Lesser Antilles Birding & Nature Species List | March 7 – 20, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



# Compiled by guide Peg Abbott with local guide Ryan Chenery. Our clients included Michael, Nancy, Kathy, Holger, Patty, Marjorie, Gerry, John, Robin, Donna and Don

SUMMARY: A grand adventure designed to showcase the endemic species of 10 Lesser Antillean Islands in 14 days - we met the challenge of multiple flights and ferries and as a group were successful in finding them all! On several islands we were joined by local guides and we learned about projects of BirdsCaribbean, an organization our visit helps support. We had a most compatible group with good camaraderie. We got surprisingly clear views of most species, the exceptions being two that are now so rare or elusive they were just not possible for the full group to see: Grenada Dove and Imperial Parrot. We found all of the expected species, and St. Lucia, Montserrat and Martinique Orioles, Bridled Quail Dove, St. Lucia Black Finch and Rufous-throated Solitaire, all of which can be elusive. We were surrounded by beauty of the ocean's Caribbean shades of jade and blue, and by lush forests on each island. Reviewing our highlights on the final evening there were mentions of taking a small boat out to an active Magnificent Frigatebird colony, of Holger's spotting a Martinique Oriole sunning itself on an open branch, and of Guadeloupe Woodpecker pair showing up at our French picnic site – nothing like watching an endemic species by juggling binoculars in one hand with pate, cheese, baguettes and wine in the other! Other highlights included seeing the Barn (Ashy-faced) Owl at close range, watching two species of tremblers trembling, finding a pair of Red-necked Parrots at the entrance to their nest site, watching a pair White-breasted Thrashers feed and interact in the dry forest, finding a Bridled Quail Dove along the bank of a stream (and under a picnic table), spying a St. Vincent Parrot checking out a nest site in a palm, and having a Southern Opossum waddle up the road towards our vehicle in plain sight. Memorable and meaningful to all of us was hearing the calls of two incredibly rare species, Grenada Dove (fewer than 100, probably more like 50 remain...) and Imperial Parrot (only 3 pairs in the valley we scanned, population numbers not well known post Hurricane Maria in 2017). We pulled out our passports a memorable number of times (ten islands = ten countries...) and still had time for smiles, laughter, fun, memorable birds, anoles, orchids, geology and more.

The eBird link below details the 115 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

Lesser Antilles Birding & Nature | March 7-20, 2024 | eBird Trip Report

(#) in the Family line = # of species of that family observed
(#) in the species line = # of days out of 14 total
E = endemic
I = introduced

BIRDS (115 species)

## DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae — (4)

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors* — (2) Seen in wetlands visited on Antigua and St. Lucia, a fairly common wintering species in the islands.

White-cheeked Pintail Anas bahamensis — (1) Seen only on McKinnon's Salt Pond, visited by those arriving early an opting to go birding on that arrival day morning.

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* — (1) Scope views on a wetland pond on St Lucia, both a male and at least two females.

Lesser Scaup Aythya affinis (1) Seen on a wetland pond on St. Lucia, a wintering species here.

# **GREBES:** Podicipedidae — (1)

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* — (2) Seen at a wetland on St. Lucia and then again on Barbados in the small ponds we visited among agricultural areas of the central part of the island.

# PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae — (11)

**Rock Pigeon (I)** Columba livia — (12) Seen commonly throughout the islands in urban areas.

Scaly-naped Pigeon Patagioenas squamosa — (9) Seen at a variety of elevations, at times around our hotel gardens, a beautifully patterned dove.

White-crowned Pigeon Patagioenas leucocephala — (2) Seen out in the open on Antigua, around McKinnon's Salt Pond but also on the larger trees of our hotel near St. John's, surprisingly bold and conspicuous.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (I) Streptopelia decaocto — (8) Seen in agricultural areas, around hotels and in towns and cities, often seen perched on wires as we drove to birding sites.

**Common Ground-Dove** *Columbina passerina* — (7) Not common, but widespread and once located often quite sedentary allowing for excellent views.

**Ruddy Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon montana* — (3) We were able to see this bird twice and hear it at a third location. Both sightings were quick, walking on trails, but in both instances the birds flew, and we got good views in flight.

**Bridled Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon mystacea* — (1) We had clear views and several minutes to watch this beauty, early one morning in the national park we visited on Guadeloupe Island. The breast is iridescent in its color and very striking. **Grenada Dove (E-Grenada)** *Leptotila wellsi* — (1) We walked the best area to find them in Mt. Hartman National Park both morning and late in the day, and heard them calling. They approached the trail both times, but skittered away with only a few seeing them not to return to sight. A bird banding training session had taken place there recently, possibly making them shyer than normal. One pair was using the lower part of the trail and in the afternoon, we heard a third bird farther up the hill, a good sign. This species is highly endangered and found only here with any regularity, a quarry having been constructed at its other remaining stronghold.

White-winged Dove Zenaida asiatica — (3) Seen on both days in Antigua, and then on one day in St. Lucia by a few of the group.

**Zenaida Dove** *Zenaida aurita* — (14) Very common, often calling, and quite tame. By the historic church we visited on Barbados, Patty spied one on her nest, settling in after probably turning the eggs.

**Eared Dove** Zenaida auriculata — (3) We had two quite close to the dining area, using the garden at Beachcombers Inn. We also saw them in the agricultural area of the central part of the island of Barbados.

# CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae — (2)

**Smooth-billed Ani** *Crotophaga ani* — (6) Seen in groups and as lone birds in the more open shrub areas on several islands, widespread.

**Mangrove Cuckoo** *Coccyzus minor* — (5) Seeing this bird well, being able to photograph it out in the open and watch it feed and call, repeatedly was a treat. They are normally so furtive but, on the islands, very tolerant and visible!

## <u>SWIFTS: Apodidae — (2)</u>

Lesser Antillean Swift (E-L Antilles) Chaetura martinica — (4) Seen at a variety of forest types, flying high above us in

groups.

**Short-tailed Swift** *Chaetura brachyura* — (2) Seen on St. Vincent at the estate we waited for parrots to appear our first afternoon there, and St. Lucia where a colony was flying around a newly constructed bridge.

# HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae — (5)

**Rufous-breasted Hermit** *Glaucis hirsutus* — (1) Seen only on Grenada, we got very good views up at the Grand Etang Visitor Center in forests of the islands. One individual was perched and calling, drying off after a quick rain.

**Purple-throated Carib (E-L Antilles)** *Eulampis jugularis* — (8) Very common, seen in most of the visits to forested areas, and in some of our lodge's gardens. We got excellent views of them feeding in heliconia flowers and on flowering bananas.

**Green-throated Carib** *Eulampis holosericeus* — (9) Very common, often around gardens of our lodgings, seen regularly. Quite vocal, we were often alerted to its presence by its twittering calls.

**Blue-headed Hummingbird (E-L Antilles)** *Riccordia bicolor* — (1) Seen only at one location, but seen well. It was quite active in between bouts of rain, feeding on some small white flowers on dense trailside shrubbery. It came very close, and perched between feeding activity.

Antillean Crested Hummingbird Orthorhyncus cristatus — (12) Numerous and widespread, we saw them on almost every outing, 12 of our 14 days.

## RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae — (3)

**Sora** *Porzana carolina* — (1) We enjoyed scope views of one of three birds present at a wetland pond in the agricultural area of Barbados. We were hearing three, saw one in flight, then one boldly came out onto mats of the water lilies and stayed out for quite some time.

**Common Gallinule** *Gallinula galeata* — (4) Present in the wetland areas we visited in good number. We saw some with chicks.

American Coot Fulica americana — (4) Common in the island's wetland areas, one had very small orange-billed chicks. All that we saw were the White-Plated form.

## STILTS AND AVOCETS: Himantopidae — (1)

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* — (1) Seen only at McKinnon's Salt Pond on Antigua, where we encountered higher water than normal due to recent rains. They were clustered in a small cove where there was some sand to roost on between mangrove roots. Vocal and defensive when approached by other species, we had good views.

## SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae — (8)

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* — (5) The most frequently encountered shorebird for our visit, we saw them in wetland areas but also along streams. Our best views were on Guadeloupe where one was quite close, in a small stream by a picnic area where we also encountered the Bridled Quail Dove.

**Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria* — (1) A nice pickup our final morning, at a small pond on Barbados.

Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes — (2) Seen on either end of the trip in ponds of Antigua and Barbados.

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* — (3) John spotted one from a bridge at our picnic as we first landed on St. Lucia. We also saw them at McKinnon's Salt Pond where they mingled with Lesser Yellowlegs, always nice for comparison. We had one at the Apicon Wetlands we visited before leaving St. Lucia.

**Ruddy Turnstone** Arenaria interpres — (2) This species was present at McKinnon's Salt Pond on Antigua, at the same quite cove and roost. But the best views were at the dock area of Barbuda where they were numerous and fairly tame. They were all coming in to bright breeding plumage, quite lovely to see.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* — (1) Seen at McKinnon's Salt Ponds where we walked over the see the ocean. They were up roosting on some rocks at the far end of the cove.

Semipalmated Sandpiper Calidris pusilla – (1) A dozen or so were roosting with Sanderlings at the rocky end of a beach on Antigua near McKinnon's Salt Pond.

# GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae — (4)

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* — **(5)** Seen well, often at ports where we boarded ferries, or along the coast as we traveled.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** Larus fuscus — (1) Very distant scope view showing the bright yellow legs and large size, at McKinnon Salt Pond.

**Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus* — (2) Peg spotted two flying in view from the Beachcomber's Inn on St. Vincent, then Ryan and several others saw them from the ferry as we approached Martinique.

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus* — (8) Common, we got excellent looks at them along the coast and at the ferry ports.

## TROPICBIRDS: Phaethontidae — (2)

White-tailed Tropicbird Phaethon lepturus — (2) First seen from the ferry over to Dominica, we then visited an area of cliffs along the coastal road of Dominica where they were coming in to caves, circling above the sea as they made their approach. They put on a super show, just gleaming in sunlight and banking often to show off their distinctive pattern. **Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus* — (2) Seen as we flew in and out of Montserrat and then again on the fast ferry over to Barbuda.

#### PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS: Procellariidae — (1)

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* — (1) Seen by Ryan and several others on the ferry going into Martinique.

#### FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae — (1)

**Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* — (11) These acrobatic flyers were plentiful and we saw them most days of the journey. Spectacular however, was getting to visit the largest nesting colony in the islands, off of Barbuda. We saw them at all life stages from small fuzzy chicks to adults. Several males were still in full display with air sacs filled to the brim, and bills clacking on these like a drum. It was hot and we observed several gular fluttering as a way to cool off. The aerial acrobatics were memorable too!

#### BOOBIES AND GANNETS: Sulidae - (2)

**Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* — (5) This species was also nesting on the mangrove islands off of Barbuda that we took a speed boat out to. We saw them flying, fishing, from the ferries and on those nest sites.

**Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula* — (2) We saw this species both days that we opted for ferries to cross between islands. Off of Dominica we had one just dance on the wind, riding the updraft of the boat and giving us stellar views.

#### PELICANS: Pelecanidae — (1)

**Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* — (6) While a common species ow does one ignore breeding plumage pelicans lounging in trees as they set up nesting platforms, then rising to go fish, dropping like torpedoes just offshore. At Tamarind Tree hotel they were perching in tall trees at the cliff edge; in the morning we had coffee with pelicans. Their long wings extended in flight over jade and turquoise water, seen from above was memorable.

## HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae — (9)

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** *Nyctanassa violacea* — (2) Patty and Ryan saw one just outside of Beachcomber's Inn and a juvenile was present on McKinnon Salt Pond.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* — (1) Fairly common among the mangroves that rimmed McKinnon Salt Pond, we saw adults and juveniles.

**Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* — (5) We saw this species on four different islands, in wetlands and along the coastline.

**Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor* — (1) Donna spotted a lone individual that we all got scope views of while we birded at McKinnon Salt Pond our first day in Antigua.

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* – (3) Seen in small number on Antigua, St. Lucia and Dominica.

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* — (8) The most common heron encountered. Memorable were two individuals both wanting to hunt in a small pond on Barbados, and the dominance behavior we observed. We saw quite a few at McKinnon Salt Pond as we walked past roots of mangroves, but most of the time we saw a lone individual here and there. Widespread.

Western Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis — (13) Widespread and common.

**Great Egret** Ardea alba — (4) Infrequent, we saw mostly lone individuals in wetland areas.

Great Blue Heron Ardea herodias – (4) Infrequent, we saw this species in freshwater canals and small farm ponds.

#### **IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae – (1)**

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* — (1) Ryan saw a lone individual fly into the pond we visited on St. Lucia after a fun seaside lunch. It perched and remained there atop a small island in the lake.

#### OSPREY: Pandionidae — (1)

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* — (4) This raptors signature wing shape was easy to spot, lone individuals on four different days of the trip. One was perched across the pond on St. Lucia and we got a scope on it, all others were seen in flight.

#### KITES, HAWKS, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae – (2)

**Common Black Hawk** *Buteogallus anthracinus* — (2) Good views as we watched for parrots on St. Vincent. Two were flying and doing courtship maneuvers, impressive.

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* — (8) A very common raptor in the islands, we saw them on multiple days, and on some days, multiple birds. On St. Lucia we saw two parrots explode from a tree as one flew into view, making a lot of noise. Views of them below us from the parrot view point on Dominica were striking.

#### BARN OWLS: Tytonidae — (1)

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* — (1) This subspecies is often called Ashy-faced, and the bird we observed would be described that way. We got fabulous looks in a building on Dominica that Ryan knew the owl was frequenting. It seemed unimpressed with our visit while we were thrilled to have time to take in its markings, expressions and a few short flights between wooden struts above us. Several listed this up close and personal owl experience as a highlight of their trip.

#### KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae — (2)

**Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata* — (1) This impressive kingfisher was a real plus, seen in a canal at the airport on our final Inter-Caribbean flight from Dominica to Barbados. It was perched in good view, on a wire and then an exposed branch. The first vehicle saw it with a Belted for direct comparison.

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* — (2) Don spotted one right out of the van our first morning at McKinnon Salt Pond and we got a scope on it. We wrestled with the identification so far away, but Belted it was, the only likely choice on that island.

#### WOODPECKERS: Picidae — (1)

**Guadeloupe Woodpecker** (E-Guadeloupe) *Melanerpes herminieri* — (1) This was Peg's most wanted to see bird of the trip and with good news Ryan and Anthony, our local guide on Guadeloupe, were confident we'd find it having a nest staked out. It turns out they were still excavating but likely done, so visits were just two in the time we had, but we got good looks. They had also been following a family group of five, so stopped there and encouraged them out with a call. The male came right out of the woods with a most impressive flight. We left them and headed to Anthony's classic French picnic and lo and behold a pair came to us. We had to juggle our baguettes and wine with binoculars but it was great to watch them feed in vines and tangles in trees as they do – right above our feast.

#### FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae — (2)

American Kestrel Falco sparverius — (8) Common, lone individuals encountered, both male and female. The highest

number of sightings was on Montserrat.

**Merlin** Falco columbarius — (1) Brief views of a lone bird from the lush forest viewpoint we used to search for parrots on Dominica.

# PARROTS: Psittacidae — (6)

**Rose-ringed Parakeet (I)** *Psittacula krameri* — (1) We saw a flock of seven and watched them feed in flowering shrubs while on Barbados, in the area of farms in the central part of the island.

**Red-necked Parrot (E-Dominica)** Amazona arausiaca — (1) We got great views of this species, with a pair at a nest hole in the scope, perched birds in trees across the valley from our viewpoint, and multiple pairs and lone birds flying. We visited the overview site both morning and afternoon.

**St. Lucia Parrot (E-St. Lucia)** Amazona versicolor — (1) Finding this species required a hike, but we all grabbed a stick, planted our feet purposefully on the rocky trail and made it up to the view point. With patience we were rewarded with some terrific flight views of several pair. We got a few in the scope and admired the blue color of their heads, quite different from those we'd seen first on St. Vincent.

**Imperial Parrot (E-Dominica)** Amazona imperialis — (1) Ryan warned us that this would be our most difficult species not to find, but to see. We were thrilled to hear two distinct individuals, but they do not fly long horizontal sweeps as the Red-necked Parrots do. So we followed the sound, and at one point Ryan jumped into action with the scope, he found one perched! It stayed only a moment so John got a view, but despite further searching, we had to be content with calls. It was still a thrill to hear them and see their lush mountain realm where we hope they can remain.

**St. Vincent Parrot (E-St. Vincent)** Amazona guildingii — (2) Lystra XX met us for our time at St. Vincent and she was eager to show us the island's forests and birds. She runs a local nature education center for children and has been involved in conservation of the parrots and other species for many years. We went up to a lovely bed and breakfast with gardens in a lush valley with parrots flying all around. We could find them as they made loud calls. This area was four-wheel drive only and we ended up at split groups as both found parrots to watch so stayed put. Excellent views and multiple birds, we even saw two the next day as we ventured out to find Whistling Warbler.

**Orange-winged Parrot (I)** Amazona amazonica — (2) An introduced species, we had them flying by us at breakfast at the Karibea hotel as we arrived and the same again the morning, on Martinique. They were moving from the ocean edge into the forests to feed and we saw several pairs in flight.

## <u>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae — (6)</u>

**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** *Elaenia flavogaster* — (2) Seen well both days we were on St. Lucia, very distinctive, mournful call.

**Caribbean Elaenia** *Elaenia martinica* — (10) Very common, we learned its high-pitched call and enjoyed watching and photographing them. Usually seen as lone individuals or pairs.

Lesser Antillean Pewee Contopus latirostris — (2) Seen well on both days we were on St. Lucia.

**Grenada Flycatcher (E-L Antilles)** *Myiarchus nugator* — (1) We saw this species well on its namesake island, in the dry forest area.

**Lesser Antillean Flycatcher (E-L Antilles)** *Myiarchus oberi* — (2) A typical Myiarchus flycatcher, we enjoyed watching three on Grenada in the dry forest, chasing each other about. We had another by the visitor center at the national park in Dominica, very tolerant of our presence.

**Gray Kingbird** *Tyrannus dominicensis* — **(14)** Our common companion, noted on almost every eBird checklist. Their trill became very familiar and we saw them catch insects with a high success rate. They were often in gardens of our hotels, but seemed equally at home in more wild forested areas.

## VIREOS: Vireonidae — (1)

**Black-whiskered Vireo** *Vireo altiloquus* — (9) A vocal species, we were aware of its presence in all forested areas and in some of the hotel gardens. It was often visible, and other species tended to flock around it.

# SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae — (2)

**Caribbean Martin** *Progne dominicensis* — (6) Common and widespread, we often recorded them in the open areas of airports – perhaps that is when we took the time to notice and observe.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* — (2) We saw a small flock out on the mangrove islands as we cruised to look at the nests of Magnificent Frigatebirds, obviously migrants on their way north. We had others on Martinique, but they were not common on the islands at this time.

# WRENS: Troglodytidae — (1)

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* — **(5)** The word is out that the highly varied forms of House Wren on different Lesser Antilles islands may be split, so Ryan made sure we found and studied each one. We had them on St. Vincent, Grenada, St. Lucia and Dominica. On St. Vincent we found one in a family's yard, they graciously let us go look and study this variety with a very white breast. We sensed the song variation, bill variation, it was a fun study in speciation in action, whether they split them or not, they are on their way to distinction.

# MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae — (6)

White-breasted Thrasher (E-L Antilles) *Ramphocinclus brachyurus* — (1) We had remarkably good views of this often secretive species on our morning visit to the dry forest side of St. Lucia. We saw at least six individuals and two showed repeatedly on both sides of the wide trail we walked. Those quick with their cameras got some lovely shots. We then saw the duskier race on Martinique, in a lusher forest setting, but excellent views as they fed at the base of a large tree on a trail to a waterfall.

Scaly-breasted Thrasher (E-L Antilles) Allenia fusca — (5) This bird had a lot of personality; its jaunty vocalizations alerted us to its presence and it appeared in wild forests and manicured gardens. We worked very hard at our first sighting on St. Vincent, unaware it would be easier to find as the trip progressed. This species often overlaps habitat with Pearly-eyed Thrasher.

**Pearly-eyed Thrasher** *Margarops fuscatus* — (6) This species gives such a piercing expression with its light-colored eye. It was fairly common, often vocal, and seen in lush forest and more open areas of parks at picnic areas and clearings. Other birds were reactive to it at times as it is a species that robs nests of eggs and nestlings.

**Brown Trembler (E-L Antilles)** *Cinclocerthia ruficauda* — (3) What's not to love about an adult bird that constantly flicks its wing in a submissive nestling like beg – as its main courtship display, the behavior is so ingrained we saw hints of it routinely while birds were feeding! It was as if any stimulation would kick off a tremble, quite something to observe. We had "cracking" views of one that came in as we were pishing with hopes to see a Whistling Warbler that was laying low. At our picnic on Guadeloupe they were looking for crumbs by the tables, trembling away.

**Gray Trembler (E-L Antilles)** *Cinclocerthia gutturalis* — (3) Seen on both days in St Lucia and again in the forests of Martinique.

**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos* — (3) This species was our natural alarm clock on Dominica where they were ever-present in the garden of our hotel. We also saw them on St. Lucia in the farmland we walked through getting up to the area we tracked down Whistling Warbler.

# THRUSHES: Turdidae — (5)

**Rufous-throated Solitaire** *Myadestes genibarbis* — (3) We got "cracking" views of this species, which on some trips is more often heard than seen. At one point it posed on a mossy branch in full view in no hurry to leave, wow! We'd had a rain shower and perhaps it was enjoying the sun.

**Cocoa Thrush** *Turdus fumigatus* — (1) This bird was calling as rain started and we birded from under a shelter atop the forest drive on Grenada. A few got only a glimpse of this species as most were understandably distracted by close sighting of two of the local Mona Monkeys as it cleared and we walked down the road.

**Spectacled Thrush** *Turdus nudigenis* — (2) Seen at the Beachcomber's Hotel, St. Lucia, then seen again in dry forests as we looked for Grenada Dove. Then seen at several locations while on Martinique.

**Forest Thrush (E-L Antilles)** *Turdus Iherminieri* — (2) Some of our group got looks at a very vocal bird on Montserrat as we walked up the bend of a forest road. Then we all got excellent looks and a chance for photos at the French picnic site on

Martinique.

**Red-legged Thrush** *Turdus plumbeus* — (2) This species was vocal but hard to see at a dry forest stop we made after lunch on Dominica, but then several got excellent views on the hotel grounds where it frequented a patch of palms.

# WAXBILLS: Estrildidae — (1)

**Scaly-breasted Munia (I)** *Lonchura punctulata* — (1) This introduced species was seen in a small flock around our first hotel in shrubby patches of the adjacent road, on Antiqua.

# OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae — (1)

**House Sparrow (I)** *Passer domesticus* — (2) Not common, but noted for the trip at the harbor in St. John's and at one of the airports on our "four country" flight day.

# FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae — (1)

**Lesser Antillean Euphonia** *Euphonia flavifrons* — (3) Seen quickly in the canopy at several locations on St. Lucia, we heard them first typically. They were below us at the parrot view point giving better but quick views.

# NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae — (5)

St. Lucia Oriole (E-St. Lucia) Icterus laudabilis — (1) Seen well on our visit to the Des Cartiers Rainforest Trail.

Montserrat Oriole (E-Montserrat) Icterus oberi — (1) We really enjoyed seeing this species, assisted by Nature, our local guide. We saw both male and female, at close range and well.

**Martinique Oriole (E-Martinique)** *Icterus bonana* — (1) This oriole put on a grand show, after some patience and a few fast fly-bys, it perched for some time, preening after a short rain.

**Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* — (7) Widespead, and becoming a real problem for declining oriole populations on the islands.

Carib Grackle Quiscalus lugubris - (14) Ubiquitous, seen often, hard to miss!

# NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae — (8)

Whistling Warbler (E-St. Vincent) Catharopeza bishopi — (1) This species is in decline, and we worked for our views, climbing a very steep, muddy path in wet conditions. It is shy, and only after some time, and only upon a return to the original site where we heard it, were we successful.

**Plumbeous Warbler (E-L Antilles)** Setophaga plumbea — (3) A confiding warbler, we got very good views in a variety of habitats on Dominica.

Cape May Warbler Septophaga tigrina (1) A nice surprise to find, on a morning walk from the hotel on Dominica.

**Yellow Warbler** Setophaga petechia — (7) Widespread, we saw the resident variety with its rusty cap and the more familiar and typical form.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Septophaga tigrina* — (1) Seen above our French picnic lunch spot on Martinique in a mixed flock, briefly.

**Prairie Warbler Septophaga discolor** — (1-HO) Ryan had seen this species about ten days before our walk around the garden in Antigua so we played its call to see if it was still around. We heard a reply, it came in, but it was nearing dusk and we found an anole in good light at the same time which distracted us. It made a quick getaway, so heard only but distinct.

Barbuda Warbler (E-Barbuda) Setophaga subita — (1) We had a wonderful day going out to this small, flat island of beautiful white sand and beaches, to walk through beach scrub. This is a locally common, globally rare species – not hard to find once there. We watched several including one feeding at close range, successful with a large caterpillar.
St. Lucia Warbler (E-St. Lucia) Setophaga delicata — (1) Great views, quite common and widespread on its lone island.

## TANAGERS AND ALLIES: Thraupidae — (8)

Lesser Antillean Tanager (E-L Antilles) Stilpnia cucullata – (2) A beautiful species, we saw it on two islands (St. Vincent

and Grenada) and observed the color variation. Best views were at the high point of our drive on Grenada, where several came in to some fruiting shrubs just off the road at close range.

**Grassland Yellow-Finch** *Sicalis luteola* — (1) We found a few of this species on our final morning birding the agricultural fields of Barbados.

**Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* — (14) Ever present, ubiquitous, we saw a few of the all-black form (including one in the garden at our St. Vincent hotel) and many of the more typical pattern.

Lesser Antillean Bullfinch (E-L Antilles) Loxigilla noctis — (12) Common and widespread.

**Barbados Bullfinch (E-Barbados)** *Loxigilla barbadensis* — (2) We found this species right away at the airport, and around our hotel, delightfully common on its lone island.

**St. Lucia Black Finch (E-St. Lucia)** *Melanospiza richardsoni* — (2) We got excellent views of this species while at the parrot viewing spot in lush forest on St. Lucia.

**Black-faced Grassquit** *Melanospiza bicolor* — (9) Very common, we watched them pulling nest material from twigs, and watched them feeding and singing.

**Lesser Antillean Saltator (E-L Antilles)** Saltator albicollis — (5) We got very good views of this species and it was highly vocal. Its musical tones were strong and varied, we studied these on our hikes.

## MAMMALS (5 species)

## BATS: Molossidae — (1)

Pallas's Mastiff Bat (Velvety Free-tailed) Molosss molossus— (2) Seen a couple of times on Grenada.

## OPOSSUMS: Didelphidae — (1)

**Southern Opossum** *Didelphis marsupialis* — (1) We had great views of one on the road as we came down from the afternoon (return) parrot viewing location on Dominica.

## OLD WORLD MONKEYS: Cercopithecidae — (2)

**Green Monkey (I)** *Chlorocebus sabaeus* — (1) We saw a small troop of these in a mangrove orchard where they were probably not particularly welcomed, on Barbados.

**Mona Monkey (I)** Cercopithecus mona — (1) Two were quite tame and approached close on Grenada, atop the drive through lush forest, a popular cruise ship stop and locals have them acclimated.

## MONGOOSES: Herpestidae — (1)

**Small Indian Mongoose (I)** *Herpestes javanicus* — **(8)** This species was all too common, and so destructive to nesting birds, especially the critically endangered Grenada Dove.

## **REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS (11 species)**

# SEA TURTLES: Cheloniidae — (1)

**Green Sea Turtle** *Chelonia mydas* — (1) Ryan took us to a view spot from which we saw both surfers and many sea turtles (in a quieter cove) below us.

## IGUANAS: Iguanidae — (2)

**Lesser Antillean Iguana (E-L Antilles)** *Iguana delicatissima* — () We found a large one in the coconut trees off the balcony of our hotel in Dominica.

## ANOLES: Dactyloidae — (7)

Barbuda Tree Anole (E-Antigua&Barbuda) Anolis leachii — (1) Seen while on Barbuda.

Martinique Anole (E-Martinique) Anolis roquet — (1) A couple of individuals noted on our forest walks on Martinique.
 Dominican Anole (E-Dominica) Anolis oculatus — (2) Seen in forests on Dominica.
 Grenada Tree Anole (E-L Antilles) Anolis richardii — (1) Seen in dry forest as we searched for the Grenada Dove.
 Barbados Anole (E-Barbados) Anolis extremus — (1) Seen as we birded the agricultural areas of Barbados.

Saint Vincent Bush Anole (E-St. Vincent) Anolis trinitatis — (2) Fairly common on St. Lucia.

Saint Lucian Anole (E-St. Lucia) Anolis luciae — (2) Seen around our hotel and on forest walks that passed through agricultural areas on St. Lucia.

#### AMEIVAS AND WHIPTAILS: Teiidae — (1)

Antiguan Ameiva (E-Antigua) Pholidoscelis griswoldi — (1) Seen on the grounds of our hotel in Antiqua.

#### FROGS:

**Lesser Antillean Whistling Frog** *Eleutherodactylus johnstonei* — (1) This large-eyed species is active at night, found on the steps of our hotel in Dominica.