



*The ultra-rare Grenada Dove was a potential banana-skin but didn't cause us any problems! and became our bird of the tour! (Pete Morris)*

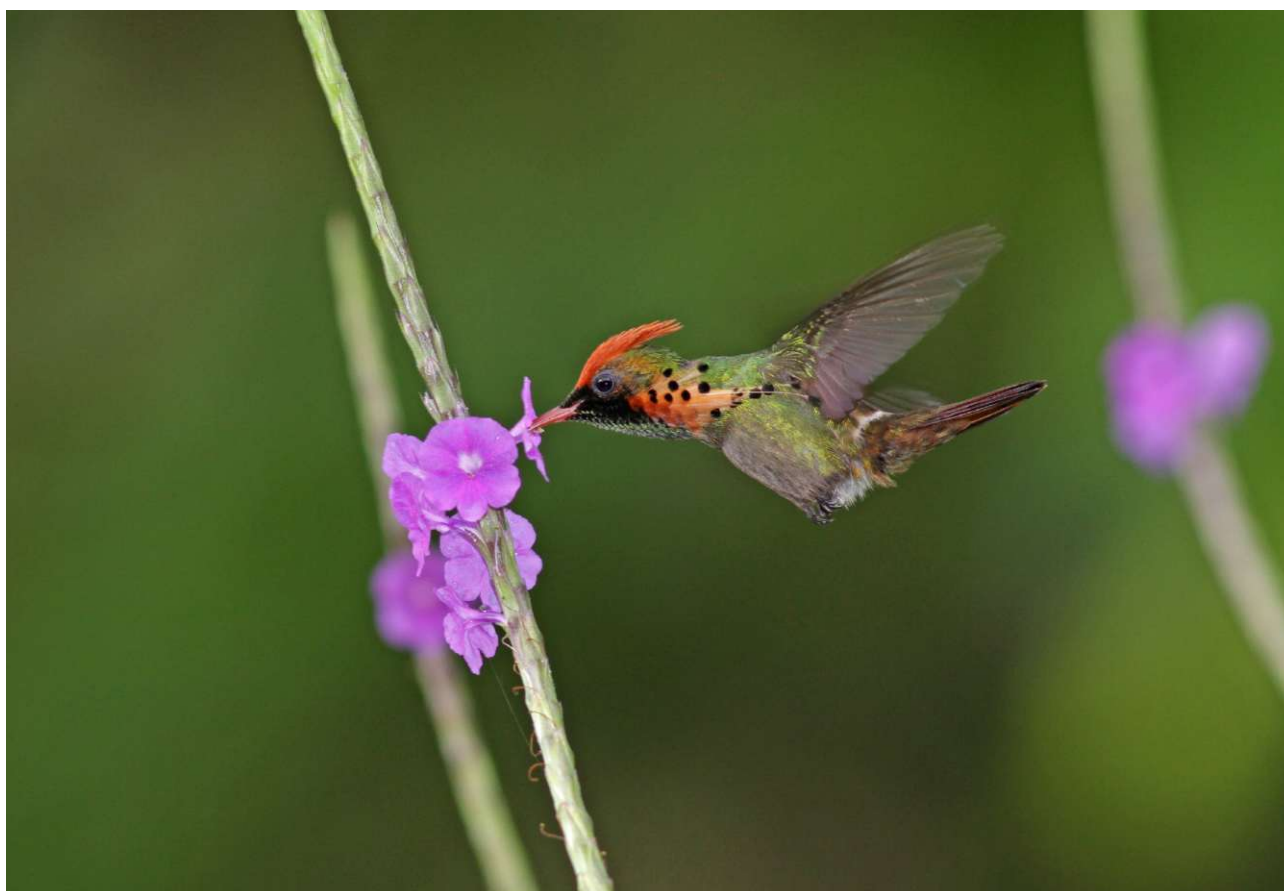
# THE LESSER ANTILLES INCLUDING TRINIDAD

**7 – 22/27 JUNE 2013**

**LEADER: PETE MORRIS**

It was a good few years since our last tour to the Lesser Antilles, but demand had built and we set off this summer with a full group, full of anticipation. But 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, Grenada and Barbados), a logistical feat of some magnitude. Especially so when one considers that this was with the help of the local airline LIAT. We soon found out why 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 we didn't escape either! The most memorable experience was some of the group being taken from Antigua, north to St Martin in the Netherlands Antilles, before being flown back the same way and

on to Dominica to meet the rest of us!! But having said that, we did make it round and saw all of the endemics and potential splits. It's always strange birding on islands with so few targets, but with so much 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 and the unique tremblers and White-breasted Thrashers to name just a few. A pelagic off Dominica was also of note for the amazing encounter we had with Pygmy Killer Whales. 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, stunning Tufted Coquettes, displaying White-bearded and Golden-headed Manakins, incredible Bearded Bellbirds and a wonderful cruise around the Caroni Swamp where Green-throated Mango 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 and displaying Pinnated Bitterns are also worthy of a mention!



*The stunning Tufted Coquette was a highlight of our visit to Asa Wright (Pete Morris)*

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 a few coastal pools where the main target was the localized Caribbean Coot. A few other species were present including Pied-billed Grebes, a selection of herons including a Least Bittern, a drake Blue-winged Teal, White-cheeked Pintails, Ruddy Ducks, a few common waders, good numbers of Least Terns and a few Caribbean specialities including our first White-crowned Pigeons, Zenaida Dove, Green-throated Carib, Caribbean Elaenia, Caribbean Martin, Mangrove Warbler, several Lesser Antillean Bullfinches 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?

An early look from the hotel the following morning revealed a good selection of common waterbirds, and we then headed down to town and took the ferry across to Barbuda. It was a choppy crossing 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, Lesser Antillean Flycatchers, several Black-whiskered Vireos and our first of many Antillean Crested Hummingbirds. Along the coast we enjoyed both Cabot's (including a Cayenne) and Roseate Terns as well as ubiquitous Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans. Finding





*The attractive Barbuda Warbler proved to be common (Pete Morris)*

lunch was more challenging than finding the birds, and we eventually ended up at a fiesta for a beer and some local produce! Whilst there a smart West Indian Whistling-Duck was spotted on Codrington Lagoon, as well as another Least Bittern. A fine end to our visit! The journey back was fairly quiet but for some lively Rastas enjoying a few beers!

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 soon learnt 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 Angie and myself) a driving license was also required!! It was grey and windy on the island and the birding was generally quite tough going with most of the species seemingly quite shy. As a result, a fair amount of perseverance was required before everyone had managed great looks at the rare Montserrat Oriole. The impressive Bridled Quail-Dove and Forest Thrush both put in several appearances as did the bizarre Northern Brown Trembler and both Pearly-eyed and Scaly-breasted Thrashers. Around the island, large Scaly-naped Pigeons were fairly conspicuous. 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. Here we enjoyed some great views of common waterbirds including Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Wilson's Plovers, Eastern Willets and an unexpected Little Egret, and we also enjoyed great views of another West Indian Whistling Duck.



*White-cheeked Pintail and West Indian Whistling Duck both showed well on Antigua (Pete Morris)*



*The interesting Lesser Antillean House Wrens! Clockwise from top right: Dominica House Wren; Grenada House Wren; St Vincent House Wren and St Lucia House Wren. Surely these adjacent island forms, with differing vocalizations, are good species?! (Pete Morris)*

Well that afternoon was the one where LIAT excelled, sending three clients via St Martins, and as a result it was late when we arrived on Dominica, and even later by the time we'd made it across the island to our hotel! We had three days to explore Dominica, though unfortunately it was a fair drive to the main birding site at Syndicate. Here, two visits were required before we tracked down the rare Imperial Amazon (or Parrot) for great scope views. The more colourful Red-necked Amazon was rather more common, and gradually we unearthed a series of other 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, shy 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 its amazing song from an exposed perch right in front of us. We also saw our first of the interesting '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. Whilst on the island, we also made a stop at a river mouth where some stunning Roseate Terns and a Short-billed Dowitcher showed well and nearby we found our first Ringed Kingfisher. On one afternoon we made a pelagic excursion off the south of the island. Here we found numerous Brown Boobies, both Sooty and Bridled Terns, an unexpected Cory's Shearwater and an all-too-brief Audubon's Shearwater. Best of all however were the cetaceans. Playful Pantropical Spotted Dolphins leapt in front of us, some enormous Sperm Whales surfaced by us and,





*The Dominica cetacean experience! Pantropical Spotted Dolphin, three shots of Pygmy Killer Whales and two huge Sperm Whales (Pete Morris)*



as luck would have it, were joined by a pod of the rarely seen Pygmy Killer Whale. Quite a show, made all the better by liberal lashings of rum punch!

On our final morning on the island we failed miserably to find any euphonias and then visited the attractive Emerald Pool, complete with French ornaments! Here we finally found the attractive Blue-headed Hummingbird and saw some pretty obliging Forest Thrushes as well as more Lesser Antillean Pewees. The rest of the day was more or less travel, and by the time we arrived on Guadeloupe it was getting quite late.

It's fair to say that our experience on Guadeloupe was not the best, but we did manage to get out and find the key birds without any problem. Strange-looking Guadeloupe Woodpeckers were easy to find, and we were also delighted to see more obliging Forest Thrushes and a stunning Bridled Quail-Dove. An excursion to the north of the island failed to find any tropicbirds, but did give us great views of Brown Noddies and Sooty and Bridled Terns providing nice side-by-side comparisons. After a long delay, and a disastrous lunch in a 'gourmet' restaurant, we finally made it to Martinique, and made our way up to our accommodation.



*A gorgeous Bridled Quail-Dove (Pete Morris)*

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 and saw our first fine Martinique Oriole, though a Ruddy Quail-Dove was more elusive. Later we explored more areas of forest in the highlands of the island (once we'd worked out which roads were open!). This proved to be a good move as we found more delightful Blue-headed Hummingbirds, a fine Lesser Antillean Euphonia, another cracking Rufous-throated Solitaire, our first Grey Trembler, more stunning Martinique Orioles and an escape Chestnut-bellied Seedfinch!

After a successful visit to Martinique, we hopped over to St. Lucia the following day. Due to the way schedules worked, we had plenty of time on St. Lucia, which was fine as the hotel was a good place to take it easy,



*A fine pair of St. Lucia Amazons (or Parrots) (Pete Morris)*

with a heronry just outside! In drier areas on the east coast of the island we found interesting St. Lucia House Wrens, delightful St. Lucia Warblers were common, cinnamon St. Lucia Pewees were very tame and we even managed another spectacular view of Bridled Quail Dove. Mangrove Cuckoos showed well, and eventually we tracked down the rather different looking local form of White-breasted Thrasher. Up in the wetter mountains we enjoyed some spectacular views of colourful St. Lucia Amazons and found the subtle St. Lucia Black Finch to be reasonably common, and found cacique-like St. Lucia Orioles building their nest.

Things were on track, but again, thanks to LIAT, we arrived on St. Vincent rather late, only to find our hotel had flooded and we'd been moved! Still, the replacement was acceptable, and we had no time to lose as we had only one day to explore the island. It was an inevitably early start, and we arrived up at the Vermont Nature Trail soon after dawn. St. Vincent Amazons, surely the most attractive of the endemic parrots, were already





*Two more favourites from St. Lucia: St. Lucia Pewee and St. Lucia Warbler (Pete Morris)*

flying around squawking, and we soon tracked some down for great scope views. Also here were a couple of stunning Whistling Warblers and our first Lesser Antillean Tanagers, whilst nearer to town, we found our first Grenada Flycatchers. We also found a few other new species for the trip such as Eared Dove and Yellow-bellied Elaenia. We retired for lunch and most of the group took a rest. The intrepid few tried another area along the coast and here we found the different-looking St. Vincent House Wren as well as good numbers of the regular hummingbirds.

An early start saw us back at the airport before first light, before taking the short flight over to Grenada. Here we checked into our very pleasant resort hotel and enjoyed a decent breakfast before heading out. Grenada



*The endemic Plumbeous Warbler - another stunner (Pete Morris)*



Dove was potentially the most difficult bird left, so we went straight to one of the remaining sites for the species and began the search. The habitat here is regenerating following extensive hurricane damage a few years back and as a result, the dove is getting a little easier to see again. It was not long before we were hearing the distinctive hoot of this rare dove, and soon after we had one lined up in the scope. Smiles all round! The distinctive Grenada House Wren was also seen well. We then headed for the scenic hills and added the local form of Lesser Antillean Tanager and Antillean Crested Hummingbird (complete with green and purple two-tone crest) and some superb Rufous-breasted Hermits (including one on a nest) before heading back for lunch and a breather!

That evening we made an excursion nearby to look for the local Barn Owl and we were not disappointed, on two counts! Firstly, the owls showed brilliantly, but more importantly, they were unbelievably different 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 day on the island easy, though for those that wished, we did make a couple of excursions, getting spectacular views of more Grenada Doves. We also saw the rare local form of Hook-billed Kite and more Grenada Flycatchers, Grenada House Wrens and Antillean Crested Hummingbirds and picked up a few new species including Greater Yellowlegs and Ruddy Turnstones.

Our Lesser Antilles clean up was nearly complete, and the following day, we stepped out of Barbados Airport (despite the immigration officers' attempts to stop us!) and immediately ticked off the Barbados Bullfinch. On this occasion we'd kept the worst till last, but we'd got the full set as we watched the dull sparrow-like things hopping around our feet! At this point, it was time to bid some of the group farewell, the rest of us continued on to Trinidad.



*The brilliant Lesser Antillean Barn Owl was an unexpected highlight (Pete Morris)*



*The amazing Bearded Bellbird showed well on many occasions (Pete Morris)*

We arrived on the island of Trinidad mid-afternoon and immediately noticed a distinct difference in the avifauna from that of the mainland. Much of our time was spent at the well situated Asa Wright, where we were housed and fed for five nights. 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, much of our time on Trinidad was 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, whilst Green-backed, Guianan and Collared Trogons glowed from the mid-storey. 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 Red-crowned Ant-Tanagers. Equally retiring, though no less interesting were some smart Stripe-breasted Spinetails, rail-like Black-faced Antthrushes and Long-billed Gnatwrens. From the verandah, raptor watching yielded Common Black, Short-tailed and White Hawks, numerous Swallow-tailed Kites and even Black and Ornate Hawk Eagles on a few occasions. 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 Grey-fronted Dove, Orange-winged Parrots, Squirrel Cuckoos, a lovely





*A huge Leatherback Turtle on the beach at Grand Riviere (Pete Morris)*

pair of Ferruginous Pygmy Owls, a spotlight encounter with a fine Spectacled Owl, Golden-olive Woodpecker, White-flanked Antwren, Euler's Flycatcher, Ochre-lored and Yellow-olive Flatbills and Violaceous Euphonia.

We also ventured out from Asa Wright to various other sites on the island. The most important, though the one requiring most effort, was a trip up to the north end of the island to see the critically endangered Trinidad Piping Guan. This we achieved successfully, securing good views of a few birds in a fruiting tree, and here we also found a few other goodies including colourful Channel-billed Toucans, Lineated Woodpecker, Silvered Antbird, a delightful pair of White-bellied Antbirds, Rufous-breasted Wrens, Golden-fronted Greenlets, Black-tailed Tityras and Trinidad Euphonia. We were also there early enough to see a couple of amazing Leatherback Turtles on the beach - huge and impressive to say the least.

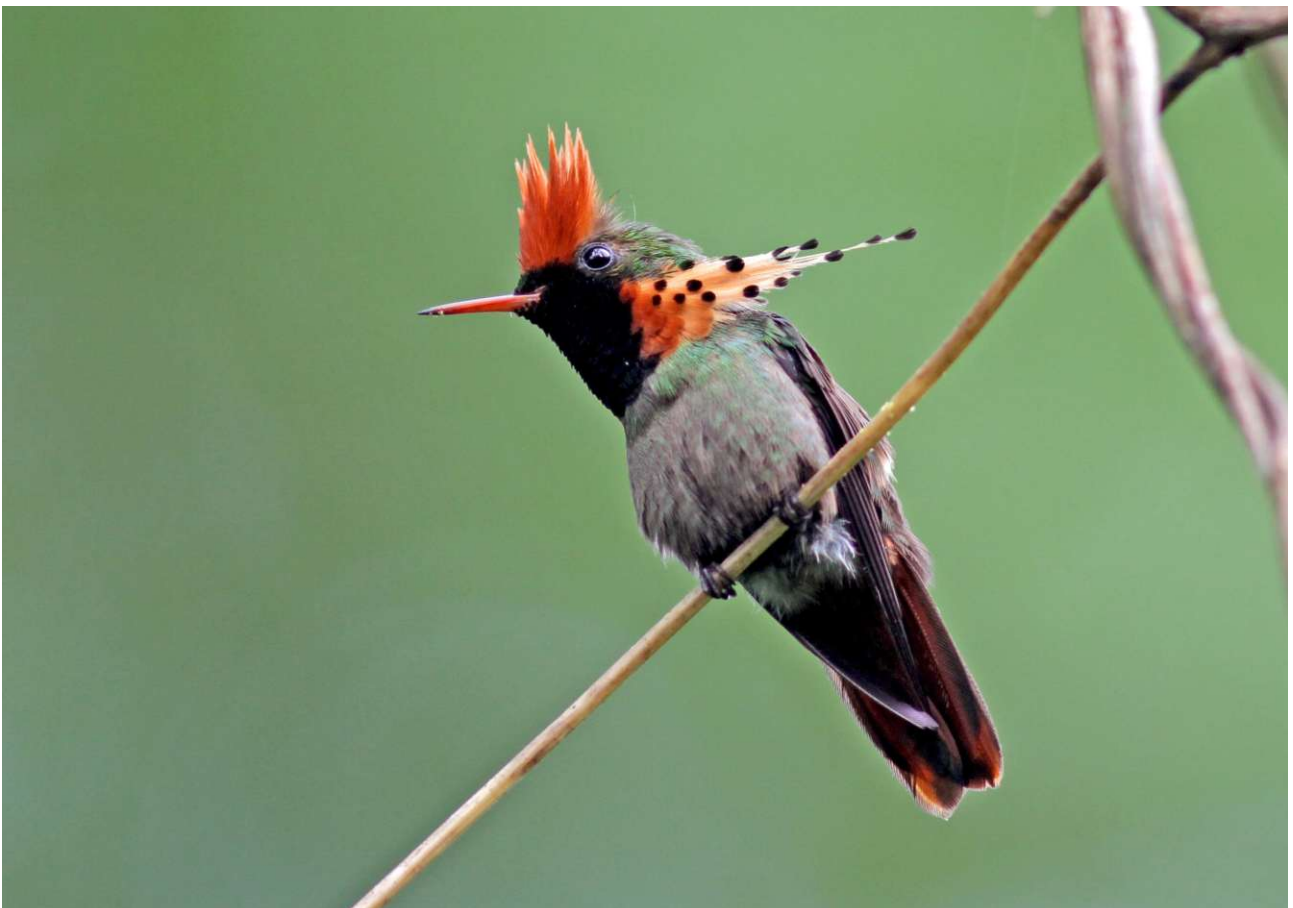
On one afternoon we took a boat trip out into the Caroni Swamp. Long-winged Harriers, a Limpkin, Large-billed Terns and Yellow-headed Blackbirds greeted us as we arrived at the area, and as we parked up, our only Red-capped Cardinal of the trip showed up. Once on the water we bumped into several interesting species including Greater Anis, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, the localized Bicoloured Conebill and a cracking American Pygmy Kingfisher. After a while we managed to find the range-restricted Green-throated Mango and we were also shown a fine Common Potoo on its nest. As the sun sank and the rum punch flowed, 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!





*Pinnated Bitterns at Aripo Livestock Farm (Pete Morris)*

On a couple of occasions we visited the Aripo area. Here we found another set of open country species. A Crane Hawk was quite a surprise, gorgeous Rufous-tailed Jacamars appeared, Black-crested and Barred Antshrikes skulked in the bushes and a male Masked Yellowthroat hopped up after a bit of persuasion. On flooded areas Wattled Jacanas, Southern Lapwings and South American Snipes showed well, the latter even drumming on occasions. Yellow-headed and Red-breasted Blackbirds added colour, Savanna Hawks drifted overhead, and other species here included Pied Water Tyrant and White-headed Marsh Tyrant, Yellow-chinned



*A splendid male Tufted Coquette at Asa Wright (Pete Morris)*



Spinetail and Ruddy-breasted Seedeater. On a couple of occasions we were thrilled to find the fantastic Pinnated Bittern! On one occasion we even watched a pair in some kind of display, the male walking around with white shoulder epaulets flared out like a bustard!

We also visited an area of Moriche Palms in the old Wallerfield airbase. This area is rapidly being developed, but we did manage to find a few good species including the scarce Sulphury Flycatcher and Red-bellied Macaw, whilst after dark we enjoyed spectacular views of White-tailed Nightjars and Pauraques.

With just a final morning on the island, we still had some unfinished business as we headed down the trail from the centre. We'd kept the best at Asa Wright until the very last morning, when we finally got our chance to go and enjoy the amazing Oilbirds - a very up-close and intimate experience at this site! A family tick for some and a great experience for all, we headed to the airport having essentially achieved our objectives! Our Caribbean adventure had drawn to a close, and as we relaxed at the airport, we could look back on a unique adventure through a varied set of islands and a superb selection of endemics and specialities.



*Oilbirds at Asa Wright (Pete Morris)*



*Grey Trembler - another great endemic (Pete Morris)*

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED IN THE LESSER ANTILLES

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.



**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris* A few seen on Barbuda where introduced.  
**West Indian Whistling Duck** ♦ *Dendrocygna arborea* (VU) Singles seen well on Barbuda and Antigua.  
**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* A drake seen on Antigua.  
**White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis* Good numbers seen well on Antigua (nominate).  
**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis* Several seen on Antigua (nominate).  
**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris borealis* A single seen well and photographed on our on Dominica.  
**Audubon's Shearwater** ♦ *Puffinus lherminieri* A single seen on our pelagic on Dominica (*loyemilleri*).  
**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* A number seen on Antigua (*antillarum*).  
**Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis* Singles seen on Antigua and Barbuda (nominate)  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* Seen on Antigua/Barbuda, St. Lucia and Grenada (*hoactli*).  
**Yellow-crowned Night Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea* Seen on Antigua/Barbuda, Dominica and Grenada (*bancrofti*).  
**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* Seen on Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada (nominate).  
**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Common and widespread throughout the islands.  
**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* A single immature on Antigua (nominate)  
**American Great Egret** *Ardea [alba] egretta* Seen on Antigua/Barbuda and Dominica. Not yet split by IOC.  
**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor* A few seen on Antigua/Barbuda and Grenada (*ruficollis*).  
**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* Fairly widespread and seen on most islands.  
**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* Fairly widespread and seen on most islands.  
**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* A single vagrant on Antigua (nominate).  
**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* Seen on Antigua/Barbuda, Dominica and Martinique (nominate).  
**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* A common and widespread sighting throughout.  
**Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* Greatest numbers were on the pelagic off Dominica (nominate).  
**Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* A single seen on Martinique (*carolinensis* - American Osprey)



Common but still attractive - Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Western Cattle Egret (Pete Morris)

**Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus* A few of us saw 1 on Grenada. A very rare bird there (*mirus*)!  
**Common Black Hawk** *Buteogallus anthracinus* Several seen well on Dominica (nominate).  
**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* Two forms: *riveri* (Dominica, Martinique & St. Lucia), *antillarum* (St. Vincent & Grenada).  
**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* First seen on Antigua. Also on Montserrat and Dominica (*caribaeorum*).



*Hook-billed Kite on Grenada and American Kestrel (Pete Morris)*

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata* Fairly widespread with many great views (*cerceris*).  
**Caribbean Coot** ♦ *Fulica caribaea* (NT) Several seen well on Antigua.  
**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* Several seen on Antigua (*mexicanus*).  
**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* A couple seen on Antigua (*cynosurae*).  
**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* A few seen on Antigua/Barbuda Dominica and Grenada.  
**Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia* Nominate seen on Antigua/Barbuda and *cinnamominus* on Grenada.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* A single seen well at the Layou River, Dominica.  
**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* A couple seen on Grenada.  
**Willet** *Tringa semipalmata* A few seen on Antigua (nominate - Eastern Willet).  
**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* Small numbers on Antigua and Grenada (*morinella*).  
**Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus* Good numbers on Dominica and Guadeloupe (nominate).  
**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* Common and widespread (nominate).  
**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus* A few seen around Antigua/Barbuda (nominate).  
**Cabot's Tern** ♦ *Thalasseus acufavidus* A few on Antigua and Barbuda including a 'Cayenne Tern' with a dull yellow bill.  
**Least Tern** *Sternula antillarum* Plenty seen well on Antigua. Grey rump and distinct vocalizations (nominate).



*Least Tern and the Cayenne form of Cabot's Tern on Barbuda (Pete Morris)*



**Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus* Seen on four islands including alongside Sooty Tern on Guadeloupe (*melanopterus*).

**Sooty Tern** *Onychoprion fuscatus* Seen very well on a few occasions (nominate).

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii* Seen very well in Barbuda and at the river mouth on Dominica (nominate).



*Roseate Tern and Sooty Tern (Pete Morris)*

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

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

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

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

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

**Zenaida Dove** ♦ *Zenaida aurita* Common and widespread but nevertheless smart (nominate).

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica* A few on Barbuda were surprisingly a write-in (nominate).

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

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

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

**Ruddy Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon montana* Best views were on Martinique and St. Vincent. Smart and bright (*martinica*).

**St. Lucia Amazon** ♦ *Amazona versicolor* (VU) At least a dozen seen well on St. Lucia including an allopreening pair.

**Red-necked Amazon** ♦ *Amazona arausiaca* (VU) Fairly common at Syndicate on Dominica, with good numbers and good views.

**St. Vincent Amazon** ♦ *Amazona guildingii* (VU) Excellent scope views of several from the parrot lookout at Vermont.

**Imperial Amazon** ♦ *Amazona imperialis* (EN) A single seen very well in the scope at Syndicate at the 2nd attempt.



*Endemic Amazons (left to right)! Red-necked and Imperial Amazons from Dominica and St. Vincent Amazon (Pete Morris)*

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

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

**Lesser Antilles Barn Owl** ♦ *Tyto [alba] insularis* Fantastic views on Grenada. Surely it should be split.

**Black Swift** ♦ *Cypseloides niger* Quite common on Dominica, with many excellent views (nominate).

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

**Short-tailed Swift** *Chaetura brachyura* (NL) A couple on St. Vincent for some.

**Rufous-breasted Hermit** *Glaucis hirsutus* Brilliant views of a few on Grenada, including one on a nest (*insularum*).

**Purple-throated Carib** ♦ *Eulampis jugularis* A real cracker, seen superbly on Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique and St. Vincent.

**Green-throated Carib** ♦ *Eulampis holosericeus* Nominate (Antigua/Barbuda, Dominica & St. Vincent, *chlorolaemus* (Grenada).

**Antilles Crested Hummingbird** ♦ *Orthorhyncus cristatus* Lovely bird. Common and widespread. See note.

**Blue-headed Hummingbird** ♦ *Cyanophaia bicolor* Great views on Dominica and Martinique.



Some cracking Caribbean hummingbirds! Clockwise from top left: Purple-throated Carib; Rufous-breasted Hermit; Antillean Crested Hummingbird and Blue-headed Hummingbird (Pete Morris)



**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata* Singles seen on Dominica and Guadeloupe (*stictipennis*).  
**Guadeloupe Woodpecker** ♦ *Melanerpes herminieri* (NT) Several seen very well. Unusual looking.  
**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 brunneicapillus* 3 seen on Dominica. Lumped with St. Lucia Pewee by the IOC.  
**St. Lucia Pewee** ♦ *Contopus 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** ♦ *Myiarchus oberi* Seen on Barbuda (*berlepschii*), Dominica (*oberi*) and St. Lucia (*sanctaeluciae*).



Clockwise from top left: Guadeloupe Woodpecker; Caribbean Elaenia; Grenada Flycatcher & Lesser Antillean Flycatcher (Pete Morris)





Clockwise from top left: White-breasted Thrasher; Southern Brown Trembler; Black-whiskered Vireo and Scaly-breasted Thrasher (Pete Morris)

- Black-whiskered Vireo** ♦ *Vireo altiloquus* Widespread, many great views (*barbadensis*).
- Caribbean Martin** ♦ *Progne dominicensis* Widespread, many great views. Huge.
- Dominica House Wren** ♦ *Troglodytes [aeson] rufescens* Great views of several - dark rusty plumage!
- St. Lucia House Wren** ♦ *Troglodytes [aeson] mesoleucus* Long, decurved yellow bill, white underparts, cinnamon flanks!
- St. Vincent House Wren** ♦ *Troglodytes [aeson] musicus* Two for some of us. Also Distinctive!
- Grenada House Wren** ♦ *Troglodytes [aeson] grenadensis* Common. A paler rusty version!
- Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* Seen on Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada (*antillarum*).
- White-breasted Thrasher** ♦ *Ramphocinclus brachyurus* (EN) See note.
- Scaly-breasted Thrasher** ♦ *Allenia fusca* Several seen well. See note.
- Pearly-eyed Thrasher** ♦ *Margarops fuscatus* Several seen on Montserrat, Dominica and Guadeloupe (*densirostris*).
- Brown Trembler** ♦ *Cinclocerthia ruficauda* See note.
- Grey Trembler** ♦ *Cinclocerthia gutturalis* Great views on Martinique (n nominate) and St. Lucia (*macrorhyncha*).
- Rufous-throated Solitaire** ♦ *Myadestes genibarbis* See note.
- Cocoa Thrush** *Turdus fumigatus* Several heard, and seen briefly on St. Vincent (*bondii*).
- Spectacled Thrush** *Turdus nudigenis* See note.





A couple of cracking thrushes from Dominica: top, Red-legged Thrush and Rufous-throated Solitaire (Pete Morris)

**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.

**Orange-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda melpoda* (H) Introduced. Seen by some at the hotel on Martinique.

**Black-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda troglodytes* Introduced. A small flock flushed off the roadside on Martinique.

**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 two on St. Vincent. Really smart bird and great song!

**Plumbeous Warbler** ♦ *Setophaga plumbea* A cracker, 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 Oriole (left) and a female Montserrat Oriole (Pete Morris)

- St. Lucia Warbler** ♦ *Setophaga delicata* (NT) Very common at Grande and a few seen elsewhere. Smart and bright.
- Martinique Oriole** ♦ *Icterus bonana* (VU) Great views of several. A really smart bird!
- St. Lucia Oriole** ♦ *Icterus laudabilis* (NT) Great views of several including a male nest-building.
- Montserrat Oriole** ♦ *Icterus oberi* (CR) Sneaky, but eventually both sexes seen well.
- Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* Common for the second half of the tour (*minimus*).
- 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 for Grenada.
- Yellow-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila nigricollis* A few seen on Grenada.
- Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch** *Oryzoborus angolensis* A singing male on Martinique was presumably an escaped cage bird?
- Black-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris bicolor* Common and widespread (*omissus*).
- Lesser Antillean Bullfinch** ♦ *Loxigilla noctis* See note.
- Barbados Bullfinch** ♦ *Loxigilla barbadensis* Several seen very well by the airport. Perhaps the most boring endemic of the trip!
- St. Lucia Black Finch** ♦ *Melanospiza richardsoni* (EN) Great views of a few along the Des Cartiers Trail on St. Vincent.
- Lesser Antillean Saltator** ♦ *Saltator albicollis* Two forms. Dominica (*guadelupensis*) and nominate (Martinique and St. Lucia).



Lesser Antillean Tanager (left) and Lesser Antillean Bullfinch (Pete Morris)





*Sperm Whale off Dominica (Pete Morris)*

## MAMMALS

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

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

**Mona Monkey** *Cercopithecus mona* (NL) Seen by some of the group on Grenada where introduced.

**Great Sperm Whale (Sperm W)** *Physeter macrocephalus* Some great looks off Dominica.

**Pantropical Spotted Dolphin** *Stenella attenuata* Acrobatic on the pelagic off Dominica.

**Pygmy Killer Whale** *Ferresa attenuata* A fantastic encounter with a pod off Dominica. A real highlight.

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

**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).

**Antilles 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 eventually found a couple of the very different, almost trembler-like, *sanctaeluciaae* 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 four forms. On Montserrat, we saw the form *hypenema*, on Dominica and Martinique we saw the nominate form, on St. Lucia we saw the form *schwartzii*, and on St. Vincent, *vincenti*.



Mangrove (Golden) Warblers on Barbuda (left) and Martinique (Pete Morris)

**Brown Trembler** *Cinclocerthia ruficauda*

A real cracker. 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. The following forms were recorded: *dominicanus* on Dominica, nominate on Martinique and *sanc-taeluciae* on St. Lucia (H).

**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*.

**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 of one 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 great looks at the nominate form, another scaly form, more like the birds from Montserrat.

**Antillean Euphonia** *Euphonia musica*

Excellent views of one near to Le Plateau Boucher, 15/6. We assumed it was a male as the crown was nice and bright turquoise and lores clear and bright yellow. 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 me, was 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!

**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*).



Caribbean Bananaquits (dark morph top right and normal morph right) are very different to birds from Trinidad and on mainland South America. Surely these distinctive birds will at some stage be recognized as a separate species (Pete Morris)



Amazing Scarlet Ibises at the Caroni Swamp (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* (HNL) Heard by some at Asa Wright.

**Trinidad Piping Guan** ◊ *Pipile pipile* **(CR)** Excellent scope views of 3 in a fruiting tree at Grand Riviere.

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

**Pinnated Bittern** ◊ *Botaurus pinnatus* Excellent views of 3 at Aripo Livestock Farm see note (nominate).





*A displaying South American Snipe at Aripo and a Trinidad Piping Guan showing well up at Grand Riviere (Pete Morris)*

- Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* (NL) Just 1, at the Caroni Swamp for some.
- 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* A dozen or more noted (*egretta* – American Great Egret).
- Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor* A few at Caroni Swamp (nominate).
- Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* Plenty seen at Caroni Swamp and just a few elsewhere.
- Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* Hundreds coming into roost at Caroni Swamp (nominate).
- Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* Just a few on the trip to Grand Riviere (nominate – Caribbean Brown Pelican)
- Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* A few on the trip to Grand Riviere and 1 over Asa Wright.
- 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 3 seen (*carolinensis* – American Osprey).
- Pearl Kite** *Gampsonyx swainsonii* A single near to Wallerfield Airfield (*leona*).
- Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* Several seen over Asa Wright (*yetapa*).
- Black Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus tyrannus* Good views of one over Asa Wright on a couple of occasions (*serus*).
- Ornate Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus ornatus* (NT) Adults seen twice from the verandah at Asa Wright (nominate).
- Long-winged Harrier** *Circus buffoni* Pale phase at Caroni Swamp, and a dark phase at Aripo Livestock Farm.
- Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea* First seen at Grand Riviere. Also seen at Asa Wright.
- Crane Hawk** *Geranospiza caerulescens* Great views of an adult near to Aripo Livestock Farm.
- Common Black Hawk** *Buteogallus anthracinus* Several seen well. First seen at Grand Riviere (nominate).
- Savanna Hawk** *Buteogallus meridionalis* A few seen well at Aripo Livestock Farm.
- White Hawk** *Pseudastur albicollis* A few seen over Asa Wright (nominate).
- Grey-lined Hawk** *Buteo nitidus* A single at Aripo Livestock Farm (nominate).
- Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* A few seen over Asa Wright (nominate).
- Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus* Seen on the way to Caroni Swamp, and from the verandah at Asa Wright.
- Yellow-headed Caracara** *Milvago chimachima* 10+ seen during our visit.
- Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinicus* (NL) 1 for some of the group near to Caroni Swamp.
- Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata* 6 seen near to Caroni Swamp (nominate).
- Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna* One seen in flight near to the Caroni Swamp (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 paraguaiiae* Several seen very well at the Aripo Livestock Farm (nominate).

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* A single seen at the Caroni Swamp.

**Large-billed Tern** *Phaetusa simplex* A couple at the Caroni Swamp (nominate).

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

**Scaled Pigeon** *Patagioenas speciosa* One seen perched up at Asa Wright.

**Pale-vented Pigeon** *Patagioenas cayennensis* Particularly common at Wallerfield (*tobagensis*).

**Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata* Quite a few seen in open areas *rubripes*.

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

**White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi* One briefly at Wallerfield (*zapluta*).

**Grey-fronted Dove** *Leptotila rufaxilla* Seen particularly well at Asa Wright (*hellmayri*).

**Red-bellied Macaw** *Orthopsittaca manilata* A couple seen flying around calling at Wallerfield Airfield.

**Green-rumped Parrotlet** *Forpus passerinus* First seen at Caroni Swamp, and a few others seen (*viridissimus*).

**Blue-headed Parrot** *Pionus menstruus* A few heard and a couple seen by some of the group.

**Orange-winged Amazon** *Amazona amazonica* Common, first seen at Asa Wright and big numbers at some sites.

**Greater Ani** *Crotophaga major* Two seen at Caroni Swamp.

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

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

**Squirrel Cuckoo** *Piaya cayana* Quite common, first seen at Aripo (*insulana*).

**Tropical Screech-Owl** *Megascops choliba* (H) One heard at Wallerfield Airbase.

**Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata* Excellent spotlight views of 1 at Asa Wright (*trinitatis*).

**Ferruginous Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum* Great views of a cute pair at Asa Wright (*phaloenoides*).

**Oilbird** ♦ *Steatornis caripensis* Close views of c30 in the cave at Asa Wright.

**Common Potoo** *Nyctibius griseus* A nesting bird seen well at the Caroni Swamp (nominate).

**Short-tailed Nighthawk** *Lurocalis semitorquatus* (NL) A couple seen by some of the group.

**Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis* Several seen well at the Wallerfield Airbase (nominate).

**White-tailed Nightjar** ♦ *Hydropsalis cayennensis* Several (c10!) seen very well at the Wallerfield Airbase (*leopetes*).



Nightbirds on Trinidad included (clockwise from top left) White-tailed Nightjar, Common Potoo and Pauraque (Pete Morris)





Another view of the stunning Tufted Coquette and a Green Hermit at Asa Wright (Pete Morris)

- Chestnut-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne rutila* Seen well several times from the verandah at Asa Wright (nominate).
- Band-rumped Swift** *Chaetura spinicaudus* Seen at Grand Riviere and from the verandah at Asa Wright (nominate).
- Ash-rumped Swift** *Chaetura cinereiventris* Seen well several times from the verandah at Asa Wright (*lawrencei*).
- Short-tailed Swift** *Chaetura brachyura* A few seen. First seen at Grand Riviere (nominate).
- Neotropical Palm Swift** *Tachornis squamata* A few seen at Aripo and Wallerfield Airbase (nominate).
- Rufous-breasted Hermit** *Glaucis hirsutus* Several seen at Asa Wright (*insularum*).
- Green Hermit** *Phaethornis guy* A few seen well at Asa Wright (nominate).
- Little Hermit** *Phaethornis longuemareus* A few seen well at Asa Wright.
- White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora* Abundant on the feeders at Asa Wright (nominate).
- Brown Violetear** *Colibri delphinae* (NL) A single from the verandah at Asa Wright for some of the group.
- Green-throated Mango** ♦ *Anthracothorax viridigula* Good views of a male at the Caroni Swamp.
- Black-throated Mango** *Anthracothorax nigricollis* Seen more or less daily especially at the Asa Wright feeders.



A beautiful American Pygmy Kingfisher at the Caroni Swamp (Pete Morris)



Left to right, Collared, Guianan and Green-backed Trogons provided colour at Asa Wright (Pete Morris)

**Tufted Coquette** ♦ *Lophornis ornatus* Stunning views of several at Asa Wright. Brilliant birds and incredible views!

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

**White-chested Emerald** ♦ *Amazilia brevirostris* Fairly common at Asa Wright and many seen well (*chionopectus*).

**Copper-rumped Hummingbird** *Amazilia tobaci* Seen more or less daily, mostly at Asa Wright (*erythronotos*).

**Long-billed Starthroat** *Helimaster longirostris* A single at Aripo Livestock Farm (nominate).

**Green-backed Trogon** *Trogon viridis* A few seen at Asa Wright, with some spectacular views (nominate).

**Guianan Trogon** *Trogon violaceus* A few seen at Asa Wright. Another colourful species.

**Collared Trogon** *Trogon collaris* A male seen at Asa Wright. All three trogons were seen close to one another (nominate).

**American Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle aenea* Good views of one on the Caroni Swamp boat trip (nominate).

**Green Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle americana* One seen on the Caroni Swamp boat trip (nominate).

**Trinidad Motmot** ♦ *Momotus bahamensis* Fairly common at Asa Wright with many excellent views.

**Rufous-tailed Jacamar** *Galbula ruficauda* A pair seen at Aripo, and others heard (nominate).

**Channel-billed Toucan** *Ramphastos vitellinus* Only seen at Grand Riviere. Others heard (nominate).

**Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Colaptes rubiginosus* A few seen well at Asa Wright (*trinitatis*).

**Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus* One seen at Grand Riviere, and a couple at Aripo (nominate).

**Crimson-crested Woodpecker** *Campephilus melanoleucos* A female seen well at Wallerfield Airbase (nominate).

**Stripe-breasted Spinetail** ♦ *Synallaxis cinnamomea* Good views of a couple at Asa Wright, (*carri*).

**Pale-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis albescens* (H) Only heard at Aripo Farm (*trinitatis*).

**Yellow-chinned Spinetail** *Certhiaxis cinnamomeus* Several seen well at Aripo Livestock Farm (nominate).

**Grey-throated Leaf-tosser** *Sclerurus albigularis* (HNL) Heard on a couple of early mornings at Asa Wright by some.

**Plain-brown Woodcreeper** *Dendrocicla fuliginosa* A few at Asa Wright inc. at an antswarm in the garden (*meruloides*).

**Straight-billed Woodcreeper** *Dendroplex picus* A couple seen well on the boat trip to the Caroni Swamp (*altirostris*).

**Cocoa Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* Quite common with several seen at Asa Wright (nominate).

**Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* Several seen well at Asa Wright. An impressive species (*semifasciatus*).

**Black-crested Antshrike** *Sakesphorus canadensis* A male seen well at Aripo, (*trinitatis*).

**Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus* Quite common, first seen at Asa Wright (*fraterculus*).

**Plain Antwren** *Dysithamnus mentalis* A single at Grand Riviere (*andrei*).

**White-flanked Antwren** *Myrmotherula axillaris* Singles seen at Grand Riviere and Asa Wright (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 Grand Riviere (nominate).

**Black-faced Anthrush** *Formicarius analis* A single seen very well at Asa Wright (*saturatus*).





The stunning Trinidad Motmot and Plain-brown Woodcreeper both showed well at Asa Wright (Pete Morris)

- Forest Elaenia** *Myiopagis gaimardii* Great views of one at Grand Riviere (*trinitatis*).
- Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elania flavogaster* Common and widespread. Distinctive voice (*flavogaster*).
- Lesser Elaenia** *Elania chiriquensis* A single seen well at Aripo (*albivertex*).
- Southern Beardless Tyrannulet** *Camptostoma obsoletum* A few seen. First seen at Grand Riviere (*venezuelae*).
- Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleagineus* A total of 3 seen at Asa Wright (*pallidiventris*).
- Yellow-olive Flatbill** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* A single seen well at Asa Wright (*berlepschi*).
- Ochre-lored Flatbill** *Tolmomyias flaviventris* Quite common, first seen at Aripo (*collingwoodi*).
- Euler's Flycatcher** *Lathrotriccus euleri* Seen well a few times at Asa Wright (*lawrencei*).
- Tropical Pewee** *Contopus cinereus* First seen (a juv) at Grand Riviere, and 3 others seen (*bogotensis*).
- Pied Water Tyrant** *Fluvicola pica* Several seen well, especially at Aripo Livestock Farm.
- White-headed Marsh Tyrant** *Arundinicola leucocephala* A few seen at Aripo Livestock Farm.
- Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaeus* Commonly heard and seen a few times at Asa Wright (nominate).
- Great Kiskadee** *Pitangus sulphuratus* Very common, especially from the verandah at Asa Wright (*trinitatis*).
- Streaked Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes maculatus* A couple seen, the first of which was at Aripo (*tobagensis*).
- Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarynchus pitangua* Commonly heard and seen a few of times at Asa Wright (nominate).
- Sulphury Flycatcher** ♦ *Tyrannopsis sulphurea* Three seen very well in the Moriche Palms at the Wallerfield Airbase.
- Variegated Flycatcher** *Empidonomus varius* First seen at Asa Wright, and a few others noted (nominate).
- Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* Very common. First seen at Asa Wright (*satrapa*).
- Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana* Pretty common in open areas. First seen at Caroni Swamp (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*).
- Golden-headed Manakin** *Dixiphia erythrocephala* Regular at Asa Wright, though first seen at Grand Riviere (nominate).
- Black-tailed Tityra** *Tityra cayana* Only seen at Grand Riviere (nominate).
- Rufous-browed Peppershrike** *Cyclarhis gujanensis* Common by voice, first seen at Aripo (*flavipectus*).

**Golden-fronted Greenlet** *Hylophilus aurantiifrons* First seen at Grand Riviere, and a few others seen (*saturatus*).  
**White-winged Swallow** *Tachycineta albiventer* Common, first seen at the airport on arrival!  
**Grey-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* Common, also first seen at the airport (nominate).  
**Southern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* Fairly common (*aequalis*).  
**Rufous-breasted Wren** *Pheugopedius rutilus* Common by voice. Best views were at Grand Riviere (nominate).  
**Southern House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* Common, first seen at the airport (*clarus*).  
**Long-billed Gnatwren** *Ramphocaenus melanurus* Fairly common, especially by voice. Seen well at Asa Wright (*trinitatis*).  
**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* Common and widespread (*tobagensis*).  
**Cocoa Thrush** ♦ *Turdus fumigatus* Fairly common 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 (*phaeopygoides*).



*A Long-billed Gnatwren at Asa Wright and the localized Masked Yellowthroat at Aripo (Pete Morris)*

**Trinidad Euphonia** *Euphonia trinitatis* Heard a few times and seen at Grand Riviere.  
**Violaceous Euphonia** *Euphonia violacea* Fairly common at Asa Wright where many were seen well (*rodwayi*).  
**Masked Yellowthroat** ♦ *Geothlypis aequinoctialis* Great views of a singing male in the Aripo valley.  
**Golden-crowned Warbler** *Basileuterus culicivorus* 2-3 seen at Asa Wright on one date only (*olivascens*).  
**Crested Oropendola** *Psarocolius decumanus* Common, first seen at Grand Riviere (*insularis*).  
**Yellow Oriole** *Icterus nigrogularis* A handful seen, mostly from vehicles (*trinitatis*).  
**Yellow-hooded Blackbird** *Chrysomus icterocephalus* First seen at Caroni Swamp and several at Aripo (nominate).  
**Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus* A flock was seen over Aripo Livestock Farm (nominate).  
**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis minimus* A few seen. First noted at Aripo Livestock Farm (nominate).  
**Carib Grackle** *Quiscalus lugubris* Abundant throughout (nominate).  
**Red-breasted Blackbird** *Sturnella militaris* Fairly common at Aripo Livestock Farm.  
**Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* Fairly common, especially at Asa Wright. Very different to Lesser Antillean birds!! (*luteola*).  
**Masked Cardinal** *Paroaria nigrogenis* A single seen at Caroni Swamp.  
**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. First seen at Grand Riviere (*nesophila*).  
**Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum* Very common, especially so at Asa Wright (*melanoptera*).  
**Turquoise Tanager** *Tangara mexicana* Fairly common. First seen at Asa Wright (*vieilloti*).  
**Bay-headed Tanager** *Tangara gyrola* A few seen at Asa Wright (*viridissima*).



**Blue Dacnis** *Dacnis cayana* (NL) Seen by some at Asa Wright.  
**Purple Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes caeruleus* Common at Asa Wright (*longirostris*).  
**Red-legged Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes cyaneus* Just a few seen. First seen at Wallerfield Airbase (nominate).  
**Green Honeycreeper** *Chlorophanes spiza* Regular around the feeders at Asa Wright (nominate).  
**Bicolored Conebill** *Conirostrum bicolor* (NT) A couple 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 pair seen well at Aripo Livestock Farm (nominate).  
**Red-crowned Ant Tanager** *Habia rubica* Great views on a few occasions at Asa Wright (*rubra*).  
**Greyish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens* Fairly common, first seen at Aripo (*brewsteri*).

#### MAMMALS

**Red-rumped Agouti (Brazilian A)** *Dasyprocta leporina* A few seen, especially at the feeders at Asa Wright.  
**Tropical Red Squirrel (Red-tailed S)** *Sciurus granatensis* A few seen at Asa Wright.  
**Small Indian Mongoose (introduced)** *Herpestes auropunctatus* Many of these introduced pests seen sadly.  
**Lesser White-lined Bat** *Saccopteryx leptura* (NL) Identified by John on the journey to Grand Riviere.  
**Jamaican Fruit-eating Bat** *Artibeus jamaicensis* (NL) Identified by John on the journey to Grand Riviere.

#### NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED ON TRINIDAD

##### **Pinnated Bittern** *Botaurus pinnatus*

One bird at Aripo Livestock Farm was watched displaying like a bustard, strutting around with exposed white patches at the base of its neck! Quite an amazing sight!!



Golden-headed Manakin and Great Antshrike at Asa Wright (Pete Morris)



*The stunning Martinique Oriole - the best of the endemic Orioles (Pete Morris)*

#### **APPENDIX 1 - TOP 6 BIRDS OF THE TRIP ON THE LESSER ANTILLES**

- 1 GRENADA DOVE (29pts)**
- 2 Whistling Warbler (18pts)**
- 3 Lesser Antillean Barn Owl (17pts)**
- 4 Bridled Quail Dove (12pts)**
- 5 Martinique Oriole (12pts)**
- 6 St. Vincent Parrot (11pts)**



*A couple more shots of the stunning Lesser Antillean Barn Owls (Pete Morris)*



## APPENDIX 2 - TOP 6 BIRDS OF THE TRIP ON TRINIDAD



*The superb White-bearded Manakin (Pete Morris)*

- 1 TUFTED COQUETTE (33pts)
- 2 Pinnated Bittern (31pts)
- 3 Trinidad Piping Guan (19pts)
- 4 Bearded Bellbird (18pts)
- 5 White-bearded Manakin (17pts)
- 6 Scarlet Ibis (14pts) (below, Pete Morris)



## APPENDIX 3 - Some beer information!

**Wadadli** - endemic to Antigua.

**Kubuli** - endemic to Dominica.

**Lorraine** - Martinique and Guadeloupe.

**Piton** - endemic to St. Lucia.

**Hairoun** - endemic to St. Vincent.

**Banks** - endemic to Barbados.

**Carib** - introduced from Trinidad and Tobago and spreading north.

**Red Stripe** - introduced from Jamaica and spreading south.

**Heineken** - introduced from the Netherlands, perhaps via the Dutch Antilles! An aggressively invasive and tasteless introduction, in need of some control!