

- ✦ eBird and Merlin
- ✦ Level 1 Monitoring Protocol (as per BirdsCaribbean)
- ✦ [unreadable symbols]
- ✦ Making Your Garden Bird-Friendly
- ✦ [unreadable symbols]
- ☒ [unreadable symbols]

Conduct field training sessions

Quizzes, polls, and a final exam were also included to complement the sessions, and participants received certificates of completion and prizes based on their performance.

Field training began taking place in July 2019. Participants were taken out to wetlands and coastal areas to learn to identify birds by silhouette, sound, flight pattern and behavior. A total of 7 new birders participated.

Currently, birders are monitoring and collecting data at wetland sites across the island, conferring with each other, and the facilitators. Due to restrictions implemented to safeguard residents, no joint birding activity has yet taken place. However, the first joint activity is being planned as the country will be reopened in June.

Presently, participants are sharing bird photos, bird call recordings and videos of site monitoring with each other via the bird club WhatsApp group.

ACTION

STATUS

Conduct simultaneous counts at three wetland IBAs

Following the opening of the country in June 2020, simultaneous counts will occur at several wetlands, with a high probability of including more than the three original sites listed in the project proposal. Additional sites will include Willoughby Bay, Five Islands Wetland, Potworks Dam and Darkwood Wetlands.

Repeated counts

The EAG bird club will charge itself with the regular monitoring of key sites that will feed data to the local Environmental Information Management and Advisory System and internationally to eBird.

Additional Comments

- ✦ The team has been leading a successful mobile photographic exhibition of birds and other wildlife found in our wetland hotspots which has been well-received. The team took the exhibition on the local news station to be aired live to hundreds of viewers, as well as completed another exhibition at a World Consumer Rights Fair. This exhibition was visited by 115 people in 3 hours.
- ✦ The team has had great success with educational outreach to the general public. Amidst the pandemic, the team has definitely inspired many residents to stop and appreciate local and migratory birds and their habitats through our weekly EAG Talk in the local newspaper, and through our social media initiatives #NatureStillOpen and #WildlifeWednesdays.
- ✦ Even though the team ventured into unknown waters as we led our first virtual training course, the results have surpassed our expectations, with over thirty persons across the country fired up and excited about birds and birding. The newly trained group has been relentless in their postings and sharing about bird sightings and monitoring.
- ✦ The newly trained group of birders have continually shared how the course has changed their thoughts on birds and conservation. One participant even wrote and published an entire article. Please see Appendix for comments, media releases, and highlights of participant feedback.
- ✦ The team and participants were very humbled to have had Dr. Herb Raffaele, author, ornithologist, and member of the Cape Cod Bird Club as a guest panelist on our fifth session discussing Shorebirds. Dr. Raffaele encouraged the participants and answered their questions on birding.

✦ The team was also very thankful to have Dr. Lisa Sorenson, Executive Director of BirdsCaribbean provide the virtual platform and be present at each meeting to interact with participants.

Lessons Learnt

✦ Be knowledgeable about the topic and ensure that each member is familiar with the content of all presentations in case of technical difficulties.

✦ Use anecdotes to make learning more interesting and memorable.

✦ Use polls, quizzes, and exams to make learning more interactive.

✦ Advertise well. The team had persons regularly tune in from different parts of the world.

Recommendations and Future Plans

✦ The project team realized that colleagues from across the region regularly tuned in to the training. The course can be easily replicated and we recommend that courses like this be offered throughout the region, to get residents involved in conserving birds.

✦ The project team is aggressively seeking funding to improve monitoring and enjoyment of birds and other wildlife at key wetland sites.

✦ The project team is preparing to offer more specialized training on monitoring bird groups: Seabirds, Shorebirds, Landbirds, Wetland Birds, to have more specialized groups of bird monitors.

Acknowledgements

The project team wishes to thank the Cape Cod Bird Club for first providing us with funding to train residents to connect with nature through birding, and thereby providing vital data on birds. Thank you for your patience, understanding and amazing support! The team also wishes to thank BirdsCaribbean for their support of this project, their technical support, their training, their donation of monitoring equipment, providing Powerpoint templates, from which we were able to develop our own, and their interaction with our trainees.

Finally, we would like to thank the entire EAG team who was behind the scenes, making sure that all went smoothly as we implemented this project.