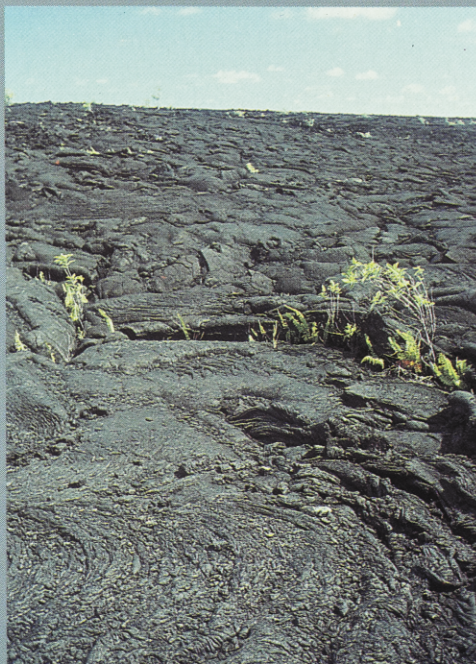


Work is already being done to preserve some areas in New Caledonia where the cagou (inset) survives. Here a reserves ranger secures the entrance to Parc Territorial de la Rivière Bleue. The cagou is flightless and confined to New Caledonia forests. Photo: Rod Hay



An eruption near the turn of the century covered more than 50 sq km of Savaii with lava like this. Natural events can devastate habitats already reduced by man. Photo: Rod Hay



Research and action on a variety of fronts will help with some of the most critical problems. Firstly, reliable wildlife surveys are needed, with both locals and non-islanders involved.

Secondly, action on behalf of some key species may help to secure their survival while providing valuable publicity and spin-offs for conservation generally. Species in need of particular attention are cagou in New Caledonia, the tooth-billed pigeon in Western Samoa, the Tuamotu sandpiper, and the Rarotonga flycatcher. Birds which require special attention are the pigeons of eastern Polynesia.

Thirdly, a network of protected areas, reserved and looked after under the law and traditions that apply in the region under concern, is a key to conservation of birds and ultimately to the wise use of island resources. ♣

Forest and Bird has co-operated with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the International Council for Bird Preservation in producing a review of bird conservation in the Pacific Islands.