

Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds

**CONSERVATION THROUGH APPRECIATION: BIRDS AS WINGED
AMBASSADORS FOR CARIBBEAN CONSERVATION**

Final Report to the Charles Blake Fund
of the Nuttall Ornithological Society



Prepared by:

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Background

Conservation of nature begins with education—an understanding and awareness of our dependence on intact ecosystems and an appreciation for the many values of biodiversity. We proposed to build on two very successful outreach and education programs of the SCSCB and continuing development of a third education program on migratory birds. The overall goal of these projects is to increase awareness and appreciation of the Caribbean’s unique and diverse bird life and the important habitat upon which these birds and human societies depend through our outreach and education programs.

Our primary objective with this proposal was to develop new outreach materials that will help organizations across the region to raise awareness about the value of birds – both residents and migrants, and the importance of habitat conservation. Specifically, we planned to:

- Develop a *Migratory Birds of the West Indies* Coloring Book.
- Develop three new bird identification cards: *Landbirds of Puerto Rico*, *Landbirds of Jamaica* and *Landbirds of Antigua and Barbuda*.
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Project Results¹

1. Migratory Birds of the West Indies Colouring Book

To develop the colouring book, *Birds of the West Indies* by Raffaele et al. was consulted to create a draft list of migrant birds, making an effort to include those that were most common and widespread in the region, as well as several endangered species (e.g., Bicknell’s Thrush, Kirtland’s Warbler). The draft list was circulated to our network of educators throughout the Caribbean for review and to finalize the list. This was a challenging task because some migrants primarily occur in the Greater Antilles while others are common in the Lesser Antilles but are not found in large numbers in the Greater Antilles. Through extensive discussions and comments on the draft list, we were able to come to a compromise solution, which involved including a large number of birds in the book.

Bahamian artist, John Thompson, created drawings of **41** migratory birds that winter in or migrate through the Caribbean (seabirds, waterbirds, shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, etc). The birds are shown in their wintering habitat and each page includes natural history information about the bird and a range map.

Colour images (from *Birds of the West Indies*) of all the birds are on the inside covers so that children can see how to colour them. A 3-page Introduction provides information and interesting facts about migration, "Parts of a Bird" diagram, and suggested activities for children to help birds and learn more about them. (see cover in Appendix 1, many pages of the colouring book can be viewed in the photo album "Migratory Bird of the West Indies" on our FaceBook page: "Caribbean Bird Festivals: CEBF and IMBD." Here is a direct link to the album: <http://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanBirdFestivals?v=photos&ref=ts#!/album.php?aid=27371&id=115276011835425>)

After extensive work on the design and text (by a small team of writers), the colouring books (5,000 copies) were printed in early September 2010 in Hialeah, FL and shipped to more than 40 educators and partners working in NGOs, government agencies, and schools throughout the region. The books were received just in time for our Caribbean celebration of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) in October. The announcement about the availability of the

¹ Hard copies of the materials we produced were given to Betty Petersen in October 2010.

colouring books was posted on BirdsCaribbean (SCSCB's listserve) on 17 September 2010 and all 5,000 copies were spoken for within 3 days.

Since the distribution, we have received many positive comments on the quality of the colouring book, what a valuable educational tool it is to teach children about birds, and how much the children enjoy using it.

A number of photographs of children with the colouring books have been posted on our Caribbean Bird Festivals Facebook page (IMBD 2010 Photo Album). A few photos are included in Appendix 2.

Some comments from our partners that received copies of the book:

The book is beautiful and a wonderful addition to the new bird tours we currently offer older children in the primary schools. - Erika Daniel, Education Programmes Coordinator, National Trust for the Cayman Islands

The colouring book is perfect to supplement our school education program. - Natalia Collier, President, Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC)

Beautiful Lisa and all who contributed! The coloring book will be incorporated as part of the Biodiversity Blitz to be held at Southgate Coastal Reserve on November 13th. – Carol Cramer-Burke, Manager, Southgate Reserve, St. Croix Environmental Association, St. Croix, US Virgin Islands

As a Green Initiative Peace Corps Volunteer here in Jamaica and a member of SCSCB, my wife and I would very much like to receive some colouring books to help celebrate IMBD. We're working with the children of Robins Bay, St. Mary and this material would be perfect in supporting our local efforts. Thanks to you and your sponsors for making this available. – Bob Lockett, Peace Corps Volunteer, Jamaica

The children love the new colouring book "Migratory Birds of the Caribbean" which they receive after they participated in the classroom session and an introduction to birding at the Garden of the Groves for our celebration of IMBD. - Mrs. Laing, Educator and coordinator of IMBD at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama.

The colouring books are a fantastic resource and very well produced! - Ann Pienkowski, Environmental Education Coordinator, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

The colouring book is a very valuable resource for us to use not only for IMBD but for other outreach activities on which we may focus on birds. - Dorsia Brooks, Education Outreach Officer, Natural History Museum of Jamaica

I am happy to say that we have received the colouring books and that they are beautiful and full of information. I am quite sure that the kids will enjoy using them and more importantly learn more about the birds that visit the islands regularly. Thank you for your donation and be assured that it will be put to good use. - Lormeka Williams, Department of Environment and Coastal Resources, Turks and Caicos Islands

We are very excited to have the colouring books and peregrine falcon posters for our International Migratory Bird Festival celebrations which include school visits scheduled on the week of October 25th, bird watching excursions on Oct. 30th and November 19th, a teachers workshop on November 12th, and community clean-up in Wheeland, an important area for birds. - Jonathan Sayao, Education Officer, Turks and Caicos Islands National Trust

I LOVE THE COLORING BOOK!!!!!!!!!! Serious problem, people were frantic to buy it and someone did take one! – Kate Wallace, Environmental Educator, Hispaniolan Ornithological Society

We recently used the Migratory Birds colouring book at 2 of our student workshops and they were a hit! – Melissa Dentch and Maxine Hamilton, Negril Environmental Protection Trust, Jamaica

2. Landbird Cards

We had originally expected to receive \$14,000 in funding from USFWS to print three Landbird cards, but this amount ended up being \$8,000, hence we had to scale back our plans and print two cards instead of three. 4,000 each of Landbirds of Puerto Rico cards and Landbirds of Jamaica cards were printed (see Appendix 3).

To develop the cards, local committees were formed in the two countries/islands. These were composed primarily of ornithologists, birders and educators in NGOs, government agencies and also nature/bird guide operators. A draft list of species for each country was prepared and reviewed by the committee. The goal was to create a card that depicted the common landbirds on the island, including birds that would be typically seen in towns, villages, backyards, gardens, and parks. Important and/or threatened endemics that could be seen without too much difficulty were also included. After finalizing the list of species, plates to be included on the card were chosen, and background photographs (e.g., landscapes and important plants, flowers for birds) were assembled for the graphic designer. I worked closely with the graphic designer on the layout and design, and the committee and myself reviewed several draft versions of the card until it was deemed perfect. The cards were printed in the UK in April 2010 and shipped by air freight to Jamaica and Puerto Rico.

The Puerto Rican Ornithological Society is handling the distribution of cards in Puerto Rico. They have contacted a number of NGOs, institutions and government agencies that carry out education and outreach on birds and given them a supply of the cards. We have received a number of positive comments on the cards—how beautiful they are and that they are a wonderful tool to raise awareness in the general public about the island’s important resident and migratory birds. A partial list of recipients is included below.

- Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico
- Amigos del Centro Ambiental Santa Ana, CASA (Santa Ana Nature Center Friends)
- AdvenTours Puerto Rico, Inc. - Bird/Nature Tour Guide company
- Caborrojenos Pro Salud y Ambiente - group that has the interpretative center in the salt flats of Cabo Rojo
- Educational tour operator in the east of PR

In Jamaica, the cards have unfortunately not yet been distributed as they have been held up in customs. Our local contacts have been working hard to solve the issue (some missing paperwork) and we expect the cards will be available for distribution very soon.

Value of Project to Ornithology

Our partners have repeatedly stress the urgent need for high-quality materials in their outreach and education programs. The materials that we produce and make available to educators throughout the region help raise awareness about the beauty, value and importance of birds and their habitats. These materials, along with other resources and training we provide, increase local capacity to raise awareness about and advocate for the conservation of birds and habitats at all levels.

In the short term, our programs help reduce pollution and other unsustainable uses of local birds and habitats, and help and inspire citizens and decision makers to make better choices about the use of their natural resources. They also demonstrate the strong connection between ecosystem health and human health and highlight the overall benefits to society of environmental stewardship. In the long term, our programs will result in a new generation of Caribbean citizens that is knowledgeable, appreciative and concerned about birds and their environment, which will in turn lead to improved land use planning, legal protection for key wetlands and forests, and wise, sustainable use of important habitats.

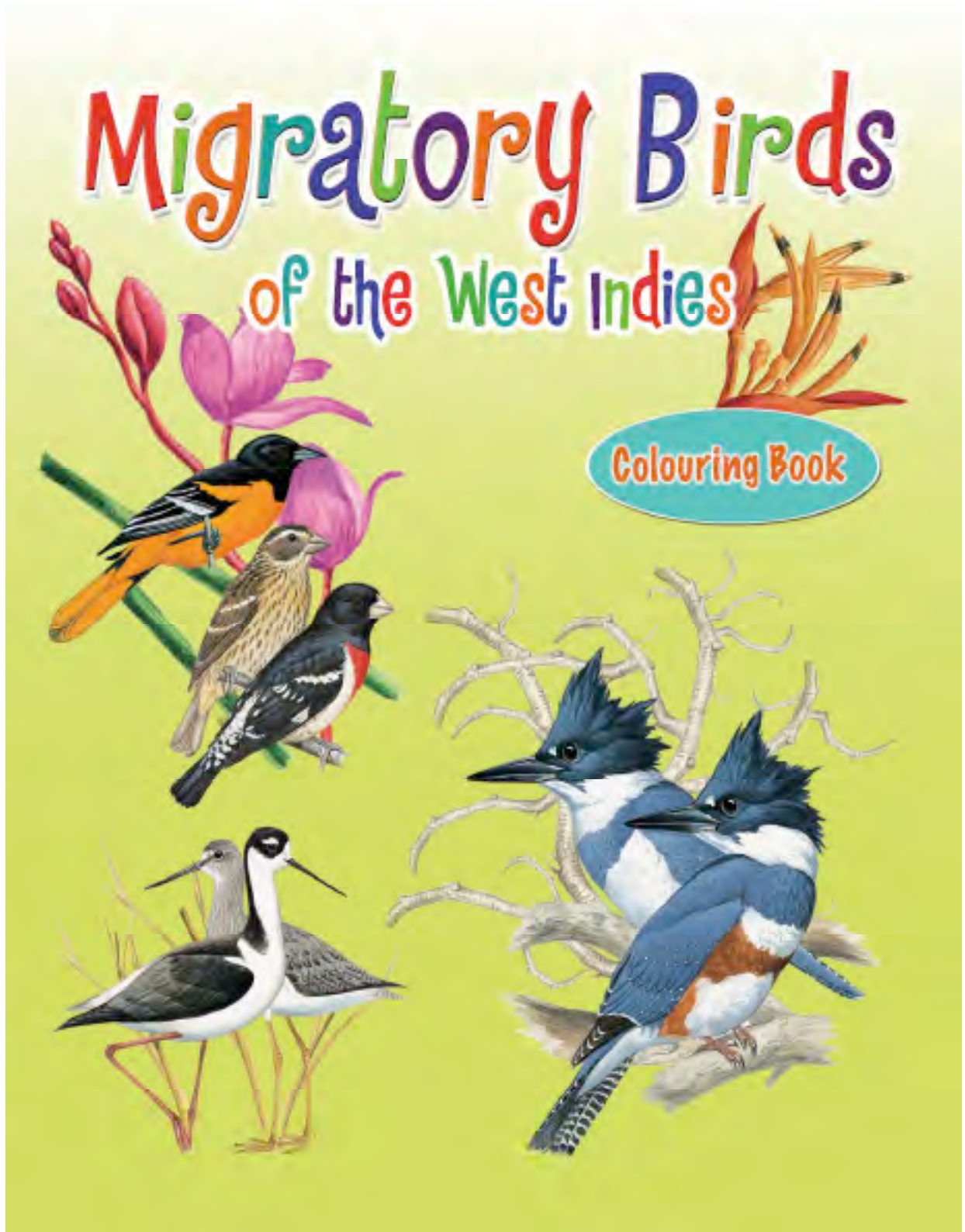
Accounting of Charles Blake Funds

\$2,000 – Printing of Migratory Birds of the West Indies Colouring Book

\$1,500 – Printing of Landbird Cards for Puerto Rico and Jamaica

\$3,500 – Total received and spent

Appendix 1. Cover of Migratory Birds of the West Indies Colouring Book.



Appendix 2. Photos of children with the new Migratory Birds of the West Indies Colouring Book.



After lecture and field trip at Garden of the Groves, students from Maurice Moore Primary School receive a high quality, educational colouring book featuring 41 beautiful drawings of migratory birds that occur in the Caribbean along with brief text about each species.



☛ Checking out the new Migratory Birds of the West Indies colouring book, students at Robins Bay Primary School, Jamaica

From the album:
IMBD 2010 by Caribbean Bird
Festivals – CEBF & IMBD



Showing off some colouring, student at Robins Bay Primary School, Jamaica. All students received a copy of the new Migratory Birds of the West Indies colouring book – they were very popular!

From the album
IMBD 2010 by Caribbean Bird
Festivals – CEBF & IMBD

Appendix 3. Landbird cards for Puerto Rico and Jamaica (front and back).

