

Project Update: May 2010

Katharine and David Lowrie of EPIC have discovered three new locations for breeding Audubon's Shearwater in the Grenadines, where the highly pelagic species had been thought extirpated. The research is shedding light on the cryptic, burrow nesting Audubon's Shearwater that only returns to its breeding site in the cloak of darkness to protect itself from daytime predators.

David quotes, "The grant recently awarded by RSG to purchase the new offshore RIB has revolutionised the range and breadth of the EPIC team's surveys – not only can we access islands during the day to check for breeding seabirds, but now we are able to make return trips to offshore cays at night to survey for the elusive Audubon's Shearwater who can only be surveyed in darkness! The new boat is twice as efficient, four times as fast and gives us access to the shoal waters close to the breeding sites – not only has it saved over 40 gallons of fuel with its triple star efficiency rated Honda engine ... it has provided discovery!"

