



# ANGUILLA NATIONAL TRUST

## *Preservation For Generations*

### **ANT Begins Monthly Bird Counts**

The Anguilla National Trust began a monthly bird monitoring programme last week. With the help of Mr. Karim Hodge, Director of Environment, and Mr. Keith David, Environment Liaison Officer with the Department of Environment, and in consultation with Dr. Steve Holliday of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Trust has designed a bird count strategy that will look at wetland bird population trends in Anguilla.

On Wednesday 26 October, Mr. Hodge, Mr. David, and Ms Farah Mukhida of the Anguilla National Trust visited 25 brackish/saltwater ponds and recorded species diversity and total bird numbers at each site. Preliminary analysis suggests that the most diverse ponds in Anguilla (in late October) are Road Pond, Long Bay Pond, Rendezvous Pond, and one of the artificial ponds created within the Temenos golf course development site. 14 species of birds were identified on Road Pond, while 11 species were identified on the other three ponds.

In terms of abundance – the total number of birds found on each of the ponds – 182 birds were recorded on West End Pond, followed by 106 on Bad Cox Pond, 78 on East End Pond, and 67 on Road Pond. Overall, a total of 742 birds comprising of 42 species were noted on that day. The results of this month's bird count can be accessed at the Anguilla National Trust.

Bird counts are scheduled to take place once a month and the Trust welcomes the help of volunteers. Individuals who are interested in learning more about the counts and the methods used or who are interested in taking part in the programme are asked to contact the Trust at 497 5297 or at [axanat@anguillanet.com](mailto:axanat@anguillanet.com).

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#### About the Anguilla National Trust

The Anguilla National Trust was established in 1993 to act as custodian of Anguilla's heritage, preserving and promoting the island's natural environment and its archaeological, historical and cultural resources for present and future generations. It is in the business of ensuring the sustainability of Anguilla's heritage. The ANT is a dynamic people-centred organisation working in collaboration with public and private sector entities to manage Anguilla's natural social and cultural heritage.

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