

## ANNOTATED CHECKLIST: BIRDS OF BONAIRE

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### REFERENCE LIST

ALL SPECIES ACCOUNTS PRIOR TO 1983 ARE PUBLISHED IN THE EXCELLENT, BUT DIFFICULT TO FIND AND OUT-OF-PRINT BOOK, **BIRDS OF THE NETHERLAND ANTILLES**, BY PROF. DR. K. H. VOOUS, ISBN 906011.157.5, PRINTED IN 1983. VOOUS ALSO PUBLISHED A REVISED AND UPDATED **FIELD CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF BONAIRE**, PUBLISHED BY STINAPA, 1993.

ALL RECORDS MORE RECENT, FROM 1994 ONWARD, ARE MY OWN OBSERVATIONS OR THOSE REPORTED TO ME. VERY FEW OTHER SCIENTIFIC RECORDS EXIST FOR THE BIRDS OF BONAIRE.

A **GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF THE WEST INDIES**, BY RAFFAELE, WILEY, GARRIDO, KEITH, AND RAFFAELE, 1998, WAS CONSULTED WHEN DISCUSSING THE 3 RARE HERON SPECIES RECENTLY ADDED TO THE CARIBBEAN AVAFAUNA.

ONE FINAL SOURCE IS **THE GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF VENEZUELA**, BY DE SCHAUENSEE AND PHELPS, 1978 FOR THOSE BIRDS THAT ARE MAINLY FOUND IN VENEZUELA.

FOR THOSE VISITING BIRDERS FROM NORTH AMERICA, YOU WILL FIND THAT A MAJORITY OF BIRDS CAN BE FOUND IN THE COMMONLY USED FIELD GUIDES FOR NORTH AMERICA. MY "NEW" FAVORITES ARE **BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA**, BY KENN KAUFMAN, 2000, AND NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY'S **THE SIBLEY GUIDE TO BIRDS**, BY DAVID ALLEN SIBLEY, 2000.

RECORDS IN RED ARE THOSE GATHERED SINCE SUMMER OF 2001 or species accounts are underlined

Common Family Name	Latin Family name	Scientific name	Status on Bonaire
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#### GREBES, Podicipedidae

- |                          |   |  |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Pied billed Grebe</b> <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> | uncommon nester -5 young with striped heads seen riding on back of one of the adults, on large fresh water pond near Park entrance, 30 Apr., 2000 (JCL)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Least Grebe</b> <i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>     | uncommon nester- pair with 6 young, Onima Ponds, Mar., 2000; 2 stripe-headed young at pond at Dos Pos 16 June, 2000, with 3 sub-adults and 2 adults indicating possibly double brood from adults. Large numbers, at least 20, mostly immature, seen on freshwater pond near park entrance, 1 Nov., 2000 (JCL, L. Sall). Pond began to dry up and the last of the grebes to be seen was 15 July, 2001 (C. Powell). In N. A., only likely place to see this species is Rio Grande region of Texas. |

#### SHEARWATERS, Procellariidae

- |                          |   |              |
|--------------------------|---|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Great Shearwater</b> <i>Puffinus gravis</i>          | rare visitor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Audubon's Shearwater</b> <i>Puffinus lherminieri</i> | nesting?     |

#### STORM PETRELS, Hydrobatidae

- |                          |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Leach's Storm Petrel</b> <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i> | rare visitor –Atlantic: One specimen 17 Nov., 1979 (FCL); injured bird found by kayaker, Stapert, and brought to me for identification was found off sw shore of Klein Bonaire sitting on open ocean, 2 July, 1996 (JCL, S. Stapert) |
|--------------------------|--|--|

#### FRIGATEBIRDS, Fregatidae

- |                          |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Magnificent Frigatebird</b> <i>Fregata magnificens</i> | non -br. visitor –Caribbean. Nearest known nesting colony is in the mangroves of Morrocoy National Park, Falcon, Venezuela, 120 km due south of Bonaire (Voous, 1983) |
|--------------------------|---|---|

#### TROPICBIRDS, Phaethontidae

- |                          |  |   |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Red-billed Tropicbird</b> <i>Phaethon aethereus</i> | rare, offshore, two sight records, one, at 20 nautical miles off Cape Malmok, extreme northern tip of Bonaire, 25 May 1979 (RVH), and one seen 12 miles SW of southern tip of Bonaire, 12 May 1977 (B. H. M de Jong), and one collected on SE coast July 1991 (EJ). |
|--------------------------|--|---|

- White-tailed Tropicbird (Yellow-billed)** *Phaethon lepturus* rare, One record for Bonaire, but 12 miles NW, off Cape Malmok, extreme northern tip of Bonaire, 23 Jan 1970 (RVH).

#### PELICANS, Pelecanidae

- Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* non-br.resident. In our area only known to breed on Aruba where first recorded in 1966, and also Los Roques, La Tortuga, Ven. (Voous, 1983).

#### BOOBIES, Sulidae

Note: In the fall of 2001, Bonaire received two ships, one, the fast ferry named the *Chogogo*, Papiamento for flamingo, that takes as many as 175 passengers between Bonaire and Curacao three times daily, and the *boobi*, which is a glass bottomed boat that can seat 25 passengers comfortably. Like its namesake, the local brown booby actually can be seen to sit on top of the water in the harbour and peak into the water looking for schools of fish. It then takes to the air, circles and plunge-dives into the school of fish and usually comes to the surface with one in its mouth. It can focus underwater just as we do and as all vertebrates must do-provide a surface of air between the retina and the water. We do this with the addition of a snorkel mask, the booby does it with the addition of its nictitating membrane that it covers its eye surface with in order to focus under water.

- xRed-footed Booby** *Sula sula* non-br. visitor-Caribbean An injured brown morph was photographed on beach south of Sorobon, mid-July 2001 (C. Powell). Two color morphs occur : dark adult with white tail, and light morph adult with dark trailing edge of wing, dark bill: Note Northern Gannet's black tipped wings only and also dark bill.

- Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra* rare visitor – Caribbean Bonaire has 3 records, all prior to 1979. Recent reports of Northern Gannet from visitors on cruise ships indicate that they are confusing these two species out on the open sea, especially the immatures. It must be noted that immature masked booby has light bill, immature gannet, dark bill. In the adults, gannet has all white upper parts with tips of wings black only, adult masked booby has white upper parts with black on wing-tips and along trailing edge of wing as well. (JCL).

- Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* non-br. visitor –Caribbean recorded all months along Kralendijk harbour.

#### CORMORANTS, Phalacrocoracidae

- Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* winter visitor - N. A.  
 **Neotropic Cormorant (Olivaceous)** *Phalacrocorax olivaceus* visitor - S. A. More common than preceding species. Most likely site, during dry winter/spring '01-'02 salina along entrance road into Pus Mangel, Washinton/Slagbaai, March, 2002, (D & E Compton).

#### HERONS AND EGRETS, Ardeidae

- Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* nesting?  
 **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax violacea* nesting  
 **Boat-billed Heron** *Cochlearius cochlearius* rare, 1 record, 1972, salt pans (Florida birdwatching party C. Russel)  
 **Green Heron** *Butorides striatus* nesting  
 **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* nesting? One individual regularly seen on lawn along entrance road into Plaza Resort during winter of '01-'02, 3 Apr., 2002 (JCL).  
 **xLittle Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* non-br. visitor - N. A. \*see note following  
 **Tricolored Heron** *Egretta tricolor* nesting  
 **Reddish Egret** *Egretta refescens* nesting. Occur in both white and reddish morphs but always have bill that is pink at base and black at tip. Also behaviorally can be told from other herons and egrets by the habit of the reddish egret to chase its prey by opening its wings as it dashes about which is called "canopy feeding".  
 **Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* nesting, \* see note following  
 **Great Egret** *Casmerodius albus* non-br. visitor -S.A.  
 **Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* non-br. visitor N. A., \* see note 2 following  
 **Whistling Heron** *Syrigma sibilatrix* 1 record at Slagbaai on the morning of 8 Jan., 2003

\*NOTE: **Little Egret**, *Egretta garzetta*, known to occur in southern Europe, Africa and South-East Asia east to Japan, was first recorded in West Indies in 1954 and has been recorded in increasing numbers (current population

on Barbados is around 80 individuals, where also first recorded nesting of this species in Western Hemisphere has occurred.) Occurs in both white and dark morphs in West Indies. Is to be looked for among egrets here on Bonaire and elsewhere in the Caribbean: Description- White morph: Breeding- All white, *usually with two long head plumes*; (Snowy has many shaggy, fine head and breast plumes); bill and legs black with yellow feet; lores reddish, in breeding plumage, but bluish-gray or greenish-gray in non-breeding. Dark morph – Gray overall, sometimes with a white chin and throat which is similar to another rare but increasingly reported heron, the **Western Reef Heron**, which has been recorded from Puerto Rico, St Lucia and Barbados. It is widespread in West Africa to Western Europe. Description of Western Reef Heron, *Egretta gularis*, White morph: Breeding- two long hind neck plumes; legs dark olive-green; feet yellow; lores greenish-yellow or green; lower mandible paler than upper. Dark phase – White chin and throat; bill solid color, dark; lower breast and belly tinged brown; black legs; feet yellowish-green, soles yellow. (adult Little Blue Heron has base of bill gray and tip black, also legs are greenish)

Also look for size differences between these two and Snowy Egrets. Both of these rare egrets are a bit larger ( 55-65 cm, 22 to 25.5 inches) than typical Snowies ( 51- 71 cm, 20 to 28 inches), but take caution because of overlap in sizes.

NOTE 2: **Gray Heron**, *Ardea cinerea*, has also been reported in the West Indies irregularly since first recorded in 1959 of a bird banded 4 months earlier in France. It is listed as vagrant on Montserrat, Martinique, as well as Barbados. Apparently arrives in the West Indies as a transatlantic vagrant from Africa via favorable winds. Widespread from northern Europe to Africa. Description: a bit smaller than similar Great Blue Heron, but distinguishable by *white thighs in all plumages* whereas in the Great Blue Heron, *the thighs are reddish-brown*.

#### IBISES AND SPOONBILLS, Threskiornithidae

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* non-br. visitor- S. A. Few records for Bonaire. One adult seen Lac, 29 Sept-16 Oct, 1980 (FCL). One individual observed probing in fresh-water pond in field after week of heavy rains. Dark iris plainly observed at close range, 29 Oct, 2002 (JCL).

**Roseate Spoonbill** *Ajaja ajaja* casual visitor - S.A; 3 records:1960,1974; 1 at Boca Slagbaai salina, remained about 1 week, May, 1998 (JCL)

#### FLAMINGOS, Phoenicopteridae

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber* nesting- first courtship among adults who show heightened interest in each other with necks stretched high and frequent wing-flashing was obvious among group of 10 to 30, observed at Gotomeer 15 Oct., 1999, during fall with heavier than normal rainfall (JCL). Very sensitive during nesting to disturbances and easily deserts nest. Greatest human-caused tragedy known happened in 1944 when an 'official show' of airplanes disturbed the nesting colony at the south end of the island, and the adults deserted their nests and the adults left the island and did not return for 7 years (Voous, 1983). First breeding on Pekelmeer's newly declared Flamingo Sanctuary, 1969, when 2300 pairs nested. Populations of South Caribbean Flamingos estimated in early 1980's around 10,000 and it has been determined that if Flamingos have a successful breeding season twice every 6-7 years the recruitment balances the losses over these years, (Voous, 1983). Numbers during dry winter of 2001-2002 down to less than 5000 for island, only around 100-150 at Gotomeer, 3 April, 2002, (JCL).

#### DUCKS AND GEESE, Anatidae

**Fulvous Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor* rare visitor - S.A. Bonaire-one record of 4 adults on fresh water lakes at Onima, 9 March-25 March, 1975 (FCL, A.L. Spaans, A A van den Boogaard).

**x Black-bellied Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis* rare visitor - S. A. one record for Bonaire of 13 birds seen near Sabana, 29 Jan, 1981 (FCL and party)

**Comb Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos* rare visitor - S. A., 3 records: Apr., 1975 , 8 birds Washikemba; one adult male Mona Passage, 17 April 1981 (FCL); Mar., 2000, 6 individuals on freshwater salina near park entrance (S. Stapert)

**American Widgeon** *Anas americana* rare winter visitor - N. A. One banded on 14 August, 1956 in North Dakota was recovered 9 December, 1956, on Bonaire (Voous); one seen in flock of 70 Blue-winged Teal, Washikemba lake, 1 Nov., 2001 (JCL, L. Sall).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* rare winter visitor- N.A; not listed in Voous, 1983, but on Field Checklist of the Birds of Bonaire, by Voous, published by STINAPA, Bonaire, 1993.

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta* rare winter visitor - N. A.; Two records; one male and one female seen on Playa Grande, 2-9 Feb., 1980, (FCL and Peggy Boyer); 1male in flock of White-cheeked Pintails, freshwater pond near Cai, March 10, 2001 (JCL, P. H.)

**White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis* nesting. Only 2 seen during morning of birding, 29 Dec., 2001 (JCL, J&A Watson, D. Preker). Returning to Gotomeer during first week of March, 2002, as 15 seen on 3 March, (JCL, C. Powell)

- Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* winter visitor - N. A. Only a few males seen in fall have crescent patch on cheek, then began to show this patch just prior to their northern migration, Apr., and during winter you cannot tell male from female even though they tend to remain paired, (JCL). On 16 Nov., 2001, at Washikemba, where water began to gather once again, 65 blue-winged teal were counted. All appeared in identical, brownish plumage with no males showing prominent crescent patch on cheek (JCL).
- Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*, rare winter visitor – N. A. , old record: 1973; recent records: 2 males, 1 female, Mar., 2000 (JCL, S. Stapert); 4 individuals seen in large flock of Blue-winged Teal on Washikemba Lake, 1 Nov., 2001, all appeared same brown color but large spatula-shaped bills were distinctive as well as conspicuously larger size than the teal (JCL, L. Sall)
- Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* winter visitor - N. A.
- Ring-neck Duck** *Aythya collaris* rare winter visitor - N. A. One adult male observed Wash/Slagbaai, 23 Jan, 1971 (P.A. & F. G. Buckley).
- xMasked Duck** *Oxyura dominica* rare visitor - S. A. 1 record of immature bird, Salina Martinus, 22 Feb., 1981V, FCL, CSR)

**RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS**, Rallidae

- Sora Rail** *Porzana carolina* winter visitor- N.A. Voous has it here from Aug 14 to Apr. 14 - one sighted on fresh water pond at Dos Pos is island's only summer record, 14 July, 2000 (JCL) - 5 on one fresh-water pond, Feb., 2000 (JCL, E. Roots); also, 4 found on last of freshwater pond near park entrance, 4 Nov., 2000, (JCL, L. Sall). Did not see any Soras for the year until 1 November, 2001, when 4 were seen on one small shallow, fresh-water pond along side the paved road along the mangrove marsh, after moderate amounts of rain had fallen in the past two weeks. (JCL).

- Common Moorhen** (Gallinule) *Gallinula chloropus* nesting, adults with 4 downy young, pond at Dos Pos, July, 2000 (JCL)
- Purple Gallinule** *Porphyryla martinica* ? nesting; very secretive, no recent records; old records: between 1954 and 1981, 23 records, and not a small number had blundered into houses at night, apparently attracted by lights , and all of these proved to be juveniles (Voous, 1983); an immature brought to me injured, found in back yard in Kralendijk, 13 Dec., 2001
- Caribbean Coot** *Fufica caribibaca* nesting: 4 active nests with at least 2 sets of downy chicks seen, Mar., 2000 (JCL)

NOTE: Spring and summer of 2001, continuing into spring 2002 has proven to be very dry. Large, fresh-water pond along the highway leading to Washington/Slagbaai National Park, almost totally dry last of August. Likewise, Washikemba fresh-water pond totally dry during first week of July 2001. Island's population of Least Grebes, Common Moorhen, Caribbean Coot, etc., apparently did not nest this year, and presumably have left the island.

In contrast the fall and winter of 1999 was an exceptionally wet one, (77 inches vs. 22 in average year) which was evidenced by many bird records during that winter and into the summer of 2000. Many fresh-water ponds remained active sites for large numbers of water birds throughout the year 2000 and began to finally dry up during summer 2001. (JCL, April, 2002)

**JACANAS**, Jacanidae

- Wattled Jacana** *Jacana jacana* 1 record, 1971- S. A.
- OYSTERCATCHERS**, Haematopodidae
- American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus* nesting; Seen quite regularly along east coast of Bonaire, (JCL). One at Sorobon peninsula, 29 Dec., 2001 (JCL, J&A Watson, D. Preker); one along coast near Gotomeer junction, 5 March, 2002, also 19 March (JCL).

**STILTS AND AVOCETS**, Recurvirostridae

- Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* nesting. Huge concentration of at least 500 seen in mangrove marsh near junction with Sorobon road, 1 Nov, 2001 (JCL). Numbers reduced to less than 90, 29 Dec., 2001 (JCL, J&A Watson, D. Preter). Numbers increasing along Gotomeer, mid-Mar.2002 as 30 were counted 16 March, 2002 (JCL).
- American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana* 1 record, 1979 - N. A.

**PLOVERS**, Charadriidae

- Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* non-br visitor - N. A. At least 10 seen during morning of birding, 29 Dec., 2001 in the Cai/Sorobon area, (JCL, J&A Watson, D. Preker). A sizeable flock of

at least 50 individuals appeared along wave-tossed coast before Bopek during first week of April (JCL). First report of fall birds, was 4 seen along shore of Gotomeer 29 August, 2002. (JCL, D. Walter).

- xWilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia* nesting
- Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* winter visitor - N. A. first record since Voous's published accounts, a single bird on seasonal fresh-water pond near park entrance, 24 Nov., 2000 (JCL, S. Stapert). Four individuals found on small fresh-water pond along highway to Lagoen, 16 Nov., 2001 (JCL).
- Piping Plover** *Charadrius melodus* rare winter visitor - N. A. One individual seen running on asphalt road at Salt Works described as "like snowy plover but with conspicuously yellow legs." (Frater Candidas in Voous).
- Snowy Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* nesting- First young of 2001 seen dashing along salt pan along road to Cai, 8 June, 2001. Comically, one second you notice 3 or 4, like balls of cotton on disproportionably long legs dashing about, then look again, and you see nothing. They hunker down next to a tiny rock or piece of wood and flatten out, and are very difficult to find. Winter records: 4 observed across from mariculture center near Sorobon, 29 Dec., 01, few other winter sightings. (JCL, J&A Watson, D Preter). First spring records of 2002, 16 April, along old salt pan along road into Cai, when 3 individuals were seen feeding in the foam along edge of pan, (JCL). First nest of 2002 with eggs, 10 May, when nest with 3 eggs found along road just past Goto Lake, (JCL) First young out of nest on 18 May, 2002, Salinas Cay (G. en Yoeke) Double nesting appears evident with a nest with 2 eggs found on 9 July, 2002, along same section of roadway of mudflats just past Gotomeer, (JCL). Adult observed sneaking away from nest and giving broken wing behavior, 29 July, 2002, and nest discovered with 2 eggs within 6 feet of paved road in the mudflats along Goto Lake. A few individual, 6, still seen along shore of Goto, 26 Sept., 2002, (JCL).
- Collared Plover** *Charadrius collaris* ?nesting record for 1892; recent records, 1 July, 1997, when 3 seen on mud flats across from Harbour Village Marina; another seen 8 July, 1998 along road in to Cai (JCL, J. Lanier, D. Preker). One seen along shoreline at Lagoen during mid-July, 2001 (JCL, C. Powell). Name is a fib to its true character of NOT having a collar around neck, and is the only *Charadrius* plover without this characteristic. Two seen at Playa Frans, 17 May, 2002 (G. en Yoeke).
- American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* winter visitor - N. A. One in eclipse plumage seen at salina Slagbaai, 26 Sept., 1997, (JCL).
- Black-bellied Plover (Grey)** *Pluvialis squatarola* winter visitor - N. A. Recorded every month of year, but more numerous on passage, Sept., -Oct., and May, (Voous, 1983); known as Grey Plover in Europe. During morning of birding, 29 Dec., 2001, 15 observed in Cai/Sorobon area. (JCL, J&A Watson, D. Preter); four seen morning of birding at Cai mangroves, 5 March, 2002, (JCL). Breeding plumaged bird seen in fresh water pond along side road near airport, 21 April, 2002, while others seen that day were still in gray winter plumage(JCL). Six individuals seen along mangroves, Cai, 26 Sept., 2002.

#### SANDPIPERS, Scholopacidae

- Red Knot** *Calidris canutus* winter visitor - N. A. Greenish legs, short bill, chunky body. Prefers saline shorelines, especially along south end of Bonaire, Pekelmeer. Confirmed sightings are 3 on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2001, 1 on 11<sup>th</sup> at Pekelmeer and 1 on 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at Sorobon, (C. Powell). 1 on 12 Sept., 2002 on margin of mangrove marsh, Cai,, with definite greenish legs and reddish on head with lighter red on upper throat, (JCL).
- Sanderling** *Calidris alba* non-br. visitor - N. A. Observed at least 15 during birding morning of 29 Dec., 2001 (JCL, J&A Watson, D. Preter).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Caladris pusilla* non-br. visitor - N. A. One observed along shore of Gotomeer, 3 March, 2002. Much grayer in coloration with slight brownish necklace, (JCL, C. Powell); another, same site, 3 Apr., 2002, (JCL). Trip report lists this species as follows: 30 on the 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2001, 28 on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 23 on 15 July. All identified at Pekelmeer and many were photographed at close range for aid in identification, (C. Powell)
- xWestern Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* non-br. visitor - N. A. Recent records: 1 on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2001 and 2 on 11<sup>th</sup> July, Pekelmeer area, (C. Powell). Largest proportion of peeps here in winter is this species, with Least being a close second. Hundreds examined where Western on shoreline of salina across from H. Village Marina, 24, 25, Sept., 2002, (JCL).
- Least Sandpiper** *Caladris minutilla* non-br. visitor - N. A. Quite common, 40 seen morning of birding along the mangroves and across from mariculture center near Sorobon, 29 Dec, 2001, (JCL, J & A Watson, D. Preker). Numbers definitely increasing during March, 2002, as 40 or so found along shore of Gotomeer 1<sup>st</sup> week March, 2002 (JCL).
- White-rumped Sandpiper** *Caladris funscicollia* winter visitor - N.A. -In late spring in bright rufous breeding colors, other times conspicuous white rump is evident when flying and seen in almost every flock of peeps. Flock of 11 observed feeding in salina across from Harbour Village Marina, 12 May, 2000, (JCL). Among literally hundreds of "peeps" on shallow salina across from Harbour Village Marina, at least 3 seen 25 Sept., 2002. Like Bairds, white-rumped has wing extension beyond end of tail when seen feeding, then after flying, the white-

rump is noticed. (JCL).

- Baird's Sandpiper** *Caladris bairdii* winter visitor - N. A. MAY be distinguished from other "peeps" by wing length longer than tail tip when seen probing for food in mud, (JCL, L. Sall), however, Nov., 2001 communication with Prof. Voous indicates that he is not convinced. Both "new" field guides, one by Kaufmann, the other by Sibley, both mention this characteristic.
- Pectoral Sandpiper** *Caladris melanotos* winter visitor - N. A. 2 seen, Playa Funchi, 1 with rufous colored breeding colors still evident, 18 Sept., 2002 (JCL, C. & C. Field ); 3 at Cai 21 Sept, 2002, (JCL). As many as 10 seen 23, 24, 25 Sept., 2002, salina across from H. Village Marina, (JCL). At least 20 seen during rainy spell, first week of Nov. 2002, feeding in freshwater pools along side roads and streets in Hato region of Kralendijk.
- Dunlin** *Caladris alpina* rare winter visitor - N. A. Not listed in Voous's 1983 *Birds of the Netherlands Antilles*, but is listed in his *Field Checklist of the Birds of Bonaire*, 1993, One individual seen by competent observer along salina at Harbour Village Marina, 31 August, 2002 (D. Walter)
- Stilt Sandpiper** *Micropalama himantopus* winter visitor - N. A. Chestnut cheek patch evident, 6Apr., 2000. Morning of birding, 1 Nov., 2000, flock of 25 + was seen Gotomeer and at least 10 others seen Playa Frans, (JCL, L. Sall); also large flock numbering around 75 seen Gotomeer Salina, 23 Nov., 2000 (JCL), feeding by spinning in small circles, phalarope-like, on brine flies floating on surface. Morning of birding revealed around 50 along the road in front of mariculture center near Sorobon, 29 Dec., 2001, (JCL, J & A Watson, D. Preter). Four seen on salina across from H. Village Marina 24 Sept., 2002, (JCL).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* 1 record, Oct. 1970 - N. A.
- Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* winter visitor - N. A. 1 observed on tiny fresh-water pond, Dos Pos, 20 Feb., 2001 (JCL, D&E Compton); also one at Mangel, 27 Feb., 2001(D&E Compton). Individual seen walking along sidewalk in Rincon, 6 Nov., 2001, after several moderately heavy rains within prior two weeks (JCL).
- Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus grieseus* winter visitor N. A. Literature leads one to believe that most dowitchers seen on Bonaire are of this species. Arrive in August. Around 20 on salina across from H. Village Marina 24 Sept., 2002. Flying individuals gave loud " tu tu tu" call. (JCL).
- xLong-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus Scolopaceus* winter visitor - N. A.

Note: Two preceding species are thought by some to be the most difficult of all birds to tell apart because of overlapping characteristics of subspecies. Best to try to hear them calling after flying. Short-billed Dowitcher's call is a whistled tu-tu-tu. Long-billed Dowitcher's call is a thin keek. However, when these two species are here on Bonaire, rarely do they make any sounds even if flushed. Only heard 2 individuals give flight call once at Boca Slagbaai 24 May, 1998 (JCL).

- Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica* rare winter visitor - N. A: 3 old records for Aruba, Curacao: 1962, 1977, 1979. This author's first record for Bonaire 13 Oct., 2000, one seen with 6 Whimbrels on salina across from Harbour Village Marina; one seen 3 Nov., 2000 on pond near park entrance (JCL); another seen 21 Sept, 2002, Cai. Another seen feeding with short-billed dowitchers, salina across from H. Village Marina, 25 Sept., 2002, (JCL).
- Whimbrel** *Numenius , phaeopus* non-br. Visitor- N. A. ; seen in mangroves at Cai. Fall migrants seen as early as July; infrequently during winter. Two winter plumaged birds observed south of Sorobon area in a shorebird rich area of shallow salt water overflowing from shrimp mariculture operation 18 Sept., 2002 (JCL).
- Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* 1 record, Aug 1977 - N. A.
- Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* non-br. visitor - N. A. Less numerous than Lesser Yellowlegs, 1 Nov., 2000 (JCL, L. Sall) Call is loud irritating call of three or four notes: KLEE-KLEE\_KLEE
- Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* non-br. visitor - N. A. Call is best for differentiating from Greater. Lesser's call is softer, cu-cu.
- Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria* non-br visitor - N A. Two seen, 30 Oct., 1998, salina Slagbaai, both with green legs,(JCL); 2 seen Wash/Slagbaai 18 Sept, 2002 (JCL, C. & C. Field).
- Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia* non-br. visitor - N. A. Spotted under parts evident April as they become less numerous.
- Willet** *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* uncommon non-br visitor - N. A. Quiet unexpectedly found to be nesting on Los Roques (Phelps in Auk 92, 1975), so nesting on Bonaire is not to be excluded. Four recent records: 1 oil-soaked bird found dead, Salina Slagbaai, 12 Sept., 1997; two other sightings for Bonaire all occurring at Salina Slagbaai were 26 Sept., 1997, 17 July, 1998 (JCL); 1 seen near park entrance, 11 Nov., 2000 on pond, (L. Akins, L. Whalen). One bird observed along mangrove-lined road into Cai, 9 March, 2002 (JCL, B. & L. Benjamin, C. Glendinning); 2 seen across from shrimp mariculture facility, Sorobon, 18 Sept, 2002 (JCL).
- Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* non-br. visitor - N. A. Leave in May for the far Arctic

tunda nesting grounds, start returning in mid-August.

- xRed Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicaria* rare visitor winter N.A., 1 record for Bonaire, Playa Frans, 7 Nov., 1999 (JCL, C. Herzfeld)
- Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* rare winter visitor – N.A. 3 records: Jan 1970, 1971, March 1979; two individuals seen by American Birding Association group of 6 at Gotoomeer while on island tour from Yorktown Clipper Cruise Ship, 5 March, 2002, and seen in good light through telescopes, trip leader (D. Canterbury).
- Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* rare winter visitor – N.A. 2 records, Jan 1979, 1971

#### JAEGERS, Stercorariidae

- Parasitic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus* 1 record, 7 Mar., 1998 (JCL), an Injured bird, an immature, dark brown and heavily barred wings and conspicuous sharp-spined central tail feathers was rehabilitated by local lady, Marlis. Brought In by local fisherman who report that they are seen far out at sea.

#### GULLS, Laridae

- Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla* nesting
- Bonaparte's Gull** *Larus philadelphia* rare visitor - N. A, 1 sight record, Sept, 1959E
- Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* rare- 1 record, 1976
- Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* rare visitor, 4 records; one recent, a bird seen by many observers along coast across from the airport as the one-half hour between connecting flights allowed a group of birders on their way back to Europe and England from Ecuador to positively identify this one individual, June, 2002 (R. Bartlett)
- Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus* casual visitor- N. A.; 1 record for Bonaire, a single bird

observed on dirt embankment of small pond alongside road east of Rincon, 21 July, 2000 (JCL, J. Lanier, B. Stefy)

#### TERNS, Sternidae

- Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* passage migrant, - N. A., 9 records on Bonaire from 1962 to 1981. Recent reord. one bird with all dark head, conspicuous large bill, solid black, resting in salina across from Harbour Village Marina, 23 Sept., 2002. (JCL). Because of its gull-like appearance probably often overlooked, (Voous)
- xCaspian Tern** *Sterna caspia* rare visitor - N. A. 2 records, 1970; occasionally seen on salina across from Harbour Village Marina and told from more common Royal Tern by larger size, and more black on under wing tips rather than black wingtips on upper wing surface as in Royal, (JCL).
- Royal Tern** *Sterna maxima* nesting. Common, especially in Lac Cai, Sorobon area.
- Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis* nesting; In most South Caribbean breeding birds, known as Yellow-billed Sandwich or Cayenne Tern, bill is straw-yellow, exceptionally orange, in others yellowish marked with variable amount of black, particularly at base of bill; in still others black predominates and even whole bill may be black with only tip yellow, (Voous, 1983). One individual, first sighting of year seen at Sorobon, 20 March, 2001, with flock of Royals and Laughing gulls had all yellow bill (JCL). First sighting of 2002. (D & E Compton), March 23, Pekelmeer area, one individual, with all yellow bill.
- Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougalli* nesting recorded In only two sites, Pekelmeer and Goto, (Voous). First found nesting on Aruba, 1892 and not rediscovered nesting until 1961 in same location, (Voous). No recent evidence of nesting on Bonaire. (JCL).
- Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* nesting. Usually arriving in early April, leaving in late Nov., nesting at salina Slagbaai but no more than 3 or 4 at nests, June, 1998, (JCL); examined photo taken by K. Muenz, 15 March, 2001, of an immature at the beach at Plaza Hotel, which shows the black margin of the leading edge of the wing as well as the over-all smaller size and black bill and feet as compared to nearby Royal Terns (JCL). First sighting of 2002. Sorobon, one immature with Royal Terns, 23 March. (D & E Compton).
- Bridled Tern** *Sterna anaethetus* non-br. visitor - N. A. Breeds in Aruba in small numbers and on Los Aves, Roques, Characteristic seabird of offshore zone, feeding regularly as far as 30 nautical miles off land, (Voous).
- Sooty Tern** *Sterna fuscata* breeding ? r - N. A. Oceanic, except Apr.,-Aug., (nesting: young in fully black plumage, seen 30 Apr., 1979, Bonaire). No recent records of nesting on Bonaire, 2002, (JCL). No more than 14 records away from Aruba nesting site. May be common offshore where it can be separated from

similar Bridled Tern by Sooty's habit of soaring high above horizon out on the sea, (Voous).

**Least Tern** *Sterna albifrons* nesting; first occurrence for the year heard on 17 Apr., 1998 (JCL, J Lanier) and 19 Apr., 2000 (JCL, S. Stapert); nesting in numbers less than 12, July, 1997, salina Slagbaai, nests in other locations, along rocky coasts in Washington/Slagbaai National Park in great numbers (JCL). Earliest arrivals, 21 April, 2002, when a flock of 7 were observed at Lagoen (JCL, D. Walter).

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger* rare visitor - N. A.

**Black Noddy** *Anous minutus* rare visitor - Caribbean--- 1 record, 1952. Recently, summer 2001, a bird was found in back yard and was the first one seen in 35 years of birding on Bonaire, (B. Lusse).

**xBrown Noddy** *Anous stolidus* rare visitor- Caribbean, possibly roosting on cliffs at Malmouk lighthouse; 1 seen flying along shoreline, east coast, near Seru Grandi, 1 Sept., 2000 (JCL) One individual observed flying along shoreline south of the shrimp mariculture facility, 21 Oct., 2002 (JCL).

#### SKIMMERS, Rynchopidae

**Black Skimmer** *Rynchops nigra* rare, from S.A, 1 record, April, 1979, Lac, (Voous).

#### HAWKS, Accipitridae

**White-tailed Kite** *Elanus leucurus* rare visitor - S A.

**Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* rare. One record of a single bird observed flying along highway in residential area of Nord Salina, northern Kralendijk, 26 April, 2002 (G. en Yoeke). Excellent description of a "beautiful bird, white with black back and rear wing-lining and long, scissor-shaped black tail." This species has been seen in the Caribbean, Central America as well as residing in southern North America and South America, so, it would be impossible to tell the origin of this particular individual.

**White-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albicaudatus* now extirpated? previous nester, no confirmation by this author but has been reported in the Washikemba area.

#### OSPREY, Panadionidae

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* non-br. visitor - N. A. almost always to be found, but more common in winter, where 4 to 10 can be seen on almost any morning of birding along the coasts, (JCL). Only one seen in suitable coastal area on morning of birding, 9 April 2002, (JCL).

#### CARACARAS AND FALCONS Falconidae

**Yellow-headed Caracara** *Milvago chimachima* 1 record-1996, Christmas week, mangroves at Cai

**Crested Caracara** *Polyborus plancus* nesting- formerly common, decreasing in numbers in recent years- 9 Jan., 1998 a total of 10 individuals were seen during the day and 6 were together in one flock; most likely observed in Boca Slagbaai Park, where feeding on lizards by walking on ground. Reports heard of multiple individuals observed to be harassing very young goats trying to hide in dense tangle of thornbrush. Possibly kills and eats such prey items (JCL). Pair observed copulating 25 March, 2001 near Santa Barbara, (JCL). Observed fully adult overtake Red-necked Pigeon in flight and knock it to the ground and immediately land on it and began to pluck feathers from the still-alive pigeon and to eat it, 14 March, 2002, at Dos Pos. (JCL) Pigeon appeared too large for the caracara to fly off with because it drug the struggling pigeon into the brush. Seldom observed behavior is one of a pair throwing head back and making cackling sound and noted several times at site in Peaceful Canyon where a pair is frequently seen. Not to be confused with courtship, but indicates perceived threat (J. Eberhard, per. comm.). Morning of birding within the park revealed 3 birds, all with brown coloration on neck, indicating immature birds, 18 Sept, 2002, (JCL,

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* rare on Bonaire, 3 records; fairly common nester on Aruba, Curacao, rest of West Indies. Bonaire-one bird seen hovering at Pekelmeer, 12 May, 1960 (members of the Florida Audubon Society); others at Pekelmeer, 28 July, 1973 (JR), and 8 March, 1980 (FCL and Peggy Boyer).

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius* winter visitor -N.A. 5 recent records: 17 Oct., 1997; 30 Jan., 1998; 6 Mar., 1998; 14 Oct., 1998, one found dead, Rincon; 14 Oct., Cai mangroves (S. Stapert); 1 Apr., 1999, first of year 2000, 1 Nov., near Playa Frans, a single bird, (JCL, L Sall). Marlis, local who rehabilitates injured birds of all types, found an unidentified bird of prey, emaciated and unable to fly but with no apparent injuries in Subadeco region, north of Kralendijk, on 11 Dec., 2000. Size and darker barring on tail helped proved it was this species and not Peregrine Falcon. It was a male, beginning to show bluish feathers on back and after initially refusing any food, it began to eat chicken livers and seems to be recovering. Pellets found on climb up Mount Brandaris by S. Stapert, 10 Feb., 2001, most likely of the diameter to be this species and small bones of birds were found as

contents. [One individual along Gotomeer, 27 March, 2002. \(JCL\)](#)

x **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* uncommon winter visitor - N.A-- recorded between 15 Sept., and 2 May-- recent records include individuals observed on following dates-17 Oct., 1997; 21 Nov., 1997; 28 Nov., 1997; 18 Mar., 1999; 26 Mar., 1999; 17 Oct., 1 Nov., 2000, 3 Nov., 2000 (JCL); two seen soaring near each other over Sand Dollar Dive Shop, 19 Nov., 2000 (JCL, J. Lanier) single bird observed feeding on captured White-tipped Dove, 23Nov., 2000, (JCL). [Several \(6-8\) during winter/spring '01/'02; birds seen 3 April, 9 April 2002. \(JCL\)](#)

#### PIGEONS AND DOVES, Columbidae

- Red-necked Pigeon** *Columba squamosa* nesting Found only in the Greater and Lesser Antilles.
- Bare-eyed Pigeon** *Columba corensis* nesting Found only along Caribbean coasts of Northern S. A.
- Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata* nesting. Found in S.A, southern Caribbean, and southernmost Lesser Antilles
- Common Ground Dove** *Columbigallina passerina* nesting- perhaps most common bird on Bonaire.
- Ruddy Ground Dove** *Columbigallina talpacoti* 1 record 1980 – S.A.
- White-tipped Dove** *Leptorila verreauxi* nesting
- Rock Dove** *Columba livia* nesting

#### PARAKEETS AND PARROTS, Psittacidae

**Caribbean Parakeet (Brown-throated)** *Aratinga pertinax xanthenogenus* 2 nests located Ap., 2000 both excavated in active territory (JCL). Pairs of adults seen at two territory in W/S National Park, 11 and 13 Jan., perhaps were examining potential nest sites, (JCL); nest in hollow tree with entry surrounded by termite mound found 24 April, 2001, near dive site, Jeff Davis Memorial, (largest tree along shoreline) and one adult flew from entrance and both adults were very reluctant to leave site; Family groups of 4 commonly counted during mid-May, 2001 (JCL). [During last half of July, 2002, several aggregations of parakeets were observed to be gathered together feeding a young bird, and in some cases, two young were observed being fed and giving a peculiar begging call, wing flapping behavior that immediately alerted me to them. This begging by young of the year persisted into the middle of Sept., 2002, showing a rather lengthy dependency of the young toward the adults \(JCL\).](#)

**Yellow-shouldered Parrot** *Amazona barbadensis rothschildi* nesting, endangered, population counts in 1997, 1998, 2002, around 350- 400 in wild, perhaps 3x this number held as captive birds in cages. One must not miss the extravagance of parrots that feed on the ripening mangoes at Dos Pos at sunrise, starting in June each year and lasting until all the mangoes are eaten, sometime in July or early August. Strong evidence of nesting in holes in cliff face between Karpata and Rincon, May, 2001 (JCL); [flock of 65 returned to roosting in grove of trees along extreme northeastern edge of Kralendijk during last week of February, 2002, after cessation of rain, \(JCL\).](#) A flock residing in the Gotomeer region was counted during the island wide parrot count on January 26, 2002, after an interruption of 3 years of counting. This flock numbered 75 in 1998, and 95 during the current count. The roost site was still being used as of 11 March, 2002, but only by 25 individuals that came in at sunset 18:43, (JCL, C. Glendinning). Evening of 13 March, 2002, roosting population down to only 10 individuals (JCL, D & E Compton). None coming in to roost on evening of 8 April, 2002, (JCL).

#### CUCKOOS, , Cuculidae

x **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus* winter visitor - N. A. Every Oct., birds are found in weakened state, some floundering just offshore in water, and many dead found on ground during Oct., Nov., 1997. Largest number seen on one trip was 8 as we drove in to Playa Frans, 7 Nov., 1997, (JCL, C. Herzfeld). [Two individuals seen on 1 Nov., 2001 and one found dead along road. Both individuals appeared to be in weakened condition as they weakly flew from middle of highway. On 2 Nov., 2001, 6 individuals were seen during a 1.5 mile bird walk near Dos Pos, all apparently in strong flight. One came in to water sprinkler there but did not bathe \(JCL\). Most likely a flight of this species came onto the island during the first 2 days of the month, and with a couple of days rest, apparently recovered fully and continued on with migration to South America. \(JCL\). One individual seen Dos Pos, 26 Sept., 2002. \(JCL\).](#)

**Mangrove Cuckoo** *Coccyzus minor* rare visitor - S. A, Little is known of this unobtrusive and quietly moving species, (Voous).

**Gray-capped Cuckoo** *Coccyzus lansbergi* visitor from – S. A. 1 record, Oct., 1981, Nikiboko, a wounded female caught by local school teacher. Specimen in Zoological Museum Amsterdam, (Voous).

**Grove-billed Ani** *Crotophaga sulcirostris* nesting and seen very irregularly almost anywhere on island except mangroves, (JCL). Observed one, in flock of seven, with tail of *Cnemidophorus murinus ruthveni*,

Bonarian Whiptail lizard, hanging out 2 cm. from mouth, 7 Nov, 1999, (JCL). On 19 June, 2001, in Rincon a flock of three were observed trying to catch small *Anolis bonariensis*, which one of the flock finally caught and ate. (JCL).

#### OWLS, Tytonidae

☐ **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* nesting not confirmed, but frequent sightings, photo, ( M. Nahr). Pellets

found contained remains of bats (JCL, 1998); one Individual was watched as it lit on road at Dos Pos at sunset, 7 June, 2000 (Jennifer and Lynn Mather). One found recently killed along Rincon highway 13 Oct., 2000 (JCL).

#### NIGHTJARS AND NIGHTHAWKS, Caprimulgidae

☐ **White-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus cayennensis* nesting. Can be found along dirt roads at night especially on outskirts of town where last streetlights provide a bit of privacy and light enough to attract moths and other insects that attract the nightjars, especially dependably seen on microwave hill above village of Rincon. Bonaireans call it 'palabrua' meaning black magic bird referring to bright reddish eye shine reflected by light at night. Nest with 2 pinkish eggs found on bare ground, female gave a feeble broken-wing ploy, Apr., 30, 2000 (JCL); two almost fully feathered young on same nest, female gave the best broken-wing act to try to decoy us away, 19 May, 2000, (JCL), 1 week later only evidence of nesting was the clean, bare space where the nest site was located. Perhaps same female nested again within 12 feet of April 30th nest, again with 2 eggs and same behavior with the broken-wing act, 21 July, 2000, (JCL, J. Lanier, B. Steffy). Six observed at the street lights on microwave hill overlooking Rincon, 26 Feb., (JCL, D & E Compton). On 19 June, 2001, a female gave broken-wing act at identical site where female nested twice in succession during Apr-July, 2000. A young bird was discovered nearby which flew a short distance and landed, then walked into cactus-dominated area where it disappeared. This was only evidence of nesting during the dry year of 2001 (JCL). Only two individuals seen at Microwave Hill site, night of 28 March, 2002 (JCL, D & E Compton).

☐ **Chuck-will's Widow** *Caprimulgus carolinensis* 1 record, Nov., 1981, visitor from - N. A.

☐ **Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis* rare visitor 1 record, Oct., 1979 - S.A.

☐ **Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor* rare visitor – N. A. One individual observed at dusk near tennis courts, Harbour Village Marina, 14 June, 2000 (JCL).

#### SWIFTS, Apodidae

☐ **Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica* 2 sight records, 1975, 1979 rare visitor- N.A. An undetermined species of *Chaetura* was observed and photographed in Wash/Slagbaai National Park, 12 July, 2001, (C. Powell).

#### HUMMINGBIRDS, Trochillidae

☐ **xRuby-Topaz Hummingbird** *Chrysolampis mosquitus* nesting. Can occur in large groups of 8 or 10 whenever favorite flowers trees are evident as on 14 Oct., when white flowers of *Cordia* sp. Nest under construction 30 Nov., 2001, but one week later proved to be a failed attempt, at Dos Pos on a terminal limb of a mango tree about 10 feet above ground (JCL)

☐ **Common Emerald Hummingbird** *Chlorostilbon melisugus* nesting. Found nest on shoulder high stump of cactus used as fence along road at Dos Pos, 6 Dec., 1998, with 2 young, (JCL, D. and S. Fried); nest found along rim road, Peaceful Canyon, by guest Charlotte Sharp, during morning of birding, 3 April, 2002 (JCL, M. & C. Sharp), female on nest with 2 eggs Two eggs still unhatched on 9 April, 2002. Nest partly destroyed, eggs gone, no female in sight morning of 21 April 02 after week of heavy rain (JCL, D. Walter).

#### KINGFISHERS, Alcedinidae ,

☐ **Belted Kingfisher** *Ceryle alcyon* winter visitor-N.A. recorded between 11 Sept., and 4 May. Four seen 1 Nov., 2000 (JCL, L. Sall)

#### WOODPECKERS, Picidae

☐ **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius* rare winter visitor – N. A. :1 record 4-12 Dec, 1976

#### TYRANT FLYCATCHERS, Tyrannidae

**Caribbean Elaenia** *Elaenia martinica* nesting. Least numerous of resident tyrant-flycatchers on Bonaire. Last specimen on Aruba was collected in 1930, but most likely still can be found on all three islands, (Voous, 1983). Pair carrying nesting material, Dos Pos, 27 July, 1998, (JCL). Morning of birding, 20 Feb., 2001, as many as 6 seen around Dos Pos area, (JCL). During spring of birding, around 5 seen per morning in northern sections of island where birding activity is most frequent. Observed 3 young following adult just inside Peaceful Canyon rim, 9 April, 2002. (JCL, D. Walter, R & R Coleburn).

**Lesser Elaenia** *Elaenia chiriquensis* ? nesting. Unable to determine status on Bonaire, (JCL).

**Smooth (Scrub) Flycatcher** *Sublegatus modestus* nesting. At least 3 immature being fed by adults, Bronswinkel, 8 Sept., 1998, (JCL).

Note: quite a problem in identification are these 3 species, but overall, look for the elanias to have base of lower bill light-colored, and a fainter yellow on the abdomen, and a fairly conspicuous white stripe at mid-crest, especially when agitated; Smooth Flycatcher's bill is solid black, and deeper yellow on abdomen and sharper demarcation between gray of upper breast and yellow of abdomen. Smooth looks like a miniature Brown-crested Flycatcher, but without the Rufus tail feathers, and crest. Call note of Lesser Elaenia is a "thin 'peer-weer', resembling Scrub Flycatcher's call and totally different from the loud, whistling call note of Caribbean Elaenia." (Voous, 1983). Individual sitting on small, very tidy nest astraddle a 2-inch (5 cm) thick limb of mesquite about 4 meters (13 ft) above the ground at head of Peacefull Canyon, 29 Nov., 2001 (JCL).

**Eastern Wood Pewee** *Contopus virens* winter visitor – N. A. 2 old records, Oct., 1979, May, 1980. Recent record, 27 Sept., 2002, an individual seen feeding low in acacia, seemed much more alert than similar-sized scrub with active head movements scanning for insects, also no bright yellow on abdomen as scrub. (JCL).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus boreaffs* -rare winter visitor - N.A. 2 records, 4 May, 1961; one came in to sprinkler, Dos Pos, 5 May, 2001, (JCL).

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* nesting. One observed feeding on red fruit of 'manzalina bobo', *Metopium brownie*, which is toxic to humans, 10 July, 1997; at least 10 seen along a typical drive through Wash/Slagbaai park flying across dirt road, 3 Oct., 1997, (JCL). Bright lemon yellow of lower abdomen and conspicuous brown crest with longish, rufous tail, and fairly large size, are all good field marks.

**xStreaked Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes maculatus* rare visitor-SA. Listed on Voous' Field Checklist of the Birds of Bonaire, revised, 1993, but, no details available and no apparent recent records .

**Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* nesting previously. First record in at least six years, 13 July, 2000 (JCL, S. Stapert), a pair seen at freshwater pond, alongside road, near park entrance. Bright yellow breast very evident. Not to be confused with Brown-crested Flycatcher, which prefers more wooded habitats, and much different overall appearance and habits, This and Fork-tailed Flycatcher appear to be highly dependent on locally wet years with heavy precipitation and suitable open areas over fresh-water ponds where they can be seen hawking for insects from exposed perches. Another sighting of a single bird was recorded on 16 July, 2001, along highway in front of Habitat. (JCL).

**Grey Kingbird** *Tyrannus dominicensis* nesting; i common, but easily mistaken for Tropical Mockingbird.

**Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus* 1 record, Oct., 1977-rare - NA.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Muscivora tyrannus* occasional straggler from S.A.; 2 birds observed, Dos Pos, 15 June, 2000 S. Stapert; another individual seen a few weeks earlier in Sorobon area by same observer. Another sighting of a pair, 13 July, 2000 (JCL, S, Stapert), at fresh-water pond near park entrance. These individuals, likely sub-adults, did not have conspicuously long, forked tails of adults, but more normal sized tail feathers, Head conspicuously black They were observed to be feeding with a pair of Tropical Kingbirds, also quite uncommon, in open areas over water and around the edge of the pond and both species were observed to be hawking from their exposed perches to catch large Insects, often landing on open ground to pursue prey. Sighting of both species, Tropical Kingbird and Fork-tailed Flycatcher, were the first on Bonaire by the author in 6 years of birding. As this site began to dry up during fall, 2000, Tropical Kingbird was no longer seen and Fork-tailed Flycatcher last seen 3 Nov., (L. Sall), and with conspicuously long tail feathers. Another Fork-tail Flycatcher was seen along the coast across highway from the airport by an ardent birder from England who had some time before his departure flight, and used this time wisely, 15 July, 2001 (C. Powell).

#### SWALLOWS AND MARTINS Hirundinidae

**Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* visitor - N. A. More common in fall, rare in spring; one observed in flock of Barn Swallows at Gotomeer, 24 April, 2001 (JCL).

**Rough-winged Swallow** *Steligidopteryx ruficollis* 1 record, 1979-rare visitor - N. A.

**Caribbean Martin** *Progne dominicensis* fall, spring - West Indies. Four records from Bonaire,

earliest, 7 May, 1966.

**Purple Martin** *Progne subis* fall, spring - N. A. Voous mentions that only field observations of male with uniform dark underparts accepted because of similarity to preceding species. Records for Bonaire: May, 1961, 1962.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* fall, winter, spring - N. A.; quite common during migration. First fall migrants seen in July, 2002 (JCL). Still migrating through on 9 April, 2002.

**xCliff Swallow** *Hirundo pyrrhonota* fall, spring -N.A. Three seen Slagbaai salina, 24 Oct., 1997 flying with large flock of Barn Swallows; 5 or 6 seen flying over Sand Dollar Dive Shop, 18 Nov., 1997, (JCL).

#### MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS, Mimidae

**Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* nesting, flock of 7 coming to watering at Dos Pos, 6 April, 2002, (JCL).

**Pearly-eyed Thrasher** *Margarops fuscatus* nesting, easily seen at watering time, Dos Pos; at other times rather difficult unless you learn the beautiful song that I compare to a violist tuning up before a performance, i.e., song is composed of short phrases, then a pause, then another short phrase, then another pause, etc..(JCL).

#### THRUSHES, Turdidae

**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* 1 record, Dec., 1975 rare visitor - N. A.

**Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus* fall, spring - N. A.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus* fall, spring - N. A. One individual seen feeding on ground, Put Mangel, 24 Oct., 1997; 3 seen 14 Oct., 2000, Bronswinkel, (JCL).

**Veery** *Catharus fuscescens* ) uncommon visitor - N. A. 4 records, Oct., 1975, Nov., 1979; Oct., 1997, 1998 (JCL).

#### STARLINGS, Sternidae

**Common Starling** *Sternus vulgaris* rare, 1 record, Nov., 1980

#### WEAVERS, Passeridae

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* introduced, nesting, increasing populations. First observation for 1000 Steps, single bird observed 8 Dec., 2000 and at Boca Slagbaai, 13 Jan., 2001, considered to be inhabiting entire island (JCL).

#### VIREOS, Vireonidae

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* occasional visitor -N. A. Bird of this species found recently dead in front of Capt Don's Habitat. 13 Sept., 2002, (JCL).

**xBlack-whiskered Vireo** *Vireo altiloquus* nesting. Pair came to spraying water at Dos Pos during arid month of March, 2001 also frequently during rest of arid summer and also on 5 October, (JCL). Observed nest in late stages of construction, 29 Nov., 2001 at head of Peacefull Canyon, and an adult sitting on nest, 1Dec., 2001 (JCL); dependable at Dos Pos and at other wooded sites like Fontein, March, 2002. (JCL).

#### WOOD WARBLERS, Parulidae

**Black-and-White Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* .- migrant and winter - N. A. 14 records, mostly Oct.

**Golden-winged Warbler** *Vermivora chrysoptera* migrant and winter - N. A; not listed in Voous, 1983, but on Field Checklist of the Birds of Bonaire, revised, 1993.

**Tennessee Warbler** *Vermivora peregrina* 4 records, April, 1977 Nov., 1977, 1981,-migrant and winter - N.A.

**Northern Parula Warbler** *Parula Americana* 6 records, mostly Oct., 1979, 1981, 2 records for Apr., 1964, 1978-migrant and winter - N. A.

**Magnolia Warbler** *Dendroica magnolia* rare migrant and winter - N. A. No listing in Voous's *Birds of Netherlands Antilles, 1983*, but listed in Voous's Field Checklist of the Birds of Bonaire, revised, 1993; 1 record, a female, 27 Feb., 2001 at Bronswinkel, (D&E Compton).

**Yellow Warbler** *Dendroica petechia* nesting, resident. Typical half day afield, one should encounter 35 to 40 individuals; not like N. A. yellow warblers in that the adult males in the West Indies have reddish caps on their heads (JCL).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Dendroica pennsylvanica* -migrant and winter - N. A. 1 old record Nov., 1977; more recently a molting male photographed and reported to me as being seen near Salina Martijs with in Washington/Slagbaai National Park, 25 Mar., 2001, (J. & A. Wells).

**Cerulean Warbler** *Dendroica cerulea* 2 records, Oct, 1975,1979-migrant and winter- N.A.

- ❑ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Dendroica caerulescens* migrant and winter - N. A. 3 fall records, Nov., 1975, 2 in Oct., 1977- one female came in to bathe, Dos Pos, 10 April, 2001 (JCL); 2 different females again came in to splashing water at Dos Pos, 24 April, 2001, (JCL)
- ❑ **xBlack-throated Green Warbler** *Dendroica virens* few records-May, 1962, 1976; April, 1999, Mangel, (JCL)migrant and winter - N. A. (Caution- fall sight records should be carefully described because of possible confusion with similar fall warblers.
- ❑ **Blackburnian Warbler** *Dendroica fusca* -migrant and winter - N. A. Apr., 1958, 1975, Nov., 1971, Oct., 1981; one encountered at Dos Pos 23 Dec., 2000 was obviously male with orangish-yellow head (JCL, D. Wille); another immature male came in to bathe at water sprinkler, Dos Pos, 26 May 01 (JCL).
- ❑ **Cape May Warbler** *Dendroica tigrina* 2 records, Apr., 1976, 1977 migrant and winter - N. A.  
(Caution- fall records should be carefully described)
- ❑ **Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Dendroica coronata* migrant and winter - N. A. 2 records, Apr., 1977; one adult male came in to bathe under splashing water at Dos Pos, 24 April, 2001, (JCL).
- ❑ **Blackpoll Warbler** *Dendroica striata* common migrant and winter – N.A. Be aware of the confusion created by fall warblers with prominent wing-bars: blackpolls have faintly streaked sides of breast, white undertail coverts, bright wing-bars. Many records for Bonaire, over 100 observed Oct., 1998 (JCL). Most common migratory warbler in fall. First fall blackpoll for 2001 was a single bird at Dos Pos that came in to bathe, 5 October; also, for 2002, first blackpoll was on 14 Oct seen along the northern end of promenade, Kralendijk, (JCL).
- ❑ **Bay-breasted Warbler** *Dendroica castanea* 3 records, 2 In Oct., 1959, 1981, Apr., 1978- migrant and winter - N. A. (Caution-buff undertail coverts and flanks of autumn birds must be seen to avoid confusion with autumn Blackpolls)
- ❑ **American Redstart** *Setophaga rusticilla* autumn- winter visitor- N. A. - common, but less so than Blackpoll in autumn; One bird observed along Tolo trail, 1 Oct., 1997 (JCL, L. Sall); first of year, 1 bird, 4 Sept., 2000, Put Mangel (JCL); a single female seen and described by S. Stapert on 20 April., 2001, and perhaps the same female verified on following day at same location, Andrea 1 dive location, (JCL); bright adult male came in to splashing water at Dos Pos, 24 April, 2001, (JCL). A male seen morning of 12 April, 2002, along edge of thick grove of trees in Hato region, and a female observed along north road near Boca di Diablo, 13 April, 2002 (JCL).
- ❑ **Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapillus* 14 fairly old records, all pre-1983-migrant and winter-N.A. One recent record, 22 Oct., 2002, when one individual was seen by visiting scientists attending ocean conservation conference, Dos Pos.
- ❑ **Northern Waterthrush** *Seiurus noveboracensis* common migrant and winter – N. A. more common during wet winters, especially around fresh water ponds in northern part of island. Single bird came in to sprinkler, first week of Nov., 2001 (JCL). One observed morning of birding along mangroves near Cai/Sorobon, 29 Dec., 2001 (JCL, J & A Watson, D. Preker); records on March 3, 2002 at Fontein, one individual, and one at Dos Pos, 5 March, 2002, (JCL). Another individual, feeding under thick canopy in grove of trees in Hato, 13 April, 2002, and an individual sighted at Fontein every time it is visited, as again on 10 April, 2002, (JCL).
- ❑ **Louisiana Waterthrush** *Seiurus motacilla* rare migrant and winter - N. A. (Caution- salmon buff flanks, pink legs must be confirmed to avoid mistaking this from more common Northern Waterthrush); reliable records few.
- ❑ **xProthonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea* -migrant and winter - N. A. numerous records, mainly fall; 1, Oct, 1997, and 2, Nov., 1999; Mar., 2000 (B.Rosensteil); 1 Cai mangroves, 21Dec., 2000 (JCL); one, bright spring male at Dos Pos, 24 Feb., 2001 (JCL); and one on 24 March, 2001, Lac, Cai, (Jeff Wells); first fall warbler of 2001 was a bird, 17 September (J. Eberhard). First fall warbler seen in 2002, again was a prothonotary at Put Bronswinkel, 18 Sept., 2002 (JCL, C&C Field).
- ❑ **Kentucky Warbler** *Oporornis formosus* - migrant and winter - N. A. mainly fall migrant and winter - N.A; less than a dozen records, all prior to 1983
- ❑ **Connecticut Warbler** *Oporornis agifls* -migrant and winter - N. A. at least 20 records, pre-1980; 1 for 1 Oct 1997, (JCL , L. Sall)
- ❑ **Hooded Warbler** *Wilsonia citrina* migrant from N.A. Approximately a dozen records, pre-1980; 1, March, 1997, Dos Pos (JCL); 1 on 4 April, 2001, at Dos Pos, (E. Mueller). An interesting characteristic for this beautiful warbler is the prominent large eye, standing out boldly on the bright yellow face. One study showed that the Hooded's eye size to be the largest among 32 species of warbler analyzed, a characteristic related to its preference for deeply shaded habitats where it nests in N. A. and where one is most likely to find it on migration here on Bonaire. (Warblers, by Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett, 1997). One male observed coming to watering at Dos Pos, 3 March, 2002, (JCL, C. Powell); perhaps same individual seen by American Birding Association tour at Dos Pos, 5 March, 2002, trip leader, (D. Canterbury). A female and male came in to sounds of water flowing at Dos Pos on the evening of 11 March, 2002, (JCL, C. Glendinning); also a male at same site on 4 April, 2002 (JCL, D. Walter). Individual, male, sighted at Dos Pos again on 13 April, 2002, (JCL).

- Canada Warbler** *Wilsonia canadensis* migrant and winter - N. A.

### TANAGERS AND HONEYCREEPERS

- Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* nesting resident; Difficult to tell which is most common bird on Bonaire, this species, Common Ground Dove, or Black-faced Grassquit.
- Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana* First record for Netherlands Antilles sighted at Playa Frans on morning of 5, July, 2001. Excellent photos taken, in evening, 5 July, 2001 (J. & A. Wells). No records known for Venezuela, or the West Indies.
- Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea* -migrant and winter - N. A. more frequent in spring, 1 Apr., 1998, (M. Kaiser), 2 Apr., 1998 (E. Schultens); one molting male, reddish-green in color and very blotchy, seen in W/S National Park, 13 Jan., 2001 (JCL, J. Lanier); another male, red and yellow in color came in to spraying water at Dos Pos, during very dry period, 3 Apr., 2001 and a bright red male with black wings also came in to bathe, 10 April, 2001 (JCL)
- Red-legged Honeycreeper** *Cyanerpes cyaneus* 1 record, 1961

### GRASSQUITS, SPARROWS AND GROSBEAKS, Emberizidae

- Saffron Finch** *Sicalis flaveola* rare nester? First confirmation of sighting by this author was morning of 7 March, 2002 in the yard of Kelly Thorp, across from Divi Flamingo Dive Shop. She related that she had first seen this species in 1994, and that they were seen carrying nesting material on the previous day. In Venezuela this species is found throughout the northern half and also on Curacao, (JCL, W. & J. Dirks). Two birds seen along highway in front of Sand Dollar Condos were feeding on the ground, 19 August, 2002 for the second locality sighting on Bonaire. Appears to be an influx of this species as other small groups have been seen along highway during the last two weeks of August, 2002 (JCL).
- xBlack-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris bicolor* nesting
- Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina* 1 record June, 1979-rare visitor - S. A.
- Grasshopper Sparrow** *Ammodramus savannarum* rare nester, no recent records t eggs found in June, 1977 (Voous, 1983).
- ?Rufous-collared Sparrow** *Zonotrichia capensis* Curacao, Aruba, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela. Bonaire-introduced, ?, no recent records; 1 for 1978; may no longer be present on Bonaire (JCL).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Phoebastria ludovicinus* several records, mainly fall, 1 Oct., 1995+, one bird (D. Gassart) migrant and winter- N. A.
- Blue Grosbeak** *Guiraca caerulea* rare visitor - N. A. ; not listed in Voous, 1983, but in his Field Checklist of the Birds of Bonaire, 1993.
- Indigo Bunting** *Parrerina cyanea* few records-migrant and winter visitor - N. A: Jan., 1977; Jan-Feb, 1981; one individual looked like a large reddish, female Black-faced grassquit, and was feeding on the ground very grassquit like, at Tolo trail, 1 Oct., 1997(JCL). A bright male was observed in a yard in Subedeco during the last week of March and on 15 April, 2002 (S. Burns). Being a "beautiful blue" just about eliminates everything else here on Bonaire (JCL).

### BOBOLINKS, GRACKLES AND AMERICAN ORIOLES

- Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* - migrant - N. A. conspicuous in large flocks, usually fall; recent records, Oct., 1994, 1996, 1997, Sept., 1998, 1999; Oct., 2000, a single bird; flock of 50 at Fontein 21 Oct., 2000 (JCL)
- Carib Grackle** *Quiscalus lugubris* resident from S. A. Prior to 1983, Voous considered this species a rare visitor with only 1 record- now nesting (S. Stapert, 1998) and spreading in distribution. First sighting in area near Harbour Village Marina, a flock of 5 seen flying near tennis courts, 8 June, 2000 (JCL). Easily seen nesting in large tree in front of Blue Ribbon Rice Company, Kralendijk, March, 2001, (JCL). At least 8 active nests in large ficus tree outside rice company with adults seen carrying food, 29 Dec., 2001 (JCL, J & A Watson, D. Preker).
- Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna* -rare visitor - N. A 1 record, Nov., 1977
- Yellow-hooded Blackbird** *Agelaius icterocephalus* rare visitor- S.A. 2 records, Jan., 1977, Mar., 1979.
- xBaltimore or Northern Oriole** *Icterus galbula* rare migrant spring and fall -Oct., 1978; May, 1962.; First year female came in to water outside apartment window in Hato region of Kralendijk, 16 Oct., 2001 for my first island sighting. Had white underparts with bright yellow upper breast and tail, much darker side of neck and head, two prominent wing-bars (JCL).
- Troupial** *Icterus icterus* nesting, Introduced 1973 (6 birds) and 1975 (12 birds). Now found throughout island especially northern, more wooded sections.
- Yellow Oriole** 202 species for Bonaire *Icterus nigrogularis* nesting- conspicuous pendant nest seen hanging from outermost limbs of trees throughout Northern section of island. Slightly less common than

preceding (JCL).