

# The Status and Conservation of Saint Lucia's Forest Birds



By Adams Toussaint, Forestry Department. December 1<sup>st</sup> 2009

# INTRODUCTION

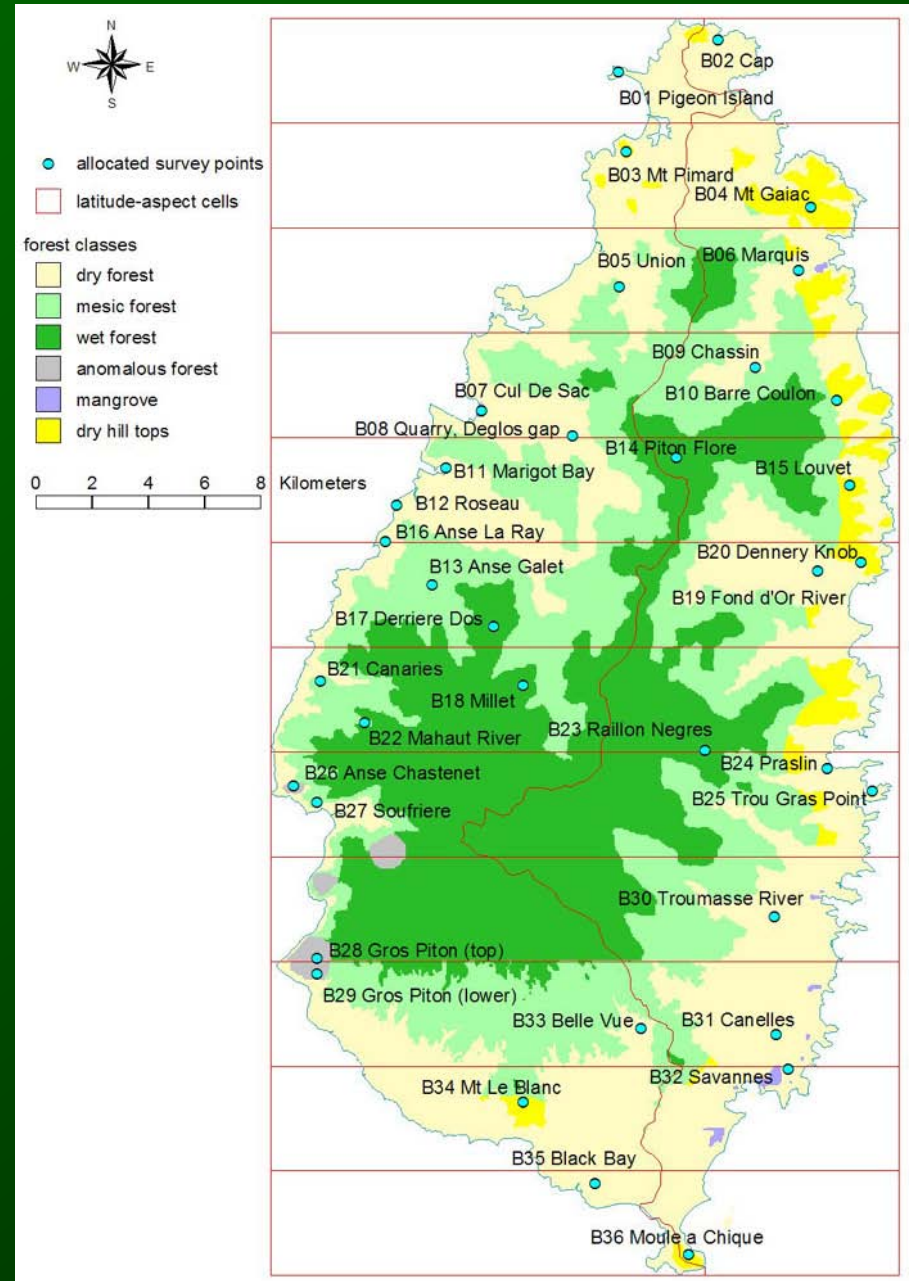
- This survey was conducted as a part of the National Forest Demarcation and Bio-Physical Resource Inventory Project, funded by the European Community under SFA2003
- Objectives:
  - A rapid surveys of birds using standardized point counts at 33 sites across Saint Lucia, selected to represent major forest types on the island.
  - To determine frequency of occurrence of bird species in and different habitats
  - To derive management recommendations for the conservation of birds and their habitats on Saint Lucia.

# Methods

Allocation of survey points

standardized counts at  
survey points

A suite of 16 priority  
species were selected, for  
the production of  
individual species  
distribution maps



# Allocation of bird count sample points within forest type strata

| <i>stratum</i>        |                                                                                  | <i>Bird count sample points</i> |                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Predicted</i>      | <i>Final classification</i>                                                      | <i>Allocated</i>                | <i>Completed</i> |
| Dry forest            | deciduous seasonal forest*                                                       | 21                              | 21               |
| mesic forest          | semi-evergreen seasonal forest                                                   | 5                               | 5                |
| wet forest **         | lower montane rainforest }<br>montane rainforest }<br>cloud montane rainforest } | 4                               | 4                |
| anomalous hill forest | deciduous seasonal forest*                                                       | 3                               | 1                |
| Dry forested hilltops | deciduous seasonal forest*                                                       | 3                               | 2                |
| Total                 |                                                                                  | 36                              | 33               |

# Priority Bird Species Selected

| Common name                 | Latin name                                     | Endemic species                     | Endemic subspecies                  | Regional endemic                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bridled quail-dove          | <i>Geotrygon mystacea</i>                      |                                     |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| thrush                      | <i>Cichlherminia lherminieri sanctaeluciae</i> |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| Great blue heron            | <i>Ardea herodias</i>                          |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| Grey trembler               | <i>Cinclocerthia gutturalis macrorhyncha</i>   |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| Lesser Antillean saltator   | <i>Saltator albicollis albicollis</i>          |                                     |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Lesser Antillean flycatcher | <i>Myiarchus oberi sanctaeluciae</i>           |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| Rufous-throated solitaire   | <i>Myadestes genibarbis sanctaelucinae</i>     |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| Semper's warbler            | <i>Leucopeza semperi</i>                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |                                     |
| amazon                      | <i>Amazona versicolor</i>                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |                                     |
| black finch                 | <i>Melanospiza richardsoni</i>                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |                                     |
| nightjar                    | <i>Caprimulgus rufus otiosus</i>               |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| oriole                      | <i>Icterus laudabilis</i>                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |                                     |
| pewee                       | <i>Contopus latirostris oberi</i>              |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| warbler                     | <i>Dendroica delicata</i>                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |                                     |
| wren                        | <i>Troglodytes aedon mesoleucus</i>            |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| White-breasted thrasher     | <i>Ramphocinclus brachyurus sanctaeluciae</i>  |                                     |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

# Saint Lucia Amazon



**Photo: © Tseng Chiu-wen Hank**

# Saint Lucia black finch



Photo: Adams Toussaint

# Saint Lucia oriole



Photo: © Adams Toussaint

# Saint Lucia warbler



Photo: © Adams Toussaint

# Saint Lucia pewee



Photo: © Tseng Chiu-wen

# Saint Lucia wren



Photo: © Adams Toussaint

# Saint Lucia nightjar



Photo: © Bruno Kern

# Saint Lucia white-breasted thrasher



Photo: © Adams Toussaint

# Semper's warbler



Illustration: © Christopher Cox

# Forest Thrush



Illustration: © Christopher Cox

# Grey trembler



**Photo: © Tseng Chiu-wen Hank**

# Bridled quail dove



Photo: © Adams Toussaint

# Lesser Antillean saltator



Photo: © Adams Toussaint

# Lesser Antillean flycatcher



Photo: © Adams Toussaint

# Saint Lucia rufous-throated solitaire



Photo: © Adams Toussaint

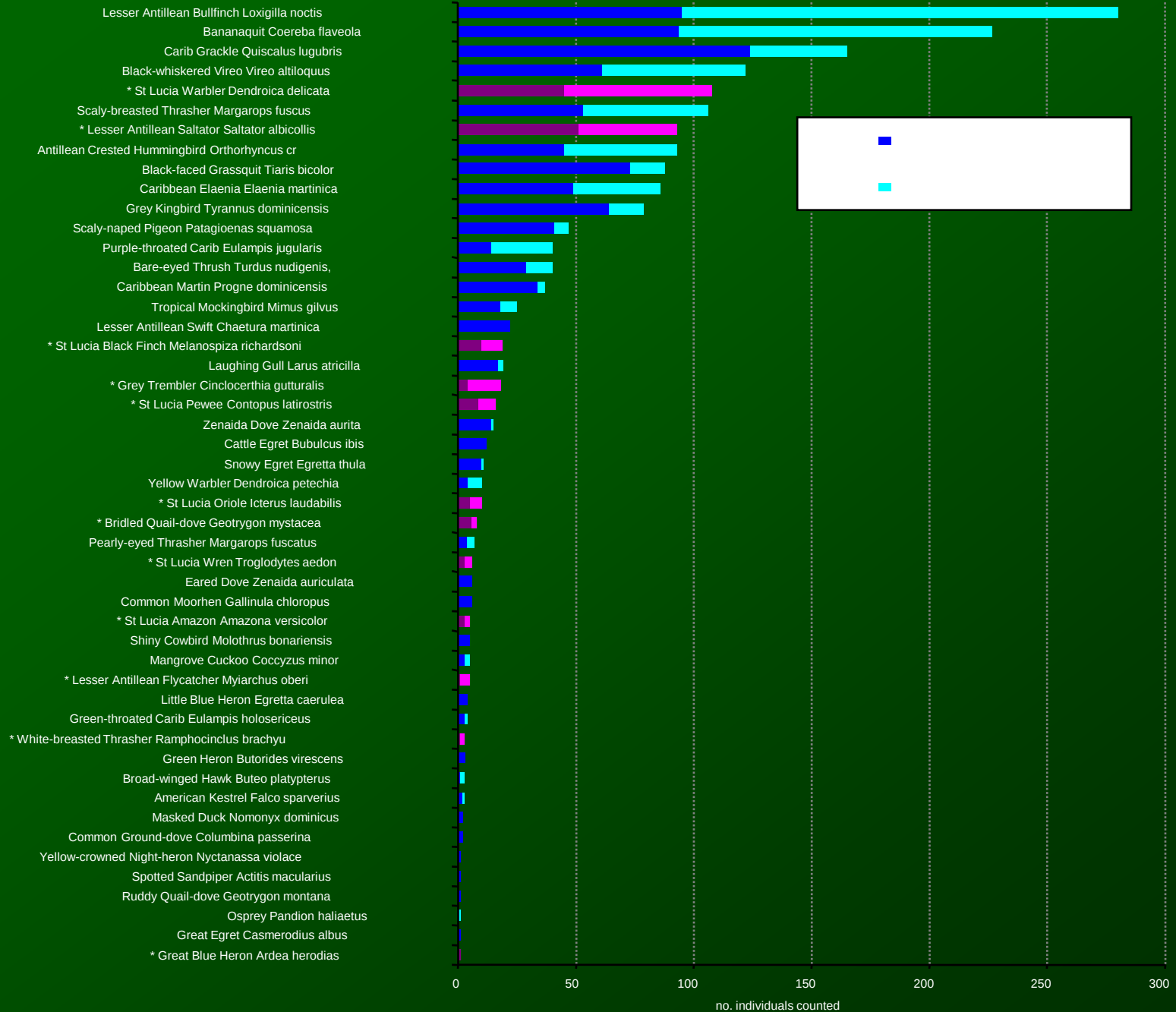
# Great blue heron

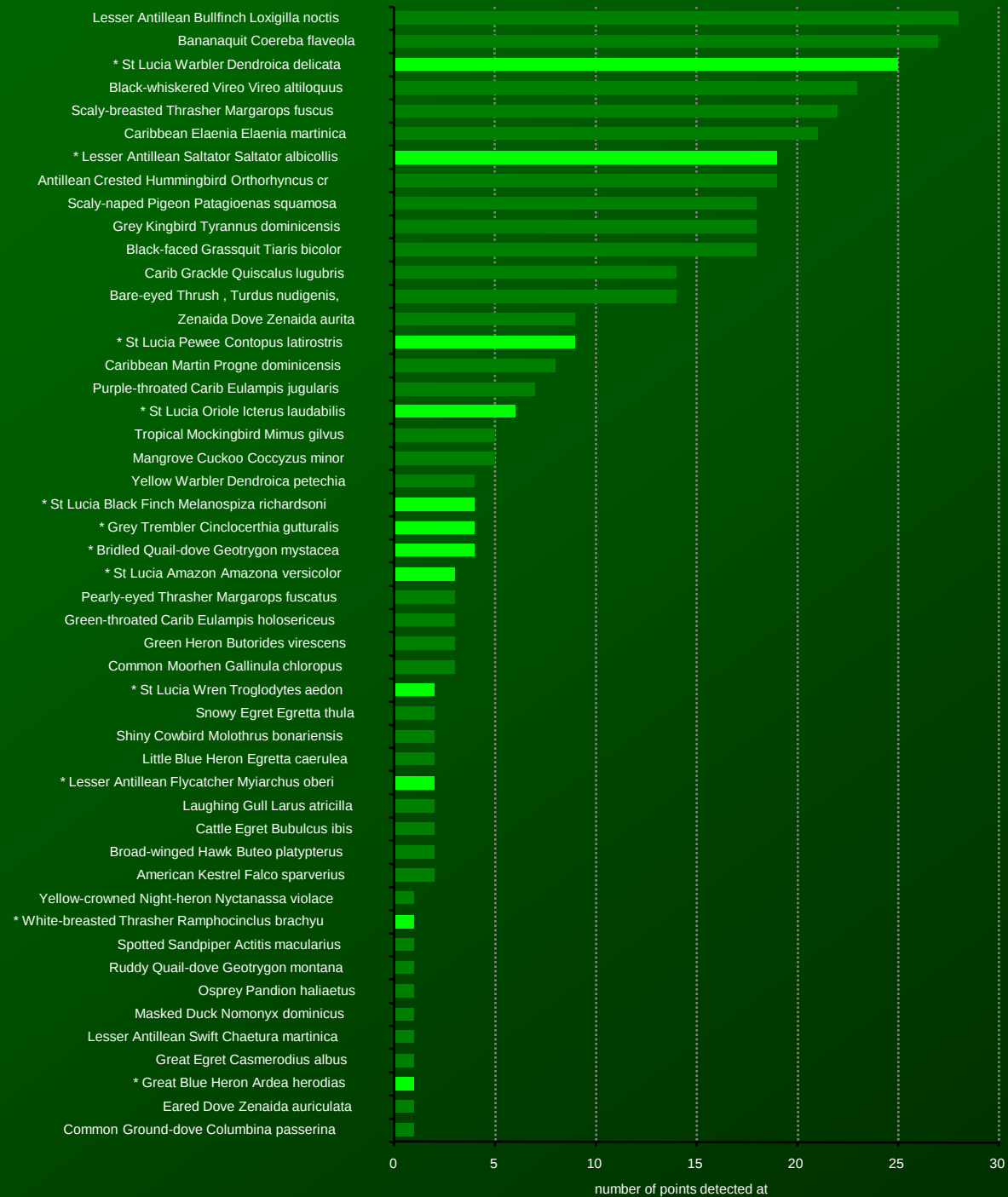


Photo: © Adams Toussaint

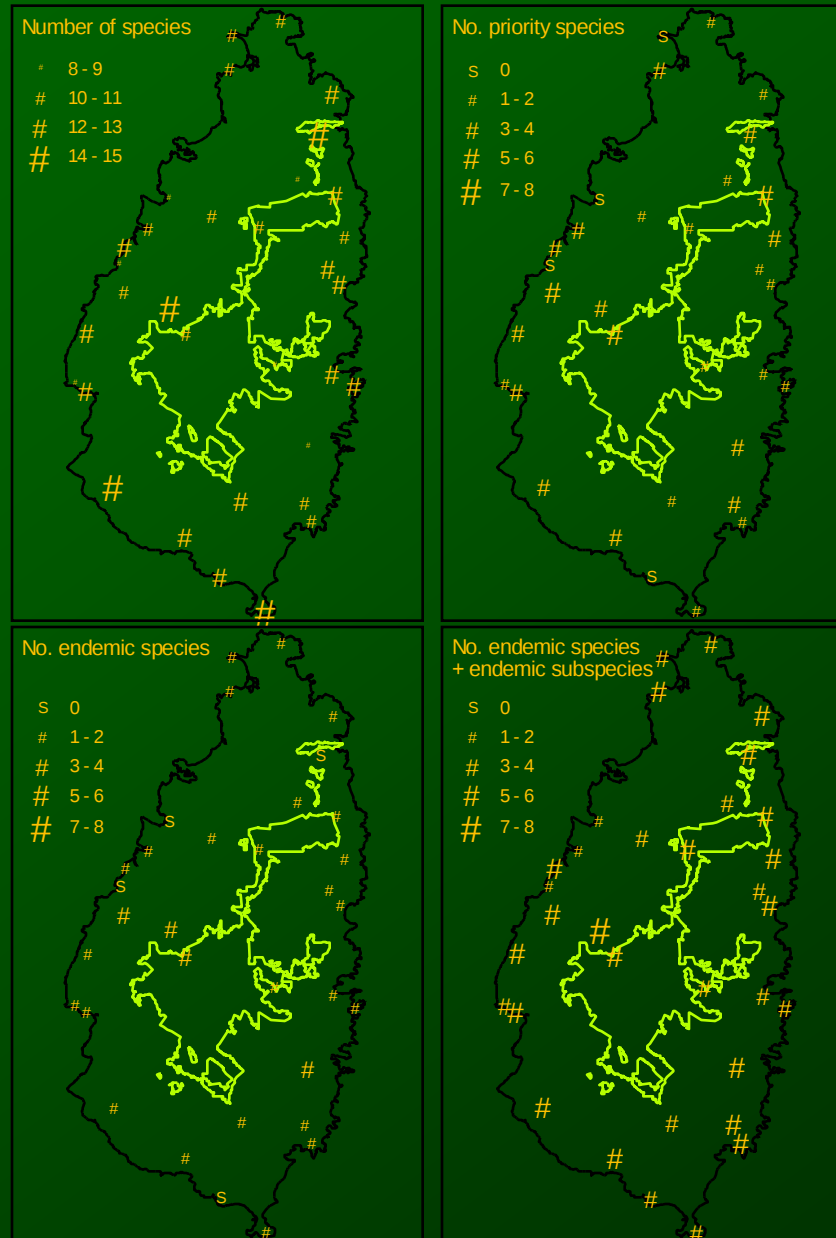
# Numbers of all Bird Species Recorded During the 2009 Inventory

| <i>Species</i>      | <i>Previously<br/>recorded from<br/>Saint Lucia</i> | <i>Recorded<br/>during<br/>inventory</i> | <i>% recorded<br/>during 2009<br/>inventory</i> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| All species         | 168                                                 | 49                                       | 29%                                             |
| Resident species    | 72                                                  | 46                                       | 64%                                             |
| Migrant species     | 63                                                  | 3                                        | 5%                                              |
| Vagrant species     | 33                                                  | 0                                        | 0%                                              |
| Priority species    | 16                                                  | 12                                       | 75%                                             |
| Endemic species     | 6                                                   | 5                                        | 83%                                             |
| Endemics subspecies | 14                                                  | 7                                        | 50%                                             |

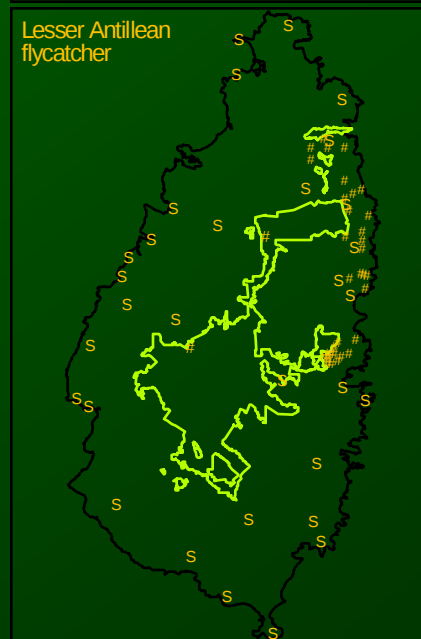
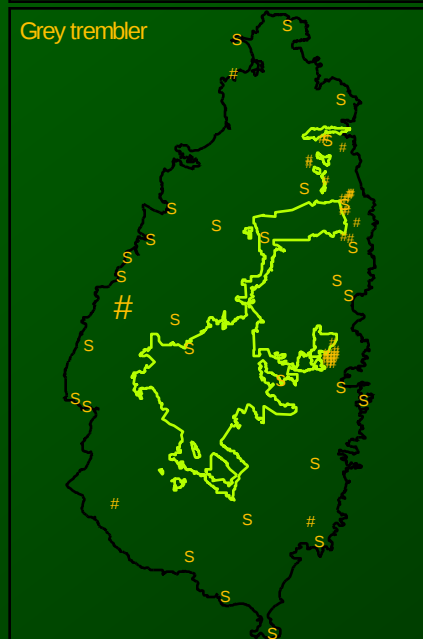
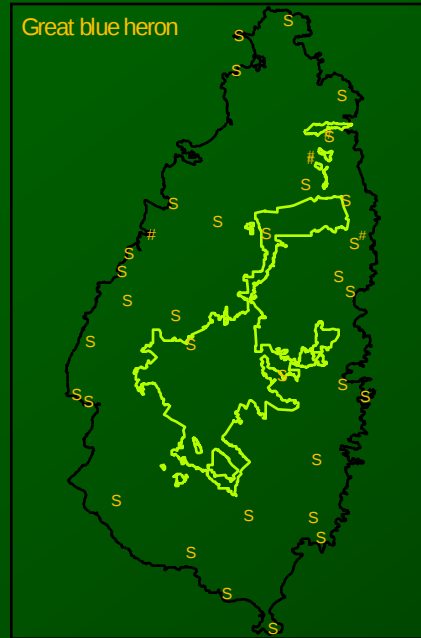
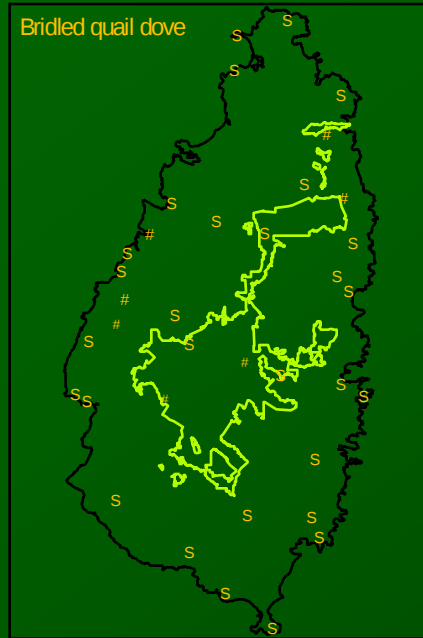




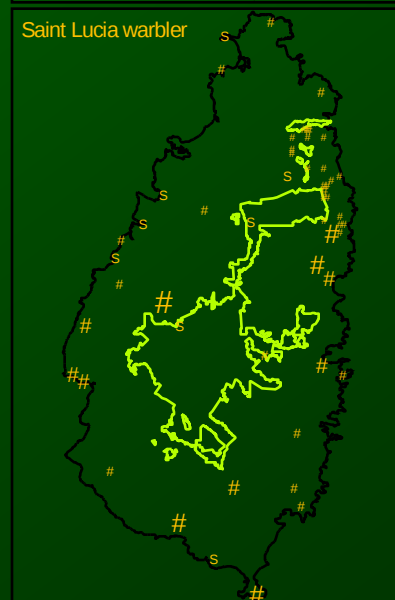
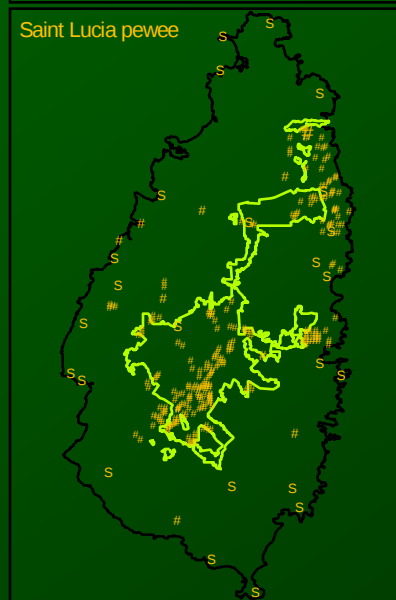
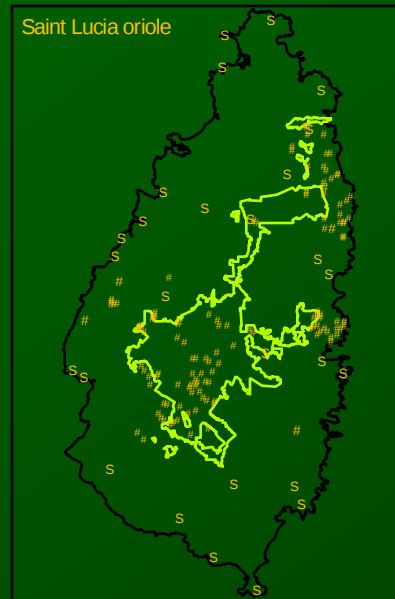
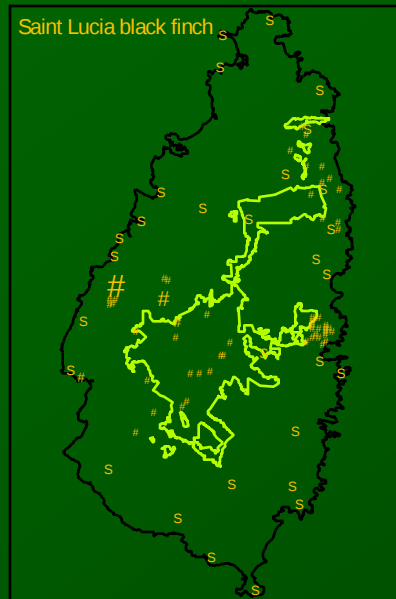
# Bird species diversity



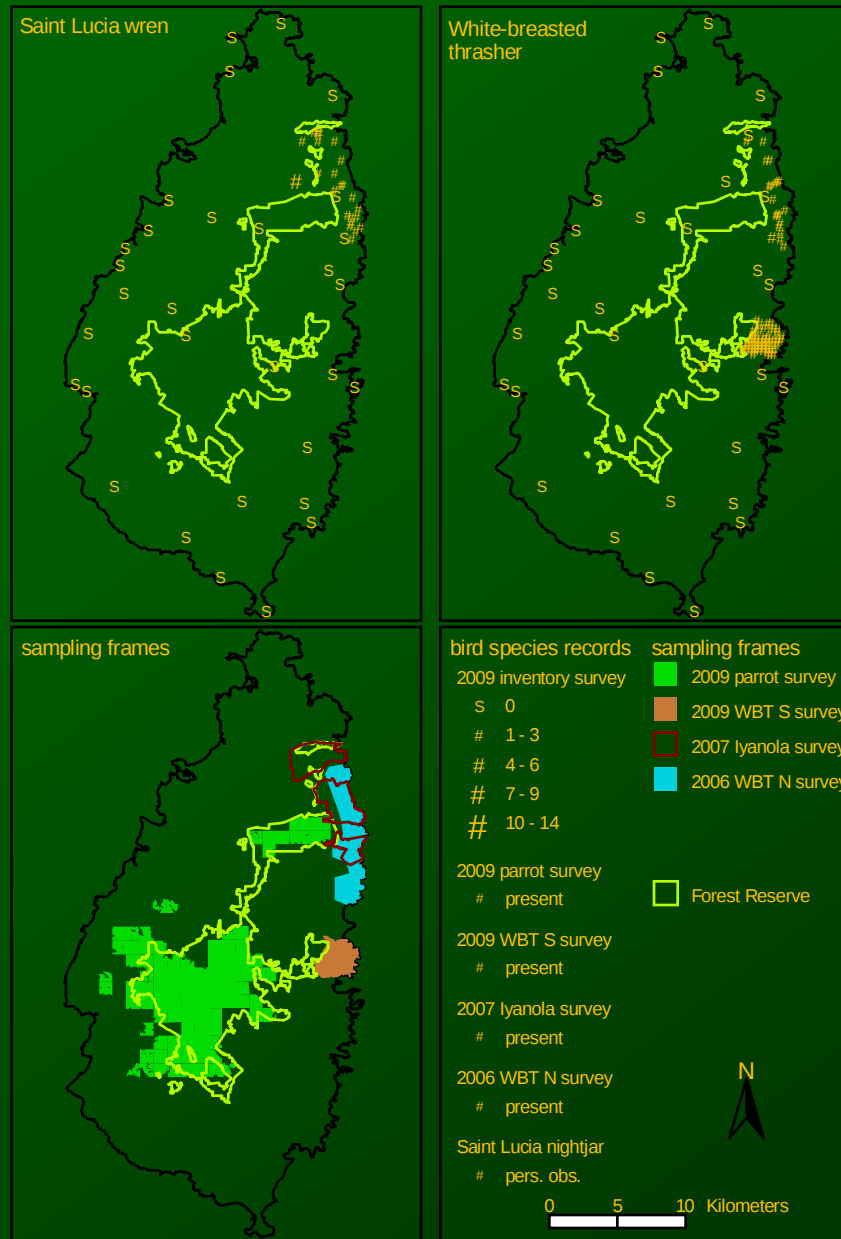
# Distribution Records for Priority Species



# Distribution Records for Priority Species continue



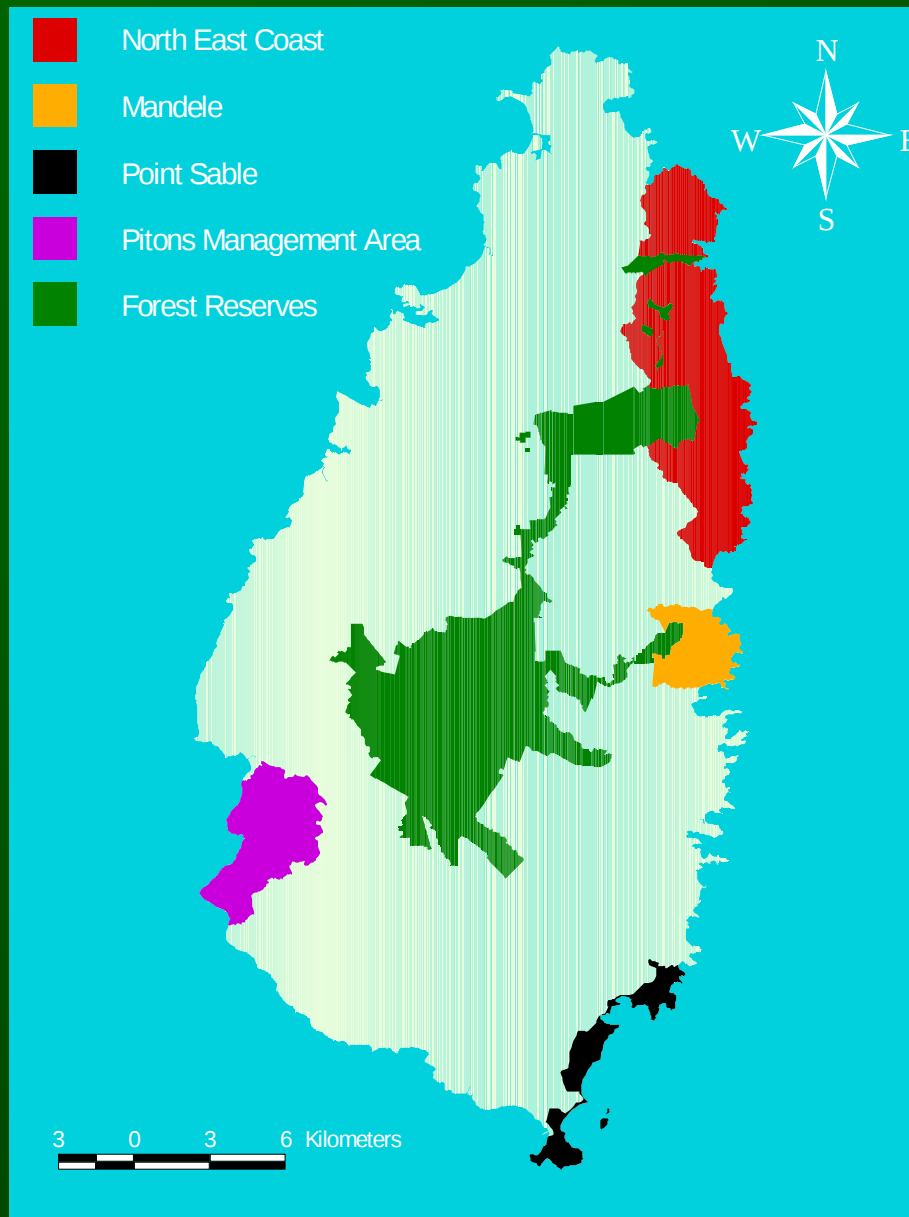
# Distribution Records for Priority Species continue



## Representation of priority bird species in different forest types

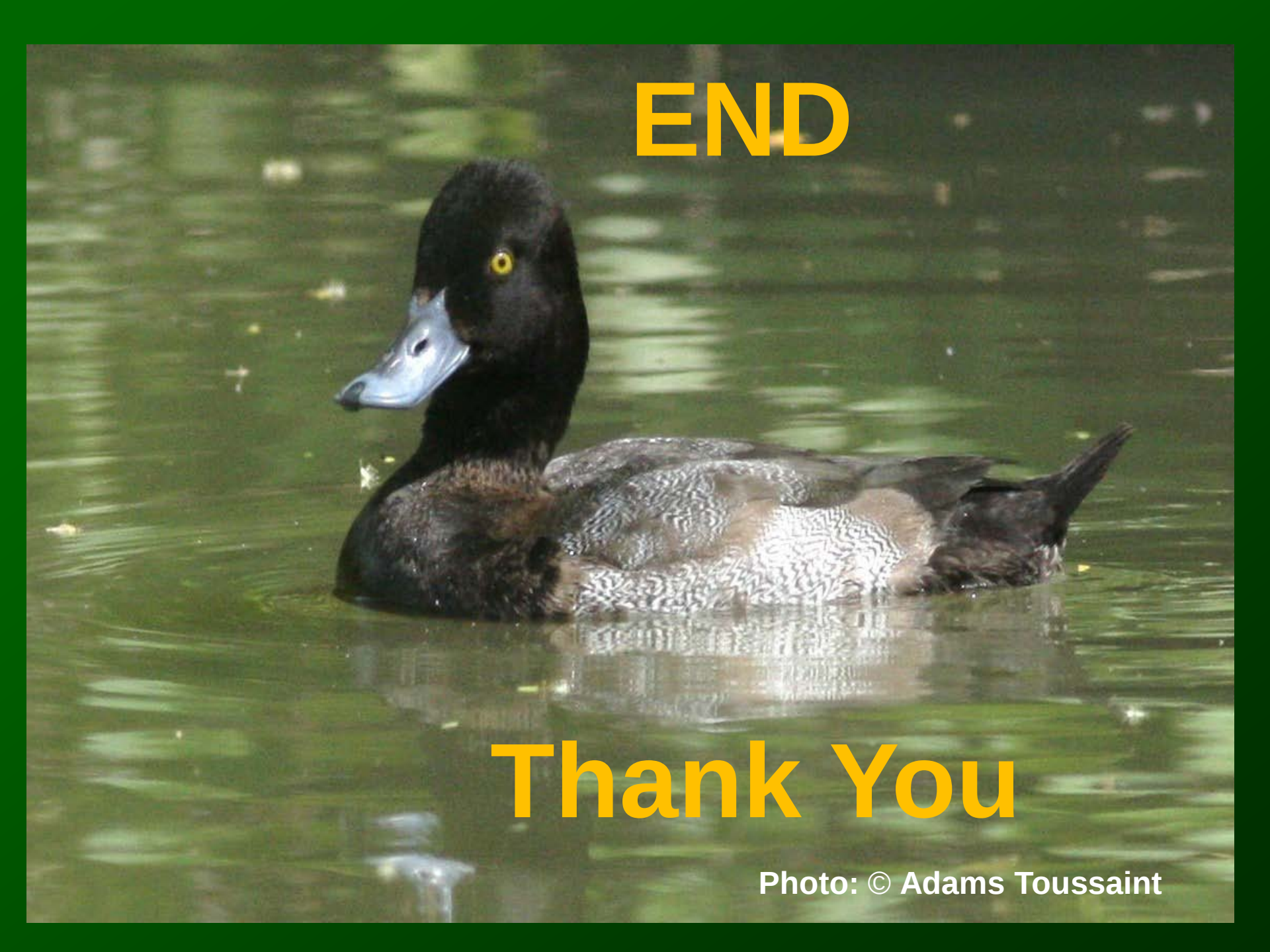
| <i>Priority species</i>     | <i>type</i>                                                                             | <i>%<br/>number<br/>of<br/>species</i> | <i>Status</i>                                                |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Great blue heron            | herbaceous swamp                                                                        | 6%                                     | Species population<br>not in Forest<br>Reserve<br>(38%)      |
| nightjar                    | deciduous seasonal forest                                                               | 19%                                    |                                                              |
| wren                        |                                                                                         |                                        |                                                              |
| White-breasted thrasher     |                                                                                         |                                        |                                                              |
| Lesser Antillean saltator   | deciduous seasonal forest and<br>semi-evergreen seasonal forest                         | 13%                                    |                                                              |
| warbler                     |                                                                                         |                                        |                                                              |
| Rufous-throated solitaire   | montane rainforest                                                                      | 19%                                    | Almost entirely in<br>Forest Reserve<br>(19%)                |
| Semper’s warbler            |                                                                                         |                                        |                                                              |
| Amazon                      |                                                                                         |                                        |                                                              |
| Bridled quail dove          | deciduous seasonal forest, semi-<br>evergreen seasonal forest and<br>montane rainforest | 44%                                    | Part of species’<br>population in Forest<br>Reserve<br>(44%) |
| thrush                      |                                                                                         |                                        |                                                              |
| Grey trembler               |                                                                                         |                                        |                                                              |
| Lesser Antillean flycatcher |                                                                                         |                                        |                                                              |
| black finch                 |                                                                                         |                                        |                                                              |
| oriole                      |                                                                                         |                                        |                                                              |
| pewee                       |                                                                                         |                                        |                                                              |

# Review of Important Bird Areas (IBA)



# Recommendations

- IUCN RED LIST: Update the IUCN Red List system to guide and support improved management.
- RESEARCH: Conduct applied research to guide and monitor the management of birds
- CONSERVATION EDUCATION: Develop and implement education programmes and activities focusing on both Species and their habitats
- LEGISLATIONS AND POLICY: Development of a framework for integrating the protection of important coastal wetlands and dry forest habitats
- HABITAT MANAGEMENT: Secure the conservation and regeneration of important dry and mesic forest, coastal wetlands and other habitats.
- FOREST MANAGEMENT: Development and implementation of an integrated wildlife and forest management plan, taking into consideration ecology of endangered bird species.

A photograph of a duck, likely a scaup, swimming in a body of water. The duck has a black head and neck, a bright yellow eye, and a blue bill. Its body is covered in dark feathers with a lighter, patterned underbelly. The water is green and reflects the surrounding environment.

# END

# Thank You

Photo: © Adams Toussaint