Although several attempts have been made in the past to activate an Invasive Species Working Group for the Society, it has proved difficult to decide just how to approach this very important subject and how any meaningful results may emerge. There are many success stories of eradication of invasive species on which to base our efforts but these successes have involved dedicated people and funding.

Ten people, headed by President Andrew Dobson, attended the Invasive Species Working Group meeting held in Guadeloupe, representing a wide spread of island nations around the region. The discussion was confined to generalizations in order to define the more important invasive species impacting Caribbean birds and areas that needed work. It was hoped that specific projects would emerge in due course that the Society might be able to support in whatever way appropriate.

The main categories of species were defined as plants, non-bird invasives and birds. Not all exotic species are invasive. Foreign species are introduced deliberately, e.g., the pet or nursery trade, or they arrive in cargo or by some other unknown way. A few species were identified as potential problems in the Caribbean region, including: Casuarina trees; feral cats; mongoose, rats, mice, etc.; domestic animals such as dogs; farm animals; and introductions due to the pet trade (e.g., Eurasian Collared Dove [Streptopelia decaocto]).

Andrew Dobson stated that the Bermuda Petrel is monitored for rats and other threats and that some
Islands in the Bermuda chain are now free of rats. The main bird invasives in Bermuda are the Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*), Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), and Feral Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*).

Some general points were made:

1. List which species are invasive in the Caribbean so that information can be shared.
2. Identify what is already present.
3. Identify new invasives as early as possible and try to eradicate before the species becomes unmanageable.
4. Identify invasives in other islands so that they can be blacklisted from legal introduction.
5. Identify what actions have already been successful and what has been a failure.
6. Avoid deliberate and inadvertent introductions, work with local governments.
7. Share ideas as to what can be done about common problems.
8. Convincing the public is an important step in eradication, improving local knowledge (including lawmakers) of invasive species is important.
9. Work with local lawmakers to try to improve local laws.
10. Sometimes reducing the level of invasives to manageable levels will also work.
11. Sometimes obvious actions are not the solution, e.g., if the top predator is eliminated, the next may become more successful (cats may be keeping rats at bay, once cats are eliminated rats take over, etc.).
12. Study the situation carefully before taking action.

It was suggested that an invasives information network for the Caribbean be set up. Also, SCSCB should get in touch with the IUCN Invasives Group for assistance and information, as well as pursue projects with the assistance of Island Conservation (Bernie Tershy’s organization).