

This is the SOUTH EASTERN CARIBBEAN BIRD ALERT January 2004 summary of sightings through the Region. Sponsored by the T&T Field Naturalists Club, our aim is to promote birding and ornithology by fostering communication among resident and visiting birders regarding the study of birds in the region. The SCBA and information about TTFNC, T&T Rare Bird Committee and our Photo Gallery are accessible at "<http://www.wow.net/ttfnc>" . Reports should be sent to Martyn Kenefick tel 674.7609; Email "martynkenefick@hotmail.com" The T&T Rare Birds Committee requires details for species indicated with an asterisk.

From Barbados, a WESTERN REEF HERON first found on Dec 20th 2003 was still present at the end of January in Graeme Hall. There are up to 3 wintering female EURASIAN WIGEON at East Point, St Philip - a male found in late November has moved on. A male EURASIAN TEAL was seen on at East Point on 3rd Jan

There have been two new species for the island over the recent period, a BLACK THROATED BLUE WARBLER found at Turners' Hall Woods between 1st - 21st Dec and a YELLOW THROATED VIREO seen at Joe's River Woods, St Joseph on 18th & 24th Jan. (per Martin Frost)

From Curacao, comes a record with photographic evidence of a WANDERING TATTLER (1st record for Dutch West Indies) at Vakantie on 13th Dec 2003 (per Floyd Hayes)

From St Martin, during banding at Lotterie Farm from 3-7 January, EPIC biologists banded/observed: 1 YELLOW BILLED CUCKOO, 1 YELLOW THROATED VIREO (banded; 2nd island record), 3 NORTHERN PARULA, 7 BLACK THROATED BLUE WARBLERS, 3 PRAIRIE WARBLERS, a KENTUCKY WARBLER (banded), 5 BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER, 24 AMERICAN REDSTARTS, 5 OVENBIRDS, a HOODED WARBLER, 2 INDIGO BUNTINGS (both banded, 2nd and 3rd island record), and a BALTIMORE ORIOLE (1st island record). During banding at Fish Pond from 10-14 January, EPIC biologists banded/observed: 4 WHITE WINGED DOVES, a PRAIRIE WARBLER, 7 NORTHERN WATERTHRUSHES and a PROTHONOTARY WARBLER During wetland surveys 22-24 January, EPIC biologists observed: 3 TRI-COLOURED HERONS (1 each at Orient Pond, Cupecoy Pond and Gallion Pond), 12 LESSER SCAUP at Lowlands Pond and a further one at Cul-de-sac Pond, a BUFFLEHEAD at Lowlands Pond (possible 1st Lesser Antillean record), 2 RING NECKED DUCKS (1 each at Little Bay Pond and Grand Case Pond), 170 STILT SANDPIPERS at Orient Pond. Finally there were, 2 LESSER BLACK BACKED GULLSI at Great Salt Pond (per Adam Brown)

From Anguilla, during banding in the Katouche Valley from 17-19 January, EPIC biologists banded/observed: 1 NORTHERN PARULA, a BLACK THROATED GREEN WARBLER (1st island record), 14 PRAIRIE WARBLERS, 11 BLACK AND WHITE WARBLERS and finally a SWAINSON'S WARBLER (banded, possible first Lesser Antillean record).(per Adam Brown)

From St John, USVI a BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER was found on 20th Jan (per Floyd Hayes)

In the northern range of Trinidad, a BLACK HAWK-EAGLE was seen over Temple village in the Arima valley on 2nd Jan. The following day, an OLIVE SIDED FLYCATCHER was present at Morne Bleu and a second bird was found just below Paria junction on 6th Jan. An adult ORNATE HAWK-EAGLE soared over the lower Blanchisseuse Rd and a WHITE THROATED SPADEBILL was at the entrance to Las Lapas trace also on 6th Jan. A SCALED ANTPITTA was again heard, but not seen, from the wooded slopes above the Blanchisseuse Rd east of Morne Bleu on 28th Jan. Close by, 2 YELLOW LEGGED THRUSHES were amongst a host of commoner forest birds attacking an ant swarm On the north coast, a BELTED KINGFISHER was at the mouth of the Marianne river on 6th Jan and a male SILVERED ANTBIRD was seen at close range by the river bridge

In central Trinidad, a BLACK HAWK EAGLE was found in the Aripo savannah early in the month

On the west coast on 7th Jan a WILSON'S SNIPE was along Sumaria trace, an adult male GREEN THROATED MANGO was on the Blue river, and a PROTHONOTARY WARBLER was reported from Cacandee. On 11th Jan, both RINGED and BELTED KINGFISHERS were seen hunting over Cacandee freshmarsh

In the Caroni plain , 2 PINNATED BITTERNs and 2 over-wintering FORK TAILED FLYCATCHERS were on Caroni ricefields on 11th Jan, together with a possible BOBOLINK, only seen poorly in flight.

The Trinidad Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by Asa Wright Nature Centre, involved several teams working an area within a circumference of 15 miles from AWCN. A magnificent total of 185 species reported on 22nd Dec, especially considering the inclement weather. Further details are available from the Centre

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This is the SOUTH EASTERN CARIBBEAN BIRD ALERT February 2004 summary of sightings through the Region. Sponsored by the T&T Field Naturalists Club, our aim is to promote birding and ornithology by fostering communication among resident and visiting birders regarding the study of birds in the region. The SCBA and information about TTFNC, T&T Rare Bird Committee and our Photo Gallery are accessible at "<http://www.wow.net/ttfnc>" . Reports should be sent to Martyn Kenefick tel 674.7609; Email "martynkenefick@hotmail.com" The T&T Rare Birds Committee requires details for species indicated with an asterisk

From St. Martin, wetland surveys on 5th Feb produced 2 GREEN-WINGED TEAL at Grand Case Pond ,and singles at Fresh Pond and Little Bay Pond. A single AMERICAN WIDGEON (male) at Fresh Pond. On 16th Feb a first year RED-BREASTED MERGANSER, found by Gilles Le Blond, was observed at Grand Case Pond (2nd island record).The BUFFLEHEAD persists at Grand Etange. There have been 4 LESSER BLACK BACKED GULLS (2 first winter, 1 second winter, and an adult) flying between Great Bay and Great Salt Pond all month. Birds observed or banded at Lotterie Farm from the 8th-11th; 1 MAGNOLIA WARBLER, 1 CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (2nd island record), 5 HOODED WARBLERS, 5 BLACK AND WHITE WARBLERS, 15 AMERICAN REDSTARTS, 4 BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, 4 NORTHERN PARULAS (including one we banded in February 2002), 1 OVENBIRD, 1 INDIGO BUNTING (4th record for the year). From St. Kitts- on 21st Feb a 2nd winter HERRING GULL and a 1st winter LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL were found at Basseterre.

From Guadeloupe, the PIPING PLOVER continues to overwinter on the Nature Reserve of Petite-Terre, seen as recent as 26th Feb

From Tobago, a BELTED KINGFISHER was seen over Bon Accord sewage lagoons on 11th Feb.

In the northern range of Trinidad on Feb 1st, a SCALED ANTPITTA * led three observers a merry chase on the steep slopes below the Blanchisseuse Rd milepost 10.25. It began calling at 7.00am and took over four hours for all to actually see it. On 25th Feb, a hike along Las Lapas trace produced a male RUDDY QUAIL DOVE, at least 6 CHANNEL BILLED TOUCANS, GRAY THROATED LEAFTOSSER, BLACK FACED ANT THRUSH, WHITE BELLIED ANTBIRD and at least 5 SPECKLED TANAGERS. After an absence of several months, a male HEPATIC TANAGER was seen close to the scatter station on Morne Bleu also on the 25th

In north east Trinidad, the first SWALLOW TAILED KITES of the season were reported from Cumana where 3 birds were present on 12th Feb

In central Trinidad, 3 PIED BILLED GREBES were found on Piarco lakes, 13th Feb. At Todds Rd forest reserve, at least 2 SHORT TAILED PYGMY-TYRANTS were seen on 14th Feb

On the west coast of Trinidad at Waterloo, the high tide gull roost on 7th Feb attracted over 2,000 LAUGHING GULLS and 3 adult LESSER BLACK BACKED GULLS. At Cacandee mangrove, sightings on 28th Feb included MOUSE COLOURED TYRANNULET, and 3 NORTHERN SCRUB FLYCATCHERS

In south west Trinidad, 2 male GREEN THROATED MANGO'S and 2 STREAK HEADED WOODCREEPERS were found in the mangrove at Roussilac; at least 6 SPOTTED TODY-FLYCATCHERS were calling from the mangrove fringed river at Sudama Steps and both STREAKED XENOPS and a female WHITE WINGED BECARD was seen in Siparia forest reserve on 18th Feb

HABITAT UNDER THREAT Many subscribers will be both saddened and angered to note the proposed destruction of Bucco marsh, Tobago in favour of hotel and condominium construction together with yet another golf course. This site holds an extensive species list of both resident and migrant birds and is one of the few remaining fresh water marshes in T&T.

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From Grenada ,up to two pairs of unidentified large flycatchers are being regularly seen in the dry forest hills close to St Georges. Descriptions most closely fit either GREAT KISKADEE or BOAT BILLED FLYCATCHER, neither of which have been previously recorded from the island

From St Martin, high counts from banding and point counts at Etang Poisson from March 3-9: 4 NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, 1 PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, and 1 PRAIRIE WARBLER. High counts from banding and point counts at Pic Paradis from March 10-14: 1 NORTHERN PARULA, 1 CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (3rd island record), 1 MAGNOLIA WARBLER, 4 BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, 9 BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, 10 AMERICAN REDSTART, 2 OVENBIRD, 1 KENTUCKY WARBLER, 2 HOODED WARBLER, 10 INDIGO BUNTING. During wetland surveys on 25 March, we re-found the male AMERICAN WIDGEON at Fresh Pond, the female LESSER SCAUP at Little Bay Pond, and the single TRI-COLORED HERONS at Little Bay Pond and Orient Pond. Also on the 25th, we located the 4 BLACK-HEADED GULLS at Great Salt Pond first found on the 10th. Along with the BLACK-HEADED GULLS were 16 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS and over 300+ LAUGHING GULLS (which are just now showing up). The over-wintering BUFFLEHEAD has not been observed since the March 11th. CARIBBEAN MARTINS have been continually seen flying around cliffs at Maho Village (4 birds) and Plum Bay (4 birds).

From Barbuda, highlights of a two day birding trip on 29th Feb - 1st March included 15+ RED BILLED TROPICBIRDS nest site prospecting along the north east coast; 2 pairs of WHITE CHEEKED PINTAIL together with 8 chicks; a FORSTER'S TERN; a EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE (thought to be the 1st record for Antigua/Barbuda); a NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (thought to be the 1st record for Antigua/Barbuda) and a female CAPE MAY WARBLER In central Trinidad, a flock of up to 50 GRASSLAND YELLOW FINCHES * (1st for T&T) have been present in the Aripo Agricultural Research Station since the end of February. At the same site, both CRIMSON CRESTED WOODPECKER and PALE BREASTED SPINETAIL were seen on 2nd March. On 12th March, a BLACK HAWK-EAGLE * flew over Eastern Main Rd near Sangre Chiquito on 12th March

In the northern range of Trinidad on 4th March, an adult ORNATE HAWK-EAGLE flew over Temple Village and a BROWN VIOLET-EAR was seen feeding young close to Morne la Croix. On Mt St Benedict, a rufous morph BRIGHT RUMPED ATTILA was seen skinning a small lizard on 4th March. On the Blanchisseuse Rd, a probable first summer male SUMMER TANAGER* was found on 7th March together with the first SWALLOW TANAGER of the season. From Las Lapas, both DUSKY CAPPED and SLATY CAPPED FLYCATCHERS were found on 8th March and a BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER* was seen on 28th March.

On the east coast of Trinidad, 2 WILSON'S SNIPES were feeding in flooded ditches at Kernaham on 1st March. and the first LEACH'S PETRELS of the season passed along Manzanilla Beach on 12th March

On the west coast of Trinidad, up to 3 STRIPE BACKED BITTERNs can be seen sunning themselves early morning along Sumaria trace,, and a SORA were flushed there on 3rd March

From Tobago, a female ROSE BREASTED GROSBEAK * has been reported on several dates, latest being 31st March, from Grafton resort

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From Dominica, an ANTILLEAN NIGHTHAWK was heard calling as it flew over Savane Paille on the night of 5th Apr.

From Guadeloupe, further news of the spread of EURASIAN HOUSE SPARROW into the Caribbean with a report of one bird on 26th March at Capesterre Belle-eau. Additionally a LITTLE EGRET was found at Gaschet Res on 14th March and 4 SORA RAILS were at Pelletan pond on 2nd March

In the northern range of Trinidad, and adult male SCARLET TANAGER * was reported from Asa Wright Nature Centre and a juvenile BROAD WINGED HAWK flew over Mt St Benedict, both on 2nd Apr. A hike along Las Lapas trace on 5th Apr produced 2 BLACK FACED ANT THRUSH, plus single SLATY CAPPED and DUSKY CAPPED FLYCATCHERS. Again at Asa Wright, a female RUFIOUS SHAFTED WOODSTAR* was seen on 22nd Apr

In the north east at least 4 TRINIDAD PIPING GUANS were seen at Montevideo on both 3rd and 11th Apr. Both male and female CRIMSON CRESTED WOODPECKERS were found on the same dates

On the east coast, an unseasonal APLOMADO FALCON * was found along the track from Kernaham to Bush Bush on 15th Apr

On the west coast both PINNATED and LEAST BITTERNs perched up in the early morning at Sumaria trace on 4th Apr. At Brickfields, and up to 30 RED KNOT and an adult LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL were at the high tide roost on 18th Apr. On 25th Apr both dark and light morph LONG WINGED HARRIERS were seen at Sumaria trace and on 26th Apr the first WHITE RUMPED SANDPIPERS and CAYENNE TERNS of the season appeared at Brickfields

In central, at least 20 GRASSLAND YELLOW FINCHES * are still showing well at the Aripo Agriculture Station. Also there on 2nd Apr were a COCOI HERON and 6 WILSON'S SNIPES. On Caroni ricefields, an UPLAND SANDPIPER * was found on 17th Apr. Also present were a group of 21 LIMPkin, plus single PINNATED BITTERN, PEREGRINE and SAVANNAH HAWK. On 19th Apr a BLACK HAWK-EAGLE was reported from Wallerfield

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From St. Martin- on 10th Apr at Loterie Fm a WORM-EATING WARBLER (in the same tree as one found last year!), CANADA WARBLER (1st island record), BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, 13 AMERICAN REDSTARTS, BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER, 5 NORTHERN PARULAS, MAGNOLIA WARBLER, 2 HOODED WARBLERS, and YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. On 7th Apr 3 BLACK-HEADED GULLS, 2 HERRING GULLS, and 7 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were at Great Salt Pond. On 15 Apr, there were single PRAIRIE WARBLERS at Cupecoy Pond and Maho Village. During EPIC-led bird walk on 17 April, group located 3 WHITE-WINGED DOVES and a WHIMBREL at Etang Poisson. Later, at Gallis Bay, a BLACK-CROWNED NIGHTHERON, 2 HUDSONIAN GODWITS, and a single EUROPEAN WHIMBREL were found. WHITE-WINGED DOVES were observed in good numbers this month, in addition to the 3 observed on the 17th at Etang Poisson, we also found 4 at Gallis Bay and a single at Grand Etang on the 18th. The first WILLET of the season were found on 19th Apr with 4 at Grand Case and 2 at Cul-de-sac Pond. At Mullet Bay Golf Course on 19 April, there was a NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH and a single BLACK SWIFT (overdue first island record) among 18 CARIBBEAN MARTINS. The first LEAST TERNS arrived on 18 April, and a census estimated 55 pair island-wide by month end. A LAUGHING GULL census totalled 7,000 birds. On 27th Apr, 2 KILLDEER nests with eggs were found at Orient Pond. During May the BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON first observed in April at Gallis Bay, was seen regularly throughout the month. Two WILLET found daily at Grand Case Pond and a single at Etang Poisson daily as well. Single WHIMBREL continued at Etang Poisson all month. A single BLACK-HEADED GULL was observed at Cul-de-sac Pond on the 10th. A single CLIFF SWALLOW was observed amongst a small group of BARN SWALLOWS at Mullet Bay Golf Course on the 11th. The WORM-EATING WARBLER persists at Pic Paradis and was last seen on the 10th along with three AMERICAN REDSTARTS.

On Saba, single MYRTLE WARBLER and SCARLET TANAGERS were found at Windwardside on 20th Apr

From Anguilla - a pair of CASPIAN TERNS was observed among 20 ROYAL TERNS and a dozen LEAST TERNS at Dog Island on the 7th May

From Nevis - A group of three SCARLET TANAGERS were found near Banyon Tree during the week of the 17th.

From St. Thomas, an ANTILLEAN NIGHTHAWK was found at the northeastern end of island on 10th May

On Barbados, a female BOBOLINK (first spring record for 11 years) and a male SUMMER TANAGER were at Graeme Hall swamp on 28th Apr. A male RUFF was found on 16th May at the oil fields swamp. It was still present on the 22nd together with an immature CARIBBEAN FLAMINGO. Also on the latter date, 6 BLACK SWIFTS had returned near the east coast and a late migrating NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH was found at Golden Grove

From Tobago, news of the largest northward passage of ROSE BREASTED GROSBEAKS * known for the island with reports of a male at Grafton on 26th March; a female at the same location on 27th March; a male on Little Tobago, 17th Apr, and a male at Bloody Bay lookout on 6th May. On 14th May, an unidentified seabird, either LEAST or YELLOW BILLED TERN * was briefly over the Bon Accord sewage lagoons. On 18th May a GRAY THROATED LEAFTOSSER was seen at the entrance to Spring trail on the Bloody Bay Rd, and on 21st May, 5 FORK TAILED FLYCATCHERS were seen coming in off of the sea at Plymouth

In the seldom watched south east of Trinidad, three morning surveys of forest south of Rio Claro including the Catts Hill area produced a total of 78 species including GRAY NECKED WOOD-RAIL, RED RUMPED WOODPECKER, LITTLE CUCKOO (2), SILVERED ANTBIRD, DUSKY CAPPED and SLATY CAPPED FLYCATCHER, BRIGHT RUMPED ATTILA and, BEARDED BELLBIRD

In the northern range of Trinidad, a late migrant OLIVE SIDED FLYCATCHER was seen at Asa Wright Nature Centre on 21st Apr and a female RUFOUS SHAFTED WOODSTAR* was foraging on vervine in Herb Garden there the following day. Finally a BLACK HAWK EAGLE * was seen soaring over Nature Centre property west of the main house and up the Arima Valley on 13th May .

In north east Trinidad, a flock of 75 WHITE COLLARED SWIFTS flew over Monte Video trace on 30th May. Also present, single TRINIDAD PIPING GUAN and BROWN VIOLET-EAR HUMMINGBIRD

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For the study of seabird migration within our region, the prime site is from the Nature Reserve of Petite-Terre on Guadeloupe. A total of 18 hours sensus during June produced the following :- 169 GREAT SHEARWATERS, 55 CORY'S SHEARWATERS, 24 "large SHEARWATER sp", 41 AUDUBON'S SHEARWATERS, 4 MANX SHEARWATERS, 2 "small SHEARWATERS sp", 11 WILSON'S PETRELS, 1 LEACH'S PETREL, 8 "storm petrel sp", 1 probable SOUTH POLAR SKUA, 2 "jaegar sp", and 1 MASKED BOOBY. Also breeding news from Guadeloupe where 2 pairs of AMERICAN COOT with 11 chicks were found at Gaschet Res (2nd breeding record for the Is) on 7th June; a pair of PURPLE GALLINULE with one chick were at le Moule on 8th June and a pair of LEAST BITTERN WITH 3 CHICKS WERE AT Les Abymes on 12th June

From St Martin, during point counts at Loterie Farm on 9 June, both AMERICAN REDSTART and YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO were found (extreme dates for both species) During wetland surveys on the 23rd; SEMI-PALMATED PLOVERS were found at Gallion (20), Orient(5), Grand Etang(2), and Grand Case(5); BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS were found at Gallion (2) and Grand Case (2); RUDDY TURNSTONES were found at Great Salt Pond (10), Grand Etang (5), Fish Pond (2), and Grand Case (10); WHIMBREL Gallion(1). At Scrub Island off of Anguilla, a group of 10 WHITE-WINGED DOVES were observed on the north end

From central Trinidad, a pair of CRANE HAWKS * were at Wallerfield on 18th June, activity indicative of breeding. Also at Wallerfield, a BROWN VIOLET-EAR and EULER'S FLYCATCHER (both unusual for the area/habitat). At Trincity sewage ponds 3 CLIFF SWALLOWS were found on 17th June. GRASSLAND YELLOW FINCHES are still being found at the Aripo Agriculture Stn - at least 10 were seen on 16th June

From south west Trinidad, at South Oropouche swamp, the roosting SCARLET IBIS flock numbered at least 200 birds on 13th June and a BLACK HAWK EAGLE * was at San Francique on 26th June

From north Trinidad, at least 12 ROSEATE TERNS flew east past Blanchisseuse on 11th June. On the same date, both GRAY NECKED WOOD-RAIL and SILVERED ANTBIRD were found at the Marianne river and a LONG BILLED STARTRHOAT was seen by the Scatter station at Morne Bleu. At the same locality on 15th June a minimum of 25 SWALLOW TAILED KITES (perhaps as many as 40 were present) drifted over and a pair of SWALLOW TANAGERS were present

From north east Trinidad, a SHORT TAILED PYGMY-TYRANT was seen nest building at Monte Video trace on 8th June, and the BROWN VIOLET-EAR reported last month was still present. During a total of 8 hrs seawatch at Galera Pt on 18th and 22nd June, the feeding flock over the convergence waters included species maxima of 225 COMMON TERNS, 60 BROWN NODDIES, 40 BRIDLED TERNS, 3 SOOTY TERNS, 2 ROSEATE TERNS and 2 ROYAL TERNS. A total of 7 large unidentified SHEARWATERS sp (either Great or Cory's) flew north (6 on 22nd between 0850 - 0935)

On the east coast of Trinidad, an early morning hike into Bush Bush on 12th June produced a family party of 4 BAT FALCONS and nesting BLACK CRESTED ANT SHRIKE together with single WHITE BELLIED ANTBIRD and NORTHERN SCRUB FLYCATCHER. On 16th June a max of 6 PINNATED BITTERNs were found in Nariva and a pair of BAT FALCONS were along the Plum Mitan Rd

On the west coast of Trinidad at Sumaria trace, 2 STRIPE BACKED and 1 LEAST BITTERNs were found on 10th June together with single MASKED YELLOWTHROAT and an out of place EULER'S FLYCATCHER. On the same date, a CLAPPER RAIL was seen close to the road at Carli Bay, a light morph LONG WINGED HARRIER flew over Waterloo Secondary school and a CAYENNE TERN was seen at Brickfield.

From central Trinidad, a dead SPOTTED RAIL* was found on Warren Rd on 15th June

From Tobago, a GREAT SHEARWATER* was watched at very close range from a fishing boat approx 1 mile south of Little Tobago on 13th June, and 2 LITTLE EGRETS were at Bon Accord lagoon the following day

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From Guadeloupe, a 1st summer LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL was present from 25th July - 20th Aug. This is the first record for at least 20 yrs. Also present on the island have been 8 ANTILLIAN NIGHTHAWKS at Lamentin on 8th Aug and the 1st BARN SWALLOW of the season on 15th Aug. From Pointe des Châteaux SNOWY PLOVER, WHITE RUMPED SANDPIPER, and CLIFF SWALLOW were all found on 30th Aug. A RUDDY TURNSTONE originally banded at Delaware Bay, USA in 2001 appeared again for its 4th wintering season on 27th Aug at Petite Terre Nature Reserve. Finally a roost of 1,350 CARIBBEAN MARTINS were in Pointe à Pitre town centre on 31st August

In the norther range of Trinidad, the highlight from Asa Wright Nature Centre has been a report of a TENNESSEE WARBLER* seen briefly on 12th Aug. Also from Asa Wright a party of 15 CHANNEL BILLED TOUCANS on 7th July; 5 SWALLOW TAILED KITES on 22nd July and a male SWALLOW TANAGER seen intermittently between 9th - 19th Aug

On the west coast of Trinidad, at Brickfields an unseasonal juvenile DICKCISSEL was seen on 25th Aug. Also present amongst the large number of LARGE BILLED and YELLOW BILLED TERNS were 24 COMMON TERNS, 2 GULL BILLED TERNS and a LEAST TERN. Amongst the 17 species of shorebird at the high tide roost were 2 RED KNOTS and a WILSON'S PLOVER

In central Trinidad, a male WHITE WINGED BECARD was seen along Mexico Rd on 1st July. On 25th July, a party of between 60-80 BLUE HEADED PARROTS were seen from the summit of Mt Tamana. At the Aripo Agriculture Stn, at least 6 GRASSLAND YELLOW FINCHES were still present on 30th Aug, together with 25 PECTORAL SANDPIPERS, 15 LEAST SANDPIPERS, 12 SOUTH AMERICAN SNIPE, 10 LESSER YELLOWLEGS, 2 each of SEMI PALMATED and SOLITARY SANDPIPERS, plus a PINNATED BITTERN

From south west Trinidad, a DARK BILLED CUCKOO * (only the 2nd sighting in well over 15 yrs) was present at San Francique, Penal on 29th- 3rd Aug

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This is the SOUTH EASTERN CARIBBEAN BIRD ALERT Sept 2004 summary of sightings through the Region. Sponsored by the T&T Field Naturalists Club, our aim is to promote birding and ornithology by fostering communication among resident and visiting birders regarding the study of birds in the region. The SCBA and information about TTFNC, T&T Rare Bird Committee and our Photo Gallery are accessible atof "<http://www.wow.net/ttfnc>" . Reports should be sent to Martyn Kenefick tel 674.7609; Email "martynkenefick@hotmail.com" The T&T Rare Birds Committee requires details for species indicated with an asterisk.

From Guadeloupe, sightings of unusual shorebirds included an immature male RUFF (4th for Guadeloupe) between 10th - 13th Sept; a BUFF BREASTED SANDPIPER at Petite-Terre Nature Reserve on 13th Sept and a WILSON'S PHALAROPE at Pointe des Chaateaux from 15th - 21st Sept. From Aeroport Poole Caraiibes, 7 UPLAND SANDPIPERS were found on 18th Sept and both single BUFF BREASTED SANDPIPER and HUDSONIAN GODWIT on 22nd Sept. The first BELTED KINGFISHER of the season appeared at Petite Terre on 13th Sept; the first AMERICAN REDSTARTS on 22nd Sept and in excess of 1500 CARIBBEAN MARTINS were at Pointe a Pitre town centre on 16th Sept.

In the northern range of Trinidad, a hike along Las Lapas trace on 2nd Sept produced the first AMERICAN REDSTART of the season together with 2 each of EULER'S and SLATY CAPPED FLYCATCHERS, WHITE THROATED SPADEBILLS and YELLOW LEGGED THRUSHES.

From north east Trinidad, an unexceptional 2.75 hr seawatch from Galera Pt on 28th Sept produced 263 COMMON TERNS, 5 BROWN NODDY, 3 LEAST TERNS and a CAYENNE TERN all flying east.

On the west coast of Trinidad at Brickfield, the high tide roost on 14th Sept included 2 AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVERS and a CAYENNE TERN. Additionally, the first 2 HUDSONIAN GODWITS of the season flew south along the tide line and a LONG WINGED HARRIER quartered the mangrove. At the same site, a BLUE AND WHITE SWALLOW was the highlight of the TTFNC outing on 12th Sept. and a peak count of small calidris sandpipers on 29th Sept. probably exceeded 2,000 birds, most of which were WESTERN SANDPIPERS. Elsewhere on 24th Sept a PARASITIC JAEGAR flew north over the mangrove at Cacandee and the first NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH of the season was found together with single CLAPPER RAIL, STRAIGHT BILLED WOODCREEPER and MOUSE COLOURED TYRANNULETS.

From central Trinidad, the first YELLOW WARBLER of the season was reported on 6th Sept from Carlson Fields. Visits to the Aripo Agricultural Station on 13th, 19th and 26th Sept, produced maximas of 7 AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVERS , 25 PECTORAL SANDPIPERS, 15 SOUTH AMERICAN SNIPE. 6 SOLITARY, 6 SEMI PALMATED SANDPIPERS and single WESTERN and WHITE RUMPED SANDPIPERS in the wet meadows together with a PINNATED BITTERN and at least 14 GRASSLAND YELLOW FINCHES. Additionally, the fruiting trees in the north eastern quadrant held a feeding flock including at least 20 RED LEGGED HONEYCREEPERS and 6 BLUE DACNIS.

From Tobago, 3 AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVERS were feeding on the Crown Pt airport runway on 11th Sept and 5 BLACK SKIMMERS (1st for Tobago)* were found resting at the Bon Accord sewage ponds on 12th Sept. Also present were 2 LITTLE EGRETS and a BANK SWALLOW.

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From Guadeloupe, On 14th Oct, 10 BLACKPOLL WARBLERS were at Pointe des Chaateaux and a BLACK BILLED CUCKOO was at the same site on the 17th At Deesirade island, 2 HUDSONIAN GODWITS were found on 17th Oct and 14 INDIGO BUNTINGS and 14 BOBOLINKS were present the following day. Also on the 18th a female COMMON NIGHTHAWK was found at Petite-Terre Nature Reserve and a WILSON'S PETREL was seen offshore.

From Barbados, on 27th Oct a GRAY HERON was found at Fosters Swamp, 4 HUDSONIAN GODWITS at Hope and at least 2 LONG BILLED DOWITCHERS at Hannays. On 29th Oct 6 BOBOLINKS were at Hope, and a BANK SWALLOW at Harrisons Point together with 2 BLACKPOLL WARBLERS. By 31st oct, BLACKPOLLS had increased to 6 at Harrison's Pt and were joined by single ROSE BREASTED GROSBEAK and RED EYED VIREO together with 4 YELLOW BILLED CUCKOOS.

From Tobago, at least 20 BLACKPOLL WARBLERS were seen "islandwide" on 26th Oct, with many remaining until the months end at least. On 30th Oct, both single RUFF and BUFF BREASTED SANDPIPER were at Lowlands, with a further "BUFF BREAST" at Louis d'Or. The first MERLIN of the season was found and a BOBOLINK was at Bon Accord

In the northern range of Trinidad, a hike north of Luango village on 12th Oct produced one GRAY THROATED LEAFTOSSER seen and at least two other calling. Also found were single STREAKED XENOPS, SLATY CAPPED and DUSKY CAPPED FLYCATCHERS whilst a BRIGHT RUMPED ATTILA was heard from the other side of the valley. On 18th Oct, 2 CHESTNUT WOODPECKERS, a LESSER SWALLOW TAILED SWIFT, 2 BLACK FACED ANT-THRUSHES and at least 7 SPECKLED TANAGERS were between Morne Bleu and Las Lapas trace

In eastern Trinidad, the weekend of 16-17th Oct produced a RUFESCENT TIGER-HERON sat on a nest inside Bush Bush reserve, together with at least 2 CRIMSON CRESTED WOODPECKERS and a WHITE TAILED GOLDENTHROAT. Nearby at the Nariva river mouth, there was a feeding flock of 230 LEAST TERNS and 5 BLACK SKIMMERS.

In central Trinidad on 9th Oct the flooded fields at Trincity, close to the highway held a flock of at least 350 PECTORAL SANDPIPERS together with 15 AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVERS. On the same date a party of 5 SULPHURY FLYCATCHERS were west of Cumuto village. At the same site, 10 BLUE HEADED PARROTS, 7 RED BELLIED MACAWS and a SQUIRREL CUCKOO flew over.

In south west Trinidad, early morning in Godineau swamp, Oropouche on 17th Oct produced single LEAST BITTERN and LONG WINGED HARRIER, 4 SPOTTED TODY FLYCATCHERS and a family party of 3 WHITE WINGED BECARDS.

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From Guadeloupe, highlights from Petite-Terre Nature Reserve were 3 ROSE BREASTED GROSBEAKS, 4 BLACKPOLL WARBLERS and 21 BARN SWALLOWS on 10th Nov; a EURASIAN WHIMBREL on 11th Nov (still present until 2nd Dec); a RING BILLED GULL on 15th Nov and 2 CAPE MAY WARBLERS on 25th Nov. At Basse-Terre, a 2nd winter LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL was present on 18th Nov and a 1st winter RING BILLED GULL the following day During the month, a total of 14 hours seawatching from Petite Terre produced an excellent passage of seabirds including 3 MANX SHEARWATERS, 5 "SMALL SHEARWATER SP" , 2 AUDUBON'S SHEARWATERS, 42 CORY'S SHEARWATERS, 1 SOOTY SHEARWATER, 7 "LARGE SHEARWATER SP", 2 POMARINE JAEGER, 1 LONG TAILED JAEGER, 2 "JAEGER SP" and 7 unidentified "BOOBY SP"

From St Martin, a EURASIAN WHIMBREL was found on 21-22nd Nov

From Barbados, a RUFF was found at Fosters, a WESTERN REEF HERON at Hope and 2 BLACKPOLL WARBLERS at Harrison Point, all on 14th Nov

From Dominica, a CAPE MAY WARBLER at Anchorage Hotel, Roseau on 20th - 21st Nov .

In Tobago, on 2nd Nov a YELLOW BILLED CUCKOO was found beside the Bloody Bay Rd. On 4th Nov 2 SCARLET TANAGERS * were close to Crown Pt airport; a SORA was at Lowlands and a STRIPED OWL was found close to the Windward Rd at Speyside. On 6th Nov, a SCARLET TANAGER * was found at Cuffie River (still present until 17th Nov at least) Early morning at Bon Accord sewage lagoons on 14th Nov produced single NEOTROPIC CORMORANT* (1st for Tobago), LITTLE EGRET, adult female RING NECKED DUCK*, adult female NORTHERN PINTAIL*(still present until 17th at least), 2 WHITE WINGED SWALLOWS and a BLACKPOLL WARBLER. On the same date, an OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER was confidently close to the visitor lookout at Grafton Sanctuary. On 17th Nov, 2 BOBOLINKS were at Bon Accord together with 2 STILT SANDPIPERS and a MANGROVE CUCKOO . On 23rd Nov, a WHITE TAILED TROPICBIRD* was reported from the seabird cliffs on Little Tobago and the following day the first returning BLACK THROATED MANGO of the season was reported from Cuffie river and a late STILT SANDPIPER was still present at Bon Accord

In the northern range of Trinidad, belated news from the Asa Wright Nature Centre, where the first reported OLIVE SIDED FLYCATCHER of the season was found on 10th Oct, a BLACK WHISKERED VIREO * was seen from the balcony on 29th Oct and a BLACKPOLL WARBLER was present on 29th-30th Oct. In the current month, a ROSE BREASTED GROSBEAK * was observed on 10th and 14th Nov, a MOTTLED OWL was heard shortly before dawn on 13th Nov and a juvenile ORNATE HAWK-EAGLE was seen distantly perched on a number of dates through the month. On 11th Nov, a ROSE BREASTED GROSBEAK * was reported from Gomes trace, Brasso Seco and a SCALED ANTPITTA was lured into view along the Blanchisseuse Rd

From central Trinidad, a GRAY NECKED WOOD-RAIL was found along Xenex Lane, Carlsen Field on 11th Nov together with 2 probable BLACKPOLL WARBLERS. A LESSER ELAENIA* was reported from the same site on 15th Nov. At the month end, a CRANE HAWKS * was present in the same area on 29th Nov (there is a possibility of two birds involved) and a LITTLE CUCKOO was found the following day.

From south western Trinidad, 2 BELTED KINGFISHERS were seen at Point a Pierre Wildfowl Trust on 15th Nov

From western Trinidad, the first MERLIN of the season flew over Waterloo on 1st Nov and 2 STRIPE BACKED BITTERNs were at Sumaria trace on 7th Nov. A 1st winter RING BILLED GULL* was perched on the boats at Waterloo on 12th Nov and a 1st winter LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL was at Orange Valley on 30th Nov

From eastern Trinidad, 2 AZURE GALLINULES were found in Nariva swamp, close to Kernaham trace on 13th Nov

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From Antigua comes a report of a BROWN TREMBLER found at Battalion Park, St Johns in mid November .This is the first report of this species for the island in recent times. A 1st winter BONAPARTE'S GULL was found at McKinnons Pond on Dec 28th. and a cumulative total of 3 NORTHERN PARULA, 1 BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER, 2 BLACK THROATED BLUE WARBLERS, 3 AMERICAN REDSTARTS and 1 HOODED WARBLER were found on visits to Walling Reservoir between Dec 28-30th.

From Dominica, news of seabirds found on a whale watching pelagic on Dec 31st where 2 POMARINE JAEGERs, 3 RED FOOTED BOOBY and 30 BROWN BOOBY were present.

From Guadeloupe, 14 hours of seawatching during the month from Petit Terre produced single MANX and AUDUBON'S SHEARWATERS, 2 CORY'S SHEARWATERS and 1 "STORM PETREL SP". From the same site on 2nd Dec a late WHITE RUMPED SANDPIPER and a CLIFF SWALLOW were found. On 13th Dec, the EURASIAN WHIMBREL (first found 11th Nov) was still present.

From Tobago, the first returning RUBY TOPAZ of the season was found at Plymouth on 5th Dec and the first returning WHITE NECKED JACOBIN to the central range hill forest was found the following day (Jacobins appear to be altitudinal migrants in Tobago, leaving the rainforest for the lowlands during the period Aug - Nov) Also on 6th Dec, 2 early nesting WHITE TAILED SABREWINGS were found in the central range, and at least 50 WHITE CHEEKED PINTAIL were present at Bon Accord together with BELTED KINGFISHER and LITTLE EGRET. On the 7th, RUBY TOPAZ had crossed the island to reach Speyside, and a BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER* was found on Gilpin trace (seen on two more occasions during the month). On 28th Dec, a NIGHTHAWK SP (COMMON/ANTILLIAN)* only the 2nd report for T&T was seen hawking shortly after dawn at Bon Accord. At the years end a STRIPED OWL was found along Spring trail in the central range on 30th Dec and 2 WHITE TAILED TROPICBIRDS were reported from Little Tobago.

From the northern range of Trinidad, a BLACK HAWK-EAGLE * was seen soaring over the Blanchisseuse Rd, below Asa Wright on 20th Dec. Early morning at Morne Bleu and Las Lapas on 26th Dec produced a total of 70 species including single BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER* and GRAY THROATED LEAFTOSSER, together with 3 COLLARED TROGONS, 2 SLATY CAPPED FLYCATCHERS and 2 HEPATIC TANAGERS. Amongst the more commoner species present were STREAKED XENOPS, SPECKLED TANAGER, CHESTNUT WOODPECKER and RED CROWNED ANT-TANAGER. Meanwhile at Asa Wright, a BLACKPOLL WARBLER was reported from the balcony. On 29th Dec, an adult ORNATE HAWK-EAGLE soared low over Las Lapas, and 2 adult BROAD WINGED HAWKS were seen in the upper Arima valley

From central Trinidad, a CRANE HAWK * was again present in the Carlsen Fields area by Chase village on 5th Dec and 2 birds were seen together on the 9th At Aripo Livestock Station upwards of a dozen GRASSLAND YELLOW FINCHES were present on 14th Dec together with a male RUDDY BREASTED SEEDEATER and 2 unidentified SNIPE sp (Wilson's snipe is a winter visitor to Trinidad; South American Snipe is - we believe- resident, and they cannot be separated in the field). On 26th Dec a YELLOW BELLIED SEEDEATER * was seen at the Aripo Agriculture Stn and 2 MORICHE ORIOLES were found at Waller Field.

In north west Trinidad, a hike to Morne Catherine on 5th Dec produced a total of 57 species, all regularly occurring in T&T, including SQUIRREL CUCKOO, RUFOUS TAILED JACAMAR, WHITE TAILED TROGON and TRINIDAD EUPHONIA. RARE BIRD REPORTING :- many of the identifications from Trinidad and Tobago reported in the SCBA are tentative. The T&T Rare Birds Committee, founded in 1995, requests details for all rare birds observed (see Species Review List at our website). Please submit details to the TTRBC Secretary : Martyn Kenefick, 36 Newalloville Ave, San Juan - Email "martynkenefick@hotmail.com"