

**Summering Arctic and Subarctic Waders in the Caribbean Islands of Curaçao and Bonaire.**—The fact that large numbers of arctic and subarctic wading birds spend the breeding season far outside their breeding ranges is well known and instances of nonbreeding summering waders in the tropical islands of Aruba, Curaçao, and Bonaire have been reported elsewhere (Voous, *Studies on the Fauna of Curaçao and other Caribbean Islands*, 8, 1957). Still, the following notes which summarize field observations made by me in these islands in the period from June 18 to July 12, 1961, may be of interest, since almost certainly all these refer to birds that in this summer had not left their tropical winter range. At the same time it is too early, even for the earliest birds, to have already returned from their northern breeding grounds. These summering birds occurred only in very small numbers, which is in marked contrast to the enormous numbers of waders present in these islands at other times of the year. It is noteworthy that during the period mentioned we did not observe any specimen of the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*); three weeks later we saw two of these birds in winter plumage in Curaçao on August 4; but these could as well have been the first arrivals from the northern breeding grounds.

Curaçao and Bonaire belong to the southern group of Netherlands Antilles; they are situated in the southern Caribbean Sea at approximately 12 degrees north latitude. They have rocky shores, coral sand beaches, lagoons, and extensive saline mud flats.

*Charadrius semipalmatus*. Semipalmated Plover. Only once seen, on July 8 (one), on mud flats behind mangroves (*Avicennia*) at Lac, Bonaire.

*Squatarola squatarola*. Black-bellied Plover. Once observed in Curaçao (June 26) and four times in Bonaire (July 6, 7, 8). Only once was more than one bird seen at a time (July 8, two). All birds were in white-bellied plumage.

*Arenaria interpres*. Ruddy Turnstone. Two observations in Curaçao (June 24, 26) and five times seen in Bonaire (July 6, 10, 12). Mostly represented by one or a few individuals. There was one observation of more than ten specimens on July 12, when about 50 birds were seen on a rough coral shingle wall behind the sea at Goto, Bonaire. Most of these birds were in full bright summer plumage, whereas the birds seen on the other occasions were at their best in a mixed summer plumage.

*Tringa (Totanus) melanoleuca*. Greater Yellowlegs. Once observed in Curaçao (June 29) and three times in Bonaire (July 6, 7, 8). Only one bird was seen at a time. The birds seen in Bonaire on July 7 and 8 had dark round spots on the breast and therefore must have been at least partly in summer plumage.

*Tringa (Totanus) flavipes*. Lesser Yellowlegs. Once observed in Curaçao (June 19) and three times in Bonaire (July 8, 10, 12). Only on one occasion was more than one bird seen at a time (July 10, two).

*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*. Willet. Three observations in Bonaire (July 8, 9, 12). One bird was shot from a group of two in a shallow pool behind mangroves at Lac, Bonaire (July 8); on the other occasions only one bird was seen. The bird collected was a male, molting from a brownish gray into another gray plumage. Length of wing 203 mm., bill from forehead, 68½ mm. On account of its large size the bird is considered to belong to the western race *inornatus* and hence represents the first record of this race from the Netherlands Antilles.

*Crocethia alba*. Sanderling. Only once seen, on July 12 (one), in light gray winter plumage, on the mud shores of Pekelmeer, Bonaire.

*Ereunetes pusilla*. Semipalmated Sandpiper. Twice seen in Curaçao (June 19, about ten; June 24, about five) and once in Bonaire (July 6, two).

*Ereunetes mauri*. Western Sandpiper. At least two were identified as this species (long bills) among a flock of about ten *E. pusilla* which were feeding on the shores of Jan Thiel Bay, Curaçao, on June 19.

*Erolia minutilla*. Least Sandpiper. Three observations of one solitary bird each time on the shores of the Pekelmeer, Bonaire (July 6, 7, 12; possibly the same bird).

*Micropalama himantopus*. Stilt Sandpiper. One observation of three birds in splendid summer plumage, feeding together in one-inch deep water on the shores of Pekelmeer, Bonaire, July 7.—K. H. VOOUS, *Zoological Museum, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, September 10, 1962.*