

least in Puerto Rico the majority of those who work with birds and who are members of the Puerto Rican Ornithological Society are not scientists. Standardization will serve as a link for ornithologists who want to work directly with the communities.

“During my attendance at the Caribbean Convention in Cuba, an Argentinean gave a workshop on anatids. When I spoke to her about the project, she rejected it. She said that scientific names were enough and local names must be kept. Yet, surprisingly enough, the workshop was in English and she was using standardized English names! Another advantage of standardization is that it allows you to easily place a bird taxonomically. For example, I am sure that I would not be understood by most people if I said that I saw a *Syrigma sibilatrix* for the first in Puerto Rico, instead of Garza Chiflona.

“Regarding the production of educational materials (such as posters), using local names on such materials is not a bad idea in itself. I feel, nevertheless, that it takes away from the international character and it multiplies the work effort. I would expect that international projects employ standardized names, and domestic projects use local names. I

have asked myself if, when Dr. Lisa Sorenson was preparing the poster ‘Save our Seabirds’ in English, did she receive a complaint from the Jamaican delegation because the local name ‘Bo’sun Bird’ was not used instead of the standardized ‘White-tailed Tropicbird.’ Similarly, did the delegation from Grenada protest because the local name ‘Boatswain Bird’ was not used, or did someone from St. Vincent object because ‘Scissor-tail’ was not used. I asked, were there complaints from the Bahamians as to why the local name ‘Plimico’ was not used, and the same for Grenada and St. Vincent for ‘Little Devil’ instead of the standardized ‘Audubon’s Shearwater.’ Surely, there were not complaints because they are aware of the proper use of English standardized names. This is something we should learn.

“In conclusion, if we wish to work with Spanish communities and get them involved in bird conservation, as well as enhance communication links among Latin countries, standardization of Spanish names is the answer.”

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INVASIVE SPECIES WORKING GROUP

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ALTHOUGH SEVERAL ATTEMPTS have been made in the past to activate an Invasive Species Working Group for the Society, it has proved difficult to decide just how to approach this very important subject and how any meaningful results may emerge. There are many success stories of eradication of invasive species on which to base our efforts but these successes have involved dedicated people and funding.

Ten people, headed by President Andrew Dobson, attended the Invasive Species Working Group meeting held in Guadeloupe, representing a wide spread of island nations around the region. The discussion was confined to generalizations in order to define the more important invasive species impacting Caribbean birds and areas that needed work. It was

hoped that specific projects would emerge in due course that the Society might be able to support in whatever way appropriate.

The main categories of species were defined as plants, non-bird invasives and birds. Not all exotic species are invasive. Foreign species are introduced deliberately, e.g., the pet or nursery trade, or they arrive in cargo or by some other unknown way. A few species were identified as potential problems in the Caribbean region, including: Casuarina trees; feral cats; mongoose, rats, mice, etc.; domestic animals such as dogs; farm animals; and introductions due to the pet trade (e.g., Eurasian Collared Dove [*Streptopelia decaocto*]).

Andrew Dobson stated that the Bermuda Petrel is monitored for rats and other threats and that some

islands in the Bermuda chain are now free of rats. The main bird invasives in Bermuda are the Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*), Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), and Feral Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*).

Some general points were made:

1. List which species are invasive in the Caribbean so that information can be shared.
2. Identify what is already present.
3. Identify new invasives as early as possible and try to eradicate before the species becomes unmanageable.
4. Identify invasives in other islands so that they can be blacklisted from legal introduction.
5. Identify what actions have already been successful and what has been a failure.
6. Avoid deliberate and inadvertent introductions, work with local governments.
7. Share ideas as to what can be done about common problems.

8. Convincing the public is an important step in eradication, improving local knowledge (including lawmakers) of invasive species is important.

9. Work with local lawmakers to try to improve local laws.

10. Sometimes reducing the level of invasives to manageable levels will also work.

11. Sometimes obvious actions are not the solution, e.g., if the top predator is eliminated, the next may become more successful (cats may be keeping rats at bay, once cats are eliminated rats take over, etc.).

12. Study the situation carefully before taking action.

It was suggested that an invasives information network for the Caribbean be set up. Also, SCSCB should get in touch with the IUCN Invasives Group for assistance and information, as well as pursue projects with the assistance of Island Conservation (Bernie Tershy's organization).