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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE TO SEE ON THE MASTIC

Hike the Mastic Trail and Get-Up-Close-and-Personal with Many of Grand Cayman's Vibrant Birds

MONDAY, 1 FEBRUARY – Stuart Mailer, Field Officer and Mastic Trail Tour Guide of The National Trust for the Cayman Islands has taken residents and visitors alike on Mastic Trail Nature tours which has allowed guests to explore a variety of natural habitats. Now guests have the opportunity to discover many endemic, native and migratory birds of Grand Cayman through Mailer's Focus on Birding Tour.

The Mastic Trail, a hidden world in our own backyard that many local residents are unaware even exists, is teeming with plant and animal life. As you walk along the Trail you will find an abundance of native flora, many of which have medicinal or historical uses, and fauna such as ground-dwelling wasps, soldier (hermit) crabs, snakes, lizards, tree frogs, agouti and, of course, birds.

The Focus on Birding Tour allows novice and experienced birders to spot and photograph many of the bird species which call Grand Cayman home. With reference books and checklists provided the tour is an enjoyable learning experience.

“Birds are the most abundant and active animals that we encounter. The trail is home to all thirteen endemic sub-species of birds found on Grand Cayman and on a typical tour we see upwards of nine”, said Mailer.

“These birds include the raucous and colourful Cayman Parrot, the Caribbean Dove, the stunningly beautiful Western Spindalis and the Bananaquit. Two endemic woodpeckers, the West Indian, and the Northern Flicker frequently provide exceedingly close and extended views. For visiting birders, a sighting of our bright yellow Vitelline Warbler is often a highlight of their tour.”

The Focus on Birding Tour is held on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. The cost for members is CI \$22 and CI \$28 for non-members. Tours last for approximately 3.5 hours.

For more information or reservations please contact Stuart Mailer at 749-1124 or email smaier@nationaltrust.org.ky.

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