



*The brilliant Lesser Antillean Barn Owl again showed superbly. One of several potential splits not yet recognized by the IOC (Pete Morris)*

## **THE LESSER ANTILLES INCLUDING TRINIDAD**

**5 – 20/25 JUNE 2015**

**LEADERS: PETE MORRIS**

After our successful tour around the Caribbean in 2013, it was great to get back again this year. It all seemed pretty straightforward this time around, and once again we cleaned up on all of the available endemics, po-



*The fabulous White-breasted Thrasher from Martinique (Pete Morris)*

tential splits and other goodies. For sure, this was no ordinary Caribbean holiday! During the first couple of weeks we visited no fewer than ten islands (Antigua, Barbuda, Montserrat, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St Lucia, St Vincent, Barbados and Grenada), a logistical feat of some magnitude. With plenty of LIAT flights (the islanders refer to LIAT as 'Leave Island any Time' and 'Luggage in Another Terminal' to name but two of the many funny phrases coined from LIAT) and unreliable AVIS car hire reservations, we had our work cut out, but in the end, all worked out!

It's always strange birding on islands with so few targets, but with so many islands to pack-in, we were never really short of things to do. All of the endemics showed well and there were some cracking highlights, including the four smart endemic amazons, the rare Grenada Dove, the superb Lesser Antillean Barn Owl, the unique tremblers and White-breasted Thrashers, and a series of colourful endemic orioles to name just a few!

At the end of the Lesser Antilles adventure we enjoyed a few days on Trinidad. Once again the specialities obliged. We enjoyed great views of Trinidad Piping-Guan and Trinidad Motmot, and other goodies included amazing Oilbirds, superb Lilac-tailed Parrotlets and Red-bellied Macaws, stunning Tufted Coquettes, Ruby Topazes and Green-throated Mangos, displaying White-bearded and Golden-headed Manakins, incredible Bearded Bellbirds and a wonderful cruise around the Caroni Swamp where Tropical Screech Owls and American Pygmy Kingfisher were bonuses before the sunset spectacle where we watched unbelievably red Scarlet Ibises coming to roost as we sipped rum punch! The brilliant Leatherback Turtles at Grand Riviere were also worthy of a mention!

The tour began on Antigua, where, having assembled late afternoon, and checked into our hotel, we had time to make our first excursion. We just had time to explore the adjacent McKinnon's Salt Pond, which seemed to be turning a peculiar pink colour – a fact that was reported on the front page of the local paper. This may have been the reason why the birding seemed a little quiet, but nevertheless we found a good variety of common species to kick-start the tour. White-cheeked Pintails were plentiful and numerous Least Terns were joined by a handful of smart Roseate Terns. A selection of common herons were also present and waders included numerous Short-billed Dowitchers and Stilt Sandpipers as well as flocks of Semipalmated Sandpipers. In the surrounding scrub we noted our first few Caribbean specialities including White-crowned Pigeons, Zenaida Dove, Green-throated Carib, Antillean Crested Hummingbird, Caribbean Elaenia, Lesser Antillean Bullfinch



*The smart endemic Barbuda Warbler (Pete Morris)*

and a few Carib Grackles. We also saw a few Caribbean Bananaquits. We couldn't believe how different they looked with their long tails and red gapes - surely a good split?

The following morning we headed down to town, admired numerous Caribbean Martins and Cabot's Terns, and took the ferry across to Barbuda. It was a choppy crossing with entertaining music (mostly about 'bumpsies'!!) and we were pleased to jump off and see the endemic Barbuda Warbler in the first trees we scrutinized. This smart endemic proved to be common and we also noted a few more elaenias, several more Antillean Crested Hummingbirds and Green-throated Caribs, our first Pearly-eyed Thrasher, Lesser Antillean Flycatchers, several Black-whiskered Vireos, attractive Mangrove Warblers,. Along the coast we found as well as ubiquitous Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans. Our chicken-jerk lunch with an accommodating local restaurateur (he fed us in his own house!) provided welcome respite from the heat and the journey back was fairly quiet but for more lively music, some Wadadli Gold and a couple of distant White-tailed Tropicbirds!



*Green-throated Carib and 'Lesser Antillean' Bananaquit entertained on Barbuda (Pete Morris)*



*The brilliant Bridled Quail-Dove showed brilliantly on Montserrat (Pete Morris)*

Another day, another island! To get across to Montserrat it was necessary to split the group onto two flights, but by mid-morning we'd all made it. We were also learning that being good at filling out forms is an advantage on this tour, as every time we left or arrived at an island, another entrance or exit form was required and, (for the drivers) a driving license was also required!!

It was very dry on the island, and as we made our way along a trail through the forest, the leaves crunched and activity seemed quiet. As we approached a small watercourse we noticed more birds were active and we found our main target, as we got some great looks at the rare Montserrat Oriole. At this point we realised that many birds were being attracted to the water, and by simply sitting down, the birds came to us...Numerous impressive Bridled Quail-Doves and Forest Thrushes showed superbly as did the bizarre Brown Trembler and both Pearly-eyed and Scaly-breasted Thrashers. We also saw more Montserrat Orioles, and Mangrove Cuckoos showed well and were even able to watch the spectacle whilst supping an ice cold beer!! We also explored



*The superb Forest Thrush varies from island to island. On the left from Dominica, on the right, Montserrat (Pete Morris)*

round the island a little, where large Scaly-naped Pigeons were fairly conspicuous, and we also admired some of the amazing landscapes created by the volcanic eruption.

The following morning, we filled in the forms and flew back (on two flights) to Antigua and spent the rest of the morning exploring a few wetlands. Again, low water levels meant that the wetlands were really drying up! We did find more waterbirds, though the ducks and coots that we were hoping to find were absent, presumably due to the lack of water.



*The Lesser Antillean House Wrens, surely four good species?! Clockwise from top left: Grenada; Dominica; St Lucia and St Vincent (Pete Morris)*

Later that afternoon we flew on to the lovely island of Dominica. LIAT and Avis teamed up to delay us, but eventually we got going and arrived at our lovely hotel in the early evening, in time for a fine dinner. We had three days to explore Dominica, and it was just over a one hour drive to our main birding site at Syndicate. Here, two visits were required before everyone had seen the rare Imperial Amazon (or Parrot). Fortunately the distinctive calls of this species alerted us whenever they were around, and diligent searching then secured our views. The more colourful Red-necked Amazon was rather more common, and gradually we unearthed a series of other



*Red-necked Amazon was the easier of the endemic parrots to see on Dominica (Pete Morris)*

goodies. Broad-winged Hawks were common over the forest, stunning Purple-throated and Green-throated Caribs and Antillean Crested Hummingbirds fed around the flowery margins, attractive Red-legged Thrushes posed, gorgeous Plumbeous Warblers delighted and we found our first Lesser Antillean Saltators. Southern Brown Tremblers trembled, our first Lesser Antillean Pewee quivered, and a gorgeous Rufous-throated Solitaire delivered it's amazing song from an exposed perch right in front of us. We also saw our first of the inter-



*Lesser Antillean Pewee on Dominica (left) is quite different to the potential split on St Lucia (right) (Pete Morris)*

esting 'Lesser Antillean House Wrens' in the form of the sooty Dominica House Wren. Overhead we had ample opportunity to enjoy Lesser Antillean Swifts and impressive American Black Swifts. On our second afternoon we made a pelagic excursion off the south of the island. Here we found numerous Brown Boobies, Brown Noddies, a couple of Sooty Terns and a couple of unexpected Great Shearwaters in rather choppy conditions. Cetaceans were rather few this year, though we did see a very playful pod of Common Bottle-nosed Dolphins whilst enjoying liberal lashings of rum punch!



*Great Shearwater, Brown Booby and Bottle-nosed Dolphin on the pelagic off Dominica (Pete Morris)*



*The fabulous Guadeloupe Woodpecker showed well (Pete Morris)*

On our final morning on the island we visited the attractive Emerald Pool. Here we eventually found the attractive Blue-headed Hummingbird, and were also delighted to find the often difficult (Lesser) Antillean Euphonia. And not only did we see it, we saw it down to a few metres and admired its subtle plumage at length! Also here was an obliging Forest Thrush, distinctly different from those on Montserrat, and another as well Lesser Antillean Pewee. The rest of the day was more or less travel, and by the time we arrived on Guadeloupe we just had time to make our way to our hotel along surprisingly congested roads!

The following morning we made our way to some of Guadeloupe's remaining forest where we soon found the strange-looking Guadeloupe Woodpecker, several of which showed very well. We were pleased to see another Forest Thrush (a new subspecies), more stunning Bridled Quail-Doves and some very obliging Brown Tremblers. We then made an excursion to the north of the island where we soon found some stunning Red-billed Tropicbirds, a pair of which elegantly displayed around their chosen rocky islet. Also here were numerous



*Red-billed Tropicbirds entertained us on the north coast of Guadeloupe (Pete Morris)*

Brown Noddies and Bridled Terns. After a brief but successful stay on the island, we then moved on to Martinique, and made our way up (and down!!) to our accommodation.

We really had one day to explore Martinique, which we began in the coastal forest close to our hotel. Here, the Mangrove Warblers had rufous heads (as opposed to the 'Golden' Warblers we'd seen until now), and Bare-eyed Thrushes were common. Over the course of an hour or two, we all managed some great views of the interesting White-breasted Thrashers but despite an exhaustive pre-breakfast search, failed to find the much-needed Martinique Oriole. We quickly moved on to Plan B and changed location to an area of forest in the highlands. The sky was looking threatening, but we set off anyway, and were soon watching more delightful Blue-headed Hummingbirds, more cracking Rufous-throated Solitaires, our first Grey Tremblers, and, most importantly, several stunning Martinique Orioles (some of the group had also seen one by the hotel after breakfast). Just as we'd successfully seen all we were hoping to see, the heavens opened and we sheltered! At this point, an escaped (I assume) Chestnut-bellied Seedfinch popped up, the second time we've seen this species here! We then made our way back to our hotel for a bit of rest and relaxation, though some again explored the nearby coastal forest.



*Mangrove or Golden Warblers are quite different on Martinique (above). On most other islands they lack the chestnut head (Pete Morris)*





*The heronry right outside our hotel on St Lucia provided entertainment: Green Heron; Little Blue Heron and Western Cattle Egret (Pete Morris)*

After a successful visit to Martinique, we hopped over to St Lucia the following day (where Avis once again attempted to disrupt us!!). We had plenty of time on St Lucia, which was fine as the hotel was a good place to take it easy, with a heronry just outside! We began our visit exploring some drier areas on the east coast of the island. Here we found interesting St Lucia House Wrens, delightful St Lucia Warblers were common, cinnamon St Lucia Pewees showed and we had our first encounter with the very different local form of White-breasted Thrasher. We even found our first St Lucia Black Finch on the way back out, a very confiding individual that waited around for everyone! Up in the wetter mountains the following day we enjoyed some spectacular views of colourful St Lucia Amazons, both in flight and perched, found more subtle St Lucia Black Finches and, after a bit of a wait, found the cacique-like St Lucia Oriole, which granted us some superb views. We were also pleased to see a couple more pairs of attractive (Lesser) Antillean Euphonias, and scoped a fine male Ruddy Quail-Dove; and all this with the blessing of the governor! We also explored the far south of the island, which turned out to be a little difficult, though over the amazing cliffs at Moule a Chique we saw some more fine Red-billed Tropicbirds and found a few seabirds offshore including some Red-footed Boobies. We also stopped at



*The stunning St Lucia Warbler showed brilliantly! (Pete Morris)*

a wetland which was virtually bone dry. However, in the few remaining wetter areas we were pleased to find several Caribbean Coots as well as a number of more common waders and a Western Osprey.

On our final morning on St Lucia we put in an effort to find the local form of Rufous Nightjar, but without any luck. We did however manage more views of many of the other specialities before heading back to our lovely hotel for some free time and a fine lunch. It was then a fairly long afternoon, with a flight to St Vincent, via Barbados, and it was well after dark by the time we arrived at our hotel.



*Mangrove Cuckoo was relatively common during the tour (Pete Morris)*



*The brilliant Whistling Warbler and stunning St Vincent Amazon were the two stars of St Vincent (Pete Morris)*

We were off again early the following morning and we arrived up at the Vermont Nature Trail soon after dawn and enjoyed a picnic breakfast whilst watching our first St Vincent Amazons cruising overhead. We had to wait until later for up close and personal views with what is surely the most attractive of the endemic parrots, but over the course of our two visits to this excellent area, we achieved many great views. The trail was fairly hard going, but by taking it slowly up as far as the viewpoint, we were not only able to see the parrots, but also saw a couple of stunning Whistling Warblers and our first St Vincent House Wren and Lesser Antillean Tanagers. Nearer to town, we stopped at the lovely and historic botanical gardens, and here we found our first Grenada Flycatchers and admired the black Bananaquits! We also found a few other new species for the trip such as Eared Dove and Yellow-bellied Elaenia. On our one afternoon on the island we explored some areas along the south coast, and although there was nothing staggering, we did find more obliging St Vincent House Wren and a few seabirds including more Red-footed Boobies.



*Black Lesser Antillean Bananaquits were common on St Vincent . Here South American birds such as Yellow-bellied Elaenia creep in (Pete Morris)*



*Barbados Bullfinch - as good a reason as any to visit the Lesser Antilles!! (Pete Morris)*

After a second morning enjoying St Vincent Amazons and Whistling Warblers, it was once again time to move on. This time we found ourselves heading for Barbados where, immediately after landing, we ticked off what must be the Caribbean's drabest endemic, the Barbados Bullfinch! A comfortable night and a couple of new beers for the beer list and before we knew it, we were back at the airport, this time heading for Grenada.

On arrival we picked up our cars (not Avis!) and headed straight for one of the few remaining areas of dry forest, a site for the rare and endangered Grenada Dove. The habitat here is regenerating well, following extensive hurricane damage a few years back and, as a result, the dove is getting easier to see again. It was not long before we were hearing the distinctive hoots of this rare dove, and soon after we achieved some fantastic views along the trail. Smiles all round! The distinctive Grenada House Wren was also seen well. We then headed for the scenic hills (via a detour through town to Subway!) and added the local form of Lesser Antillean



*An Antillean Crested Hummingbird on Grenada (Pete Morris)*

Tanager and some entertaining Rufous-breasted Hermits feeding around a building. With our main objectives achieved, we were able to put our feet up for a few hours that afternoon. However, there was still an important engagement on the agenda, and after dinner we made an excursion nearby to look for the local Barn Owl. And we were certainly not disappointed, on two counts! Firstly, the owls showed brilliantly, but more importantly we were able to appreciate how unbelievably different they are from most other 'Barn Owls', so we were more than happy! Lesser Antillean Barn Owl is sure to be split one day!

Having cleaned up, we took our second morning on the island easy, though for those that wished, we did make a couple of excursions, getting spectacular views of more Grenada Doves and other regular birds of the island. We then headed back to the airport, our Lesser Antilles clean up complete, and awaited our flight to Trinidad for the extension to the tour.



*Superb Rufous-throated Solitaires were seen on several islands during the tour (Pete Morris)*



*Oilbirds were of course a highlight at Asa Wright (Pete Morris)*

We arrived on the island late-afternoon and made our way up to the well-situated Asa Wright, where we were housed and fed for three nights. There's a distinctly continental feel to the birds of Trinidad, though with the species diversity being somewhat lower, the birding is not too complicated.

From the verandah we were able to sit and watch the procession of birds coming to the hummingbird and fruit feeders and watch for raptors, whilst just below were a series of excellent trails into the forest. As a result, our first three days on Trinidad were spent at Asa Wright. Hummingbirds were plentiful in the garden, including one of the highlights of our visit, the gorgeous Tufted Coquette. White-necked Jacobins were abundant, while Blue-chinned Sapphires, White-chested Emeralds, Copper-rumped Hummingbirds, Black-throated Mangos and Little, Green and Rufous-breasted Hermits were present in smaller numbers. Audible and sometimes visible from the verandah was the remarkable Bearded Bellbird, though the views from within the forest were somewhat more impressive. Here, under darker cover, gorgeous Golden-headed and White-bearded Manakins popped and jumped like clockwork toys. Endemic Trinidad Motmots pooped from the bamboo, electric blue shining out at us, a habitat they shared with species such as Cocoa and Plain Brown Woodcreepers, Cocoa Thrush, Great Antshrike and even the retiring Grey-throated Leaf-tosser. Equally retiring, though no less interesting was a smart rail-like Black-faced Antthrush and subtle White-bellied Antbirds. Green-backed, Guianan and Collared Trogons glowed from the mid-storey whilst the tree tops and fruit feeders yielded a set of colourful tanagers including Purple, Red-legged and Green Honeycreepers and Bay-headed, Silver-beaked and Turquoise Tanagers as well as the common Blue-grey, White-lined and Palm Tanagers. Other interesting species around the property included Zone-tailed Hawk, Short-tailed Nighthawk, Grey-fronted Dove, Orange-winged Parrots, Squirrel Cuckoos, Golden-olive Woodpecker, Barred Antshrike, Euler's Flycatcher, Ochre-ored and Yellow-olive Flatbills and Violaceous Euphonia.

Perhaps most memorable though, was our visit to the Oilbird cave. As we headed down the trail from the centre, the heavens opened and we took a fearful soaking before arriving at suitable shelter! Once the rain had abated we were treated to the sight of tens of these amazing creatures, almost at arm's length from us! It really was an up-close and intimate experience, a family tick for some, and a great experience for all that will be remembered long after we'd dried out!!



*Hummingbirds from the verandah at Asa Wright: White-chested Emerald; Blue-chinned Sapphire and White-necked Jacobin (Pete Morris)*

We also ventured out from Asa Wright to various other sites on the island. On one afternoon we took a boat trip out into the Caroni Swamp. Long-winged Harrier, Purple Gallinule, Large-billed and Yellow-billed Terns and Yellow-headed Blackbirds showed up on the way, but it was the boat ride that we were all excited about. Once on the water we soon found lovely Red-capped Cardinals, our first Green-throated Mango, a superb roosting pair of Tropical Screech Owls and a tiny American Pygmy Kingfisher. Further along on the ride we bumped into more interesting species including Straight-billed Woodcreeper, the localized Bicoloured Conebill, another



*The wonderful Scarlet Ibises of the Caroni Swamp... (Pete Morris)*



Green-throated Mango and a pair of Black-crested Antshrikes. As the sun sank and the rum punch popped, hundreds of herons and glorious Scarlet Ibises flew into roost, an amazing sight. The vivid scarlet is a colour seldom replicated so brightly in the animal kingdom! Our sharp-eyed boatman also had one last trick up his sleeve as he showed us a tiny Silky Anteater on the way back!

A morning out in the Northern Ranges close to Asa Wright also proved productive. We achieved our first, albeit brief, views of Lilac-tailed Parrotlets as well as a number of other interesting species which included colourful Rufous-tailed Jacamars, Long-billed Gnatwrens, White-shouldered Tanagers and a smart Ferruginous Pygmy Owl. We also enjoyed a bit of swift and raptor watching as we dodged the showers, and managed to find Lesser Swallow-tailed and the rare Chapman's Swift, several Swallow-tailed Kites and Common Black, Grey-lined



*The brilliant Bearded Bellbird - a star of our time at Asa Wright (Pete Morris)*

and White Hawks. At the pass above Asa Wright, we made another stop where new goodies included a smart Chestnut Woodpecker, a perched Scaled Pigeon, a pair of Red-rumped Woodpeckers, Forest Elaenia, Golden-crowned Warblers, Speckled Tanagers and some excellent Stripe-breasted Spinetails.

That afternoon, in the Aripo area, we found another set of open country species on the wet pastures. Here, Wattled Jacanas and Southern Lapwings and South American Snipes showed well, the latter in its 'drumming' display flights. Yellow-headed and Red-breasted Blackbirds added colour, a Savanna Hawk perched up, Green-rumped Parrots twittered away, and other species here included Pied Water Tyrant and White-headed Marsh Tyrant, Yellow-chinned Spinetail and Ruddy-breasted Seedeater. We also visited areas of Moriche Palms near to Cumuto and in the old Wallerfield Airfield. Here we found a few good species including fantastic views the impressive Red-bellied Macaw, several scarce Sulphury Flycatchers, a Limpkin, Channel-billed Toucan and an attractive Epaulet (Moriche) Oriole.



*Black-faced Anthrush and White-bellied Antbird at Asa Wright (Pete Morris)*



*The remarkable Ruby Topaz Hummingbirds of Yurette (Pete Morris)*

After our final morning at Asa Wright, we made our way to Yurette for the true hummingbird experience. In between a fine lunch and a lavishly illustrated talk, we enjoyed some brilliant experiences with the large numbers of hummingbirds in the garden. The absolute star was the fabulous Ruby Topaz, several of which gave stupendous views. Not far behind were some superb Green-throated Mangos which showed at point-blank range and showy Little Hermits, and we also had plenty of time to catch up with the other species we were familiar with from Asa Wright.

We then made our way up to the north coast of Trinidad for the last two nights of the tour. A stop on the way produced a couple of surprises including Roseate Tern and a Black Tern, as well as a pair of Pearl Kites, an amazing flock of migrant Fork-tailed Flycatchers. We arrived at our superbly-situated hotel in time for an excellent meal which was somewhat interrupted by the appearance of dozens of hatchling Leatherback Turtles, which we rounded up and attempted to release into the sea!



*The Leatherback Turtles at Grand Riviere provided a welcome diversion. (Pete Morris)*



The following two mornings began in similar fashion as we stood in awe, watching several huge egg-laying Leatherback Turtles, a sight that nearly brought tears to our eyes! We then made our way up into the nearby forest. The most important bird here was of course the critically endangered Trinidad Piping Guan, and despite a nervous wait, we all ended up getting some brilliant views of this scarce species. This we achieved



*Stunning Lilac-tailed Parrotlets were much appreciated, running out as our bird of the trip! (Pete Morris)*

successfully, securing views of a few birds in a fruiting tree, and here we also found a few other goodies including Lineated and Crimson-crested Woodpeckers, a gorgeous Silvered Antbird, White-flanked Antwrens, more Rufous-breasted Wrens, Golden-fronted Greenlets, Black-tailed Tityras and, eventually, Trinidad Euphonia. Colourful canopy flocks frequently caught our eye and included three species of honeyeater, Blue Dacnis and Turquoise Tanagers, Grey-headed and Plumbeous Kites shared the skies with White-collared Swifts, and we also found another Ferruginous Pygmy Owl and a good variety of hummingbirds. On the intervening afternoon, we found Green Kingfisher by the hotel and also visited the forest again, though our visit was cut short by a phone call from Kenny and five minutes later we were watching a stunning flock of unobtrusive Lilac-tailed Parrots, some even flushing their lilac bits as we watched. Anyone that has birded much in South America will know that seeing a perched *Touit* is a rare event indeed! Having soaked this up, we did make our way back up to the forest in time to see some more Trinidad Piping Guans at point-blank range! As dusk fell, we soon had a Pauraque and a pair of Common Potoos in the spotlight, though it took a little longer before we had the elusive Mottled Owl fixed in the beam!

After a final look at the guans, and a relaxing morning, we headed to the airport having comfortably achieved our objectives, and perhaps exceeded them?! Our Caribbean adventure had drawn to a close, and as we relaxed at the airport, we could look back on a unique adventure. We had visited no fewer than eleven varied and interesting islands, seen a superb selection of endemic and speciality birds and enjoyed some great food and company. And, between us, we sampled 37 species of beer, possibly a tour record!



*The rare Grenada Dove was once again seen exceptionally well...(Pete Morris)*

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

**(CR)** = Critically Endangered, **(E)** = Endangered, **(V)** = Vulnerable, **(NT)** = Near Threatened, **(DD)** = Data Deficient.

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known, is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED IN THE LESSER ANTILLES

**White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis* Good numbers seen well on Antigua (nominate).

**Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis* Two seen well and photographed on our pelagic off Dominica.

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* Just 2 seen on Antigua and a single on Grenada (*antillarum*).

**Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus* A cracker, seen very well on Guadeloupe and on St Lucia (*mesonauta*).

**White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus* Two seen fairly distantly on the return journey on the Barbuda ferry (*catesbyi*).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* Seen very well by the hotel on St Lucia (*hoactli*).

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea* Seen on Antigua/Barbuda, St Lucia and Grenada (*bancrofti*).

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* Widespread in small numbers – seen on most islands (nominate).

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Common and widespread throughout the islands.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* Seen on Antigua/Barbuda, Montserrat and Guadeloupe (*egretta* – American Great Egret).

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor* Just two seen on Antigua (*ruficollis*).

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* Fairly widespread and seen on several islands.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* Fairly widespread, first seen on Antigua.

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* Fairly widespread, first seen on Antigua (nominate).

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* A common and widespread sight throughout.

**Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula* A couple off the south coast of St Lucia and 2 off St Vincent (nominate).

**Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* Greatest numbers were on the pelagic off Dominica (nominate).

**Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* One seen well by the dry wetland on St Lucia (*carolinensis* - American Osprey).

**Common Black Hawk** *Buteogallus anthracinus* Several seen well on St Vincent (nominate).

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* See note.

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata* Fairly widespread with many great views (*cerceris*).

**Caribbean Coot** ♦ *Fulica caribaea* (NT) Several seen well on the virtually dry wetland on St Lucia.

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* Several seen on Antigua (*mexicanus*).

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* A couple seen on Antigua and a few on St Lucia (*cynosurae*).

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* A few seen on Antigua/Barbuda, St Lucia and Grenada.

**Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia* A few seen on Antigua (nominate).

**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* c10 seen on Antigua and a single on the dry wetland on St Lucia.

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* Just a single seen on McKinnon's Pond, Antigua.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* Several seen on McKinnon's Pond, Antigua.

**Willet** *Tringa semipalmata* A few seen on Antigua (nominate - Eastern Willet).

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* Small numbers on Antigua, St Lucia and Grenada (*morinella*).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* Good numbers seen on McKinnon's Pond, Antigua.

**Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus* c12 seen on McKinnon's Pond, Antigua.

**Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus* Good numbers on Antigua (ferry), Dominica and Guadeloupe, St Lucia and St Vincent (nominate).

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* Common and widespread (nominate).



Laughing Gulls on Antigua. (Pete Morris)

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* A 2cy was seen at McKinnon's Pond, Antigua (*graellsii/intermedius*).

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* A single seen at McKinnon's Pond, Antigua (*aranea*).

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus* A few seen around Montserrat, Dominica and St Lucia (nominate).

**Cabot's Tern** ◊ *Thalasseus aculavidus* A few on Antigua and Barbuda – all were black-billed.

**Least Tern** *Sternula antillarum* Seen well on Antigua and Montserrat. Grey rump and distinct vocalizations (nominate).



*Least Terns were common on Antigua (Pete Morris)*

**Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus* Seen on four islands including good views on rocks off Guadeloupe (*melanopterus*).

**Sooty Tern** *Onychoprion fuscatus* Seen on our Dominica boat trip and off St Vincent (nominate).

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii* Seen well on four islands with best views on Antigua (nominate).

**Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia* Introduced widespread dross!

**White-crowned Pigeon** *Patagioenas leucocephala* Common on Antigua, often on roadside wires. One on Montserrat.

**Scaly-naped Pigeon** *Patagioenas squamosa* First seen on Montserrat and seen on most islands thereafter.



*Scaly-naped Pigeons were particularly common on Montserrat (Pete Morris)*

**Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* A widespread introduction.

**Common Ground Dove** *Columbina passerina* See note.

**Ruddy Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon montana* Seen very well on St Lucia and St Vincent. Smart and bright (*martinica*).

**Bridled Quail-Dove** ◊ *Geotrygon mystacea* We were lucky to see this better well on Montserrat, Guadeloupe and St Lucia.

**Grenada Dove** ◊ *Leptotila wellsi* (CR) Incredible views of several at the Mt Hartman Estate. A real cracker.

**Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata* A few seen on St Vincent and Grenada (*rubripes*).

**Zenaida Dove** ◊ *Zenaida aurita* Common and widespread but nevertheless smart (*nominata*).



*Zenaida Dove was a common and widespread Caribbean speciality (Pete Morris)*

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica* A few on Antigua and Barbuda (*nominata*).

**Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani* Seen on Dominica St Vincent and Grenada.

**Mangrove Cuckoo** *Coccyzus minor* Fairly widespread with several great views of showy birds.

**Lesser Antilles Barn Owl** ◊ *Tyto [alba] insularis* Fantastic views on Grenada. IOC include it in Western Barn Owl!

**American Black Swift** ◊ *Cypseloides niger* Quite common on Dominica; a few on St Lucia. Many great views (*nominata*).

**Lesser Antillean Swift** ◊ *Chaetura martinica* Seen well on Dominica, Martinique and St Lucia and St Vincent.

**Short-tailed Swift** *Chaetura brachyura* A couple seen very well coming down to drink on St Vincent.

**Rufous-breasted Hermit** *Glaucis hirsutus* Brilliant views of a couple of house-loving birds on Grenada (*insularum*).

**Purple-throated Carib** ◊ *Eulampis jugularis* A real beauty, seen superbly on five of the islands visited.



*Antillean Crested Hummingbird (left) and Purple-throated Carib (Pete Morris)*

**Green-throated Carib** ◇ *Eulampis holosericeus* Nominate on most islands, *chlorolaemus* on Grenada.  
**Antilles Crested Hummingbird** ◇ *Orthorhyncus cristatus* Lovely bird. Common and widespread. See note.  
**Blue-headed Hummingbird** ◇ *Cyanophaia bicolor* Great views on Dominica (after some effort!) and Martinique.  
**Guadeloupe Woodpecker** ◇ *Melanerpes herminieri* (NT) Several seen very well. Unusual looking.  
**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* First seen on Antigua. Also on Montserrat, Dominica and St Lucia (*caribaeorum*).  
**Red-necked Amazon** ◇ *Amazona arausiaca* (VU) Good numbers and good views at Syndicate on Dominica.  
**St. Lucia Amazon** ◇ *Amazona versicolor* (VU) c20 seen very well on St Lucia, both perched and in flight.



St Lucia Amazon and Blue-headed Hummingbird - two more great endemics (Pete Morris)

**Imperial Amazon** ◇ *Amazona imperialis* (EN) Decent scope views of a couple of pairs at Syndicate; best on the 2nd attempt.  
**St. Vincent Amazon** ◇ *Amazona guildingii* (VU) Brilliant views of several along the Vermont Nature Trail.  
**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster* A few seen on St Vincent and Grenada (nominate).  
**Caribbean Elaenia** ◇ *Elaenia martinica* 3 forms: *riisii* (Barbuda & St Vincent); *barbadensis* (Barbados); nominate elsewhere.  
**Lesser Antillean Pewee** ◇ *Contopus [latirostris] brunneicapillus* 2 seen well on Dominica. Not yet split by the IOC.  
**St. Lucia Pewee** ◇ *Contopus [latirostris] latirostris* Several of this attractive endemic seen well.  
**Grey Kingbird** *Tyrannus dominicensis* Pretty common throughout (*vorax*).  
**Grenada Flycatcher** ◇ *Myiarchus nugator* Excellent views on St Vincent and Grenada.



Lesser Antillean Flycatcher (left) and Grenada Flycatcher (Pete Morris)

**Lesser Antillean Flycatcher** ◊ *Myiarchus oberi* Seen on Barbuda (*berlepschii*), Dominica (*oberi*) and St Lucia (*sanctaeluciae*).  
**Black-whiskered Vireo** ◊ *Vireo altiloquus* Widespread, many great views (*barbadensis*).  
**Caribbean Martin** ◊ *Progne dominicensis* Widespread, often showing very well. Huge.  
**Dominica House Wren** ◊ *Troglodytes [aedon] rufescens* Great views of several - dark rusty plumage!  
**St Lucia House Wren** ◊ *Troglodytes [aedon] mesoleucus* Several. Long, decurved yellow bill, white underparts, cinnamon flanks!  
**St Vincent House Wren** ◊ *Troglodytes [aedon] musicus* A few seen well on St Vincent. Also distinctive!  
**Grenada House Wren** ◊ *Troglodytes [aedon] grenadensis* Common. A paler rusty version!  
**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* Seemed to be more common the further south we went (*antillarum*).  
**White-breasted Thrasher** ◊ *Ramphocinclus brachyurus* (EN) See note.  
**Scaly-breasted Thrasher** ◊ *Allenia fusca* Several seen well. See note.  
**Pearly-eyed Thrasher** ◊ *Margarops fuscatus* Three forms: nominate on Barbuda; *linikowskii* on St Lucia; *densirostris* elsewhere.  
**Brown Trembler** ◊ *Cinclocerthia ruficauda* See note.  
**Grey Trembler** ◊ *Cinclocerthia gutturalis* Great views on Martinique (nominate) and St Lucia (*macrorhyncha*).



Grey Trembler (top left) and Brown Trembler (above) were always much appreciated. Scaly-breasted Thrashers were common (Pete Morris)

Rufous-throated Solitaire ◊ *Myadestes genibarbis* See note.

Cocoa Thrush *Turdus fumigatus* Several heard, and seen well on St Vincent (*bondi*).

Spectacled Thrush *Turdus nudigenis* See note.

Red-legged Thrush ◊ *Turdus plumbeus* Several seen well at Syndicate on Dominica (*albiventris*).

Forest Thrush ◊ *Turdus lherminieri* (VU) See note.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Introduced vermin on Antigua and St Vincent at least.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* Introduced. A few seen on Dominica.

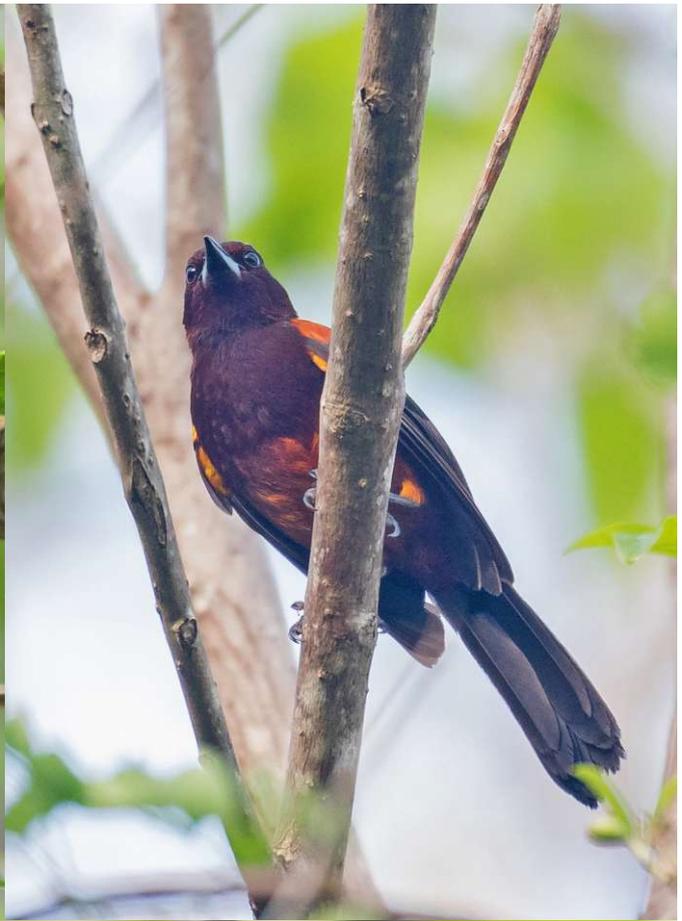
Antillean Euphonia ◊ *Euphonia musica* See note.

Whistling Warbler ◊ *Catharopeza bishopi* (EN) Great views of a few on St Vincent. Really smart and great song but elusive!



'Lesser' Antillean Euphonia showed well, and Plumbeous Warblers were much admired (Pete Morris)





*The endemic orioles put on a great show. Clockwise from top left: Montserrat Oriole; Martinique Oriole and St Lucia Oriole (Pete Morris)*

**Plumbeous Warbler** ◇ *Setophaga plumbea* A super bird, seen superbly on Dominica and Guadeloupe.  
**Mangrove Warbler** ◇ *Setophaga petechia* See note.  
**Barbuda Warbler** ◇ *Setophaga subita* (NT) Common and very easy to see on Barbuda. Great bird!  
**St. Lucia Warbler** ◇ *Setophaga delicata* (NT) Very common at Grande Anse and a few seen elsewhere. Smart and bright.  
**Martinique Oriole** ◇ *Icterus bonana* (VU) Great views of several in the end. A really smart bird!  
**Montserrat Oriole** ◇ *Icterus oberi* (CR) Sneaky, but eventually both sexes seen well.  
**St. Lucia Oriole** ◇ *Icterus laudabilis* (NT) Great views of several including a fine pair at the parrot viewpoint.  
**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* Common for the second half of the tour (*minimum*).  
**Carib Grackle** ◇ *Quiscalus lugubris* Common, see note.  
**Bananaquit** ◇ *Coereba flaveola* See note.  
**Lesser Antillean Tanager** ◇ *Tangara cucullata* Two forms seen. The bright *versicolor* on St Vincent and nominate on Grenada.  
**Yellow-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila nigricollis* A few seen on Grenada.  
**Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch** *Oryzoborus angolensis* See note.  
**Black-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris bicolor* Common and widespread (*omissus*).  
**Lesser Antillean Bullfinch** ◇ *Loxigilla noctis* See note.  
**Barbados Bullfinch** ◇ *Loxigilla barbadensis* Several seen very well. Perhaps the most boring endemic of the trip!  
**St. Lucia Black Finch** ◇ *Melanospiza richardsoni* (EN) Great views of several. Smart birds and quite showy.  
**Lesser Antillean Saltator** ◇ *Saltator albicollis* Dominica and Guadeloupe (*guadelupensis*): nominate (Martinique and St Lucia).



*The scarce St Lucia Blackfinch, Lesser Antillean Bullfinch and Lesser Antillean Tanager (Pete Morris)*

## MAMMALS

**Southern Opossum** *Didelphis marsupialis* One seen on the road at night on Dominica.

**House Rat** *Rattus rattus* One seen on Antigua.

**Red-rumped Agouti (Brazilian A)** *Dasyprocta leporina* A few seen, especially on Dominica.

**Small Indian Mongoose (introduced)** *Herpestes auro punctatus* Many of these introduced pests seen sadly.

**Greater Fishing Bat** *Nectilio leporinus* A few outside the hotel on St Lucia.

**Common Bottle-nosed Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus* A fine pod seen during the boat trip off of Dominica.



As well as the mammals, we saw three species of turtle. Hawksbill (above), Leatherback (on Trinidad, below) and Green Turtle (Pete Morris)



## NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED IN THE LESSER ANTILLES

### **Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus*

Three forms were seen during the tour: *insulicola* (Antigua); *rivieri* (Dominica, Martinique & St Lucia) and *antillarum* (St Vincent & Grenada).

### **Common Ground Dove** *Columbina passerina*

Three forms were seen during the tour: *nigrirostris* (Antigua, Dominica, Guadeloupe); *trochila* (Martinique), and *antillarum* (St Lucia, St Vincent, Grenada).

### **Antillean Crested Hummingbird** *Orthorhyncus cristatus*

On most of the islands we saw the widespread *exilis*. Further south, on St Vincent, we saw the form *ornatus*, whilst on Grenada, we saw the form *emigrans*. The crest of the southern forms is two-toned, showing violet and green.

### **White-breasted Thrasher** *Ramphocinclus brachyurus*

We saw two rather different forms. On Martinique, we had brilliant views of several of the nominate form at La Caravelle. On St Lucia we found a few of the very different, almost trembler-like, *sanctaeluciae* form. These birds showed dark brown (Bourneville chocolate-coloured) upperparts and drooped and shook their wings when alarmed. Two species may be involved?

### **Scaly-breasted Thrasher** *Allenia fusca*

During the tour we saw three forms. On Montserrat, we saw the form *hypenema*, on Dominica and Martinique we saw the nominate form and on St Lucia we saw the form *schwartzi*.

### **Brown Trembler** *Cinlocerthia ruficauda*

A superb bird. We saw three forms. On Montserrat we saw the form *pavida*, Dominica nominate, and Guadeloupe we saw *tremula*. There is a suggestion that Brown Trembler may be split into two species, in which case those on Montserrat and Guadeloupe would be Northern Brown Trembler *C. tremula* and those on Dominica, Southern Brown Trembler *C. ruficauda*.

### **Rufous-throated Solitaire** *Myadestes genibarbis*

Another great bird, with a great song, that was seen on several islands. The forms noted were *dominicanus* on Dominica, nominate on Martinique and *sanctaeluciae* on St Lucia.

### **Spectacled Thrush** *Turdus nudigenis*

Common, first seen on Martinique, also on St Lucia, St Vincent and Grenada (*nudigenis*). Note that this species was formerly known as Bare-eyed Thrush, but this name is now reserved for the African species *T. tyephronotus*.



*Spectacled (or Bare-eyed) Thrush (Pete Morris)*

**Forest Thrush** *Turdus lherminieri*

We saw three different forms of this very smart bird. On Montserrat we saw several shy individuals of the form *montserrati*, a very scaly form. On Dominica we saw the quite different *domicensis* which gave great views at the Emerald Pool. This form is brown-breasted with a pale mark like a White-throated Thrush. Quite different from Montserrat birds. On Guadeloupe, we had good looks at the nominate form, another scaly form, more like the birds from Montserrat.

**Antillean Euphonia** *Euphonia musica*

We enjoyed excellent views of one at the Emerald Pool on Dominica, and two pairs along the Des Cartiers Rainforest Trail, on St. Lucia. Although the IOC do not split the form concerned, some authors do as Lesser Antillean Euphonia *E. flavifrons*.

**Mangrove Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*

We saw three forms of this attractive species. Two forms, those on Barbuda and Antigua (*bartholemica*) and Dominica (*melanoptera*) were Golden Warbler like, whilst the form *ruficapilla* on Martinique showed a complete rufous head like a standard Mangrove Warbler. The taxonomy of this complex is complicated.

**Carib Grackle** *Quiscalus lugubris*

We recorded four forms of this widespread species. On Antigua and Barbuda (where it is introduced) and Barbados, we saw the form *fortirostris*. On Dominica, Guadeloupe and Martinique, the form was *guadeloupensis*, on St Lucia, *inflexirostris*, and on Grenada, *luminosus*.

**Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola*

One of the big surprises of the tour, for many, is seeing just how different the Caribbean Bananaquits are! Surely they should be split at some stage! Within the Lesser Antilles there are several forms, and we saw the following: Antigua, Barbuda, Montserrat and Guadeloupe (*bartholemica*), Martinique and St Lucia (*martinicana*), St Vincent (*atrata*), Grenada (*aterrima*) and Barbados (*barbadensis*). Several of the birds on St Vincent and Grenada were all black!

**Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch** *Oryzoborus angolensis*

We once again saw a singing male on Martinique. This was presumably an escaped cage bird, but could a population be establishing?

**Lesser Antillean Bullfinch** *Loxigilla noctis*

Common and widespread with several forms being seen. Antigua and Barbuda (*ridgwayi*), Dominica and Guadeloupe (*dominicana*), St Lucia (*sclateri*), St Vincent (*crissalis*) and Grenada (*grenadensis*).



Carib Grackle - another widespread species! (Pete Morris)



The critically endangered Trinidad Piping Guan was a star of the show! (Pete Morris)

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED IN TRINIDAD

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

**(CR)** = Critically Endangered, **(E)** = Endangered, **(V)** = Vulnerable, **(NT)** = Near Threatened, **(DD)** = Data Deficient.

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known, is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment.

**Little Tinamou** *Crypturellus soui* (H) A few heard, at Asa Wright and elsewhere.

**Trinidad Piping Guan** ◊ *Pipile pipile* **(CR)** Excellent scope views of a total of c6 at Grand Riviere. Stunners!

**Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana* One watched circling over Grand Riviere.

**Scarlet Ibis** *◊ Eudocimus ruber* 100s at Caroni Swamp. A very impressive sight!

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea* A few seen at the Caroni Swamp (*bancrofti*).

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* A few seen, especially at Aripo Livestock Farm (nominate).

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Pretty common in open areas.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* Just three noted (*egretta* – American Great Egret).

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor* A few, especially at Caroni Swamp (nominate).

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* Plenty seen at Caroni Swamp and just a few elsewhere.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* Largest numbers were coming into roost at Caroni Swamp (nominate).

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* Common around Grand Riviere (nominate – Caribbean Brown Pelican)

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* Common, especially around Grand Riviere.

**Neotropic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* A single at Caroni Swamp (nominate).

**Anhinga** *Anhinga anhinga* A single at Caroni Swamp (nominate).

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* Common and widespread (*ruficollis* – Tropical Turkey Vulture).

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* Abundant!

**Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* A total of just 4 seen (*carolinensis* – American Osprey).

**Pearl Kite** *Gampsonyx swainsonii* A pair seen around the Toco Lighthouse (*leona*).

**Grey-headed Kite** *Leptodon cayanensis* Great views, perched and displaying, on both mornings at Grand Riviere

**Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* Several seen, especially over Asa Wright (*yetapa*).

**Long-winged Harrier** *Circus buffoni* Just one seen on the way to the Caroni Swamp.

**Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea* First seen at Asa Wright, also several seen well at Grand Riviere.



*Plumbeous Kite and Grey-headed Kite were both seen well in the north (Pete Morris)*

**Common Black Hawk** *Buteogallus anthracinus* Fairly common with several seen well (nominate).

**Savanna Hawk** *Buteogallus meridionalis* Just one seen at Aripo Livestock Farm.

**White Hawk** *Pseudastur albicollis* A few seen, the first at Morn Le Croix (nominate).

**Grey-lined Hawk** *Buteo nitidus* A few seen well, the first at Morn Le Croix (nominate).

**Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* Several seen, the first on the way to the Caroni Swamp (nominate).

**Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus* A total of 3 of these Turkey Vulture mimics seen, the first at Asa Wright.

**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinicus* Three at the sewage ponds on the way to the Caroni Swamp.

**Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna* One seen well near to Aripo (nominate).

**Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis* Common and widespread (*cayennensis*).

**Wattled Jacana** *Jacana jacana* Seen near to Caroni Swamp, and at the Aripo Livestock Farm (nominate).

**South American Snipe** *Gallinago paraguaiae* A couple watched displaying at the Aripo Livestock Farm (nominate).

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* A few seen off the Toco Lighthouse

**Yellow-billed Tern** *Sternula superciliaris* Three at the sewage ponds on the way to the Caroni Swamp.

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii* A few scoped off the Toco Lighthouse (nominate).

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger* One scoped off the Toco Lighthouse (*surinamensis* – American Black Tern).

**Large-billed Tern** *Phaetusa simplex* A few at the sewage ponds and others at Caroni Swamp (nominate).

**Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia* Introduced vermin.

**Scaled Pigeon** *Patagioenas speciosa* A few, including great views of a perched bird near Asa Wright.

**Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis* Several, first seen on the way to the Caroni Swamp (*tobagensis*).

**Common Ground Dove** *Columbina passerina* (NL) Just a few noted.

**Ruddy Ground Dove** *Columbina talpacoti* Very common throughout the island (*rufipennis*).

**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi* Half a dozen noted – similar to the next species but in drier areas (nominate).

**Grey-fronted Dove** *Leptotila rufaxilla* A few, but seen particularly well at Asa Wright (*hellmayri*).



Grey-fronted Dove was showy at Asa Wright (Pete Morris)

**Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata* Just a few from the bus on the way to the Caroni Swamp (*rubripes*).

**Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani* Several flocks seen during our visit.

**Striped Cuckoo** *Tapera naevia* (H) Heard only - first at Aripo (*naevia*).

**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana* Only a couple seen, including one at Grand Riviere (*insulana*).

**Tropical Screech-Owl** *Megascops choliba* Excellent views of a roosting pair at the Caroni Swamp (*cruciger*).

**Mottled Owl** *Strix virgata* Heard at Asa Wright, then great spotlight views at Grand Riviere.

**Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata* (HNL) Heard by some at Asa Wright (*trinitatis*).

**Ferruginous Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum* Seen well at Morn Le Croix and at Grand Riviere (*phaloenoides*).

**Oilbird** ♦ *Steatornis caripensis* Close views of c60 in the cave at Asa Wright. An amazing but wet experience!

**Common Potoo** *Nyctibius griseus* Good spotlight views of a pair at Grand Riviere (nominate).

**Short-tailed Nighthawk** *Lurocalis semitorquatus* Three decent fly-bys for some of the group at Asa Wright.

**Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis* Good spotlight views of a pair at Grand Riviere (nominate).



Some nightbirds from Trinidad: Tropical Screech Owl; Ferruginous Pygmy Owl and Common Potoo (Pete Morris)

- Chestnut-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne rutila* A few at Asa Wright and good views of a flock at the Toco Lighthouse (nominate).
- White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris* c20 (migrants?) seen over Grand Riviere.
- Band-rumped Swift** *Chaetura spinicaudus* Several, especially at our swift watchpoint at Morn Le Croix.
- Grey-rumped Swift** *Chaetura cinereiventris* Several, especially at our swift watchpoint at Morn Le Croix. (*lawrencei*).
- Chapman's Swift** ♦ *Chaetura chapmani* A few chunky examples at our swift watchpoint at Morn Le Croix.

**Short-tailed Swift** *Chaetura brachyura* Quite common, mostly in the lowlands (nominate).

**Neotropical Palm Swift** *Tachornis squamata* A few seen well near the palms at Aripo and Wallerfield Airfield (nominate).

**Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** *Panyptila cayennensis* Two seen over Morn Le Croix and two more at Grand Riviere.

**Rufous-breasted Hermit** *Glaucis hirsutus* Several seen at Asa Wright and at Grand Riviere (*insularum*).

**Green Hermit** *Phaethornis guy* Plenty including one on a nest outside the reception at Asa Wright (nominate).

**Little Hermit** *Phaethornis longuemareus* A few seen well at various sites with some spectacular views.

**White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora* Abundant on the feeders at Asa Wright (nominate).

**Green-throated Mango** ◊ *Anthracothorax viridigula* Two seen well at the Caroni Swamp and spectacular views at Yerette.

**Black-throated Mango** *Anthracothorax nigricollis* Seen most days. Conspicuous at the Asa Wright and Yerette feeders.

**Ruby-topaz Hummingbird** *Chrysolampis mosquitus* Spectacular views at Yerette and also seen at Grand Riviere

**Tufted Coquette** ◊ *Lophornis ornatus* Several including a stunning male at Asa Wright. Brilliant birds!

**Blue-chinned Sapphire** *Chlorestes notata* Seen more or less daily, mostly at Asa Wright (nominate).

**White-chested Emerald** *Amazilia brevirostris* ◊ Fairly common throughout; many seen well at feeders (*chionopectus*).

**Copper-rumped Hummingbird** *Amazilia tobaci* Seen more or less daily, many very close views! (*erythronotos*).

**Long-billed Starthroat** *Helimaster longirostris* A few loitering around most sets of feeders (nominate).



The rare Green-throated Mango (top two) was seen well, as was Little Hermit and Copper-rumped Hummingbird (Pete Morris)

**Green-backed Trogon** *Trogon viridis* A few at Asa Wright, with some spectacular views (nominate).  
**Guianan Trogon** *Trogon violaceus* A couple at Asa Wright and a fine male at the pass nearby. Another colourful species.  
**Collared Trogon** *Trogon collaris* A few seen at and near to Asa Wright (nominate).  
**American Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle aenea* Excellent views of one on the Caroni Swamp boat trip (nominate).  
**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana* Seen well behind the hotel at Grand Riviere (nominate).  
**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata* One seen well at a stop on the drive to Caroni Swamp (nominate).  
**Trinidad Motmot** ◊ *Momotus bahamensis* Excellent views at Asa Wright and at Morn Le Croix.



Guianan Trogon and Trinidad Motmot added colour! (Pete Morris)

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** *Galbula ruficauda* Great views at Morn Le Croix, and others heard (nominate).  
**Channel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos vitellinus* A few heard, but the only one seen was at Wallerfield Airfield (nominate).  
**Red-rumped Woodpecker** *Veniliornis kirkii* Good views of a pair below the pass above Asa Wright (nominate).  
**Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Colaptes rubiginosus* A few seen well. First at Asa Wright (*trinitatis*).  
**Chestnut Woodpecker** *Celeus elegans* One seen well below the pass above Asa Wright (*leotaudi*).  
**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus* One seen well at Grand Riviere (nominate).  
**Crimson-crested Woodpecker** *Campephilus melanoleucos* Great views of 3 individuals at Grand Riviere (nominate).  
**Yellow-headed Caracara** *Milvago chimachima* Common, many seen well during our visit.  
**Lilac-tailed Parrotlet** ◊ *Touit batavicus* Flight views at Morn Le Croix then stunning, perched views at Grand Riviere!  
**Orange-winged Amazon** *Amazona amazonica* Common, with big numbers at some sites.  
**Green-rumped Parrotlet** *Forpus passerinus* Best views were at the Aripo Livestock Farm (*viridissimus*).  
**Red-bellied Macaw** *Orthopsittaca manilata* Brilliant views at Aripo and again at Wallerfield Airfield. Stunners!  
**Stripe-breasted Spinetail** ◊ *Synallaxis cinnamomea* Good views of a couple at the pass above Asa Wright, (*carri*).  
**Pale-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis albescens* One seen well at Grand Riviere (*trinitatis*).  
**Yellow-chinned Spinetail** *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus* Several seen well, especially at Aripo Livestock Farm (nominate).  
**Grey-throated Leaf-tosser** *Sclerurus albigularis* A couple seen well along the access road at Asa Wright (nominate).  
**Streaked Xenops** *Xenops rutilans* (NL) One for some of the group near Asa Wright (*heterurus*).  
**Plain-brown Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla fuliginosa* A couple seen well at Asa Wright (*meruloides*).  
**Straight-billed Woodcreeper** *Dendroplex picus* Great views of one on the boat trip to the Caroni Swamp (*altirostris*).  
**Cocoa Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* Quite common with two seen at Asa Wright; others heard (nominate).  
**Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* Several seen well at Asa Wright. An impressive species (*semifasciatus*).  
**Black-crested Antshrike** *Sakesphorus canadensis* A pair seen well in the Caroni Swamp (*trinitatis*).



Great Antshrike gave several great views (Pete Morris)

- Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus* Quite common, first seen at Asa Wright (*fraterculus*).
- White-flanked Antwren** *Myrmotherula axillaris* A few seen very well at Grand Riviere (nominate).
- Silvered Antbird** *Sclateria naevia* Great views of a male at Grand Riviere (nominate).
- White-bellied Antbird** ♦ *Myrmeciza longipes* Great views of a pair at Asa Wright and one at Grand Riviere (nominate).
- Black-faced Antthrush** *Formicarius analis* A single seen very well at Asa Wright (*saturatus*).
- Forest Elaenia** *Myiopagis gaimardii* Great views near Asa Wright and at Grand Riviere (*trinitatis*).
- Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster* Common and widespread. Distinctive voice (*flavogaster*).
- Southern Beardless Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma obsoletum* A few seen at Grand Riviere (*venezuelae*).
- Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleagineus* A total of 3 seen. Sometimes called Fruit-Tyrants (*pallidiventris*).
- Yellow-olive Flatbill** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* A couple seen well at Asa Wright (*berlepschi*).
- Ochre-lored Flatbill** *Tolmomyias flaviventris* Quite common by voice, and a few seen (*collingwoodi*).
- Euler's Flycatcher** *Lathrotriccus euleri* Distinctive song and seen well a few times (*lawrencei*).
- Tropical Pewee** *Contopus cinereus* Several. Noted above Asa Wright and at Grand Riviere (*bogotensis*).
- Pied Water Tyrant** *Fluvicola pica* Several seen well, especially at Aripo Livestock Farm.
- White-headed Marsh Tyrant** *Arundinicola leucocephala* A few seen on the way to Caroni and at Aripo Livestock Farm.



Pied Water Tyrant and White-headed Marsh Tyrant were both seen well at Aripo (Pete Morris)

**Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaeus* Commonly heard and regularly seen (nominate).

**Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* Very common, especially from the verandah at Asa Wright (*trinitatis*).

**Streaked Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes maculatus* Several of these chunky flycatchers seen well (*tobagensis*).

**Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua* Commonly heard and seen a few times (nominate).

**Sulphury Flycatcher** ◇ *Tyrannopsis sulphurea* Up to six seen very well in the Moriche Palms at Wallerfield Airfield.

**Variegated Flycatcher** *Empidonomus varius* First seen at Asa Wright, and one at Grand Riviere (nominate).

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* Very common. First seen at Asa Wright (*satrapa*).

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana* Pretty common in open areas. Amazing flocks at Toco Lighthouse (nominate).

**Grey Kingbird** *Tyrannus dominicensis* A single migrant near to the Toco Lighthouse (nominate).

**Bearded Bellbird** ◇ *Procnias averano* Common at Asa Wright, with some wonderful views. Incredible! (*carnobarba*).

**White-bearded Manakin** *Manacus manacus* Superb! Brilliant lekking activity observed at Asa Wright (*trinitatis*).



White-bearded Manakins were another of the stars at Asa Wright! (Pete Morris)

**Golden-headed Manakin** *Dixiphia erythrocephala* Regular at Asa Wright, though also at Grand Riviere (nominate).

**Black-tailed Tityra** *Tityra cayana* Seen at Asa Wright and more regularly at Grand Riviere (nominate).

**Rufous-browed Peppershrike** *Cyclarhis gujanensis* Common by voice, first seen at Asa Wright (*flavipectus*).

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* A couple noted, the first near to the Toco Lighthouse (*vividior*)

**Golden-fronted Greenlet** *Hylophilus aurantiifrons* Good numbers seen, especially at Grand Riviere (*saturatus*).

**White-winged Swallow** *Tachycineta albiventer* Common, first seen at the airport on arrival!

**Grey-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* Common in the lowlands throughout the island (nominate).

**Southern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* Fairly common. First seen at Morn Le Croix (*aequalis*).

**Rufous-breasted Wren** *Pheugopedius rutilus* Common by voice. Seen well at Asa Wright and Grand Riviere (nominate).

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* Common. The form concerned, *clarus*, is part of 'Southern House Wren' *T. musculus*.

**Long-billed Gnatwren** *Ramphocaenus melanurus* Fairly common by voice. Seen well at Morn Le Croix (*trinitatis*).

**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* Common and widespread (*tobagensis*).



Cocoa Thrush - dull, but easy to see at Asa Wright (Pete Morris)

- Cocoa Thrush** *Turdus fumigatus* Fairly common, especially at Asa Wright (*aquilonalis*).
- Spectacled Thrush** *Turdus nudigenis* Common with several seen daily (nominate).
- White-necked Thrush** *Turdus albicollis* Seen a few times at Asa Wright and nearby (*phaeopygoides*).
- Trinidad Euphonia** *Euphonia trinitatis* Heard and seen a few times. Best views at Grand Riviere.
- Violaceous Euphonia** *Euphonia violacea* Common. Many seen especially well at Asa Wright (*rodwayi*).
- Tropical Parula** *Setophaga pitiayumi* A few seen. First noted at Morn Le Croix (*elegans*).
- Golden-crowned Warbler** *Basileuterus culicivorus* Best views were near the pass above Asa Wright (*olivascens*).
- Red-breasted Blackbird** *Sturnella militaris* Fairly common at Aripo Livestock Farm.
- Crested Oropendola** *Psarocolius decumanus* Very common and widespread (*insularis*).
- Yellow-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus cela* A few seen with best views at Morn Le Croix (nominate).
- Yellow Oriole** *Icterus nigrogularis* Fairly common. First seen at Asa Wright (*trinitatis*).
- Epaulet Oriole** *Icterus cayanensis* Great views of one in the palms at Wallerfield Airfield (*chrysocephalus* – Moriche Oriole).
- Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus* A flock was seen from the car on the drive to the Caroni Swamp (nominate).
- Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis minimus* Pretty common and widespread (nominate).
- Carib Grackle** *Quiscalus lugubris* Abundant throughout (nominate).
- Yellow-hooded Blackbird** *Chrysomus icterocephalus* First seen en route to Caroni Swamp and several at Aripo (nominate).



A 'regular' Bananquit (quite different from those in the Lesser Antilles) and Yellow-hooded Blackbird (Pete Morris)

**Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* Common throughout. Very different to Lesser Antillean birds!! (*luteola*).  
**Masked Cardinal** *Paroaria nigrogenis* Three seen well at Caroni Swamp. Very smart.  
**White-shouldered Tanager** *Tachyphonus luctuosus* Good views of a pair at Morn Le Croix (*flaviventris*).  
**White-lined Tanager** *Tachyphonus rufus* Fairly common, especially at Asa Wright.  
**Silver-beaked Tanager** *Ramphocelus carbo* Fairly common, especially at Asa Wright (*magnirostris*).  
**Blue-grey Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* Fairly common throughout (*nesophila*).  
**Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum* Very common, especially so at Asa Wright (*melanoptera*).  
**Turquoise Tanager** *Tangara mexicana* Small numbers at Asa Wright and good flocks at Grand Riviere (*vieillotii*).  
**Speckled Tanager** *Tangara guttata* A couple seen well at the pass above Asa Wright (*trinitatis*).  
**Bay-headed Tanager** *Tangara gyrola* A few seen especially in the Northern Ranges (*viridissima*).  
**Blue Dacnis** *Dacnis cayana* Small numbers seen throughout in the canopy flocks (nominate).  
**Purple Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes caeruleus* Common at Asa Wright and Grand Riviere (*longirostris*).  
**Red-legged Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes cyaneus* Most of those seen were around Grand Riviere (nominate).  
**Green Honeycreeper** *Chlorophanes spiza* Regular, especially around the feeders at Asa Wright (nominate).  
**Bicolored Conebill** *Conirostrum bicolor* (NT) Three or four seen well at Caroni Swamp (nominate).  
**Grassland Yellow Finch** *Sicalis luteola* Common at Aripo Livestock Farm.  
**Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina* Common and widespread, especially at Aripo Livestock Farm (*splendens*).  
**Ruddy-breasted Seedeater** *Sporophila minuta* A smart male seen well at Aripo Livestock Farm (nominate).  
**Greyish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens* A total of just 4 noted (*brewsteri*).



Green (left) and Purple Honeycreepers dazzled in the canopy! (Pete Morris)

## MAMMALS

**Silky Anteater (Pygmy A)** *Cyclopes didactylus* One seen in the mangroves at Caroni... a curled up ball of fluff!  
**Red-tailed Squirrel** *Sciurus granatensis* A few seen at Asa Wright.  
**Red-rumped Agouti (Brazilian A)** *Dasyprocta leporina* A few seen, especially at the feeders at Asa Wright.  
**Proboscis Bat** *Rhynchonycteris naso* Six or so were seen roosting in the Caroni Swamp.



*Other interesting species included the amazing Hercules Beetle (Pete Morris), and Trinidad Chevron Tarantula (left) and Pink-toed Tarantula (right) both by Dave Williamson.*

**APPENDIX 1 - BIRDS OF THE TRIP IN THE LESSER ANTILLES**

- 1<sup>st</sup> ST VINCENT PARROT**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> GRENADA DOVE**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> WHISTLING WARBLER**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Antillean Crested Hummingbird**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Guadeloupe Woodpecker**
- 6<sup>th</sup> Lesser Antillean Barn Owl**



*The remarkable Lesser Antillean Barn Owl (Pete Morris)*

**APPENDIX 2 - BIRDS OF THE TRIP IN TRINIDAD**

- 1<sup>st</sup> LILAC-TAILED PARROTLET**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> TRINIDAD PIPING GUAN**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> BEARDED BELLBIRD**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Ruby Topaz**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Scarlet Ibis**
- 6<sup>th</sup> Trinidad Motmot**



*The rare Trinidad Piping Guan nearly made it... and one that missed out, the excellent Red-bellied Macaw (Pete Morris)*



### APPENDIX 3 – THE BEER REPORT!!

This year, thanks especially to some diligent work from a few members of the team, we recorded a higher than average number of beers!! The following list was kindly prepared by Dave!!

#### LAGERS

- Wadadli** - an Antiguan endemic here enjoyed at the very heart of its range
- Wadadli Draft** - good numbers of this very refreshing endemic
- Wadadli Premium Gold** - a few of these rare and elusive endemics on the Barbuda Express
- Kubuli** - this Dominican endemic suffers from competition with Rum Punch
- Lorraine Blonde** - endemic to Martinique - common throughout the island
- Lorraine Blonde Draft** - we were extremely fortunate to encounter this near the beach at Tartane
- Piton** - the nominate and particularly Calypso morphs of this St Lucia endemic were much enjoyed
- Hairoum** - a little known and enigmatic endemic from the island of St. Vincent
- Stag** - widespread on its home island of Grenada - introduced to St. Vincent and Trinidad
- Banks** - endemic to Barbados and like the Bullfinch common throughout - but more refreshing!
- Banks Deputy (S)** - recently evolved - seen only at the airport on Barbados
- Carib** - originally a Trinidad & Tobago endemic but now widespread throughout the Caribbean
- Carib Pilsner Light** - from Trinidad and at only 4% the perfect breakfast beer
- 10 Saints (aged in Rum casks)** - an aberrant Barbadian introduction encountered on Grenada
- Presidente** - a Dominican Republic endemic now found throughout the Caribbean
- Red Stripe** - vigorous Jamaican introduction spreading to all the islands
- Corsaire** - we found this one in Guadeloupe but it actually originates from Trinidad
- Coors Light** - an insipid introduction from Colorado
- Budweiser (S)** - fortunately for us this one was seen only
- Heineken** - introduced from the Netherlands and urgently in need of control!!

**Heineken Draft** - another aggressive invasive

**Amstel** - one of a series of introductions from the Netherlands

**Amstel Bright** - introduced via the Dutch Antilles - the specific name being a misnomer

**Leffe Blonde** - introduced from Belgium and despite its strength of 6.6% not widely established

**Faxe Royal Export** - a Viking introduction apparently increasing on Martinique

**Corona (S)** - seen only - vagrant from Mexico

### WHEAT (WHITE) BEERS

**1664 Bier Blanche** - this leucistic beer found on Martinique is introduced from Alsace, France

**Hoegaarden Bier Blanche** - sympatric with the above in Martinique - a Belgian introduction

**Blue Moon** - Belgian mimic from Colorado - Caribbean culling programme urgently required

### RED BEERS

**Lorraine Ambre** - a colourful Martinique endemic

**Grimbergen Rouge Draft** - another Belgian introduction found on Martinique

**Hobgoblin** - originally from the Wychwood Forest, UK - now in a wide range of habitats world wide

### STOUTS & PORTERS

**Porter 39 Biere Brune** - powerful at 6.9% - originally French but a potential split in Martinique

**Stud Power Stout** - this Trinidad & Tobago endemic mimics cough medicine as a defence

**Royal Extra Stout** - care needed in identifying this Trinidad endemic - to distinguish it from Bovril

**Guinness Foreign Extra** - at 7.5% this stronger version of its Irish cousin evolved for life in the tropics

**Mackeson** - introduced and initially seen only on Guadeloupe but finally tracked down on Grenada

**37 beers recorded including 3 seen only**

### BEER OF THE TRIP

1 WADADLI

2 Wadadli Premium Gold

