

COORDINATES 14°49'N 61°10'W

ADMIN REGION Ajoupa-Bouillon, Basse-Pointe,  
Grand Rivière, Le Prêcheur, Macouba,  
Morne Rouge, Saint-Pierre

AREA 9,262 ha

ALTITUDE 0–1,395 m

HABITAT Forest, grassland

Martinique  
Oriole

THREATENED BIRDS 1

RESTRICTED-RANGE BIRDS 18

BIOME-RESTRICTED BIRDS

CONGREGATORY BIRDS

### ■ Site description

Forêts du Nord and de la Montagne Pelée IBA is situated at the northernmost end of the island. This forested massif embraces the Montagne Pelée (1,395 m) and several other peaks such as Piton Marcel (897 m) and Piton Mont Conil (1,026 m), and supports contiguous forest from the coast to the volcanic summits. Receiving exceptional levels of rainfall, the landscape is broken by numerous streams and river valleys. It is mostly forested, but also has areas of grassland and pasture, wetland and coast (including an offshore islet), and Creole gardens and plantations.

### ■ Birds

This IBA supports 18 (of the 19) Lesser Antilles EBA restricted-range birds including the Vulnerable Martinique Oriole *Icterus bonana*, the Blue-headed Hummingbird *Cyanophaia bicolor* and Grey Trembler *Cinclocerthia gutturalis*. It embraces some of the most significant populations of forest-dependent birds on the island. The Near Threatened White-crowned Pigeon *Patagioenas leucocephala* is present according to the hunters who shoot this increasingly rare species. Small numbers of seabirds breed on L'îlet La Perle. The Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata stictipennis* sometimes occurs.

### ■ Other biodiversity

The Vulnerable Lesser Antillean iguana *Iguana delicatissima* occurs in the coastal forests, and globally threatened sea-turtles are present offshore. Taxa with ranges restricted to the Lesser Antilles include the pinktoe tarantula *Avicularia versicolor*, the coleopteran *Dynastes hercules braudrii* (endemic to Martinique), three bats and 69 tree species.

### ■ Conservation

Some of this IBA is privately owned. The coastal zone is protected within the Anse Couleuvre, Fond Moulin and Montagne Pelée Littoral Conservation Areas, and 2,100 ha on Montagne Pelée is designated a Site Classé (classified site). Strict protection and management have been advocated through the Schéma d'Aménagement Régional and the Schéma de Services Collectifs des Espaces Naturels et Ruraux; botanists have advocated for a nature reserve; and a marine reserve is being investigated. Forest on Montagne Pelée is managed by ONF, and CEL purchased 789 ha of forest for conservation purposes. A survey of the area's biodiversity is needed. The inaccessibility of the massif means human activity and impact is limited. However, the coastal zone is subject to heavy erosion, uncontrolled hunting, tourism development, invasive alien predators, and pollution are concerns.