**Pitangus sulphuratus** (Linnaeus, 1766)

The great kiskadee **Pitangus sulphuratus** is a common and well known bird in its native range of South America and the southern end of the United States. A highly aggressive, generalist feeder it is sometimes known as an agricultural pest. In its native range of Brazil the great kiskadee has been observed to predate on a number of native frog species; including the Menwig frog (*Physalaemus albonotatus*), the lesser snouted treefrog (*Scinax nasicus*) and tadpoles of the leaf frog (*Phyllomedusa distincta*) (Birdlife International 2009).

Preferred habitat of the great kiskadee includes areas around rivers, streams, and lakes bordered with dense vegetation as well as open country and parks. It has has also been observed in arable land, pastureland, heavily degraded forest, moist lowland and montane forests, moist shrubland, dry grassland, mangrove habitats and beaches.

200 individuals of *P. sulphuratus* were intentionally introduced to Bermuda from Trinidad in 1957 in a failed attempt as biological control agents for introduced anole lizards (particularly the Jamaican anole (*Norops grahami*)) (Cheesman & Clubbe, 2007; Davenport *et al.*, 2008) and insect pests.

The great kiskadee has had severe impacts on native biodiversity in Bermuda. The great kiskadee was implicated in the extinction of the native Bermudian cicada (*Tibicen bermudiana*) in the late 1990’s.

It is a significant predator of the only endemic terrestrial vertebrate in Bermuda, the ‘Critically Endangered’ (CR) Bermudian skink (*Eumeces longirostris*) (Davenport *et al.*, 2008); some size classes were observed to be completely absent during monitoring (Davenport *et al.*, 2008). The great kiskadee also predates on the eggs and chicks of native bird species such as the Bermuda catbird (*Galeoscoptes bermudianus*), chick-of-the-village (*Vireo griseus bermadianus*) and the eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) (Forbes, 2010).

**References:**


