This is the SOUTH EASTERN CARIBBEAN BIRD ALERT January 2005 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 Dominica, a WHITE WINGED DOVE (1st for Dominica) was found close to Cabrits on Jan 9th

From St. Lucia, mid month sightings include a SORA west of Hewanorra airport and a RED FOOTED BOOBY off of the north end if the island

Belated news from Barbados of a 1st winter WHISKERED TERN at Packers during November and both OVENBIRD and NORTHERN PARULA in Turner's Hall Woods during December

From Tobago, highlights of the month included a YELLOW THROATED VIREO \* (first sighting for over 30 yrs) carefully studied at Buccoo marsh on 28th Jan and a report of an AMAZON KINGFISHER\* (1st for Tobago, 3rd for T&T) at Bon Accord on 14th Jan. Also at this latter site were an impressive 53 WHITE CHEEKED PINTAIL. Nearby, over 150 BLACK BELLIED WHISTLING DUCKS were at Lowlands. Also during the month in Tobago, a STRIPED OWL was seen on Flagstaff Hill on 2nd Jan. On 11th Jan, a HOOK BILLED KITE\* was reported flying over Cuffie river and the following day, both male RING NECKED DUCK\* and AMERICAN WIGEON\* (possibly last winters birds returning) were found at Lowlands together with no less than 3 MANGROVE CUCKOOS. On 19th Jan, 3 LITTLE EGRETS were at Bon Accord

We now have details of a very successful Trinidad Christmas Bird Count - sponsored by the Asa Wright Nature Centre on 26th December. Aside from the rarities itemised in last month's bulletin, a total of 4,345 birds representing 188 species were seen/heard including an APLOMADO FALCON, 2 BAT FALCONS, 7 BLACK FACED ANT-THRUSHES, 2 BRAN COLOURED FLYCATCHERS, 1 BRIGHT RUMPED ATTILA, 18 CHANNEL BILLED TOUCANS, 3 COMMON POTOOS, 1 CRIMSON CRESTED WOODPECKER, 19 LINEATED WOODPECKERS, 7 FERRUGINOUS PYGMY OWLS, 3 GRAY HEADED KITES, 137 OILBIRDS, 1 ORNATE HAWK-EAGLE, 5 COMMON PAURAQUES, 3 PIED BILLED GREBES, 1 PLAIN BREASTED GROUND-DOVE, 6 SLATY CAPPED FLYCATCHERS, 1 SPECTACLED OWL, 7 SULPHURY FLYCATCHERS, 9 TRINIDAD EUPHONIAS, 3 TROPICAL SCREECH-OWLS, 6 WHITE BELLIED ANTBIRDS and a WHITE WINGED BECARD.

From the northern range of Trinidad, a pair of BRIGHT RUMPED ATTILAS are nesting on the forested slopes behind Mt St Benedict. At the same site, several DICKCISSELS were found on 25th Jan and 2 GRAY THROATED LEAFTOSSERS were seen on 27th Jan

From central Trinidad, a hike along the summit ridge of Mt Tamana on 23rdh Jan produced at least 3 YELLOW LEGGED THRUSHES. This represents an extension of the known range (previously believed to be restricted to the northern range). Also from Mt Tamana, a probable juvenile BLACK HAWK-EAGLE\* glided north towards the Aripo savannah. A GRAY HERON\* was seen in the flooded fields at Trincity on 28th Jan and an adult RUFESCENT TIGER -HERON\* was found at Waller Field on the same date. On 29th Jan, a YELLOW- OLIVE FLYCATCHER was found in the Agriculture Station, where the flock of GRASSLAND YELLOW-FINCHES continue to thrive with at least 15 birds seen. Both WHITE TAILED GOLDENTHROAT and BRAN COLOURED FLYCATCHER were seen at Waller Field together with 11 RED BELLIED MACAWS

On the west coast of Trinidad, both PINNATED and STRIPE BACKED BITTERNS were found at Sumaria trace on 9th Jan, and a CRAB EATING RACOON was seen briefly stalking through the mangrove at Cacandee. At Waterloo, the wintering immature RING BILLED GULL was seen again at Waterloo on both 19th and 27th Jan

From south western Trinidad, early morning at Oropouche swamp on 23rd Jan produced 2 GRAY NECKED WOOD-RAILS, and a nesting COMMON PAURAQUE. A light morph LONG WINGED HARRIER quartered the flooded fields at Sudama Steps on 30th Jan.

In south east Trinidad, an adult BLACK HAWK EAGLE \* was found along the Plum Mitan Rd on 30th Jan

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - one species which has never before been mentioned in this forum is Feral/Rock Dove. We have been told about a racing pigeon found in a tiny Venezuelan village recently banded with the inscription "FED T&T" "04-TPC" "584" Any clues to identity/ownership would be appreciated!

This is the SOUTH EASTERN CARIBBEAN BIRD ALERT February 2005 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 Barbados :- an ANHINGA was found at Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary on 1st Feb in juvenile plumage (1st for Barbados) together with 1 GRAY HERON

News from Grenada following the widespread devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan in Sept 2004 indicates that GRENADA DOVES have recently been heard and HOOK BILLED KITES seen on a number of occasions. By contrast, there is genuine concern surrounding the future of RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE on the island as their preferred habitat has been totally destroyed. In the area of Windsor Forest,,the population of CHANNEL BILLED TOUCANS seems to be holding up despite most of their favoured trees being bare trunks. These birds were introduced in 1989 and appear, at least in the short term, to attain self sufficient breeding status. Whether they can adapt from a heavily vegetated forest, to this new environment remains to be seen

From Tobago, a YELLOW HEADED CARACARA was seen on 2 -3rd Feb over the central ridge rainforest. This is the first sighting of this species for NE Tobago, all other records coming from the south western lowlands. On Little Tobago, 2 WHITE TAILED TROPICBIRDS\* were seen in display flight from the 2nd lookout on 6th Feb. On 13th Feb, a pair of WHITE WINGED BECARDS were present at Merchison Rd (nesting activity was watched on the 23rd). On 15th Feb, a SCALY NAPED PIGEON (1st for T&T)\* was found on Little Tobago and on the 16th a MANGROVE CUCKOO was found at Bon Accord close to the bay. An AMERICAN WIGEON\* was regularly seen at Bon Accord between 21st-24th. A second individual was found at the Hilton grounds on the 24th. Also at this site were single RING NECKED DUCK\* and LESSER SCAUP\* together with a MANGROVE CUCKOO and on the 26th, a SORA. Finally, on 26th a pair of MANGROVE CUCKOOS were seen mating at Buccoo

In the northern range of Trinidad, 3 BLACK WHISKERED VIREOS were found at Morne Bleu on 13th Feb with another bird seen at Asa Wright Nature Centre on the 17th. A moulting male SUMMER TANAGER\* was reported from Las Lapas on the 16th. Finally from Mt St Benedict, a party increasing to 9 LESSER GOLDFINCHES \* (1st for T&T) were carefully studied from 11th - 17th Feb

From north eastern Trinidad, early morning at Montevideo trace on 2nd Feb produced 4 TRINIDAD PIPING GUANS and 3 SILVERED ANTBIRDS. At the same site, an adult male BALTIMORE ORIOLE\* (1st documented record in Trinidad for 24 yrs) was found on 18th Feb.

From central Trinidad, a GREAT BLACK HAWK\* was seen over Tortuga on 6th Feb. A 1st winter GRAY HERON\* was seen at the Aripo Agriculture Stn on the 16th. Also present were male RUDDY BREASTED SEEDEATER and at least 20 GRASSLAND YELLOW FINCHES. On 15th Feb, a BRIGHT RUMPED ATTILA was found in Arena forest.

From the west coast of Trinidad, a summer plumaged FRANKLIN'S GULL\* was seen initially at Orange Valley, then Waterloo on 14th Feb. At the latter site, a 2nd winter RING BILLED GULL\* was also present.

This is the SOUTH EASTERN CARIBBEAN BIRD ALERT April 2005 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, late news of a CURLEW SANDPIPER first found on 21st Feb and still present to end April at least at Le Gosier. At Gaschet reservoir, a peak count of COMMON MOORHEN on 9th Apr reached 162 birds and a BLACK BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK of the race discolor was present

From Barbados, little news other than to report the continued presence throughout the month of a party of ANHINGA at Graeme Hall swamp, peaking at 11 birds

From central Trinidad, an adult male BLACKPOLL WARBLER was found on the edge of Arena forest on 7th Apr. From Carlsen Field, the CRANE HAWK \* was again reported on 16th Apr. Visits to Waller Field on 19th & 21st Apr produced a CRANE HAWK \*, up to 14 RED BELLIED MACAWS, a TROPICAL SCREECH OWL, single STREAK HEADED WOODCREEPER, WHITE WINGED BECARD and MORICHE ORIOLE.

In the northern range of Trinidad, at Asa Wright Nature Centre, a male ROSE BREASTED GROSBEAK\* was seen and photographed on 5th Apr. Also from the Centre have been a juvenile ORNATE HAWK EAGLE seen on many dates throughout the month, together with a late OLIVE SIDED FLYCATCHER and a BROWN VIOLET-EAR on 17th. On 19th a male SCARLET TANAGER \* was seen from the balcony. Elsewhere, on 10th Apr a hike above Heights of Aripo village produced an adult ORNATE HAWK-EAGLE, GRAY THROATED LEAFTOSSER, BEARDED BELLBIRD and up to 20 YELLOW LEGGED THRUSHES and from Paria junction, a BAY BREASTED WARBLER\* was seen on 14th Apr.

From Tobago, on 26th Apr a BLACKPOLL WARBLER was found at Bucoo marsh. On 27th a WHITE TAILED TROPICBIRD was seen repeatedly landing in the forest scrub at Little Tobago, and the first FORK TAILED FLYCATCHERS of the season were found at Bon Accord. Also on the 27th, a trip to St Giles rocks produced 21 MASKED BOOBIES among the seabird cliffs and a late migrant PEREGRINE

This is the SOUTH EASTERN CARIBBEAN BIRD ALERT May 2005 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, news of a CHIMNEY SWIFT found on 19th May at Petite Terre Nature reserve (1st for Lesser Antilles). Also at the same site , in a rarity packed month for the island a SHORT TAILED SWIFT (1st for Guadeloupe) on 12th & 18th May; a female BOBOLINK (2nd spring record for Guadeloupe) and 2 RED EYED VIREOS all on 15th May; a male SCARLET TANAGER on 18th May and the first GREATER SHEARWATER of the season passing on the 31st . Elsewhere, a MAGNOLIA WARBLER was found on La Deesirade Is on 1st May together with an ARCTIC TERN (2nd for Guadeloupe) flying two miles offshore; and from Ste Anne, a male NORTHERN PINTAIL from 9th - 15th May and a GLOSSY IBIS until 26th May at least

From Dominica, news of a WHITE WINGED DOVE at Savane Paille on 17th May.

From Grenada, 3 AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS were found on 2nd May at La Sagesse bay, St David.

From Tobago, the first reported AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER of the season was found at Turtle Beach on 7th May

From the west coast of Trinidad a party of about 10 BLUE AND WHITE SWALLOWS were seen at Waterloo on 9th May. At Brechin Castle, a flock of at least 30 COMMON WAXBILLS were present on 20th May.

From central Trinidad, 2 WHITE TAILED GOLDENTHROATS, 2 LITTLE CUCKOOS and a pair of nesting LESSER ELAENIAS \* (nest with one egg) were found at Waller Field on 18th May together with good numbers of commoner species including 20 RUBY TOPAZ, 15 RED LEGGED HONEYCREEPERS and 10 COMMON GROUND-DOVES . Sadly, on a revisit to the site on 28th May, whilst there was still one LESSER ELAENIA present in the area, the nest had been abandoned, and the egg was missing. Also on the same date, 2 CRANE HAWKS \*, 3 BLUE HEADED PARROTS, 1 WHITE WINGED BECARD and 2 BRAN COLOURED FLYCATCHERS were found. On Caroni Rice fields a COCOI HERON, STRIPE BACKED BITTERN 5 FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK, 25 LIMPKIN, and at least 40 FORK TAILED FLYCATCHERS were present on 20th May

From the east coast of Trinidad, a CRESTED CARACARA \* was reported from Nariva swamp on 8th May

This is the SOUTH EASTERN CARIBBEAN BIRD ALERT June 2005 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 Barbados, a GLOSSY IBIS was found at Packers Swamp on 22nd June, also present were 2 GREAT BLUE HERONS and an AMERICAN COOT.

From Guadaloupe, news of a 3.5 hr seawatch on 21st June where in 45km/hr winds 114 GREAT SHEARWATERS, 34 CORY'S SHEARWATERS and a further 25 large shearwater Sp passed. On 16th June at least 8 singing male ANTILLIAN NIGHTHAWKS were heard around Lamentin. Finally a pair of WILSON'S PLOVERS have bred on Petite Terre nature reserve (1st breeding record). There are 2 pulli.

From Tobago, a male HOOK BILLED KITE \* was seen passing over Lowlands on5th June and on the 6th, 2 BLACK SKIMMERS were beside Bon Accord sewage ponds. On 8th June, a SWALLOW TAILED KITE\* was seen over Gilpin trace. On 18th June, a SCALY NAPED PIGEON \* (possibly the same bird as found at Speyside in February and a 1st for T&T) was seen along Shirvan Rd. close to Turtle Beach

From central Trinidad, visits to Waller Field on 9th June produced a CRANE HAWK \* clambering about in the bowls of moriche palms searching for (presumably) lizards; a pale morph LONG WINGED HARRIER; at least 2 WHITE TAILED GOLDENTHROATS; 7 RED BELLIED MACAWS; a BRAN COLOURED FLYCATCHER and a pair of WHITE WINGED BECARDS. On 16th June a PYGMY KINGFISHER was found and on 29th June birds included single STREAK HEADED WOODCREEPER, LESSER ELAENIA, WHITE WINGED BECARD and RUDDY BREASTED SEEDEATER. Also 12 RED BELLIED MACAWS and 2 WHITE TAILED GOLDENTHROATS. Birding in the Aripo Savannah at Cumuto on 23rd June produced single BAT FALCON, CRIMSON CRESTED WOODPECKER and MORICHE ORIOLE together with 4 BLACK TAILED TITYRA, 14 RED BELLIED MACAWS and 32 LILAC TAILED PARROTLETS.

From north eastern Trinidad, at Grande Riviere, 4 TRINIDAD PIPING GUANS were found on 22nd May together with 11 PLUMBEOUS KITES and 7 SWALLOW TAILED KITES.

From eastern Trinidad, a COCOI HERON and 2 adult RUFESCENT TIGER HERONS were found at Nariva on 3rd June and a further juvenile RUFESCENT TIGER HERON was found at Bush bush on 21st June

In north west Trinidad, a hike to Morne Catherine on 25th June produced 77 species including 2 VARIEGATED FLYCATCHERS, a FUSCOUS FLYCATCHER and 2 TRINIDAD EUPHONIAS

On the west coast of Trinidad, single RINGED, GREEN and PYGMY KINGFISHERS were seen at Cacandee on 11th June together with at least 7 RED CAPPED CARDINALS and a STRAIGHT BILLED WOODCREEPER

From south west Trinidad 2 adult male MASKED DUCKS were found at the Pitch Lake on 19th June

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From Guadeloupe, a pair of LEAST BITTERNS were found at Port Louis swamp on 9th July and a PURPLE THROATED CARIB was found at Petit Terre Nature Reserve on 25th Interestingly an adult Caribbean Elaenia was found feeding a young flying Gray Kingbird at Ste Anne (10-11th July), Any other similar observations would be welcome

From Barbados, a BLACK TERN was seen in the Oilfields on 3rd July.

From Tobago, news of 9 BLACK SKIMMERS present on Bon Accord sewage lagoons on 5th July and 2 WILLETS were at Lowlands on the 16th.

In central Trinidad, a number of visits to Waller Field during the month produced the following:- a single CRANE HAWK \* on 2nd July together with 2 PLAIN BREASTED GROUND-DOVES, 9 RED BELLIED MACAWS, 2 BLUE HEADED PARROTS, single LITTLE CUCKOO, LONG BILLED STARTHROAT, STREAK HEADED WOODCREEPER and WHITE WINGED BECARD. On 13th July, RED BELLIED MACAWS increased to 27 and during an evening visit on the 19th, 60 WHITE TAILED NIGHTJARS, 8 COMMON PAURAQUE, 2 BARN OWLS, 70 RED BELLIED MACAWS, 2 BRAN COLORED FLYCATCHERS and single LESSER ELAENIA and MORICHE ORIOLE were found. Finally on 28th July, a BLACK HAWK-EAGLE \* was seen perched in the early morning.

On 3rd July, a probable female LESSER SEEDFINCH was found in Todds Rd Forest reserve (south) together with single CRIMSON CRESTED WOODPECKER and SHORT TAILED PYGMY-TYRANT. At Piarco lakes single PIED BILLED GREBE, LEAST BITTERN, PLAIN BREASTED GROUND-DOVE, RINGED KINGFISHER and MASKED YELLOWTHROAT were found on 13th July. On 17th July, 32 WHITE CHEEKED PINTAIL, 8 BLACK BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCKS and 3 FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCKS were found on Caroni Rice Project together with 2 PINNATED BITTERNS, 14 LIMPKINS, 120 LESSER YELLOWLEGS, 150 BLACK NECKED STILTS, a BARN OWL and at least 6 MASKED YELLOWTHROATS.

From north east Trinidad, parties numbering several hundred COMMON TERNS and BROWN NODDIES were feeding offshore at Galera Pt on 30th July together with 5 SOOTY TERNS and 3 ROSEATE TERNS. Overhead a male CARIBBEAN MARTIN was feeding with GRAY BREASTED MARTINS

On the east coast of Trinidad, an early morning hike into Bush Bush reserve on 23rd July produced single BAT FALCON, PLAIN BREASTED GROUND-DOVE, 5 CHANNEL BILLED TOUCANS, 2 WHITE BELLIED ANTBIRDS, and a WHITE THROATED SPADEBILL. Mammals included at least 25 Red Howler Monkeys, 12 White fronted Capuchins and a Tree Porcupine. Outside of the forest, the parrot roost contained at least 17 YELLOW CROWNED PARROTS and 47 RED BELLIED MACAWS, whilst the wet meadows held single PINNATED BITTERN and WHITE TAILED GOLDENTHROAT.

On the west coast of Trinidad, a flock of 85-90 CARIBBEAN FLAMINGOES \* including at least 15 adults were found in various bays between Orange Valley and Carli Bay on 5th July. Also at Orange Valley was an unseasonal, heavily moulting RING BILLED GULL. At Sumaria trace, single PINNATED, STRIPE BACKED and LEAST BITTERNS were found on 8th July and a party of 12 WHITE CHEEKED PINTAIL flew past Waterloo. The high tide roost at Brickfields on 16th July produced an exceptional volume of birds including the first WILSON'S PLOVER of the season, 314 LAUGHING GULLS, single CAYENNE TERN,46 COMMON TERNS, 540 LARGE BILLED TERNS, 215 YELLOW BILLED TERNS and 110 BLACK SKIMMERS

This is the SOUTH EASTERN CARIBBEAN BIRD ALERT August & September 2005 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, on 31st July, and ALPINE SWIFT was seen over Newcastle St John, and on 1st Aug a WHITE COLLARED SWIFT was found at Bell Point. On 23rd - 24th Sept, a SMOOTH BILLED ANI (1st for Barbados) was present at Marshalls Pond and a corpse of a MARBLED GODWIT was produced by hunters from Golden Grove on 26th Sept.

From Guadeloupe, on 23rd Aug a RUDDY TURNSTONE, colour banded at Delaware Bay, returned for its 5th consecutive winter at Petit Terre Nature Reserve and a peak count of 1,730 CARIBBEAN MARTINS were roosting on 25th Aug in Pointe a Pitre. In Sept, an immature BLACK CROWNED NIGHT-HERON was found at St Francois and 342 BARN SWALLOWS and 6 CLIFF SWALLOWS passed Pointe des Chateaux on the 4th. At Pointe a Pitre airport, 5 UPLAND SANDPIPERS were found o the 7th with a BUFF BREASTED SANDPIPER and a GULL BILLED TERN there on the 9th. On 11th Sept, a EURASIAN WHIMBREL was found at St Anne whilst on 19th a GLOSSY IBIS appeared at Desirade Is. At Port Louis swamp, 38 NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, 3 AMERICAN REDSTART, 3 BLACKPOLL WARBLER together with single OVENBIRD and PRAIRIE WARBLER were found on 28th Sept. Finally a RUFF was present at Point a Pitre airport from 28th-30th Sept.

From Tobago, at least 22 BLACK SKIMMERS were found at Bon Accord on 1st Aug (This species was recorded for the first time on Tobago only last year). At the same location, 2 BLACK NECKED STILTS \* were present on 13th Aug. On 31st Aug a CLIFF SWALLOW \*(1st for Tobago) was found with a small party of Barn Swallows at Turtle Beach. Perhaps the same individual appeared over Bon Accord sewage ponds on 18th Sept. A BUFF BREASTED SANDPIPER \* was found at Bon Accord on 20th Sept and on 29th Sept a BAT FALCON\* (1st for Tobago) was carefully studied perched beside the Parlatouvier - Bloody Bay Rd and the first BELTED KINGFISHERS of the season were found at Bon Accord and Lowlands.

On the east coast of Trinidad, on the evening of 7th Aug, 2 adult CRESTED CARACARAS \* were seen at Manzanilla Bay. On the same date, the river journey into Bush Bush produced a COCOI HERON, pairs of both BAT FALCONS and PEARL KITES, 2 GREEN KINGFISHERS and one RINGED KINGFISHER.

From central Trinidad, visits to Waller Field recorded the following:- on 3rd Aug, 2 PLAIN BREASTED GROUND DOVES, 14 BLUE HEADED PARROTS, 2 LITTLE CUCKOOS, 2 WHITE TAILED GOLDENTHROATS, STREAK HEADED WOODCREEPER and 2 BRAN COLORED FLYCATCHERS. On 3rd Sept 2 MORICHE ORIOLES were found together with a female WHITE WINGED BECARD and on 23rd Sept highlights were 2 daytime roosting SPECTACLED OWLS; also 12 WHITE COLLARED SWIFTS,2 BLACK TAILED TITYRAS, 2 MORICHE ORIOLES and a single WHITE TAILED GOLDENTHROAT

On the west coast of Trinidad, the RING BILLED GULL \* first reported on 5th July was still present at Orange Valley on 21st Sept. A few miles to the north at Brickfields, the first LEAST TERN and PECTORAL SANDPIPERS of the season were found together with a CLAPPER RAIL Roosting totals of commoner birds for both sites included , 505 WESTERN SANDPIPERS, 67 SEMI PALMATED SANDPIPERS, 59 SHORT BILLED DOWITCHERS, 215 COMMON TERNS, 109 YELLOW BILLED TERNS and 50 LARGE BILLED TERNS. The first YELLOW WARBLER of the season was found at Waterloo on 3rd Sept; the first NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH at Cacandee on 21st Sept and the first AMERICAN REDSTART was at Caroni on 27th Sept

From north west Trinidad, the first returning PEREGRINE of the season was seen from Fort George on 11th Sept

From south western Trinidad, report of a female GREEN WINGED TEAL\* with a party of Blue winged Teals at Icacos Swamp on 25th Sept

This is the SOUTH EASTERN CARIBBEAN BIRD ALERT October 2005 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.

Belated news from Grenada, large flocks of WHITE COLLARED SWIFTS were seen flying over St David's parish on 18th Sept.

From Guadeloupe, highlight of the month was a SWAINSON'S THRUSH at Desirade Is between 21st - 23rd Oct. (1st for Guadeloupe - and probably only 2nd for Lesser Antilles) Also at this site, the 21st produced a major fall of migrants including a flock of 70 BOBOLINKS, 12 YELLOW BILLED CUCKOOS, and 25 BLACKPOLL WARBLERS with a RED EYED VIREO the following day. Major migrant activity was also noted at Petit Terre nature reserve with a RED EYED VIREO on 1st Oct, single ROSE BREASTED GROSBEAKS on 18 and 26th Oct plus a fall of 17 YELLOW BILLED CUCKOOS and 33 BLACKPOLL WARBLERS on the 28th. Elsewhere on Guadeloupe, 620 CARIBBEAN MARTINS were at Pointe à Pitre on the 9th; a RED EYED VIREO at Fajou islet on the 11th; 5 BLACK AND WHITE WARBLERS at Le Gosier on 16th and a female CHESTNUT SIDED WARBLER at Pettit Bourg on the 20th. A total of 7 hours sea watching during the month produced single MANX SHEARWATER and LEACH'S PETREL

From Tobago, the first YELLOW BILLED CUCKOOS of the season were found at Betsy's Hope on 15th Oct and at the Main Ridge Forest Reserve on the 18th. The first reported BLACKPOLL WARBLER appeared at Betsy's Hope on 16th Oct and an adult male DICKCISSEL was found at Speyside on the 15th.

In the northern range of Trinidad, the first OLIVE SIDED FLYCATCHER of the season was found at Asa Wright on 23rd Sept. A BLACK HAWK-EAGLE was seen from the Caribbean slope of the Blanchisseuse Rd on 10th Oct. At Asa Wright, a male RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE frequented the balcony area on 15th - 16th Oct. A hike along Las Lapas trace on 16th Oct produced a BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER \*, adult ORNATE HAWK EAGLE, OLIVE SIDED, DUSKY CAPPED and SLATY CAPPED FLYCATCHERS and 2 HEPATIC TANAGERS.

From central Trinidad, 2 GULL BILLED TERNS patrolled Trincity ponds between 9th - 16th Oct. with a LITTLE EGRET present on the latter date. Sightings from Waller Field during the month include a single WHITE TAILED GOLDENTHROAT, 6 SULPHURY and 4 BRAN COLORED FLYCATCHERS on 3rd Oct and a GREAT BLACK-HAWK on 10th Oct. On 6th Oct, 2 BUFF BREASTED SANDPIPERS\* were found on Caroni Rice Project

On the west coast of Trinidad, a HUDSONIAN GODWIT was present on the tidal mudflats south of Waterloo on 15th Oct together with a roost of 138 LARGE BILLED, 68 YELLOW BILLED, 28 COMMON, 24 SANDWICH/CAYENNE plus single LEAST and ROYAL TERNS. Also present were 350 LAUGHING GULLS, 34 BLACK SKIMMERS and 23 BLACK NECKED STILTS. At the same locality on 22nd Oct, 221 WESTERN SANDPIPERS and 25 SEMI PALMATED SANDPIPERS were present with a single SANDERLING (rare on the west coast)

From the east coast of Trinidad, 2 adult and one immature CRESTED CARACARAS \* were found near Kernaham on 10th Oct. .

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From Antigua, a 1st winter BLACK HEADED GULL and a 2nd winter RING BILLED GULL at McKinnons salt pond from 22nd - 26th Oct Also on 26th Oct, a drake AMERICAN WIGEON was found on pools close to Jolly Harbour.

From Barbados, on 6th Nov two gulls showing characterstics of YELLOW-LEGGED GULL were seen at Chancery Lane, a first winter and a third year bird. On 7th Nov a LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER at Spring Hall, St. Lucy and higher than usual numbers of YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS were present along the north coast. On 8th Nov a CHIMNEY SWIFT was present at Graeme Hall Swamp where at least one ANHINGA is still present. On 9th Nov, 2 FRANKLIN'S GULLS (1st for Barbados) and a WILSON'S PHALAROPE inland briefly at Golden Grove. On 12th Nov a DICKCISSEL (2nd for Barbados) was at Hannay's, St. Lucy in a flock of Grassland Yellow Finches. A CASPIAN TERN (first for 40 years) and a LEAST BITTERN were both present at Foster's Swamp on 27th Nov

From Guadeloupe, 13 NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH were found at Le Gosier on 22nd Nov. On 23rd 89 PIED BILLED GREBES and a LESSER SCAUP were a Gaschet Res. A YELLOW BILLED CUCKOO at Petit terre Nature reserve on 24th Nov is the latest date for this migrant. The range of HOUSE SPARROW is ever expanding, with 5 seen at Capesterre Beau on 29th Nov and a RINGED KINGFISHER was seen on 30th at Petit-Bourg

From Tobago, 2 EULER'S FLYCATCHER \* were reported from Gilpin trace on 24th Nov. If accepted this will be the first record of this species for the island. On the same date, a BLACK WHISKERED VIREO (2nd for Tobago) was seen at the same locality.

From central Trinidad, a female HOOK BILLED KITE \* soared over Waller Field on 3rd Nov. Also present were at least 40 LILAC TAILED PARROTLETS, 14 RED BELLIED MACAWS, single LITTLE CUCKOO, PYGMY KINGFISHER and STREAK HEADED WOODCREEPER.

On the west coast of Trinidad, a CASPIAN TERN\* (only the 2nd record for T&T, and the first for 53 years) was seen briefly at Orange Valley on 23rd Nov. (This follows a report of what is undoubtedly the same individual, sitting on the middle of the runway at Waller Field a couple of days previously.) Also in the Waterloo-Carli Bay coast during the period 23rd - 28th Nov were 3 second summer LESSER BLACK BACKED GULLS; the long staying RING BILLED GULL; a peak of 46 LARGE BILLED TERNS on 23rd (and still 34 on 28th, the latest documented date in Trinidad); 79 ROYAL TERNS, single COMMON and CAYENNE TERN and 77 BLACK SKIMMERS. Close-by, the first returning RUBY TOPAZ reported for the season was at Carapachaima on 28th Nov.

From north east Trinidad, a HOOK BILLED KITE \* was seen perched beside the road at Galera Pt on 6th Nov .A CHESTNUT SIDED WARBLER \* found at Grande Riviere on 22nd Nov was ,intriguingly, feeding in exactly the same tree as the last one recorded on the island back in February.

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From Barbados, a 1st year PURPLE HERON at Foster's on 4th Dec (2nd for Barbados and remaining till month end at least). The annual Christmas Bird Count was carried out on 31st Dec. A record number of 69 species were found including, GLOSSY IBIS and PURPLE GALLINULE at Graeme Hall Swamp; a NORTHERN PINTAIL at East Point and 2 LESSER BLACK-BACK GULLS and possible YELLOW-LEGGED GULL now at Oistins

From Guadeloupe the EURASIAN WHIMBREL remained at Petite Terre Nature Reserve all month. A total of 9.5 hours sea watching during the month produced 2 "small" SHEARWATER sp; 4 PTERODROMA sp, 1 MASKED BOOBY and 1 BOOBY sp . A GREEN WINGED TEAL was found at Grand Cul de Sac Marin on 10th Dec; a flock of at least 200 NUTMEG MANAKINS were at St Francois on 18th Dec and a LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH was found at Capesterre Belle Eau on 23rd Dec

From Grenada - on 19th Dec, both male HOOK BILLED KITE and BELTED KINGFISHER were seen at the Rex Grenadian a female BELTED KINGFISHER there the following day together with up to 3 WILSON'S SNIPE. Between 20th-25th Dec, a WHITE WINGED SWALLOW (1st for Grenada) was present in St Georges harbour On 21st Dec several TRICOLORED HERONS (1st for Grenada) were at Telescope together with a BLACK BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK and a number of RED FOOTED BOOBIES (1st for Grenada) were seen off of the north coast. However, the most unusual sighting was of a unidentified WHITE PELICAN sp seen flying past Lauren Pt

From the Grenadines, 3 STILT SANDPIPERS and a WILSON'S PLOVER were found on Mayreau Is and a FORSTERS TERN was seen off of Union Is both on 23rd Dec

From Tobago, an unidentified COOT sp was seen at Bon Accord sewage lagoons on 14th Dec.

In the northern range of Trinidad at Asa Wright Nature Centre, belated news of a BLACK WHISKERED VIREO\* on 25th Oct and more currently an exceptionally early SWALLOW TANAGER was found on 2nd Dec and an immature GREAT BLACK HAWK \* was seen soaring over the valley on 6th Dec. Up to 3 PIPING GUANS \* have been recorded on a number of dates through December in the Morne Bleu area . At least one, and quite possibly two different SCALED ANTPITTA's \* were heard calling from dense forest between Morne Bleu and Paria junction on 27th Dec.

From central Trinidad, 34 RED BELLIED MACAWS, 23 LILAC TAILED PARROTLETS, 6 BLUE HEADED PARROTS, and single STREAK HEADED WOODCREEPER and, WHITE WINGED BECARD were found at Waller Field on 6th Dec. A BLACKPOLL WARBLER was seen at the Aripo Agriculture Research Station on 24th Dec. On 30th Dec an adult CRESTED CARACARA \* was found on Caroni Rice Project together with 2 BANK SWALLOWS. On the same date, a CRANE HAWK \* flew east over St Mary's village, Freeport

On the west coast of Trinidad, a female RUFF \* was reported from Caroni swamp on 9th Dec. LARGE BILLED TERNS appear to be "over wintering" in the Waterloo area, at least 22 birds were present on 7th Dec with 6 still there on 29th Dec. Also present on the 7th were 40 ROYAL TERNS and single CAYENNE TERN, RING BILLED GULL AND LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL . 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"