agonistic behavior of two sympatric Hispaniolan \*Coccyzus\* cuckoos](#). Journal of Caribbean Ornithology, 38, pp.1-7.
- [🔗](#) Jean-Pierre, A., Cézilly, F., Saint-Louis, L.J. and Loranger-Merciris, G., 2025. [Diurnal Forest Thrush abundance positively covaries with both prey availability and small Indian mongoose abundance](#). Avian Conservation and Ecology, 20(2), p.art4.
- [🔗](#) Lebbin, D.J., Francois, W., Brocca, J., Saucier, J. and Chesser, R.T., 2025. [An aberrant euphonia from St. Lucia, with observations on plumage variation in two Caribbean species of Chlorophonia](#). Journal of Caribbean Ornithology, 38, pp.70-75.
- Moyer, M.J., Ocasio, M.D., Lehnert, E.F., Nieves Colón, N.A., Osorio, E., Bare, E.K., de León Laguna, A.P., Molake, B.A., Costas Sabatier, M.J., Evans, B.S. and Morales Pérez, A.L., 2025. [Acoustic features, syllable usage, and song rates of male and female songs in a tropical island songbird, the Puerto Rican oriole](#). Ethology, 131(3), p.e13534.
- [🔗](#) Oswald, J.A., Boyd, B.M., Szewczak, A.R., LeFebvre, M.J., Stucky, B.J., Guralnick, R.P., Johnson, K.P., Allen, J.M. and Steadman, D.W., 2025. [Genomic data reveal that the Cuban blue-headed quail-dove \(\*Starnoenas cyanocephala\*\) is a biogeographic relict](#). Biology Letters, 21(1), p.20240464.
- [🔗](#) Peters, C., Muir, A., Hosie, C., Nelson, H. and Geary, M., 2025. [Assessing threats and conservation action using population viability analysis for the Critically Endangered Grenada Dove \*Leptotila wellsi\*](#). Journal for Nature Conservation, p.127052.

- 🔗 Rivera-Milán, F.F., Gerbracht, J. and Simal, F., 2025. [Barbuda Warbler \*Setophaga subita\* and Yellow Warbler \*S. petechia bartholemica\* population assessment after Hurricane Irma](#). Bird Conservation International, 35, p.e26.
- 🔗 Sabatier, M.J.C. and Ríos-Franceschi, A., 2025. [Observation of female song in \*Chlorophonia sclateri\* \(Puerto Rican Euphonia\)](#). Journal of Caribbean Ornithology, 38, pp.20-26.
- 🔗 Satgé, Y.G., Patteson, J.B., Keitt, B.S., Gaskin, C.P. and Jodice, P.G., 2025. [Satellite tracking supports hypotheses of breeding allochrony and allopatry in the Endangered \*Pterodroma hasitata\* \(Black-capped Petrel, Diablotin\)](#). Journal of Caribbean Ornithology, 38, pp.59-66.
- Tarazona-Tubens, F.L., Morales-Pérez, A.L. and Searcy, C.A., 2025. [Seed predator or seed nurturer? The critically endangered Puerto Rican parrot increases germination of large-fruited Caribbean plants](#). Biological Conservation, 311, p.111421.
- 🔗 Vallejo, R.S., González, J.M.D.J. and Pacheco, N.N., 2025. [Observaciones del sitio de anidación y comportamiento del \*Astur qundlachi\* \(Gavilán Colilargo\) en el Jardín Botánico Nacional de Cuba](#). Journal of Caribbean Ornithology, 38, pp.29-32.
- 🔗 Vollstädt, M.G., Jensen, R.D., Maruyama, P.K., Schleuning, M., Araújo-Hoffmann, F.P., Sazima, M., Sonne, J., Schröder, T.S., Møller-Stranges, F., Abrahamczyk, S. and Ramírez-Burbano, M.B., 2025. [The role of insularity: Plants have few ornithophilous traits but are visited by morphologically more distinct hummingbirds in the Caribbean islands](#). Functional Ecology, 39(7), pp.1678-1692.
- 🔗 Wieman, S.T., 2025. [First record of melanism in \*Myiarchus antillarum\* \(Puerto Rican Flycatcher\)](#). Journal of Caribbean Ornithology, 38, pp.34-38.

### Preprints

- 🔗 Miller, E.T., Larkin, J. L., Matthews, A.M., Parr, M., Van Horn, G., Giocomo, J. J., Lebbin, D. J., The BirdsPlus Index, a novel method for assessing site-level conservation values. <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2025.10.14.682393v1>
- 🔗 Miller, E.T., Larkin, J. L., Matthews, A.M., Parr, M., Giocomo, J. J., Lebbin, D. J., Aligning conservation status, vulnerability factors, and ecological and evolutionary uniqueness to produce integrated assessments of the world's birds. <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2025.07.15.664934v1>

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## 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 38th 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 support by our publisher BirdsCaribbean and by 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 and 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.

The JCO has launched a new “data paper” category. This new category recognizes the importance of unpublished datasets relating to Caribbean birds and their potential to contribute significantly to long-term monitoring and to the provision of baselines for understanding Caribbean birds and their habitats. The JCO’s new “data paper” category provides a way for data collectors to increase access to their data sets while providing recognition for these data collectors. The Journal is pleased to announce that the first of these data-papers is now under review.

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### Save the date - Upcoming Conferences <sup>↑</sup>

- The [British Ornithological Union \(BOU\)](#) is holding their hybrid annual conference on ‘Birds and People’ from 31 March – 2 April 2026, on Zoom and Bluesky, with the in-person event in Nottingham, UK. Early-Bird rates are available until 16 February 2026. #BOU2026
- The [Caribbaea Initiative](#) will be holding a special symposium and training workshop on the ‘Study and management of terrestrial invasive vertebrates in the insular Caribbean’ in Guadeloupe from 16 to 18 June 2026. The deadline for oral presentation proposals is April 30, 2026, while poster submissions will be accepted until May 31, 2026.
- BirdsCaribbean 25th International Conference will be held in Trinidad & Tobago, July 23–27, 2026. Stay tuned to [BirdsCaribbean](#) for more details and abstract deadlines.
- The 144th annual meeting of the [American Ornithological Society \(AOS\)](#) will be held on 3-7 August 2025, in Amherst, Massachusetts, USA.



Photo: Hispaniolan Elaenia, Dominican Republic. Credit: Zak Pohlen.