

## CONTENTS

Introduction & Summary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Planning for CEBF 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Distribution of Promotional Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Production of “Endemic Birds” Posters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
“ <i>Know Your Birds</i> ” Workshop	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Media Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
(a) Official Launch of Festival	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
(b) Radio News Items	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
(c) Newspaper Article	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
(d) Online News Items	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
(e) Live Radio Discussions and Programmes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
(f) Television News Stories	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
(g) Showing of Hummingbirds Documentary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
(h) Television Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
(i) Media Releases and Invitations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
(j) Media Announcements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Radio Quizzes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
<i>BirdART III</i> Display	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
<i>Whistle Like A Bird Contest II</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
* Announcement of Successful Incubation of Sisserou Egg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Public Presentation: <i>Our Share of the Flock</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Presentation of Token to “Diablotin Collector”	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Field Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
(a) Birding With the Schools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
(b) Visit to View Sea Bird Colonies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
(c) Birding While Hiking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Distribution of Certificates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17

## CONTENTS (Ctd)

Acknowledgements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Comments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Appendices										
(I)	Birds Sighted during Field Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
(II)	Message from Minister for Agriculture to Launch CEBF 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
(III)	Text of Article Published in The Sun Newspaper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
(IV)	Media Release re: Dominica's Participation in CEBF 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
(V)	Questions and Answers for Radio Quizzes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
(VI)	Collage of Photos of CEBF 2010 Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
(VII)	CEBF 2010 Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29

All Photos by Arlington James, except on  
Page 11 (L,R) by Clement Richards  
Page 16 (R) by Clyde Lawrence  
Page 28 (Top L) by Yvonne Daniel

*On The Cover: Students from Nehemiah Comprehensive Secondary School in small discussion while Birding by the Layout*

## DOMINICA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NINTH CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRDS FESTIVAL, 2010

### INTRODUCTION & SUMMARY

The **Caribbean Endemic Birds Festival (CEBF)** has been “celebrated” annually across the region from 2002, and was into its seventh consecutive year in Dominica in 2010. An initiative of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, this month-long Festival usually begins on 22<sup>nd</sup> April (Earth Day) and extends until 22<sup>nd</sup> May (World Biodiversity Day). The Festival is growing in popularity in Dominica, and is now a regular feature on the annual work programme of the Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The “Endemic Birds Festival” has become a major public awareness programme of the Division, when attention is focused on the conservation of and education about the endemic and other indigenous birds of Dominica and the wider Caribbean by extension. The Division also embraces this opportunity to raise its public profile, through the regular use of the media just prior to and during the festival, visits to schools, and the staging of “public” events. And, thanks to the Internet, some of the Division’s conservation efforts, particularly pertaining to the island’s birds, are shared with the wider world.

CEBF 2010 was observed under the theme, “*The Power of Partnerships*”, and it can be stated with a certain degree of confidence, that Dominica once again successfully implemented another extensive programme of activities for the Caribbean Endemic Birds Festival, with a 95% implementation rate in 2010. This may be attributed to the early planning, the support provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation, the dedication of the members of the local committee, the contributions of those persons co-opted to assist, and of course, the availability of financial resources and various forms of logistic support to implement the programme of activities.

A programme covering the full 4½ weeks of the festival was drawn up by the local CEBF Committee, and implementation of some of these activities actually began in early April. The majority of the now “traditional” activities on the programme were implemented, and these included a boat trip to view local birds; educational and awareness activities with selected schools and the general public; and media activities.

Now into its second year, the *Whistle Like A Bird* contest again generated much attention following the event, while for 2010, the Committee undertook the production of two very attractive posters which will maintain their relevance well beyond the 2010 Festival. The Committee also undertook the hosting of a 1-day workshop on birds for Forestry Officers.

This Report presents details of the activities undertaken in Dominica for CEBF 2010. Several Appendices have been included, and these present the lists of birds observed during the seven (7) field activities; the text of the Minister’s address to launch the festival in Dominica; one of the media releases; the text of a newspaper article published for the festival, and the CEBF

programme for 2010, among others. And like in previous years, the report will also be illustrated, with photographs taken during CEBF activities in 2010.

Implementation of the programme of activities was made possible with financial support from the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation (RSCF) and the Government of Dominica.

### **PLANNING FOR CEBF 2010 ACTIVITIES**

The CEBF Committee met on several occasions to plan and fine-tune the programme for the 2010 festival (See Appendix VII for the Programme). The first meeting was held in March, and the final during the month of May, a few days before the staging of *Whistle Like A Bird II*. A few of the meetings focused specifically on the bird call imitation contest.

The following members of staff comprised the local CEBF Committee in 2010:

Arlington James, Forest Officer	Chairman
Stephen Durand, Asst. Forest Officer	Member
Jacqueline André, Asst. Forest Officer	Member (Media Contact)
Randolph Winston, Forester I	Member
Bertrand Jno. Baptiste, Forester I (Ag.)	Member

The Committee also co-opted the services of several other members of staff for various activities as follows:-

Minchinton Burton, Director of Forestry	Overall Support, <i>Whistle Like A Bird</i> Contest
Ronald Charles, Asst. Forest Officer	<i>Whistle Like A Bird</i> , Transportation Co-ord.
Matthew Maximea, Forester II	<i>Birding With The Schools</i>
Nigel Harve, Forester	<i>Birding With the Schools</i> . Poster distribn.
Meckeith George, Forest Trainee	Poster Distribution
Lynda Dailey, Senior Clerk (Ag.)	Clerical Support
Jennifer Shillingford, Messenger	Messengerial & Clerical Support
Eulie Baptiste	Clerical Support
Stephen Toussaint, Chauffeur	Transportation
Eustace Durand, Chauffeur	Transportation
Murphy Mondesire, Chauffeur	Transportation

### **DISTRIBUTION OF PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS**

Promotional materials received from the SCSCB in 2010, as well as some remaining from previous years, were distributed among the schools which participated in CEBF 2010. These schools were each presented with a package containing a copy of the 2010 International Migratory Bird Day poster; the original CEBF poster; wrist bands; bird stickers and a set of two Caribbean bird identification cards. The posters received from SCSCB were not sufficient to distribute amount the media houses or other agencies, as occurred in the past.

The official Caribbean Endemic Birds Festival logo was used on the certificates/tokens, in the PowerPoint presentations produced for CEBF educational activities, and on the programmes for the Bird Imitation contest and the Public Presentation.

### PRODUCTION OF “ENDEMIC BIRDS” POSTERS

The Division produced two attractive, well designed and well laid out posters displaying 21 of twenty-two species of endemic birds of the Caribbean that occur in Dominica. The posters were simply entitled, “*Caribbean Endemic Birds on Dominica*”.

Financial assistance and the images of the birds displayed on the posters were provided by the US Fish & Wildlife Service’s Wildlife Without Borders Program, through the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds. A total of three thousand (3,000) posters were printed, i.e. 1,500 copies of each.



The bird images on the posters were first used as illustrations in the books, *Birds of the West Indies* by Raffaele et al (1998), and subsequently in *Dominica’s Birds* (2005).

The 20” x 28” posters, identified individually as the “green poster” and the “blue poster”, were obtained from the printers during the Festival, and distribution (e.g. to schools, pre-schools, libraries, etc) and sale commenced before the end of CEBF 2010. Photographs of the posters were subsequently posted on the CEBF & IMBD Facebook page on the Internet, by Dr Lisa Sorenson, President of the SCSCB.

The production of the posters was one of the ideas for the 2010 Festival that were contained in the 2009 CEBF National Report.

### **“KNOW YOUR BIRDS” WORKSHOP**

A 1-day workshop dubbed “*Know Your Birds*” was organised for the staff of the Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division, and held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May. That was the penultimate activity for CEBF 2010 on Dominica, and was facilitated by Dominica’s two premier “birding experts”.

Two (2) excellent PowerPoint presentations were delivered at the workshop, viz. *KNOW YOUR BIRDS* by Bertrand Jno. Baptiste, and *BIRD IDENTIFICATION* by Stephen Durand. Following the “classroom” segment of the workshop (and lunch), the participants moved to the Botanic Gardens for a field activity, which was led by Messers Durand and Jno. Baptiste. The birds spotted during the field exercise are listed in Appendix I (c).



*Forestry Officers and presenters at “Know Your Birds” Workshop*

A total of 25 members of staff of the Division attended the first segment of the workshop, and a slightly smaller number participated in the field exercise. Participants included senior forestry officers (Forest Officers and Assistant Forest Officers), junior officers (Foresters I and II), and Assistants to the Foresters II. One of the Division’s Chauffeurs, who often “doubles up” as a research assistant, also attended the workshop. The Director of Forestry, Wildlife & Parks also attended one of the presentations.

Financial assistance for hosting the workshop was provided through the grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service’s Wildlife Without Borders Program.

### **MEDIA ACTIVITIES**

Media activities continue to be one of the most important “blocks” of activities for CEBF in Dominica. For some of the activities, the Division made use of “air” time in the electronic media, or negotiated for space in a newspaper. Meanwhile, some of the individual media houses responded positively to the CEBF Media Invitations or Media Releases circulated by the Division, which generated news items or features.

### **(1) OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF 2010 FESTIVAL**

Dominica's 2010 Caribbean Endemic Birds Festival was officially launched on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April with an address by Hon. Matthew Walter, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry. The pre-recorded message was aired on DBS Radio following the 6:45 Morning News package, and on television through the Government channels on MARPIN 2K4 and SAT Telecommunications. The full text of the Minister's address is reproduced below in Appendix II.

The official launching of the festival on Dominica has been included on the CEBF programme of activities for the past four years.

### **(2) RADIO NEWS STORIES**

News stories relating to the 2010 CEBF programme were carried by DBS Radio, Kairi FM and Q-95, while Voice-of-Life usually relays the news package of DBS Radio. DBS Radio and Q-95 also carried news items following the *Whistle Like A Bird* Contest.

### **(3) PUBLISHING OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLE**

The publishing of at least one newspaper article relating to some aspect of bird conservation has been a regular feature of the CEBF programme on Dominica since the first year of the festival on the island; this year was no exception.

The 2010 article was penned by Assistant Forest Officer Stephen Durand, and entitled "*The Caribbean's Endemic Birds on Dominica*". The title of this year's article was in keeping with that of the two posters produced by the Division for CEBF 2010, as well as of the 2010 public presentation; details of these other activities are given elsewhere in this report.

Like with the past few articles, this year's was published in *The Sun* Newspaper, and appeared on Pg. 2 of the May 10<sup>th</sup> issue of the paper. The ¾ page article was illustrated with two colour photos of the Antillean Crested Hummingbird and the Lesser Antillean Pewee, which were taken by Dr. Paul Reillo of the RCSF. The text of the article is reproduced in Appendix III below.

### **(4) ONLINE NEWS STORIES & FEATURES**

A news item pertaining to the 2010 CEBF on Dominica, and entitled "*Caribbean Birds Festival Celebrations Kick Off*", was posted on the Dominica News Online website on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Also, a video clip of the *Whistle Like A Bird Contest* (including the remarks and prize-giving) was produced and posted on YouTube by BouzieProductions100 (courtesy Clement "Baba" Richards) under the caption, "Dominica's *Whistle Like A Bird* Competition, 2010". The 10 minute clip may be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Owo7PI6aaRI>.

### **(5) LIVE RADIO DISCUSSIONS**

Members of staff of the Division participated in, or were guests on, a total of four (4) live radio discussions/programmes on the island's four radio stations; there were two cancellations.

The following are the programmes or slots on which Forestry Staff members served as guests, for the purpose of promoting the 2010 CEBF programme of activities:-

<u>Radio Programme</u>	<u>Station</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Guest(s)</u>
"The Heng"	Kairi FM	20 <sup>th</sup> April	A. James & B. Winston
"Espéwéyans Kwéyòl"	DBS Radio	22 <sup>nd</sup> April	F. Eugene and B. Jno Baptiste
"A Moment With Nature"	Voice-of-Life	29 <sup>th</sup> April	A. James
"Mid-Morning Rendezvous"	Q-95 FM	4 <sup>th</sup> May	J. Andre & R. Winston

Only the discussion on Voice-of-Life was a scheduled programme. The CEBF Committee was invited by the management of Kairi FM to appear on "The Heng", while the Committee negotiated for free air time on DBS Radio and Q-95 FM.

The duration of the programmes ranged from 10 minutes to about 45 minutes.

#### **(6) TELEVISION NEWS STORIES**

At least three (3) television news stories were generated by local CEBF activities. The first was a general news story on the 2010 Festival in Dominica, and this was produced by GIS and based on the Media Release that was circulated to the various local media houses. Clips from the Minister's Message to launch the Festival were also used in that news story, which was shown on the Government channels on SAT TV and Marpin 2K4.

The second set of CEBF 2010 TV news stories was on the 2010 *Whistle Like A Bird Contest*, and individual news stories were produced by both SAT TV and Marpin 2K4.

The final CEBF news story featured the very successful visit to the seabirds colony, and this was produced by SAT TV and aired during the week following the Festival.

#### **(7) SHOWING OF TV DOCUMENTARY ON HUMMINGBIRDS**

Part of the footage for a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS in the United States of America) documentary was filmed on Dominica in 2008. Entitled "*Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air*", this documentary presented in vivid colour and slow-motion videography, a peep into the amazing world of these tiny feathered creatures.

The segment on Dominica featured the interaction between the purple-throated carib (a Caribbean endemic) and the island's two native species of "Balizyé" or heliconia (*Heliconia bihai* and *H. caribaea*). Only the male of this hummingbird – with its longer and more curved bill – pollinate the flowers of *Helicoina caribaea*, whereas only the female, with her shorter and less curved bills is the pollinator of *H. bihai* flowers.

The Division had earlier received a copy of the DVD from the producers – who had filmed on the island under permit issued by the Division. And through researcher Dr. Ethan Temeles of the Smithsonian Institution, permission was sought and obtained – on behalf of the Division – for the film to be broadcast on local television. Subsequently, arrangements were made with

GIS for the reproduction of the DVD, and for its showing during CEBF 2010, on the Government channels on Marpin 2K4 and SAT Telecommunications.

### **(8) PRODUCTION AND SHOWING OF TV PROGRAMME**

A television programme on the theme for CEBF 2010, “*The Power of Partnerships*”, was produced in collaboration with the Government Information Service, and aired during the festival on the Division’s TV programme *Environment Corner*.

The programme, which was produced in advance of CEBF 2010, featured Dr. Paul Reillo of the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation, and Forestry Officers Stephen Durand and Bertrand Jno. Baptiste as guests. It was hosted by the Division’s Environmental Education Officer and CEBF Committee member Jacqueline André.

### **(9) MEDIA RELEASE & INVITATION**

The Committee issued one Media Release pertaining to the Festival on 21<sup>st</sup> April, and a Media Invitation regarding the *Whistle Like A Bird* Contest and the Public Presentation. The text of the Media Release is reproduced in Appendix IV.

### **(10) MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Media announcements pertaining to the “*Whistle Like A Bird*” Contest and the Public Presentation were aired on DBS Radio, and on television on SAT and Marpin 2K4 following the Government Information Service (GIS) news package. The Division also sent out an announcement on radio and on GIS regarding *BirdART* III and the Goodwill School exhibition.

### **RADIO QUIZZES**

Radio Quizzes were again included on the programme for this year’s CEBF, and like in the past years, these “competitions” were open the general public in radio land.

All four radio stations were involved in the quizzes, at the rate of two quizzes per station. This year, six of the eight quizzes were aired between the second and final (fifth) weeks of the Festival. However, due to an oversight at the fourth station, the other two quizzes were aired after the official end of CEBF. The winners for the 2010 quizzes came from the north, south-east, Roseau Valley and the west coast of the island.

The following are the quiz winners on the various radio stations:

<b>Station</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Address</b>
Kairi FM	30 <sup>th</sup> April	Tamisha Anthony	Mahaut
Kairi FM	21 <sup>st</sup> May	Machel Sulton	Penville
Q-95 FM	6 <sup>th</sup> May	Peter Laurent	Canefield
Q-95 FM	20 <sup>th</sup> May	Petrolina Jolly	Canefield
DBS Radio	12 May	Hermin Bruney	La Plaine
DBS Radio	28 April	Shernelle Maximea	Morne Proper

The winners were each presented with a copy of *Dominica's Birds* as their prize, and the questions and answers for this year's quizzes are presented in Appendix V.

### **BirdART DISPLAY**

CEBF 2010 saw the third "edition" of *BirdART*, an activity where students create art pieces depicting or on the theme of birds. This year, the Goodwill Secondary School was invited to undertake this activity, and was the first secondary school among the three schools to have produced *BirdART* to date; the expose was first held in 2007.



*Papier-marché presentation with birds and nests*



*Bird House built by GSS Woodwork Students*

*BirdART* III was somewhat different from its two "predecessors", in that there was not a stand-alone bird-art exhibition *per se*. Rather, the mounted art pieces produced for the event were displayed as a component of the school's Annual Curriculum and Art Exhibition. The latter was held in the foyer of the Arawak House of Culture in Roseau, on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

The *BirdART* section of the exhibition included several water colour pieces, black crayon drawings, collages, and a large 3D *papier-marché* tree on which was displayed several *papier-marché* birds, and bird nests among other items. Three bird houses were displayed in the woodwork section.

At the request of the Principal of the School, the Division undertook to publicise the exhibition (and *BirdART* display) on local radio and TV - through GIS, as well as to invite the schools in the Roseau area to view the entire exhibition.

### **"WHISTLE LIKE A BIRD" CONTEST**

The second *Whistle Like A Bird* Contest was held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May, at the Conference Room of the Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division on Windsor Park Road near the Botanic Gardens. Once again, members of the audience remarked that the event – which drew a small number of participants – was of a high quality.

Honoré Jubinot of Dublanc Village outclassed his three other competitors (all male) to easily secure first place. Two of the participants had competed in 2009, when the contest was first included on the local CEBF programme. However, the 2009 winner was unable to defend her title as she was out of state at the time of the contest this year.

The programme for the 2010 bird call imitation activity included the singing of the first verse of the Dominica National Anthem, brief remarks by the Director of Forestry & Parks, the introduction of the judges, explanation of the rules of the contest and the “ground rules” for the audience, and a vote of thanks.

The following are the results of the contest, as well as the names of the 11 species of birds whose calls were imitated during the competition:-

<b>Competitor</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Birds Imitated</b>
Honoré Jubinot	Dublanc	1st	<i>Jaco Parrot, Antillean Euphonia, Sisserou Parrot</i>
Eddison St Jean	Warner	2nd	<i>Bananaquit, Scaly-breasted Thrasher, Zenaida Dove</i>
Jefferson Warrington	Warner	3rd	<i>Mangrove Cuckoo, Scaly-breasted Thrasher, Scaly-naped Pigeon</i>
Vigil Laurent	Goodwill	4th	<i>Smooth-billed Ani, Carib Grackle, Broad-winged Hawk</i>



*St. Jean uses hand to imitate call of Thrasher*



*Jubinot in black-and-yellow outfit flanked by St. Jean– (L) and Laurent (R) after receiving prizes*

There was no change in the rules of the contest or the composition of the Judging Panel (Stephen Durand, Bertrand Jno. Baptiste and Randolph Winston) from 2009. The programme which was produced for the Contest in 2009, was modified for the 2010 event. The contest was covered by four invited media houses (2 radio and 2 television stations) and a free-lancer.

Following the contest, and while the judges were deliberating, the competitors continued to thrill and entertain the small, but appreciative audience with their bird vocalization imitation skills. This year saw two of the competitors (St. Jean and Warrington) using their hands in their presentations.

The prizes (cash, plus a copy each of the *Dominica's Birds* book) were distributed by the Director of Forestry & Parks to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners, while a token (a copy of *Dominica's Birds*) was presented to the other competitor.

A video-clip of the 2010 contest was subsequently posted on You Tube by BouzaieProductions 100 at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Owo7PI6aaRI>, and on the CEBF & IMBD Facebook page by Dr Lisa Sorenson, President of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, at the following link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Caribbean-Bird-Festivals-CEBF-IMBD/115276011835425>

### **Announcement of First Sisserou Born in Captivity**

It should be noted that before announcing of the results of the contest, the Division seized the opportunity to make a statement to the media, regarding the first ever successful incubation of a Sisserou Parrot in captivity; this historic event had occurred a few days prior to the contest. The information immediately made headline news on the local scene. A video clip of the announcement, made by Asst. Forest Officer Stephen Durand - who served as a member of the CEBF Committee and one of the judges for the contest, was posted on YouTube by BouzaieProductions, at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akr76cl0p\\_g&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akr76cl0p_g&feature=related)

### **PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

The 2010 Public Presentation was organised in partnership with the University of the West Indies Open Campus, and was held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May, from 7:30 p.m. As in previous years, this took the form of a PowerPoint slide show on a topic related to birds, and this was the fourth consecutive year that this educational activity was included on the CEBF programme.

Following the singing of the first stanza of Dominica's National Anthem, and brief remarks by the Chairman Stephen Durand, Forest Officer Arlington James, and Head of the UWI Open Campus Dr. Francis Severin, the colourful and informatvel presentation entitled, "***Our Share of the Flock: Endemic Birds of the Caribbean Found on Dominica***" got underway, and was presented by Forest Officer Arlington James. The slide show lasted just over 1 hour, and included 45 slides.

Also in attendance at the presentation were the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Mr. Samuel Carrette, an official from the Plant Quarantine Unit of the Division of Agriculture, a few other invited guests, and staff members of the Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division.

### **PRESENTATION OF TOKEN TO "DIABLOTIN MAN"**

Also included on the programme for the Public Presentation was the presentation of a Token of Appreciation to Mr. Vincent Theophile who, while at work on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2007, had collected a stranded Black-capped Petrel ("Diablotin") on the main road at Padu, Trafalgar, and brought it in to the Division; this incident was reported in the 2007 CEBF National Report.



*Skin of Diablotin bird, collected at Shawford near Trafalgar in May 2007, and which was displayed at the 2010 Public Presentation and the "Know Your Birds" Workshop*

The token (a plaque and a copy of *Dominica's Birds*) was presented to Mr. Theophile by the Acting Permanent Secretary. The carcass of the bird, which was "skinned" in February 2010 by Petrel Specialist Dr. David Wingate, was put on display at the presentation in a specially designed case. The plexiglass used for the display case and the plaque were donated to the Division by The Sign Man.

After receiving his token, Mr. Theophile briefly addressed the gathering and thanked the Division for the kind gesture.

## **FIELD ACTIVITIES**

Field activities form another important "block" on the CEBF programme. These are usually conducted with educational institutions, community groups, and invited guests. For CEBF 2010, the Division engaged a number of schools, and individuals and representatives of several local agencies in bird-watching activities. Details are given below of the various birding activities.

### **1. BIRDING WITH THE SCHOOLS**

Educational and birding activities with local schools have formed a major component of Dominica's CEBF programme, and that trend continued in 2010. This year, the Committee only entertained five (5) schools in Birding activities, and attention was turned to schools in the south of the island for the first time in the seven years of the Festival on Dominica.

The other schools which were involved in this block of activities came from the Roseau Valley, and two from the south-west district. The schools which participated in 2010 included two secondary and three primary schools; two of these are privately operated.

As in previous years, the activity was conducted in two parts: a presentation entitled "*Birds Around Us*" done at the particular school, following which a small group of students (pre-selected by the school) and at least one teacher were transported by bus (in four cases) to a pre-selected location for a birding activity. The sites/habitats used for the birding activities included a river estuary, semi-evergreen forest, an area near the coast, the roadside in a village, and a private eco-tourism facility.

The numbers of students and teachers viewing the presentation and participating in the field activities were as follows:

<b>School</b>	<b>Viewing Presentation</b>	<b>Birding Field Activity</b>
Nehemiah Comprehensive	15 students + 2 teachers	15 students + 2 teachers
Pioneer Preparatory	35 students + 2 Teachers	15 + 1 teacher (Multi-grade)
Soufriere Primary	36 students + 2 teachers	17 + 1 teacher (Grades 5 & 6)
Pierre Charles Secondary	45 students + 1 teacher	15 + 1 teacher (Form 4)
Wotten Waven Primary	14 students + 2 teachers	14 + 2 teachers (Multi-grade)



*Students and Teachers of Nehemiah Comprehensive School pose for photo with Forestry Officers near Layou River mouth following birding activity*

The following are the dates and locations where the birding activities with the various schools were conducted:-

<b>School</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Site(s) of Birding Activity</b>
Nehemiah Comprehensive	23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Layou River bank (near River mouth)
Pioneer Preparatory	28 <sup>th</sup> April	Layou River bank (near River mouth)
Soufriere Primary	7 <sup>th</sup> May	Soufriere Sulphur Springs
Pierre Charles Secondary	11 <sup>th</sup> May	Geneva Playing Field and Pierre Charles Boulevard
Wotten Waven Primary	14 <sup>th</sup> May	Ti-Kwen Glo Cho at Wotten Waven

The presentations were made by Committee Member Arlington James, and the following members of staff of the Division facilitated the *Birding With The Schools* field activities: Stephen Durand, Randolph Winston, Matthew Maximea, Jacqueline André, Nigel Harve and the undersigned. The students and teachers participating in the field activities were each loaned a pair of binoculars, which enhanced the quality of their bird-watching experience on the trip.



*Students and Teacher of Wotten Waven School take a closer look at some birds while walking up the Wotten Waven Road*

It must be noted that although CEBF takes place in the official dry season, for 2010 rain affected two (2) of the five birding field activities. Although the particular activities were not rained out, it rained at the start of the *Birding By The Boulevard* with the Pierre Charles Secondary School, and during *Birding By the Glo Cho* with the Wotten Waven School for the last of the five field activities with schools. However, the weather, did not dampen the enthusiasm of the students.

Apart from the sightings of the birds, some students got the opportunity to witness a grey kingbird enjoying a meal of a lizard at Layou. Others saw a “baby” Kouwès jenga snake, and several Iguanas perched high up in the trees at the Soufriere Sulphur Springs site.

The combined list of birds observed (direct sightings or identified through their vocalisations) during the five (5) field trips with the schools is presented in Appendix I (b).

### **VISIT TO SEA BIRD COLONY**

The 2010 visit to Pointe Des Foux to view colonies of seabirds was highly successful, with 58 persons participating in this event. This was the largest number of participants ever for this

activity, which was the sixth such field visit on the annual CEBF programme in Dominica.



*Some of participants on Boat trip moments after pulling off the dock, en route to Pointe Des Foux to view sea birds*

The participants included twenty persons (including 2 principals) from four schools, representatives of two local media houses, the winner and runner-up in the *Whistle Like A Bird* Contest, representatives of two hiking clubs, a few birding/nature enthusiasts, and members of staff of the Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division.

Shortly after 9:00 a.m., and

before boarding Dive Dominica's spacious catamaran - Sting Ray II, the participants assembled at the historic Baracoon Building on the compound of the Roseau City Council to view a short presentation entitled, "Seabirds Around Dominica". The half-hour slide show (29 slides) was delivered by Committee Member Arlington James, and that was the first time that such a presentation was made before the boat trip.

The sea conditions and weather on that day were excellent, making for a most memorable trip. A dozen species of birds were observed during the 3-hour boat trip, and these included the Caribbean Martin (a Caribbean endemic), the white-tailed tropicbird and seven other species of seabird. Once again, the brown boobies in the colony on the Pointe Des Foux cliffs put on their usual display, rising on the air currents as the catamaran slowly approached. The Committee loaned participants on the trip some twenty (20) pairs of binoculars, and this certainly enhanced the quality of the experience on the trip.



*Flock of Brown Boobies take to the air from their perch on the Pointe Des Foux cliff face*



*Boat trip participants enjoy view of Soufriere R.C. Church and village while returning from viewing birds*

En route to Pointe Des Foux, the group sighted a school of squid, and on the return journey, the captain travelled near-shore in the Soufriere-Scotts Head Marine Reserve, where we spotted turtles on two occasions. We also observed the bubbling from the seabed just in front of the Soufriere Roman Catholic Church, and seized the opportunity to photograph a brown booby perched on a buoy, as well as a brown pelican preening itself on a rock in Soufriere Bay.

Shortly before disembarking at the end of the trip, the group was invited by Committee Member Stephen Durand to observe one minute of silence as a mark of respect for the late Derrek Perryman who had established Dive Dominica, and who passed away in May 2010; Mr Perryman himself had served as captain on some of the previous CEBF boat trips.

A few photographs taken during the boat trip were posted on the CEBF & IMBD Facebook page by Dr. Lisa Sorenson, President of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Caribbean-Bird-Festivals-CEBF-IMBD/115276011835425>. The full list of birds sighted on the trip is presented in Appendix I (a).

## **BIRDING WHILE HIKING**

The birding activity with hiking clubs, dubbed “*Birding While Hiking*”, and which was first held in 2007, was cancelled due to inclement weather on the morning scheduled for the hike. The Dwivayèz and DABX Hiking Clubs had accepted the invitation to participate in the activity.

## **PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES**

As in the past years, the organisations that contributed to CEBF in 2010 were presented with a Certificate of Participation or a Certificate of Appreciation accordingly. This was jointly signed by the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry and the Director of Forestry, Wildlife & Parks.

Twenty-eight (28) certificates were distributed as follows: 10 “Participation” and 18 “Appreciation”. The following are the lists of recipients:-

### ***Certificate of Participation***

1. Nehemiah Comprehensive School
2. Pioneer Preparatory School
3. Soufriere Primary School
4. Wotten Waven Primary School
5. Pierre Charles Secondary School
6. Goodwill Secondary School
7. Honoré Jubinot
8. Eddison St. Jean
9. Vigil Laurent
10. C. Jefferson Warrington

### ***Certificate of Appreciation***

1. UWI Open Campus
2. DBS Radio
3. Kairi FM Radio
4. Q-95 FM Radio
5. Voice-of-Life Radio
6. Marpin 2K4
7. SAT Telecommunications
8. Government Information Service
9. The Sun Newspaper
10. BouzaieProductions 100
11. Rare Species Conservatory Foundation
12. Kelly Felix
13. Deborah Isles
14. Ti Kwen Glo Cho
15. Dive Dominica
16. The Sign Man
17. Roseau City Council
18. Society for the Conservation & Study of Caribbean Birds

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The production of CEBF 2010 can be described as a success, and this feat could not have been achieved without the contributions of a number of institutions and individuals.

Financial assistance to implement the month-long programme was provided by the Government of Dominica (through the Division’s Recurrent Expenditure Heads) and the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation. The Division also provided other forms of logistical support in terms of transportation, secretarial and messengerial services, and staff time among others.

We thank the Hon. Matthew Walter, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, for delivering the message to officially launch the CEBF 2010 programme on Dominica, and for signing of the certificates of participation and appreciation which were distributed among participants, partners and collaborators in CEBF 2010 activities.

We thank, once again, our partner for the public presentation, the University of the West Indies Open Campus, and Dr. Francis Severin, who heads that institution.

We also thank the US Fish & Wildlife Service for providing the funding for producing the posters and the workshop, and the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds for serving as the “middleman” between the USFWS and the Division. We also acknowledge Paramount Printers for an excellent job in the poster project.

We thank the Dominican media for their continued show of support for CEBF activities on the island, and the general public for their participation and support. While airtime for the radio quizzes came at a direct cost, all four radio stations provided air time – free of charge – to the Division for the live radio discussions, during which CEBF was promoted. Heartfelt thanks to Clement “Baba Richards” of Bouzaie Productions, for posting one of the CEBF activities on You Tube, thereby sharing that activity with the world on our behalf, and Dr. Lisa Sorenson of the SCSCB for posting photos from the CEBF 2010 on the CEBF & IMBD Facebook webpage.

Thanks to Ms Yvonne Daniel, Teacher at the Pioneer Preparatory School, for sharing her photos from the *Birding By The Layout* field visit, and to Clement Richard for sharing his photos from the Whistle Like A Bird Contest. Special Thanks to Clyde Lawrence for assisting with the photography during the Sea Birds boat trip.

We acknowledge Dive Dominica, and the captain and crew of *Sting Ray II* for an excellent and memorable boat trip which put the “icing on the CEBF cake” for 2010.

We also acknowledge The Sign Man who provided, at no cost to the Division, the plaque used in a presentation, and the plexi-glass used by the Division’s Maintenance Crew for fabricating a display case for the Diablotin bird’s “skin”.

We also acknowledge the efforts of our two caterers for the field activities, and the provider of transportation services for CEBF birding activities, for their punctuality and regularity.

We also acknowledge His Worship the Mayor of Roseau and the Roseau City Council, for making available to the Division at no cost, the venue (and chairs) for the slide show that preceded the boat trip to view the sea birds.

We also acknowledge the six schools (3 primary and 3 secondary) that participated in the CEBF educational and awareness activities in 2010, and the Ministry of Education for approving the engagement of those schools in the field activities away from the school compounds.

And last, but certainly by no means least, recognition must be given to all the hard-working members of the CEBF Committee - who all took on additional roles, as well as other co-opted members of the Division's technical and clerical staff, who worked tirelessly to ensure that this year's CEBF programme was another success. Thank you all.

## **COMMENTS**

This may be looked upon another case of blowing one's trumpet, but the Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division and its CEBF Committee can stand and "take a bow" for implementing yet another highly successfully, though packed, programme of activities for the Caribbean Endemic Birds Festival. All activities on the programme, with the exception of two, were implemented and the Committee and all others concerned must be commended for their effort.

The partnerships that have been forged in the implementation of the Division's (and Dominica's) CEBF programme over the years are bearing good fruit, and must be maintained, as the Division stands to reap tremendous benefit from raising the level of awareness among Dominicans about the island's birds and our natural environment by extension.

The Bird Call Imitation Contest once again drew much media attention, and it is expected that *Whistle Like A Bird* will continue to grow in terms of participation. For CEBF 2011, the Committee may wish to consider collaborating with the private sector in producing this particular activity. One media person has already offered his services in that regard, and the Programme Director of one of the local radio station this year suggested that the Contest should be carried live.

The presentation of the slide show to precede the Sea Birds Boat Trip should continue to be an annual feature of that field activity. As one of the participants remarked following the trip, "The presentation really made me appreciate the birds more during the trip. I learnt a lot from the slide show, but the trip was like the icing on the cake."

From 2011 the Division, may need to consider including funding for CEBF in its Recurrent Budget, in an effort to share the cost of implementing the programme of activities for the Festival with the Division's benefactors.

*Arlington James*  
Forest Officer

June 2010

Appendix I

**BIRDS SIGHTED DURING CEBF 2010 FIELD ACTIVITIES**

***(a) Seabirds Colony Visit***

White-tailed Tropicbird  
Brown Pelican  
Brown Noddy  
Brown Booby  
Zeniada Dove  
Royal Tern  
Yellow-crowned Night Heron  
Broad-winged Hawk  
Bridled Tern  
Sooty Tern  
Magnificent Frigatebird  
Caribbean Martin

***(c) "Know Your Birds" Workshop***

House Wren  
Lesser Antillean Bullfinch  
Black-faced Grassquit  
Bananaquit  
Green Heron  
Green-throated Carib  
Zenaida Dove  
Caribbean Martin  
Broad-winged Hawk  
Tropical Mockingbird  
Carib Grackle  
Yellow Warbler  
Scaly-breasted Thrasher  
Lesser Antillean Flycatcher  
Black-whiskered Vireo (heard)

***(b) Birding With The Schools (5 visits)***

Green-throated Carib  
Purple-throated Carib  
Antillean Crested Hummingbird  
Lesser Antillean Bullfinch  
Grey Kingbird  
Common Ground Dove  
Broad-winged Hawk  
House Wren\*  
Bananaquit (building nest)  
Black-faced Grassquit  
Plumbeous Warbler  
Black-whiskered Vireo  
Scaly-breasted Thrasher  
Zenaida Dove  
Mangrove Cuckoo\*  
Lesser Antillean Saltator\*  
Caribbean Elaenia  
Yellow Warbler  
Bare-eyed Robin (nesting)  
Black-faced Grassquit  
Smooth-billed Ani (including a flock of 7)  
Yellow Warbler  
Green Heron  
Magnificent Frigate Bird  
Common Ground Dove  
Lesser Antillean Swift  
Tropical Mockingbird (building nest)  
Cattle Egret (picking ticks off cow)  
Scaly-naped Pigeon  
Carib Grackle  
Royal Tern  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Brown Pelican  
Black-whiskered Vireo

Appendix II

**ADDRESS BY HON. MATTHEW WALTER,  
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
TO LAUNCH 2010 CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRDS FESTIVAL**

Fellow Dominicans,

The **Caribbean Endemic Birds Festival** is celebrated regionally from Earth Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, through World Biodiversity Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. This festival, with its unique Caribbean flavour, has become a major programme on the calendar of environmental awareness and education events on Dominica.

This year's Festival is the ninth regionally, and the seventh on Dominica, and aims at raising awareness among Dominicans and other Caribbean peoples, about the Caribbean's rich bird life, particularly the endemic species. These are birds that can be found in this region and nowhere else on Earth. It must be emphasized that resident and migratory birds are the core of our avian diversity, and are critical to our ecosystem.

Conservation biologists have recognized the Caribbean as one of the "biodiversity hotspots" of the world, with a very impressive listing of endemic species of plants, mammals, lizards, snakes, insects, freshwater fish, marine creatures and other invertebrates, and at least 180 endemic species of birds. There are many other resident birds in the region that are also found elsewhere in the world.

The theme selected by the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds for the 2010 Festival is, "**The Power of Partnerships**". The Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division and Dominica on a whole have benefitted tremendously from partnerships that have been developed with regional and international conservation agencies. From the World Wildlife Fund, to the Rare Centre, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, to the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation. Conservation efforts on Dominica, including efforts at conserving our two endemic parrots and other forms of wildlife, have benefitted to a great degree from the partnerships that have been forged with these and other agencies over the years.

While, we in the Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry and the Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division do not wish to rate the importance of any of these partnerships over another, it is imperative that we make special mention of the growing partnership with the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation. This has so far resulted in the ongoing research programme on our Sisserou and Jaco Parrots - Dominica's only two endemic birds; the establishment of the Morne Diablotin National Park in 2000 and its subsequent expansion; and institutional support for the Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division over the last fourteen years.

Special mention must also be made of the partnership that has developed with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, that has so far produced a very impressive array of natural history and environmental awareness publications for the Forestry & Parks Division; these include a book on *Dominica's Birds*. And for this year's Caribbean Endemic Birds Festival, we can look forward to yet another product of that partnership, in the form of two brand new attractive posters depicting the endemic birds of the Caribbean that can be found on Dominica.

The Government of Dominica also recognizes and appreciates the important partnership that has developed during the last decade with the Zoological Society of London to save the mountain chicken on Dominica. As most of us are aware, the population of our mountain chicken, which shares space on Dominica's Coat-of-Arms with the Sisserou Parrot, has declined dramatically over the last seven to eight years to near extinction levels, due to a fungus that causes a deadly skin disease among frogs worldwide.

It must be noted that it is these types of partnerships that have been developed over the last few decades that have resulted in Dominica having one of the oldest and best systems of national parks and forest reserves in the region, and one of the better national wildlife management programmes in the Caribbean. The Morne Trois Pitons National Park, which will be thirty-five years old this July, has been enlisted as a World Heritage Site for almost thirteen years now, and serves as a major protected area for our birds and other forms of animal and plant life on Dominica.

Once again, the Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has put together another interesting programme of events for the 2010 edition of the Caribbean Endemic Birds Festival. The month-long programme includes activities with primary and secondary school; hikers, members of the general public and for persons in radio-land who wish to test their knowledge about birds.

On behalf of the Director and staff of the Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division, I invite each and every one of you to participate in the eight (8) radio quizzes and four (4) live discussions on the island's four (4) radio stations. I invite you to attend and participate in the public presentation on the *Caribbean's Endemic Birds on Dominica*, which will be held in partnership with the University of the West Indies Open Campus; and to sign up for and participate in the *Whistle Like A Bird Contest*. Art lovers and the general public are also invited to view the third edition of the CEBF *BirdART* Exhibition which will be put on this year by the Goodwill Secondary School. Further details of these and other activities will be given as the festival progresses.

Television viewers are also invited to view a discussion on the theme "The Power of Partnerships", and to view a film on hummingbirds that was produced by the Public Broadcasting Service in the United States. This film includes an interesting segment on the Purple-throated Carib Hummingbird or "fal-wouj" on Dominica.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to declare the 2010 Caribbean Endemic Birds Festival on Dominica formally open. I Thank You.

## Appendix III

### “THE CARIBBEAN’S ENDEMIC BIRDS ON DOMINICA”

(Article published in *The Sun Newspaper*, 10 May 2010; Vol. 12 No. 24)

*Stephen Durand, Assistant Forest Officer  
Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division*

It has been said that the diversity of bird species occurring on Dominica is mainly due to the distance of the island from a major landmass, its size, and the variety of habitats present. Dominica is a small oceanic island located between the French islands of Guadeloupe to the north and Martinique to the south, and lying some distance from Venezuela in South America (the closest piece of continent). Therefore, one cannot expect to find the same diversity of birds species that occurs on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Cuba, and Hispaniola for example - which are much larger than and are in closer proximity to a continental landmass than we are – to be present on Dominica.

A total of 176 species of birds have been recorded for Dominica thus far, of which 65% are Neotropical migrants, and 35% (61species) are resident species. These vary from our smallest species of hummingbird, viz. the Antillean crested hummingbird (or “Ti-kap”, “Syoun”, “Zoom”) to the critically endangered shared Black-capped petrel or “Diablotin” bird. Twenty of the 38 Lesser Antilles Endemic Bird Area (EBA) restricted-range birds occur on the island, including the Blue-headed Hummingbird (*Cyanophaia bicolor*), which occurs only on Dominica and Martinique, and the Plumbeous Warbler or “Chick-chick” (*Dendroica plumbea*) which we share only with Guadeloupe and Marie Galante.

Fortunately and most significantly, Dominica supports two species of single-island endemic parrots, and is the only small island in the Caribbean to do so. The Imperial Amazon or “Sisserou” (*Amazona imperialis*) is Dominica’s national bird and features on the country’s flag and Coat-of-Arms. It is also the largest of all *Amazona* parrots. It shares habitats with the Red-necked Amazon or “Jaco” (*A. arausiaca*). Both of Dominica’s parrots are globally threatened (the Sisserou being enlisted as Endangered and the Jaco as Vulnerable) and promoted as flagship species.

Besides the two parrots, there are nine other bird species found here which occur only in the Lesser Antilles, and these are categorized as regional endemics. These species include the Lesser Antillean swift, Lesser Antillean flycatcher, forest thrush, Lesser Antillean pewee, blue-headed hummingbird, scaly-breasted thrasher, brown trembler, Lesser Antillean saltator, plumbeous warbler, and Lesser Antillean bullfinch.

Significantly too, there are an additional ten species recorded on Dominica which are confined only to the wider Caribbean. These are: Caribbean coot, red-necked pigeon, bridled quail-dove, purple-throated carib, green-throated carib, Antillean crested hummingbird, Caribbean elaenia, rufous-throated solitaire, red-legged thrush, and Antillean euphonia.

Interestingly, some of the above mentioned birds are probably species that some of us as Dominicans encounter on a daily basis around our homes, in our floral and agricultural gardens, and even on utility poles and cable lines. Most times such species are not given attention as we lack knowledge of the importance of birds such as adding to the aesthetics of one's environment, melodious sounds, pollinators of flowers of some fruit trees, vermin control, seed dispersers, and other cultural and traditional values they possess.

A few species are summer visitors to Dominica. These include the black swift and Caribbean martin (also known as Jiwondèl). Several new species have been recorded over the last twenty years, for example, following the passage of intensive tropical storms or during the migration period. One such example was a white-crowned pigeon that turned up here following a tropical storm in the late 1990s. This species is confined to the northern Caribbean.

Dominica presents attractive and exciting places and habitats for viewing all of the recorded species of bird, from the elfin woodland or cloud forest, rainforest, dry forest, swamps, fresh water lakes and rivers, sea cliffs and islets, to open gardens. These opportunities not only lend themselves to the many hundreds of visiting birders and ornithologists who come with their binoculars and personal checklist, recording the Imperial parrot and Blue-headed hummingbird as priority species, but also offer locals the very same opportunity to see all of the endemic birds of the Caribbean (and other species) that occur on Dominica. The best way to do this is to get involved and participate in Dominica's bird awareness programs such as CEBF, and learn more about Dominica's and the Caribbean's endemic birds. A challenge is extended to visit our many different habitats, and to be on the alert as some beautiful, colored, feathered friend may just show up to your satisfaction.

The Caribbean Endemic Birds Festival (CEBF) is an annual activity of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB), and this runs from April 22<sup>nd</sup> (Earth Day) to May 22<sup>nd</sup> (World Biodiversity Day). CEBF this year is in its ninth edition and Dominica, represented by the Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division, is once again participating for the seventh consecutive time.

Bearing in mind the theme for this year's Festival, "*The Power of Partnerships*", and the objectives of CEBF in showcasing and celebrating the Caribbean's rich avifauna, including Dominica's and some of the Caribbean's endemic bird species, all are encouraged to enhance their knowledge and awareness of the birds that are around us.

## MEDIA RELEASE

### DOMINICA PARTICIPATES IN 9<sup>th</sup> EDITION OF THE CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRDS FESTIVAL, 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL TO 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY

---

Dominica, along with several other Caribbean islands, will celebrate the ninth edition of the **Caribbean Endemic Birds Festival (CEBF)** with a number of activities, from Earth Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April to World Biodiversity Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

The Caribbean Endemic Birds Festival has been celebrated annually across the region since 2002, and this will be the seventh consecutive year that Dominica will participate in CEBF. The purpose of this festival is to raise public awareness and appreciation of our region's exceptionally rich and threatened birdlife, using the Caribbean's celebrated endemic birds as flagships for conservation.

The theme chosen by the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds for this year's festival is "*The Power of Partnerships*". The Festival is an opportunity to celebrate partnerships that make our bird conservation programs a success. In Dominica our conservation programs have been strengthened through technical, financial and other support from several local, regional and conservation partners.

Hon. Matthew Walter, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, will officially launch the festival on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010. Activities for this year's Festival will include field trips on Birding and presentations with two secondary and three primary schools; Radio Quizzes; a television programme; live radio discussions on the subject of birds on all four major local radio stations; interviews; a **BirdART** exhibition and contest with the Goodwill Secondary School; a public presentation on **Caribbean Endemic Birds on Dominica** in partnership with the University of the West Indies Open Campus; publishing of a newspaper article, and a boat trip to Pointe des Foux to view several species of nesting seabirds and a colony of Yellow-crowned Night Herons (*Kwabyé jenga*). A **Birding While Hiking** activity with two local hiking groups is scheduled for April 24, and there will also be the airing of a PBS documentary entitled *Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air* on local television. And for the second year, there will be the "**Whistle Like a Bird**" contest where participants will show off their talents imitating the calls and songs of selected Dominican birds.

The Forestry, Wildlife and Parks invites the general public to participate in this year's Festival by testing their knowledge of birds during the 8 radio quizzes (on different days on the radio stations), joining the live radio discussions, and attending the public lecture.

CEBF 2010 in Dominica is co-ordinated by the Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The Festival is sponsored by the Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division and the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation of Florida, USA.

For further information contact the Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division at 266-5856/5852. Or email us at [forestry@cwdom.dm](mailto:forestry@cwdom.dm) or [forestofficer@cwdom.dm](mailto:forestofficer@cwdom.dm)

-END-

#### **CAPTIONS FOR PHOTOS ON PAGE 29 (Appendix VI)**

**Top Left:** *Carib Grackles and Egrets capture attention of students from Pioneer Prep School while "Birding By The Layou" on bank of Layou River*

**Top Right:** *One of the art pieces on exhibit in Goodwill Secondary School's BirdART display,*

**Centre Left:** *Students from Pierre Charles Secondary School with Teacher (L) and Forestry Officer (C) "Birding by the Boulevard" at Geneva, Grand Bay*

**Centre Right:** *Students and Teacher from Soufriere Primary School, with Forestry Officers (standing far right and far left) at end of "Birding By The Sulphur Springs"*

**Bottom Left:** *Art piece at Goodwill Secondary School's presentation of BirdART III*

**Bottom Right:** *One of the many slides shown during the Know Your Birds Workshop*

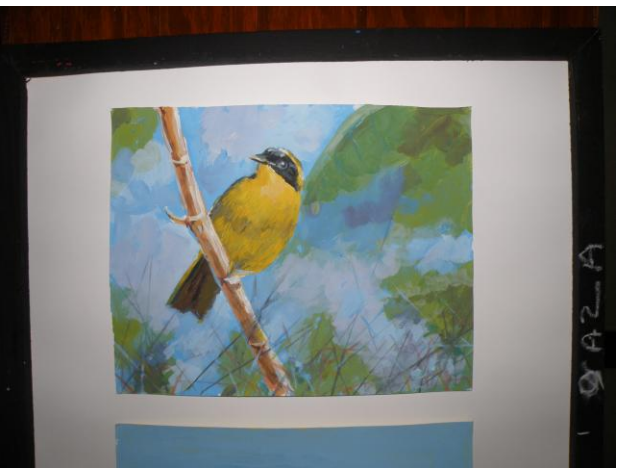
Appendix V

2010 CEBF RADIO QUIZZES

<b>DATE OF QUIZ</b>	<b>STATION</b>	<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>ANSWER(S)</b>
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	DBS Radio	The Morne Trois Pitons National Park provides a safe haven and protected habitat for several species of birds on Dominica. What will be the age of this national park in July 2010?	35 years
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Kairi FM Radio	Which two (2) the following species of birds only occur on Dominica as well as either Martinique or Guadeloupe? (a) Jaco Parrot, (b) Blue-headed hummingbird or "Fou-fou tèt bleu" (c) Sisserou Parrot, (d) Sisi-zèb or Black-faced Grassquit, (e) Papya, Chick-chick, or Plumbeous Warbler, and (f) the Rammier or Red-necked Pigeon	*Papya, Chick-chick, or Plumbeous Warbler, and *Blue-headed Hummingbird or "Fou-fou tèt-bleu"
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Voice-of-Life Radio	Which two (2) of the following species of birds that occur on Dominica migrate annually to the Caribbean from North America? (a) "Bégas" or Sand Pipers, (b) "Pèdwi" or Rudy Quail Dove, (c) Kalali or Green Heron, (d) "Sikiyé" or Bananaquit, (e) Yellow-billed Cuckoo	* Bégas" or Sandpiper * Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Q-95 FM RADIO	Which two (2) of the following species of Dominican birds obtain their nutrients only from plants? (a)Antillean Crested Hummingbird or Fougou; (b) Jaco Parrot; (c) The Barn Owl or Chawan (d) Sisserou Parrot; and (e) Grey Kingbird or "Pipirit"	*Jaco Parrot and *Sisserou Parrot
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	DBS Radio	How many wild species of dove commonly occur on Dominica?	3 species
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Voice-of-Life Radio	Name <u>all</u> the OECS countries that have a bird on their official Coat-of-Arms	Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Q-95 FM Radio	The smallest bird in the world comes from the Caribbean. What is the English name for this bird?	The Bee Hummingbird
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Kairi FM Radio	Which village along Dominica's leeward coast is named after a local sea bird?	Tarou Village

Appendix VI

**COLLAGE OF PHOTOS FROM CEBF 2010**



*See Page 27 for Photo Captions. Apologies offered for any inconvenience caused.*



## CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRDS FESTIVAL, 2010

22<sup>nd</sup> April to 22<sup>nd</sup> May

*Theme: The Power of Partnerships*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
<b>Week 1</b>		
Tue. 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Media Appearance on <i>Kairi's "The Heng"</i>	CEBF Promo; 7:00 a.m. (AJames & RWinston)
Wed. 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Circulate <b>Media Release</b>	To all TV, Radio and Newspaper Media houses
Wed. 21 <sup>st</sup> April	<b>Publish Article</b> on <i>Caribbean Endemics on D/ca</i>	The Sun Newspaper
Thur. 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>Official Launching</b> of CEBF 2010	Minister for Agriculture (DBS, 7:10 a.m. and GIS)
Thur. 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>Media Appearance</b> on <i>Espéwéyans Kwéyòl</i>	DBS; Guests: Felix Eugene & B Jno Baptiste
Thur. 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>Airing of TV Interview</b> with Dr.PR, BJB & SD	<i>Environment Corner</i> ; pre-recorded; (in collab. With GIS)
Fri. 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	<b>Birding by the Layout</b> (School 1)	<b>Nehemiah Comprehensive School; 9:00 a.m.</b>
-----		
<b>Week 2</b>		
Mon. 26 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Airing of TV Interview</b> with Dr.PR, BJB & SD	<i>Environment Corner</i> (Marpin 2K4 and SAT, Thru GIS)
Wed. 28 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Live Radio Discussion (RMU Hour)</b>	DBS Radio, 7:00 pm. Guests TBD
Wed. 28 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Birding by the Layout</b> (School 2)	<b>Pioneer Prep School; 9:00 a.m.</b>
Wed. 28 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Radio Quiz: DBS Radio</b>	Quiz 1: Ted Daley Show
Thu. 29 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Live Radio Discussion: Voice-of-Life</b>	Arlington James (10:00 a.m.)
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Radio Quiz: Kairi FM</b>	Quiz 2: Time TBD
-----		
<b>Week 3</b>		
Week of 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>Airing of HUMMINGBIRDS IN THE AIR</b>	PBS DVD; Arrange for SAT and Marpin 2K4)
Mon. 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>Airing of TV Interview</b> with Dr.PR, BJB & SD	<i>Environment Corner</i> (Marpin 2K4 and SAT, Thru GIS)
Tue. 4 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Live Radio Discussion (Q-95 Radio)</b>	10:00 a.m. (15 min) Ronnie Winston & Jackie Andre
Tue. 4 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Radio Quiz: Voice of Life</b>	Quiz 3: Time to be arranged
Thu. 6 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Radio Quiz: Q-95</b>	Quiz 4: Time TBD
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Birding by the Sulphur Springs</b> (School 3)	<b>Soufriere Primary School; 9:00 a.m.</b> Sulphur Springs area

**CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRDS FESTIVAL, 2010 – PROGRAMME (ctd)**

**Week 4**

Week of 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Airing of <b>HUMMINGBIRDS IN THE AIR</b>	PBS DVD; Arrange for SAT and Marpin 2K4)
Mon. 10 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Airing of TV Interview</b> with Dr.PR, BJB & SD	<i>Environment Corner</i> Marpin 2K4 and SAT, Thru GIS)
Tue. 11 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Birding by the Boulevard</b> (School 4)	Pierre Charles Secondary School (Grand Bay)
Wed. 12 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Radio Quiz: DBS Radio</b>	Quiz 5: The Ted Dailey Show
Wed. 12 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>“Whistle / Sing Like A Bird” Contest</b>	Forestry Conference Room, 10:00 a.m.
Thu. 13 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Live Radio Discussion (Kairi FM)</b>	(3:30 p.m). Guest: Bertrand Jno Baptiste
Thu. 13 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Public Presentation on Caribn. Endemics on DA</b>	In collab. with UWI Open Campus; 7:05 p.m.
Thu. 13 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Presentation of Token to Diablotin “Finder”</b>	Vincent Theophile; Venue UWI, 7:00 pm, b4 presentation
Fri. 14 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Birding by the Glo Cho</b> (School 5)	<b>Wotten Waven Primary School; 9:00 a.m.</b>
Fri. 14 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Radio Quiz: Voice of Life Radio</b>	Quiz #6
Sat. 15 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Birding While Hiking:</b> (w Dwivayez, DABEx)	Destination To be Finalised

---

**Week 5 (Closing)**

Week of 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Airing of <b>HUMMINGBIRDS IN THE AIR</b>	PBS DVD; Arrange for SAT and Marpin 2K4)
Mon. 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Launch <b>Caribn. Endemic Birds on D/A</b> Posters	(Pending receipt from Printers)
Mon. 17 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Airing of TV Interview</b> with Dr.PR, BJB & SD	<i>Environment Corner</i> (Marpin 2K4 and SAT, Thru GIS)
Tue. 18 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>BirdART III Exhibition &amp; Contest</b> Opening	Goodwill Secondary School; Venue & Duration: TBD
Thu. 20 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Radio Quiz: Q-95 FM Radio</b>	Quiz #7
Fri. 21 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>Radio Quiz: Kairi FM Radio</b>	Quiz #8
Fri. 21 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>“Know Our Birds” Workshop</b>	For Forestry Field Staff. Facilitators SD, & BJB
Sat. 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>Sea Birds PPT &amp; Visit to Seabird Colony</b>	Boat Trip to Pointe Des Foux; PPT at Baracoon Bldg.