

LESSER ANTILLES:

Aboard the Sea Cloud

*A special departure for the
Cornell Lab of Ornithology*

February 28-March 8, 2018



St. Lucia Parrot, *Amazona versicolor*. Photo: David Ascanio.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology staff:

John Fitzpatrick, Brian Sullivan, Scott Sutcliffe & Bramble Klipple

VENT Leaders:

Victor Emanuel, Barry Lyon, David Ascanio & John Harrison

Compiled by: David Ascanio

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003 AUSTIN
TX 78746
WWW.VENTBIRD.COM**

The Lesser Antilles aboard the Sea Cloud

A special departure for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

February 28-March 8, 2018

Compiled by David Ascanio.

Photo album link:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157693657490754>



Brown Trembler, *Cinclocerthia ruficauda*. Guadeloupe. Photo: David Ascanio.

“Five countries, six islands and a wonderful ship to sail the Caribbean” That’s has to be the way to start the field list compiling the wonderful birds seen as we sailed between the Lesser Antilles aboard the incomparable Sea Cloud. We travelled for the birds but also enjoyed the unique cuisine, learned about endemism, discussed sugar trade, learned about back-and-forth battles reshaping the political boundaries of these islands as well as other aspects of the Caribbean people’s life.

The Caribbean Sea vibrated with pastel blue or green colors that introduced us to different islands every day and allowed to look for the endemic parrots, tremblers, hummingbirds, orioles and bullfinches that these laboratories of endemism do host.

Our treasure wasn’t gold, nor sugar. It was every one of the unique species either endemic or restricted distribution birds, that were enjoyed during the cruise. To find these treasures it seemed like every island offered a unique challenge. Below is a summary of each of the Lesser Antilles visited in hope that this incredible experience remains with you for many years!

Barbados

The easternmost island of the Lesser Antilles

A long line at the customs in Barbados airport welcomed everyone to a trait of the Caribbean culture where a laid-back attitude is always accompanied by a magnetic happiness. Yet, outside the airport we were met by wonderful people whom arranged the transportation to the hotel in a very effective way. Soon after the hotel check-in we were adding the first endemic bird to our list, the Barbados Bullfinch (*Loxigilla barbadensis*). Also, we noticed that Carib Grackle (*Quiscalus lugubris*) in this island is not dimorphic (meaning that males and females look alike). In fact, this species here is more compact and its voice different from that of the remaining Lesser Antilles. Another distinctive feature of Barbados was to see Zenaida Doves (*Zenaida aurita*) walking in open areas and Bananaquits (*Coereba flaveola*) with broad eyebrow and distinctive scratchy voice. This all happened within hours. Welcome to the Lesser Antilles!

The next day started with Barbados Bullfinches and Bananaquits visiting the open areas where the hotel serves breakfast and few Caribbean Martins (*Progne dominicensis*) were soaring over the beach. It seemed to us that few martins were nesting in the roof on a peer contiguous to the breakfast area. A visit to Graeme Hall sanctuary gave us the opportunity to see the only active nesting colony of Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) in the Americas.



Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*. Barbados. Photo: David Ascanio.

We continued with a tour around the island and after a Caribbean lunch we were transferred to the port of Barbados where the magnificent Sea Cloud with its amazing crew welcomed us.

At Sea

Cruising from the Atlantic Ocean to the Caribbean Sea: sea bird time!

The day opened with views of White-tailed Tropicbirds (*Phaethon lepturus*) from the ship's open deck. Also, several Red-footed Boobies (both morphs, brown and white) and few Brown Boobies (*Sula sula* and *Sula leucogaster*). A flash view of a Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) and a pair of Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) turned out to be a new species for our field checklist. By midmorning we gathered to learn about the "Magic of Islands", a lecture by John Fitzpatrick that allowed understanding the process of endemism occurring in the Lesser Antilles. During the afternoon, we celebrated a wonderful encounter with a group of Clymene Dolphins (*Stenella clymene*) and enjoyed a wonderful lecture about the Sugar Barons by John Harrison.



Clymene Dolphin, *Stenella clymene*. Caribbean Sea. Photo: David Ascanio.

Dominica

Paradise wiped-out by hurricane Maria

As we approached to Dominica we noticed that hurricane Maria effects were still visible. Hills had landslides and much of the forest seemed partly denuded. We were able to confirm this at closer distance when we reached the Syndicate Estate, in the vicinity of Mourne Diablotin. We heard from our local guides that the trees had lost their foliage after the hurricane and that all the forest was basically brown. Fortunately, a secondary growth has emerged and this has allowed to keep the rich nutrients of the soil. By the time of our visit, the trees were getting leaves again but the sunlight was still reaching the forest understory. About the birds. The Red-necked Parrots (*Amazona arausiaca*) were quite conspicuous as well as the Plumbeous Warbler (*Setophaga plumbea*). We owe a big thank you to Dr. Birdie (our Dominican guide) for getting us into a site where we nailed the Blue-headed Hummingbird (*Cyanophaia bicolor*). Some of us opted to stay in the forest while others returned to the ship. Before we closed the morning, some of us got spectacular views of the Rufous-throated Solitaire (*Myadestes genibarbis*), locally called *Mountain Whistler*. The afternoon was quieter but we added superb views of House Wren (a forest bird here, with rufous plumage and distinctive voice) and Scaly-breasted Thrasher. Yet, we missed the Imperial Parrot (*Amazona imperialis*) and we can only guess that

there's no reason for it to come to the lower elevations since the trees had to fruit nor nuts to offer.

Guadeloupe

Difficult, very difficult and almost impossible

Last night, during dinner I was joking in the table that today was the day to seeing a difficult bird, a very difficult one and an almost impossible to see bird! The Bridled Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon mystacea*) was the difficult one. The Guadeloupe Woodpecker (*Melanerpes herminieri*) was the very-difficult one and the Forest Thrush (*Turdus inherminieri*) was the almost-impossible to see bird. So, with that in mind we left the ship before dawn to the Guadeloupe National Park, in Guadeloupe (of course!). Barry, Victor, Fitz, Scott and myself had plan how we were going to organize the access of the two groups into the area where we had seen the Bridled Quail-Dove in previous tours and were hoping it could stay long enough for everyone to see it. What happened was one of the great bonus that nature can ever give to a birding group and the events unfolded in such synchronized and wonderful way that we could not believe it. As I was enjoying great views of the quail-dove with half of the group, Barry reported to having very close views of it as well with the other half as they were waiting to access the area. So, the search of the Forest Thrush continued and we had one hoping right in front of us. Well, guess what? Barry had about the same experience with the other half of the group. Cowabunga! There was one remaining target, the woodpecker and to our amusement, a pair came right to the tree I wanted them to land. So, by 09.30AM we had seen difficult, very-difficult and almost impossible to see!



White-tailed Tropicbird, *Phaethon lepturus*. Photo: David Ascanio.

The morning continued with a visit to Les Jardins de Valombreuse where we added more views of Guadeloupe Woodpecker and a surprising Forest Thrush in the lower trail of the gardens. Back to the ship we enjoyed a lecture about Christopher Columbus. The day closed with incredible views of various constellations including Orion, the Big Dipper, the Pleiades and other less popular ones.

Martinique

The day to look for *difficult* and *almost-impossible*

Today's activities started with great expectations. If we nailed the three difficult-to-see birds yesterday, it was clear to us that today's target species were equally difficult, if not more challenging. As soon as we disembarked the tenders in Martinique's pier, we noticed a female Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) eating a Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) at the top of an awkward looking glass-wall hotel. After seeing this falcon plucking the feathers of the dove, we drove to the dry side of the island, in the Caravelle Peninsula, the one facing the Atlantic Ocean. Here is where one of the last remaining populations of the critically endangered White-breasted Thrasher (*Ramphocinclus brachyurus*) remains. Over the years, we have learned that this species behaves much like a leaf-tosser (a group of Furnarids found in Central and South America) and that they usually move in small (family?) groups. In order to increase the chances of finding the target species we divided into three groups. Soon after the first group walked into the trail we heard that Brian had found three thrashers and that his group got amazing views of it. He continued deeper into the trail as David walked into the trail with his group. For the second group, it was getting harder to see the thrasher, as they remained behind a fallen branch. In the meantime, Barry took the third group into the forest edge at sides of the ruins.



White-breasted Thrasher, *Ramphocinclus brachyurus*. Martinique. Photo: David Ascanio.

As David's group waited for the thrashers to show up, we heard Scott whispering: I got the oriole! So, we move few meters back into the entrance of the trail and with some playback we nailed what I considered the almost-impossible to see species of the day, the Martinique Oriole (*Icterus bonana*). As we walked back to the main road a trio of White-breasted Thrashers showed up and provided spectacular views of them. They were busy in checking leaf litter in search for arthropods. As we nailed the thrashers in the trail we also heard that Barry had also astonishing views of this species at the forest edge below the Chateau Dubuc. The morning ended with more participants enjoying views of the Martinique Oriole and a drive back to the ship accompanied by a lecture by the local guide of several cultural aspects of Martinique.

During the afternoon, we set sails and enjoyed wonderful views of the Sea Cloud from the zodiacs as Sperm Whales (*Physeter microcephalus*) were observed in the distance and later learned from John Fitzpatrick and Brian Sullivan the importance of the eBird project in producing big data for the conservation of birds.



Bridled Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon mystacea*. Guadeloupe. Photo: David Ascanio.

St. Lucia

The most beautiful of the Lesser Antilles

Lovely St. Lucia is always a favorite among cruise participants. First, because you approach to the island viewing the famous and astonishing Pitons as the sunrises from behind the island. Second, because of their relaxed and welcoming culture and third, because it hosts an amazing birdlife. After tendering to the dock, we drove to the community of Bouton and just as we were getting out of the vans we started the morning with scope views of the Antillean Euphonia (*Euphonia musica*). After nailing one of the difficult ones, we divided into two groups and all enjoyed views of the St. Lucia Parrot (*Amazona versicolor*), the St. Lucia Warbler

(*Dendroica delicata*) and the Lesser Antillean Pewee (*Contopus latirostris*) – this subspecies being a good candidate for a future split and other more widespread birds such as the Lesser Antillean Bullfinch (*Loxigilla noctis*) and the Lesser Antillean Flycatcher (*Myiarchus oberi*). Another endemic followed, the St. Lucia Oriole (*Icterus laudabilis*) and the subspecies of House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*).



St. Lucia Warbler. *Dendroica delicata*. St. Lucia. Photo: David Ascanio.

As we continued our search for birds, we started exploring a bamboo in search of another endemic and possibly the most difficult-to-see in the island, the St. Lucia Black Finch (*Melanospiza richardsoni*). Despite some playback, the bird remained shy and difficult and only few participants had seen it. Then, I got those that have missed it around me and I said: “keep your eyes down, close to the ground, don’t look at eye level!” Well, you know how birding works. After a soft playback, you bet what happened was about the opposite: a male came out and perched on a twig above eyelevel! Having seen the black-finch we were ready to return to the ship for a wonderful lunch. In the afternoon, some participants came back to the forest for more birding and other participants took the swimming excursion. We sailed out of the Soufriere bay with an amazing sunset and the satisfaction to have seen all of the endemic of this beautiful island.



St. Lucia Oriole. *Icterus laudabilis*. St. Lucia. Photo: David Ascanio

St. Vincent

In search of a beautiful parrot and another *almost-impossible*

Our last birding activity of the Lesser Antilles Cruise was in the island of St. Vincent. This excursion brought us to a whole new experience: a visit to one of the most beautiful protected areas in the Caribbean, the Vermont forest. The challenging activity started before dawn into a trail that leads to a viewing platform. The walk was challenging but the beauty of the forest kept everyone in good spirit. I am sure that everyone loved hearing the endemic St. Vincent Parrots (*Amazona guidingii*) calling and barking over the forest canopy as we walked the steep trail to the platform. Despite that the morning remained quiet and the bird activity was low, we were able to observe the magnificent St. Vincent Parrot in the scope and added several views of flying individuals. We continued the trail to search for one of the most difficult-to-see bird in the Caribbean, the Whistling Warbler (*Catharopeza bishopi*). We had heard it when we were ascending the trail but it was too dark to call it back. Despite much effort and search later in the morning, no individual was seen. But we added more Brown Tremblers (*Cinclocerthia ruficauda*) - we noticed its dawn song, quite musical! - Grenada Flycatcher (*Myiarchus nugator*) and some of us got to see the Lesser Antillean Tanager (*Tangara cucullata*). Then, we drove to the St. Vincent Botanical Garden and enjoyed more views of the Grenada Flycatcher and we added Spectacled (Bare-eyed) Thrush (*Turdus nudigenis*), the St. Vincent subspecies of House Wren (quite pale with an eyeline and distinctive eyebrow) and a pair of Lesser Antillean Tanagers. Time went fast and we had to return to the ship. As we sailed back to Barbados, we enjoyed a large feeding flock of (mostly) Red-footed Boobies and Brown Boobies, plus added Sooty Tern and Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) - a big *Thank You* to Brian for spotting and identifying these two species. The afternoon activities concluded with a lecture by Fitz about the use of "Media for Conservation projects" by the lab and followed by the Captain's farewell cocktail and dinner.



Sunset on the Caribbean from the Sea Cloud. Photo: David Ascanio.

THE LESSER ANTILLES ABOARD THE SEA CLOUD ITINERARY

28 Feb 2018. Arrival to Barbados.

01 March 2018. Morning in Graeme Hall and Colleton House. Embarkation.

02 March 2018. At sea.

03 March 2018. Dominica. Syndicate Estate.

04 March 2018. Guadeloupe. Parc National de la Guadeloupe (Guadeloupe National Park) and Les Jardins de Valombreuse (Gardens of Valombreuse).

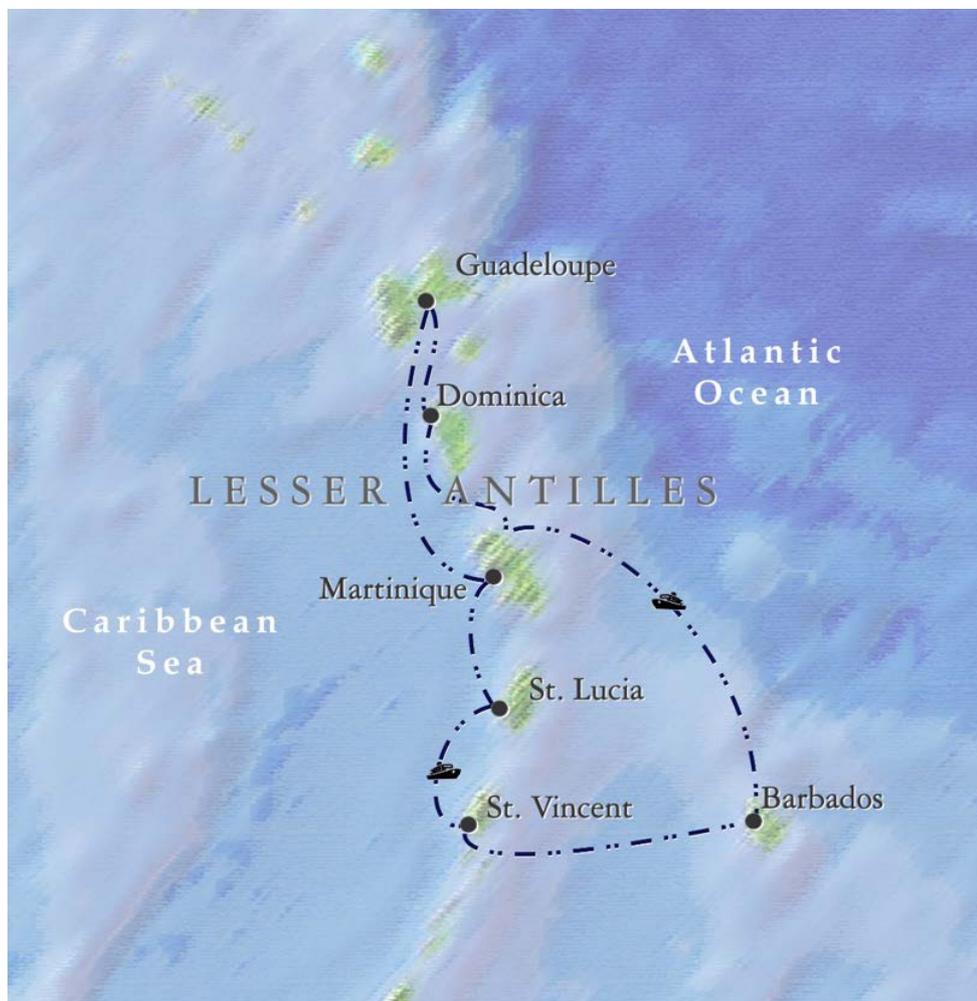
05 March 2018. Martinique. *Réserve naturelle nationale de la presqu'île de la Caravelle*

(Caravelle Peninsula natural reserve).

06 March 2018. St. Lucia. Bouton community road.

07 March 2018. St. Vincent. Vermont Forest trail and St. Vincent Botanical Gardens.

08 March 2018. Barbados. Disembarkation. Departure for international flights.



THE BIRDLIST

Procellariidae / Petrels and Shearwaters

Black-capped Petrel. *Pterodroma hasitata*. Caribbean Sea.

Manx Shearwater. *Puffinus puffinus*. Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean.

Audubon's Shearwater. *Puffinus iherminieri*. Caribbean Sea.

Hydrobatidae / Storm-Petrels

Leach's Storm-Petrel. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. Caribbean Sea.

Phaethontidae / Tropicbirds

White-tailed Tropicbird. *Phaethon lepturus*. Seen in the Atlantic Ocean between Barbados to Dominica. We noticed its distinctive wing patches.

Frigatebirds / Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*. Daily views.

Boobies and Gannets / Sulidae

Brown Booby. *Sula leucogaster*. Various individuals were seen in the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

Red-footed Booby. *Sula sula*. The most numerous of the boobies. Common in the Atlantic Ocean.

Pelicans / Pelecanidae

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*. Particularly common around Guadeloupe.

Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns / Ardeidae

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*. Observed in Barbados and St. Lucia.

Great Egret. *Ardea alba*. Seen in Dominica and St. Lucia.

Little Egret. *Egretta garzetta*, A breeding colony was observed in Graeme Hall, Barbados.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*. Barbados, Martinique and Dominica.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*. Barbados and St. Lucia.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*. A common species in the Lesser Antilles. Apparently, arrived at these islands during the second wave of individuals (first documented in Suriname, in the late 1800).

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*. Seen in Barbados, Guadeloupe and St. Vincent.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*. Seen in Graemne Hall, Barbados.

Black-crowned Night-Heron. *Nycticorax nycticorax*. St. Lucia.

Ospreys / Pandionidae

Osprey. *Pandion haliaetus*. Observed in Barbados.

Hawks, Eagles and Kites / Accipitridae

Common Black-Hawk. *Buteogallus anthracinus*. St Vincent. This subspecies (*cancrivorus*) is sometimes regarded as a separate species.

Broad-winged Hawk. *Buteo platypterus*. Although being a boreal migrant species in South America, the Lesser Antilles host a resident population of this species. Seen in Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Barbados.

Rails, Gallinules and Coots / Rallidae

Common Gallinule. *Gallinula galeata*. A wetland species found in Barbados and St. Lucia.

Plovers and lapwings / Charadriidae

Semipalmated Plover. *Charadrius semipalmatus*. One individual was observed in Graeme Hall, Barbados.

Sandpipers and Allies / Scolopacidae

Spotted Sandpiper. *Actitis macularius*. Single individuals were observed in Barbados, Guadeloupe and St. Vincent.

Solitary Sandpiper. *Tringa solitaria*. A single individual was seen in Graeme Hall, Barbados.

Gulls, Terns and Skimmers / Laridae

Laughing Gull. *Leucophaeus atricilla*. Amazing numbers in St. Lucia. I counted 180+ individuals.

Royal Tern. *Thalasseus maximus*. Few pairs in Martinique, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

Sooty Tern. *Onychoprion fuscatus*. Seen twice. Atlantic Ocean.

Pigeons and Doves / Columbidae

Rock Pigeon. *Columba livia*. Introduced. Common in urban areas in most islands.

Scaly-naped Pigeon. *Patagioenas squamosa*. Particularly common and easy-to-see in Barbados. A forest species in Guadeloupe, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

Eurasian Collared-Dove. *Streptopelia decaocto*. Introduced. Observed in Barbados, Guadeloupe and Martinique.

Common Ground-Dove. *Columbina passerina*. Seen in most islands.

Ruddy Quail-Dove. *Geotrygon montana*. Flushed in St. Vincent trail. Seen by few participants.

Bridled Quail-Dove. *Geotrygon mystacea*. When it comes to quail-doves, this one wins the beauty contest. A fabulous group dynamic allowed us to see five individuals in various locations surrounding the picnic area and the waterfalls trail, in Guadeloupe.

Zenaida Dove. *Zenaida aurita*. Particularly common and easy-to-see in Barbados. Also seen in Martinique and St. Vincent.

Eared Dove. *Zenaida auriculata*. First seen in St. Lucia and later elsewhere in St. Vincent.

Cuckoos / Cuculidae

Smooth-billed Ani. *Crotophaga ani*. Dominica.

Mangrove Cuckoo. *Coccyzus minor*. Briefly seen in Dominica and later, in an open branch in St. Lucia.

Swifts / Apodidae

The swifts are probably the least known family of birds in the Americas. That is because of their habits to travel long distance and roost in hard-to-find locations.

Short-tailed Swift. *Chaetura brachyura*. Reported in St. Lucia.

Lesser Antillean Swift. *Chaetura martinica*. A common species found in most of the Lesser Antilles. Not numerous this time.

Hummingbirds / Trochilidae

Purple-throated Carib. *Eulampis jugularis*. This exquisite hummingbird was enjoyed by everyone in the cruise. We came across it many times in the islands of Dominica, Guadeloupe, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

Green-throated Carib. *Eulampis holosericeus*. This species was another gem of the Lesser Antilles. It was seen in Barbados, Guadeloupe, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

Blue-headed Hummingbird (E). *Cyanophaea bicolor*. This time it was hard to find this species due to the low number of flowers in Syndicate Estate. Most cruise participants got to see it inside the trail in Dominica.

Antillean Crested Hummingbird. *Orthorhynchus cristatus*. Another little gem of the Lesser Antilles. We noticed the crest color difference among the northern and southern Lesser Antilles. It was seen in almost every island.

Kingfishers / Alcedinidae

Ringed Kingfisher. Observed in Dominica.

Belted Kingfisher. *Megaceryle alcyon*. Seen in Barbados.

Woodpeckers / Picidae

Guadeloupe Woodpecker. *Melanerpes herminieri*. Endemic to Guadeloupe. A pair was observed in the picnic area of the Guadeloupe national park. It was later reported in the Velambrouse gardens as well. The epithet *herminieri* was given after Felix Louis l'Herminiere, a French naturalist in Guadeloupe. We enjoyed three pairs of this island endemic!

Falcons / Falconidae

Merlin. *Falco columbarius*. Dominica.

Peregrine Falcon. *Falco peregrinus*. Martinique.

Parrots / Psittacidae

Red-necked Parrot (E). *Amazona arausiaca*. Endemic to Dominica. The commonest and probably the easiest-to-see parrot in the Lesser Antilles. We saw it perched, in flight and at close distance.

St. Lucia Parrot (E). *Amazona versicolor*. S Endemic to Saint Lucia. Everyone enjoyed great views of this parrot along the Bouton community road.

St. Vincent Parrot (E). *Amazona guildingii*. Endemic to St Vincent. To find this species we tried two locations in the same protected area. Those that were ready to walk a steep trail to the lookout area joined Fitz, Brian, Scott and myself. Barry and Victor lead the group to see the parrot from the forest edge. Everyone enjoyed good views of it!

Orange-winged Parrot. *Amazona amazonica*. Introduced. A large roost was observed along trees near the sea as we entered the bay in Martinique.

Rose-ringed Parakeet. *Psittacula krameri*. Introduced. Barbados.

Tyrant Flycatchers / Tyrannidae

Caribbean Elaenia. *Elaenia martinica*. A common species seen in most islands.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia. *Elaenia flavogaster*. SV. Seen only in the St. Vincent botanical gardens. A common species in northern South America.

Lesser Antillean Pewee. *Contopus latirostris*. This little tyrant-flycatcher is fond to forest edge. It was first found in a citrus plantation in Dominica and later in St. Lucia. Some taxonomist has suggested that the St. Lucia population might be a separate species, the St. Lucia Pewee, *Contopus oberi*.

Grenada Flycatcher. *Myiarchus nugator*. A target species in St. Vincent. It was seen nicely in the Vermont Forest and in the botanical gardens. We noticed its incredible resemblance with Great-crested and Brown-crested Flycatchers.

Lesser Antillean Flycatcher. *Myiarchus oberi*. A pair was observed in Dominica and a second pair in St. Lucia.

Gray Kingbird. *Tyrannus dominicensis*. This species was seen in all islands. Some Lesser Antilles populations of this species do migrate to northern South America. We noticed its enormous bill size compared with populations in other locations of the Americas.

Vireos / Vireonidae

Black-whiskered Vireo. *Vireo altiloquus*. Few individuals (nesting?) were observed in Barbados. Fewer in St. Lucia. The migratory route of this species is not completely understood.

Wrens / Troglodytidae

House Wren. *Troglodytes aedon*. This is a complex species in the Lesser Antilles with various candidates to be elevated to species rank. Below a summary:

Troglodytes aedon rufescens. The most rufous of all of the House Wren. It is basically, a forest species. Seen in Syndicate Estate.

Troglodytes aedon mesoleucus. St. Lucia. This one prefers desert scrub and open areas. Seen along the road to Bouton school.

Troglodytes aedon musicus. The palest of all of the House Wren in the Lesser Antilles. Observed in the Botanical Gardens of St. Vincent.

Thrushes and Allies / Turdidae

Rufous-throated Solitaire. *Myadestes genibarbis*. We were serenated by the wonderful voice of this solitaire in Dominica. Locally called Mountain Whistler.

Cocoa Thrush. *Turdus fumigatus*. St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Not seen by everyone.

Spectacled (Bare-eyed) Thrush. *Turdus nudigenis*. Seen at the Botanical Gardens of St. Vincent.

Forest Thrush. *Turdus lherminieri*. Everyone got to see this almost-impossible to see bird in Guadeloupe.

Mockingbirds and Thrashers / Mimidae

White-breasted Thrasher (E). *Ramphocinclus brachyurus*. Endemic to Martinique and St Lucia. All three groups enjoyed astonishing views of two small groups as they were tossing leaves in search for arthropods. Endemic and highly endangered!

Scaly-breasted Thrasher. *Allenia fusca*. First seen in Dominica and later in all the remaining islands except for St. Vincent.

Pearly-eyed Thrasher. *Margarops fuscatus*. A common species in Dominica and Guadeloupe.

Brown Trembler. *Cinlocerthia ruficauda*. The tremblers are comical birds with a unique behavior to shake the wings constantly. It has been suggested that the population from Guadeloupe may represents a separate species. There are

currently two species tremblers recognized and this one is more widespread. We saw this one in Dominica and Guadeloupe. Later, it was seen also in St. Vincent. Gray Tumbler (E). *Cincloerthia gutturalis*. Found only in St. Lucia and Martinique. Once considered conspecific with the previous species, this tumbler has paler underparts. Everyone enjoyed views of it in St. Lucia. Tropical Mockingbird. *Mimus gilvus*. Common in Martinique and St. Vincent.

New World Warblers / Parulidae

Northern Waterthrush. *Parkesia noveboracensis*. Heard only. Barbados. Whistling Warbler (E). *Catharopeza bishopi*. Endemic to Saint Vincent. Despite much effort, goes as heard only for this time.

Plumbeous Warbler (E). *Setophaga plumbea*. An easy-to-find warbler. It was seen in Dominica and Guadeloupe.

Yellow Warbler. *Setophaga petechia*. This interesting species is resident in the Lesser Antilles. The Barbados form is also called Golden Warbler while the Martinique form (with complete chestnut-maroon hood) is called Mangrove Warbler. Seen in both islands.

St. Lucia Warbler (E). *Setophaga delicata*. Endemic to St Lucia. Another easy-to-find warbler. Seen by everyone in St. Lucia. It favors open areas.

Tanagers and Allies / Thraupidae

Lesser Antillean Tanager. *Tangara cucullata*. This tanager is a relative to the commoner and more widespread Burnished-buff Tanager in northern South America. Some of the ones that walked the steep trail in St. Vincent saw it. Also seen by some in the Botanical Gardens of St. Vincent.

Bananaquit. *Coereba flaveola*. Anywhere you see bananaquits you sort of see it once and ignore for the rest of the trip. Not the way in the Lesser Antilles. We saw individuals with a dotted wingbar, some with broader throat patch and others with reduced throat patch. Furthermore, there is an all-black form in St. Vincent. Seen in all islands.

Black-faced Grassquit. *Tiaris bicolor*. A common species seen in open areas of all of the Lesser Antilles except for Guadeloupe.

Lesser Antillean Bullfinch. *Loxigilla noctis*. A common and gregarious species that visits open areas, forest edge and is tolerant to human disturbance. It was seen in all the islands except for Barbados, where is replaced by the endemic bullfinch there.

Barbados Bullfinch. *Loxigilla barbadensis*. This bullfinch was the first of the endemic birds to be seen in our tour. They're so conspicuous that they can be seen virtually in every open area of Barbados. Some were trying to take bread from the buffet breakfast!

St. Lucia Black Finch (E). *Melanospiza richardsoni*. Endemic to St Lucia. Seen by many when a male jumped to an open twig along the Bouton road in St. Lucia.

Lesser Antillean Saltator. *Saltator albicollis*. Guadeloupe and Martinique.

Troupials and Allies / Icteridae

Carib Grackle. *Quiscalus lugubris*. Our first sighting of this species was in Barbados, which host an interesting and distinctive population since they are not sexually dimorphic (meaning males and females look alike). Furthermore, the populations of Guadeloupe, Martinique and St. Lucia are vocally distinct from the ones inland South America. Here you got a good example of what's likely to be

two cryptic species and probably both will be restricted to the Lesser Antilles. We saw both forms.

Shiny Cowbird. *Molothrus bonariensis*. Seen in Barbados and St. Lucia.

St. Lucia Oriole. (E). *Icterus laudabilis*. Endemic to St. Lucia. Seen well along the Bouton road. Nice studies of a single individual inspecting dead hanging leaves of a tree.

Martinique Oriole (E). *Icterus bonana*. Endemic to Martinique. This oriole has proved to be one of the most difficult-to-find endemic bird in the Lesser Antilles. Seen by David's group and later by few other participants when we tried to find it again inside the trail. The epithet *bonana* refers to the false believe by the local farmers that this species ate the bananas in the plantations.

Siskins, Crossbills and Allies / Fringillidae

Antillean Euphonia. *Euphonia musica*. Everyone enjoyed scope views of this beautiful euphonia as Fitz gave a short lecture about its incredible - and short - digestive system.

OTHER SPECIES LIST

Sperm Whale. *Physeter macrocephalus*. At Sea.

Humpback Whale. *Megaptera novaeangliae*. At Sea.

Small Asian Mongoose. *Herpestes javanicus*. Introduced in the Lesser Antilles.

Antillean Fruit-eating Bat. *Brachyphylla cavernarum*. Dominica.

Dominican Ground Lizard. *Ameiva fuscata*. Dominica.

Barbados Anole. *Anolis extremus*. Barbados.

Dominican Anole. *Anolis oculatus*. Dominica.

Guadeloupe Anole. *Anolis marmoratus*. Guadeloupe.

Martinique Anole. *Anolis roquet*. Martinique.

St. Lucia Anole. *Anolis luciae*. St. Lucia.

St. Vincent Bush Anole. *Anolis trinitatis*. St. Vincent.

Johnstone's Whistling Frog or Coqui Frog. *Eleutherodactylus johnstonei*.

Introduced. Dominica and St. Vincent.

Flying Fish. Exocoetidae (This family comprises about 64 species of flying fish).

Leaf-cutter Ants.

Arboreal Termite.