

PREVENTING EXTINCTIONS

Grenada Dove *Leptotila wellsi*



Bonnie Rusk,
Grenada Dove
Conservation
Program



The global population of Grenada Dove numbers just 100 birds (© B. Rusk).

Background

Grenada Dove is endemic to the single island of Grenada in the Lesser Antilles. The island is small, and the species may have always been rare. However, it has experienced a severe decline since the 1980s, with a nadir of 100 individuals in 1998, which the population may have returned to again after Hurricane Ivan checked its recovery.

It is confined to early-successional dry forest and the population probably dropped initially due to clearance for agriculture, and subsequently for residential development and infrastructure. Introduced predators may have provided a supplementary pressure. These threats have left the population at such a low level that there is a danger of extinction by stochastic events such as extreme weather; Hurricane Ivan in 2004 may have caused a decline of as much as 45% through destruction of the species's habitat.

Actions being implemented

1. The Species Guardian has contacted lawyers working on privately-owned land holding dove populations. As a result, the Forestry Department will hold **consultations with landowners** to explore possibilities for Grenada Dove conservation.
2. Contracts will be prepared for landowners to sign following these consultations, ensuring **commitment to conservation** of the species.



An educational poster.

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