

NEW BIRD RECORDS FROM GUADELOUPE AND MARTINIQUE, WEST INDIES

PHILIPPE FELDMANN

*Lot 4, Belair Desrozières
97170 Petit-Bourg
Guadeloupe, French West Indies*

EDOUARD BENITO-ESPINAL

*B.P. 801-97173 Pointe-à-Pitre CEDEX
Guadeloupe, French West Indies*

ALLAN R. KEITH

*278 Standish Street
Duxbury, Massachusetts 02332*

Abstract.—Relatively little new bird distribution data from the French-speaking Lesser Antillean islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe has been published in the English language literature for twenty years. The status of 62 species is reviewed here with emphasis on those species whose status differs from that portrayed in the 1998 American Ornithologists' Union Check-list. Several species not heretofore recorded from or previously found breeding in these islands are documented. Photographs of record for eleven species have been deposited at VIREO.

NUEVOS INFORMES DE AVES PARA LAS ISLAS DE GUADALUPE Y MARTINICA, INDIAS OCCIDENTALES

Síntesis.—Durante los últimos 20 años es muy poco lo que se ha publicado en inglés sobre nuevos informes y la distribución de la aves en las islas, de habla francesa, de Guadalupe y Martinica. En este trabajo se revisa el estatus de 62 especies con énfasis en aquellas formas que son tratadas de forma diferente en la lista de cotejo de la Unión Americana de Ornítólogos (1998). Además, se informan nuevas especies y se documenta la reproducción de otras. Se depositaron en VIREO fotografías que documentan a once especies.

In the twenty years since the publication of the second edition of Father Pinchon's landmark work (1976) on the birds of the French-speaking islands of the Lesser Antilles, an important amount of new distributional information has been assembled by residents of those islands. Almost none of this information has been published in places readily accessible to most English-speaking students of West Indies birds. Indeed, virtually the only place where West Indies distributional data was published regularly from 1961 onward was James Bond's series of supplements to the 1950 and 1956 editions of his *Check-list of Birds of the West Indies*. Yet with the exception of a few common, expectable species and one or two rare ones, Bond (1964:12-13) nearly ignored the 1963 edition of Pinchon's book, and Bond totally ignored the 1976 edition in his supplements, despite the fact that it contained much new information. More recently, the checklist prepared by Feldmann et al. (1995) has brought the general status of many species up to date for this region, though it does not provide detailed records.

The purpose of this paper is to place on record specific documentation of important distributional data for the two major islands, Guadeloupe and Martinique, but also other smaller islands such as Petite Terre (also known as Désirade), St.-Martin, Marie-Galante, St.-Barthélemy, and Les Saintes. The focus is on data that reflect a status different from that indicated in the AOU Check-list (American Ornithologists' Union 1998) since little of this information appears to have been considered by the AOU Checklist Committee (R. C. Banks, pers. comm.). In several instances, species have been documented by photographs. Where possible, copies of these photographs have been placed on file at VIREO. In other cases, birds that have been mist-netted or shot have been examined in the hand by competent authorities. Such latter records and sight records by two or more experienced field observers are here considered to be confirmed, but sight records by single observers are uniformly referred to here as "unverified," regardless of the experience level of the observer. However, such records would not have been included at all if the authors doubted their accuracy.

The data in this paper were assembled, primarily by the junior author, by collecting it from the two other co-authors, from reliable and experienced observers well known to those co-authors, and from a review of the modest literature relating to the French Lesser Antilles. In general terms, most of the observations by local observers cited below have occurred in the last ten years. As for the locations of the islands mentioned, there are adequate maps in Pinchon (1976) and Raffaele et al. (1998). Two observers' names have been abbreviated to initials: Edouard Benito-Espinal to "EBE" and Philippe Feldmann to "PF."

SPECIES LIST

Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*).—Not mentioned for the Lesser Antilles by the AOU Check-list (1998:18) except for Barbados. Rare transient in offshore waters: an exhausted bird captured alive 16 May 1992 at Baie-Mahault, Guadeloupe, examined carefully in the hand and photographed by EBE; a copy of the photograph has been deposited at VIREO (VO6/28/007). An unverified sight report of one seen from a boat off Marie-Galante on 22 May 1993 by N. Barré.

Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*).—Considered casual in the Lesser Antilles by the AOU Check-list (1998:19). An uncommon but regular visitor to offshore waters of both Guadeloupe and Martinique in the May to July period; there are recent records by several observers *fide* Feldmann et al. (1995). Occasional at Guadeloupe even inshore: one found alive at the Pointe-à-Pitre docks on 14 Jun. 1994 was caught by hand by PF and P. Villard and was photographed (VO6/28/008); an unverified sight report of four seen from a boat off Pointe-Noire on 7 Jul. 1994 by N. Barré. One found dead on Petite Terre, 25 Jun. 1995, by N. Barré, but the specimen was not preserved.

Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*).—The only Lesser Antilles breeding lo-

cality given in the AOU Check-list (1998:29) is in the Grenadines. However, Danforth (1939:18) records that G. K. Noble heard from fishermen during his visit in 1914 that this species was nesting at Tête Anglais, Guadeloupe, and at Les Saintes, but Danforth thought it "doubtful if the species is still to be encountered in this region" since he did not find it on his visit to Les Saintes in 1937. Thus, confirmation of breeding at Grand Ilet, Les Saintes, in 1994 is of interest. As recorded by Barré et al. (1995a,b), on visits to the Brown Booby (*S. leucogaster*) colony there in that year, Red-footed Booby observations were as follows: about 5 birds seen 7 May, about 10 birds seen 22 May, 11 birds seen on 19 June including a nest under construction on a cliff, 4 birds seen on 9 July, 6 birds seen on 3 September including a downy young, and 1 young bird of the year that could fly seen on 23 October. In 1995, 7 birds were seen there on 30 April, 4 on 28 May and 4 on 25 June; though the birds might have been nesting, this was not confirmed. It seems highly likely that this species has been at least an occasional nester at Les Saintes for several decades.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchus*).—Not recorded by Pinchon (1976) and otherwise known in the West Indies only from western Cuba, Bimini, and Great Inagua in the Bahamas, and Puerto Rico (AOU Checklist 1998:31). An adult believed to be of this species was found at Marigot, St.-Martin, in September 1980 (EBE), a record not known to Voous (1983). Recent work on the migration systems of the Lesser Antilles has shown that significant numbers of Palearctic species are brought there and to northeastern South America by strong seasonal trade winds, especially during fall migration (Buckley and Keith, unpubl. data). With this in mind and based on the distance from its normal wintering range, this species is only slightly more likely than African White Pelican (*P. onocrotalus*), though distinguishing between the two species with certainty in the field would be extremely difficult in all plumages.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*).—Typically winters in small numbers in the Greater Antilles, casually east to the Virgin Islands. Details of the record given in the AOU Checklist (1998:33) at St.-Martin are one found at Étang de Phillipsburg in December 1980 (EBE), a record not known to Voous (1983).

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*).—According to the AOU Check-list (1998:37), regularly winters in the Greater Antilles east to the Virgin Islands. A female reported by Pinchon (1976:108) as captured at Vivé, Martinique on 3 Oct. 1971 (no observer given) was not included in the AOU Checklist (1998:37). Additional records are one shot by a hunter at Port-Louis, Guadeloupe, in October 1982 (which was examined by EBE), and an unverified sight record of one seen by him at Petit-Canal, Guadeloupe, on 2 Dec. 1984. A record at Lamentin, Martinique, was never confirmed (*vide* A. Le Dru). This species is extremely rare in the Lesser Antilles, though it has been recorded as far south as Barbados (Hutt et al., in press.).

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*).—Known to breed and winter through-

out the Greater Antilles. Uncommon local resident and breeder in the Petit-Canal area of Guadeloupe. EBE has specific records there from one to three birds in the months of February, May, July and December in the 1981–1987 period. Nests have been found in mangroves of Fajou and Réserve Naturelle du Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin by EBE, N. Barré, B. Thiébot, and PF. See Benito-Espinal and Portecop (1984) and Bond (1986:3 and 1987:1–2). There is an unverified sight observation of one found at 400 m elevation at Grand Étang, Basse-Terre Island, Guadeloupe, on 3 Jul. 1994 (PF). Heretofore, this species had not been documented breeding in the Lesser Antilles, and its southernmost known records in those islands are single birds seen in marshes at the mouth of a river near Portsmouth, Dominica, on 18 Oct. 1982 by P. G. H. Evans and again on 9 Apr. 1983 by A. R. Keith, and a female seen at Barbados on 22 May 1991 by a Mr. Raby (Hutt et al., in press).

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*).—The AOU Check-list (1998:40) provides no specific breeding localities for this species in the Lesser Antilles. It is common all year in Guadeloupe, especially at Port-Louis, Îlet Christophe, etc. where counts of 30 or more are not unusual. First proved nesting when eggs were measured and photographed at Îlet Christophe on 11 Mar. 1984 and again on 30 Mar. 1985 (EBE), a locality largely destroyed by hurricane Hugo in 1989. The photographs are published in Benito-Espinal (1990). This is the southernmost breeding locality now known for this species in the Lesser Antilles.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*).—According to the AOU Check-list (1998:42), known to breed through the Greater Antilles only east to the Virgin Islands. However, it breeds regularly on Guadeloupe in several localities such as la Rivière Salée, Port-Louis, and Petit-Canal in colonies with other herons. The first three nests with eggs were found on Îlet Christophe on 3 Mar. 1984 (EBE), which were both photographed (Benito-Espinal 1990:40) and measured. Presently not known to breed on Martinique.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*).—Winters regularly in the Greater Antilles, casually to the Bahamas and the northern Lesser Antilles (AOU Check-list 1998:49). Very rare visitor to both Guadeloupe and Martinique, the only known records being as follows. Pinchon (1976:100) records a “male with well-developed gonads was taken from a group of four at Rivière Salée, Martinique, on 21 Apr. 1968; a flock of seven Glossy Ibis was also observed on 26 September the following year at the mouth of the Lézarde [and] a young bird was killed.” Two were also shot by hunters at Petit-Canal, Guadeloupe, on 15 Nov. 1984 (*vide* EBE), but no specimens were preserved.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*).—Listed by the AOU Check-list (1998:50) as regular in most of the Greater Antilles but very rare in any part of the Lesser Antilles. One was seen at Rivière Salée, Guadeloupe, on 15 Dec. 1986 by PF and F. Thomas. Pinchon (1976:100) said it had occurred on Guadeloupe “several times” but “more doubtfully” on Martinique. A. Le Dru heard of a record at Martinique in the 1940s–1950s from M. Bon

Saint-Côme for which date and locality data are now lost, probably the same report alluded to by Pinchon.

West Indian Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*).—Because of hunting pressure throughout its range, this species is now rare in much of the Greater Antilles and casual to accidental anywhere in the Lesser Antilles. Though mentioned by the AOU Checklist (1998:56) as “formerly” present on Martinique, the only known record is of a small flock at Baie de Fort-de-France, Ducos and Rivière Salée in November 1963 (Pinchon 1976:116) that were all shot by hunters. Pinchon personally examined a female (*vide* A. Le Dru).

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*).—According to the AOU Check-list (1998:71), regularly winters south only to the Bahamas, Cuba and Puerto Rico. Very rare winter visitor to Guadeloupe: an unverified sight record of six seen at Réserve Naturelle du Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin on 9 Dec. 1980 (EBE). To date, no documented record for Martinique; the only other Lesser Antilles report is one bird at St. Lucia (Keith 1997:70).

White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*).—Described by the AOU Check-list (1998:71) as resident in the Greater Antilles and the northern Lesser Antilles. It is a rare visitor to St.-Martin (Voous 1983:245) and only casual at Guadeloupe: an unverified sight record of three seen at Petit-Canal on 1 Oct. 1979 (EBE), and six shot by hunters at Marais Lambis on 2 Aug. 1983 were examined by EBE. These appear to be the southernmost certain records for the Lesser Antilles other than one record for Barbados (Hutt et al., in press). Reports of hunters taking this species in Martinique have reached EBE but have yet to be confirmed.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*).—Widespread in the Greater Antilles and regular east to Nevis as per the AOU Check-list (1998:102). Vagrant to Guadeloupe: one seen in the Parc National de la Guadeloupe on Basse-Terre on 24 Mar. 1989 by PF and F. Thomas, and an unverified sight report of one seen at Les Abymes on 27 Oct. 1994 (EBE).

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*).—A record of a female shot at Lamentin, Martinique, on 1 Feb. 1976, well described and apparently examined but not preserved by Pinchon (1976:71), is not included in the AOU Checklist (1998:142), the only West Indies reports given there being from the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, and Barbados.

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*).—The AOU Check-list (1998:159) mentions no specific localities for this species in the Lesser Antilles. It is a rare fall transient at Guadeloupe and Martinique. Unverified sight records include one seen at Port-Louis on 19 Sep. 1987 (EBE), and three seen at Grand Étang St.-Martin on 11 Nov. 1993 (PF). Six were shot by hunters at Moule, Guadeloupe, in mid-September 1984 (*vide* EBE). Three recent records (i.e., last ten years) at Martinique, all lacking exact dates: one shot by a hunter at Vauclin (*vide* A. Le Dru), and separate records at Vauclin and Marin (M. Bon Saint-Côme, pers. comm. to A. Le Dru).

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*).—The only West Indies records in the AOU Check-list (1998:162) are from Cuba and Jamaica. Raf-

faele et al. (1998) report additional records from Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Antigua. The only known reports for Guadeloupe and Martinique are those of Pinchon (1976:76) which lack specific details.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*).—Listed as casual at Guadeloupe in the AOU Check-list (1998:163), perhaps based on the citation by Pinchon (1976:77), but not recorded for Martinique by either publication. A relatively recent report for Guadeloupe is one shot by hunters in November 1982 at Port-Louis and examined by EBE. An old record, now without a date, of one shot by a hunter at Pointe des Grives, Fort-de-France, Martinique (*vide* A. Le Dru) may be the origin of the reference to it by Bond (1985:90) on that island, no other record being known.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*).—According to the AOU Check-list (1998:164), it regularly migrates through the Greater Antilles east to the Virgin Islands but is a very rare migrant in the Lesser Antilles. One shot at Anse Mitan, Martinique, on 25 Aug. 1963 was examined by Pinchon (1976:77). More recently, one was shot by a hunter at Pointe des Grives, Fort-de-France, Martinique, on a date now lacking (*vide* A. Le Dru). A recent careful, but unverified, sight record for Guadeloupe: one seen on 28 Jul. 1991 at Réserve Naturelle du Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin, Rivière Salée, by PF at a distance of 30 m and with other shorebird species for direct comparison.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*).—Not specifically mentioned for Guadeloupe in the AOU Check-list (1998:170), and no specific data are given by Pinchon (1976:88). It is an uncommon but regular fall transient in Guadeloupe in small numbers. PF has at least ten records falling in the period from 25 September (1988 and 1993, both at Salines de la Pointe des Châteaux) to 11 November (1987; at least four photographed at Pointe des Châteaux; VO6/28/011 and VO6/28/012). EBE has a record at Morne-à-l'Eau on 21 Sep. 1991 and eight other records totaling 67 individuals in 1994 and 1995 at various locations between 28 August (34 birds) and 22 October. See also Pinchon and Bon Saint-Côme (1951:245).

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*).—The only specific localities in the West Indies mentioned in the AOU Checklist (1998:171–172) are the Bahamas, Virgin Islands, and Barbados. Also reported by Rafaele et al. (1998:279) from Cayman Islands, Dominica, St. Lucia, and the Grenadines. One recent record for Martinique: at least one bird carefully identified in direct comparison with other *Calidris* species at Baie des Anglais on 17 Sep. 1994 (A. Le Dru, P. J. Bulens, et al.).

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*).—No specific Lesser Antilles localities are given in the AOU Check-list (1998:171) or by Pinchon (1976:87). However, this species is a regular transient on both islands, principally in fall. Records by EBE on Guadeloupe are for a total of 26 individuals on seven dates at various localities between 13 Sep. and 22 Oct. 1994 (including 15 on 24 September), 14 individuals on five dates between 28 Aug. and 4 Sep. 1995, one on 29 Sep. 1991 at Saint-François, 2 on 13 Nov. 1993 at Les Abymes, and an unusual flock of 60 at Petit Bourg on

5 Jan. 1992. Ten were seen at Terre-de-Haut, Les Saintes, on 22 Oct. 1994 by N. Barré. Photographs of three at Pointe des Châteaux, Guadeloupe, on 11 Nov. 1987 (PF) are deposited at VIREO (VO6/28/013). Ten were in a flock of other shorebirds at Baie des Anglais, Martinique, on 17 Sep. 1994 (A. Le Dru, P. J. Bulens, et al.).

Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*).—No specific migrant or wintering records are given for the Lesser Antilles in the AOU Check-list (1998:173) nor are specific records given by Pinchon (1976:80–81), though he said it occurred from July to December. The species is a regular fall transient and winters occasionally in the area. Specific records by EBE at St. Barthélemy include 104 on 26 Sep. 1983 and 22 there on 28 Sep. 1983. Four recent records from Petite Terre by N. Barré et al.: 17 on 18 Mar. 1995, 4 on 23 Sep. 1995, 52 on 25 Feb. 1996, and 6 on 23 Mar. 1996. One seen at Baie des Anglais, Martinique, on 17 Sep. 1994 by A. Le Dru, P. J. Bulens, et al.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*).—No specific Lesser Antilles localities are provided by either the AOU Check-list (1998:174–175) or by Pinchon (1976:88) who called it “accidental.” Unverified sight records include one seen at Saint-François, Guadeloupe, on 5 Oct. 1991 by EBE and one reported to him as shot by hunters at Port-Louis on 18 Sep. 1983. Two seen, of which one was collected, near Lamentin, Martinique, on 4 Nov. 1950 (Pinchon and Bon Saint-Côme 1951:245–246). At least two others have been shot on that island at Salines and Vauclin in more recent years on dates now lost (*vide* A. Le Dru).

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*).—In addition to its occurrence in Guadeloupe and the “doubtful” report for Martinique, both mentioned by Pinchon (1976:81), a bird banded in Belgium which was shot at Marie-Galante in August 1981 was examined there by EBE.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*).—There are no specific Lesser Antilles localities given in the AOU Check-list (1998:176) or by Pinchon (1976:84) who said it occurred from late September to December. Records by EBE on Guadeloupe are for a total of 44 individuals at various localities on ten dates between 6 Aug. and 12 Sep. 1995 (including 25 on 30 August), one each on 5 Aug. 1984 and 20 Sep. 1982 at Port-Louis, one on 5 Oct. 1991 at Saint-François, and an unusual flock of 60 at Petit-Bourg on 5 Jan. 1992. One seen at Réserve Naturelle du Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin, Rivière Salée, Guadeloupe, on 28 Jul. 1991 by PF. A total of 76 are known to have been shot by hunters in the period from the end of July to late September in 1983 and 1984 *vide* EBE who examined some. One at Baie des Anglais, Martinique, on 17 Sep. 1994, by A. Le Dru, P. J. Bulens, et al. Two at Petite Terre, Désirade, on 15 Jul. 1995 and again on 23 Sep. 1995 by N. Barré, and one there on 2 Oct. 1988 (EBE). Also see Pinchon and Bon Saint-Côme (1951:246).

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*).—The only West Indies localities included in the AOU Check-list (1998:176) are for migrants at Cuba, Jamaica, Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and St. Kitts. Additionally, Raffaele et al. (1998) report its occurrence in the Dominican Re-

public and Barbados. The first known record of this species for Guadeloupe is a single bird observed and photographed by PF (VO6/28/014, VO6/28/015 and VO6/28/016) at Plage de Viarde, Petit Bourg, on 11 Sep. 1997, in company with other species for direct comparison. The diagnostic single-note call was heard repeatedly as the bird was flushed for a few meters several times.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*).—No specific Lesser Antilles localities are provided in the AOU Check-list (1998:182) or by Pinchon (1976:58). This species is regular and probably common in winter and as a spring transient in offshore waters of Guadeloupe, Dominica (See Keith and Ward 1997), and Martinique, especially over the deep ocean just west of those islands. PF and A. Le Dru have between them eight records off Martinique in the period from December (1993) to May (7 May 1994). Surprisingly late in spring, EBE captured alive a wounded and exhausted bird at Pointe des Châteaux, Guadeloupe on 24 Jun. 1992.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).—Not previously recorded from Martinique or included by Pinchon (1976:58). An unverified sight record of one seen from a boat off Grand' Rivière, Martinique, by A. Le Dru on 12 Dec. 1993.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*).—Pinchon (1976:58) mentions that one was "captured" at Martinique, but the first known record from Marie-Galante and nearby waters is an unverified sight report of two seen from a boat off Marie-Galante on 5 May 1993 by N. Barré.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*).—The first record for Guadeloupe and only the second for the Lesser Antilles: a first winter bird present at Pointe-à-Pitre from 28 Nov. to 3 Dec. 1992 that was photographed by PF (VO6/28/001, VO6/28/002 and VO6/28/004). Pinchon (1976:48) mentions one taken at St. Barthélemy but does not provide a date or observer; this record is referred to in the AOU Check-list (1998:185).

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*).—According to the AOU Check-list (1998:185–186), this species occurs casually in the Lesser Antilles. There are six records for Guadeloupe, the first for the island: two birds in first winter plumage found 1 Feb. 1991 at Bergevin, Pointe-à-Pitre seen by PF and M. Gunther; one seen 29 Apr. 1991 (PF) could have been one of the same birds; one first winter bird present at Pointe-à-Pitre from 17 Nov. to 31 Dec. 1992 was seen and photographed by PF (VO6/28/010); a first winter bird at Pointe-à-Pitre seen and photographed on 30 Jan. 1994 by PF (VO6/28/003); and immatures were seen 17 Dec. 1995 at Saint-François and on 20 Feb. 1996 at Pointe-à-Pitre by N. Barré.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).—The AOU Check-list (1998:189–190) states that this species has occurred in much of the West Indies. The first known record for Guadeloupe was a first winter bird present at Pointe-à-Pitre from 19 Nov. 1993 to 30 Jan. 1994, seen by PF and P. Villard and photographed by PF on 30 January (VO6/28/003, VO6/28/005 and VO6/28/006). The first unverified sight record for Martinique was one observed together with three Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) seen

from a boat off Pointe des Nègres, Fort-de-France, 15 Sep. 1993, by A. Le Dru.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*).—Listed as accidental in the West Indies in the AOU Check-list (1998:195). Two records: one found alive but sick and examined in the hand by EBE on 19 Feb. 1984 at Désirade, and one caught by a fisherman at sea in April 1985 off Terre-de-Haut, Les Saintes, which was photographed by EBE (VO6/28/009). The only other Lesser Antilles record is from St. Lucia (Keith 1997:87).

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*).—Not recorded for the Lesser Antilles in the AOU Check-list (1998:197). A recent record for Martinique: one carefully identified on 16 May 1995 in company with several Royal Terns (*S. maxima*) at Tartane, Réserve Naturelle de la Caravelle, by A. Le Dru, J.-H. Leman, and J.-C. Nicolas.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*).—Not specifically recorded as breeding in the Lesser Antilles in the AOU Check-list (1998:200). However, it was an uncommon but regular breeder in the Least Tern (*S. antillarum*) colony at Îlets du Carénage, Sainte-Rose, Guadeloupe, prior to and in 1990, 1991 (77 birds), and 1992 (36 birds); breeding has not been successful since then. Both eggs and chicks were observed (EBE, M. Anselme, and X. Dellou), but specific dates of observation are now lost. An exceptional flock of 40 was seen at Îlet Vieux Fort, Marie-Galante on 5 Jun. 1988 (EBE, J. Monoral-Nobin, and P. Hautcastel), and photographs of two adults in breeding plumage, three juveniles and a nest with two eggs published by Benito-Espinal (1990:104) were taken there on that date.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*).—The AOU Check-list (1998:222) mentions this species for Guadeloupe but not Martinique. There has been a well-established local breeding population where the species is common in the towns of Basse-Terre and Saint-Claude near the southwest corner of Basse-Terre Island, Guadeloupe, at least since 1976. The species has recently spread to Pointe-à-Pitre, Gosier, and Saint-François on Grande-Terre Island. The Guadeloupe population is now estimated at 1500. The first Martinique record appears to date from May 1994, a bird seen just north of Saint-Pierre (PF). Since that time it has become more frequent in Martinique but still is not common anywhere. Also see Barré et al. (1996). It is also believed that occasionally individuals of this species have hybridized in Martinique with Ringed Turtle-Doves (*S. risoria*) brought to that island as cage birds but later escaped or released, especially around Le Prêcheur and Fort-de-France (*vide* A. Le Dru).

Monk Parakeet (*Myopsitta monachus*).—Introduced. Several species of Psittacids have been observed in the wild on both major islands that presumably originated as escaped cage birds. This and the following are the only species known to have successfully nested in the wild to date. Details of the first record at Guadeloupe (AOU Check-list 1998:233) are as follows. A nest being used by five Monk Parakeets was found at Moule, Guadeloupe by N. Barré and PF on 26 Nov. 1994. Local residents said

the birds had been present there for at least three years; the nest was still there in December 1995.

Orange-winged Parrot (*Amazona amazonica*).—Introduced. A small population of about 10 birds has existed in the wild in Martinique at least since 1993 between Fort-de-France and St.-Joseph, especially near Ravine Vilaine. At least one pair bred and the young were filmed by a local television station in 1994 (*vide* A. Le Dru). This is not reported in the AOU Check-list (1998:694).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*).—A nest containing five eggs found at Pic Paradis, St.-Martin by EBE on 29 Jun. 1984 documents the first breeding record for that island and only the second known breeding locality in the Lesser Antilles, the other being St. Kitts (Voous 1983: 260; Steadman et al. 1997:11; AOU Check-list 1998:247). The nest and eggs were photographed (VO6/28/017) and measured.

White-tailed Nightjar (*Caprimulgus cayennensis*).—The Martinique population of this species is greatly reduced, at least, if not extirpated (cf. AOU Check-list 1998:273). The only report in a decade known to the authors is of one heard clearly near Château Dubuc on 23 Feb. 1992 by J. C. Haney and B. Basham (Norton 1993, where the year of observation is given as 1993 in error).

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*).—According to the AOU Check-list (1998:276), this species is known in the Lesser Antilles only from Saba in the north and from Grenada and the Grenadines in the south. It is also reported from St. Kitts (Steadman et al. 1997:11). Therefore of interest is an unverified sight record of two seen early in the morning of 23 Aug. 1992 flying over the hot springs between St.-Pierre and Le Prêcheur, Martinique, by P. J. Bulens, an experienced observer previously familiar with this species, who saw the white collar clearly at close range. The birds flew off southward.

White-winged Swallow (*Tachycineta albiventer*).—An unverified sight record of one at Martinique, the first report for the West Indies and for the AOU Checklist area. One bird was seen on 10 Aug. 1993 at Schoelcher at a distance of 3 m by A. Le Dru, an experienced observer fully familiar with this species from his visits to Guyana. This species is believed to be non-migratory in the northern part of its range which extends to Trinidad, but a southern race is migratory and could overshoot into the West Indies in the well-known pattern of the southern race of Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus s. savana*). However, in the absence of a specimen or a satisfactory photograph, this record must be treated as hypothetical.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*).—No Lesser Antilles records are given in the AOU Check-list (1998:460). Thus of interest are two birds seen at Les Abymes, Guadeloupe, on 12 Jan. 1994 (EBE), which represent the southernmost known reports for the Lesser Antilles other than Barbados (Hutt et al., in press).

Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*).—The only reports from the Lesser Antilles in the AOU Check-list (1998:461) are from St. Kitts and Barbados. It is a rare winter and spring visitor to Guadeloupe. Unverified sight re-

cords are three in a flock of over 100 Barn Swallows (*H. rustica*) at Port-Louis swamp on 26 Dec. 1987 (PF); three at Port-Louis 26 Feb. 1993 seen by P. Villard; and the following records from Les Abymes by EBE in 1994: 7 on 12 January, 15 on 11 March, 3 on 22 April, and 3 on 6 May. Also known from St. Lucia and Dominica (Keith 1997:102) primarily as a rare fall migrant.

Cave Swallow (*Hirundo fulva*).—No Lesser Antilles localities are given in the AOU Checklist (1998:461–462). It is a rare visitor to Martinique: an unverified sight record of one seen at Anse Trabaud by A. Le Dru on 21 Nov. 1993 in direct comparison with several Barn Swallows (*H. rustica*). The only other known Lesser Antilles records are from St. Lucia, including one in November (Keith 1997:102–103), and St. Vincent.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*).—There are no confirmed records for this species on Martinique in this century. The last published and certain Guadeloupe report is still 25 to 29 May 1973 (Barlow 1978). A possible report at Guadeloupe in 1992 could not be verified.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*).—Rare migrant on Martinique. In addition to the report by Pinchon (1976:224) of one of the nominate race *C. m. minimus* collected out of a “flock of four or five” at Colson on 26 Oct. 1958, one was netted, photographed in color and measured at Réserve Naturelle de la Caravelle, La Trinité, on 28 Oct. 1990 (EBE). The measurements and photograph were sent to Dr. Henri Ouellet for confirmation. At present, migrant and wintering Bicknell’s Thrush (*C. bicknelli*) has been confirmed by specimens or measurements of live-trapped birds *only* on Bermuda, and in the Greater Antilles in Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and St. Croix in the Virgin Islands (Ouellet 1993). There is also a recent unverified sight record of 2–3 birds responding to tape playback on Dominica in the Lesser Antilles in early 1997 (C. Rimmer, pers. comm.). It is presumed to occur in the Bahamas as a migrant. Gray-cheeked Thrush (*C. minimus*) has been similarly confirmed for Bermuda, Cuba, the Bahamas, Martinique, Barbados, Bonaire, Curaçao, and Central and South America. There are also sight records that probably apply to this species from Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

Bare-eyed Robin (*Turdus nudigenis*).—First recorded for Guadeloupe 12 Jul. 1997 when a pair was found feeding two young in a nest about 10 m up in a mahogany tree (*Swietenia* sp.) at Capesterre Belle-Eau, Basse Terre (Levesque 1997, 1998). A search of the same area in April 1998 revealed at least three singing adults, suggesting that the species may have been present for a few years before 1997. An adult was photographed leaving a nest 11 Apr. 1998 by PF (V06/31/001). Though this species is resident on all large Lesser Antilles islands from Martinique south except Barbados, to date there are no known reports for Dominica which lies between Guadeloupe and Martinique.

Brown Trembler (*Cinclocerthia ruficauda*).—This species is present on Martinique in addition to the Gray Trembler (*C. gutturalis*) (de Mercey 1996). The same discovery has recently been made on St. Lucia, the only

other island on which Gray Trembler occurs (Keith 1997). At least four experienced field observers have seen Brown Trembler independently on Martinique (PF, G. Tayalay, P. de Mercey, and P. J. Bulens). More work needs to be done to clarify the status of Brown Trembler on both Martinique and St. Lucia.

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*).—Not mentioned at all for the Lesser Antilles in the AOU Check-list (1998:437–438). Recent field work has shown that this species is a rare but probably fairly regular fall migrant, very rare in winter and as a spring migrant, if sufficient care is taken to distinguish it from the resident and migrant Black-whiskered Vireo (*V. altiloquus*), especially juvenile birds of the latter which can lack a black malar mark. A verified record for Martinique is that of a female mist-netted and carefully measured on 20 May 1982 at Trois Islets (Schreiber and Schreiber 1984). Additional unverified sight records exist for both major islands. Martinique records include one at Réserve Naturelle de la Caravelle, La Trinité, on 12 Feb. 1988 (EBE); one seen there 30 Apr. 1994 by A. Le Dru, P. J. Bulens, et al.; and one at Anse Noire on 24 Aug. 1994 seen by A. Le Dru. Guadeloupe records by EBE are one at Deshaies on 13 May 1990 and one at Saint-François on 12 Nov. 1991. Red-eyed Vireo has also been observed at St. Lucia (Keith 1997:108) and has been both collected (the nominate race *V. o. olivaceus*) and mist-netted and measured at Barbados (Hutt et al., in press).

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*).—Not recorded at all for the Lesser Antilles in the AOU Check-list (1998:534). Very rare winter visitor at Guadeloupe. The first unverified sight records for the island are single birds at Deshaies on each of 18 Nov. 1989 and 29 Dec. 1990 and one each at Saint-François on each of 9 Feb. 1991 and 11 Jan. 1992, all reports by EBE.

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*).—Recorded as casual in the Lesser Antilles in the AOU Check-list (1998:541). Four unverified sight records from Guadeloupe by EBE, the first known for the island: one at Les Abymes on 13 Apr. 1985, three at Deshaies on 18 Nov. 1989 and one there on each of 16 Dec. 1989 and 21 Jan. 1990.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*).—Described as accidental at Guadeloupe in the AOU Check-list (1998:544), presumably on the basis of Pinchon's (1976:236) report which lacks a date or observer. Thus a record of one seen at 1030 m elevation at Trois Crêtes, Basse-Terre Island, Guadeloupe, on 1 May 1993 (PF et al.) is of interest.

Adelaide's Warbler (*Dendroica adelaidae*).—The AOU Checklist (1998:547) describes this species only as resident on Puerto Rico, Barbuda, and St. Lucia. Three records of vagrants to southern Martinique, presumably from the population on St. Lucia immediately to the south: Pinchon reportedly had unverified personal sight records at Morne Larcher and at Ducos, one observation being on 30 Dec. 1956 (M. Bon Saint-Côme, pers. comm. to A. Le Dru), though these records are surprisingly absent from Pinchon (1976). A singing male was also carefully identified on 2 Aug.

1995 at Morne Larcher by A. Le Dru and A. Delattre, both of whom were previously experienced with this species in the field.

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*).—Described in the AOU Check-list (1998:556) as a casual visitor to the Lesser Antilles only as far south as Guadeloupe. Thus two recent unverified sight records by EBE on Guadeloupe are of interest: one seen at Saint-François on 21 Oct. 1989 and one at Bouillante on 25 Dec. 1991. The only known reports from further south in the Lesser Antilles are from Barbados (Hutt et al., in press).

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*).—Listed by the AOU Check-list (1998:558) as casual in the Lesser Antilles south to Dominica. Apparently first reported for Guadeloupe by Guth (1971:180), an unverified sight record. The first known report for St-Martin is an unverified sight record of two birds seen on 12 Nov. 1994 in mangroves at Étang des Poissons (PF). A first-year male was captured in a mist net and banded at Réserve Naturelle du Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin, Guadeloupe, on 26 Apr. 1996 by G. Jarry, M. Anselme, J. Thrace, et al., apparently the first documented record for that island.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*).—Casual to accidental in the Lesser Antilles. In addition to a 24 Dec. 1957 record of a male captured at Morne La Plaine, Martinique, by Pinchon (1976:241), and referred to in the AOU Check-list (1998:562), there are seven unverified sight records for Guadeloupe, apparently the first reports for that island. EBE recorded one at Grand' Rivière on 8 Dec. 1984, one at Deshaies on 20 Dec. 1987, one at Providence on 20 Oct. 1989 and two there 29 Oct. 1989, one at Deshaies on 29 Dec. 1990 and one there on 13 Feb. 1991, and one at Saint-François on 9 Mar. 1991. One also seen at St-Martin on 16 Nov. 1985 (EBE). The only other Lesser Antilles record known from further south is one at Barbados (Hutt et al., in press).

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*).—Listed as accidental in the Lesser Antilles by the AOU Check-list (1998:578). The first known unverified sight record for Guadeloupe is one seen on 22 Oct. 1995 at Petit-Canal (EBE). The first unverified sight reports for Petite Terre are one seen on 18 Apr. 1995 by A. Rousteau, and one seen at Baie Mahault on 14 May 1988 (EBE).

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*).—There are no specific Lesser Antilles reports given by the AOU Check-list (1998:578). It is an uncommon migrant seen by Pinchon (1976:262) "several times in March and April . . . both in Martinique and Guadeloupe." Recent unverified sight records at Guadeloupe are also only in spring: one seen at Bouvier on 17 May 1993 by P. Villard, one male seen at Capesterre-Belle-Eau on 14 Apr. 1994 by N. Barré, and one male seen at Terre de Bas on 23 Apr. 1994 by C. Pavis. There are two records for Martinique: one on 29 Oct. 1961 at Fond Brulé near Lorrain (Pinchon op. cit.; Bond 1964:13), the only known fall report, and one on 26 Apr. 1996 at Bois Desmornières (de Mercey 1996: 53).

Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus angolensis*).—This species is not included in the AOU Check-list (1998). Introduced. Birds brought to

Martinique as cage birds for their singing ability have escaped and had established a small wild population at least by 1984. It occurs in the Le Morne Rouge, Morne Bellevue, and Plateau Boucher areas up to 800 m (2625 ft) elevation (de Mercey 1996:38). Two adults were captured, examined, banded and released in 1995 by A. Le Dru. The species nested in the wild in 1995 and 1996 and probably since.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*).—Considered casual or accidental in the Lesser Antilles by the AOU Check-list (1998:635). Apparently the first record for Guadeloupe was an unverified sight record of a first year male at Trois Rivières on 4 Feb. 1996 by N. Barré. The only known Martinique record is one at Macouba on 22 Dec. 1970 (Pinchon 1976:266).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors wish to thank Nicolas Barré, Pierre J. Bulens, and Arnaud Le Dru in particular for providing much valuable data about many of the species discussed and for reviewing the manuscript. We also especially want to thank Dr. Henri Ouellet for much of the information included in the discussion of *Catharus minimus*, Dr. P. A. Buckley for sharing so much valuable data from Barbados, and Douglas B. McNair for helpful information and comments on the manuscript.

LITERATURE CITED

- AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION. 1998. Check-list of North American Birds. 7th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C. 829 pp.
- BARLOW, J. 1978. Another colony of the Guadeloupe House Wren. *Wilson Bull.* 90:635–637.
- BARRÉ, N., P. FELDMANN, G. TAYALAY, P. ROC, M. ANSELME, AND P. W. SMITH. 1996. Status of the Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) in the French Antilles. *El Ptitirre* 9:2–4.
- , O. LORVELEC, G. LEBLOND, P. FELDMANN, AND C. PAVIS. 1995a. Inventaire écologique de l'archipel des Saintes (Guadeloupe): les oiseaux. Rapport AEVA/PNG, Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe. 37 pp.
- , G. LEBLOND, AND P. FELDMANN. 1995b. Les oiseaux marins de l'archipel des Saintes (Guadeloupe), en particulier de Grand Ilet. Rapport AEVA No. 8, Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe. 19 pp.
- BENITO-ESPINAL, E. 1990. La Grande Encyclopédie de la Caraïbe, Faune 1. Sanoli Publishing Co., Italy. 205 pp.
- AND J. PORTECOP. 1984. Installation d'*Ixobrychus exilis* en Guadeloupe et à Marie-Galante. *L'Oiseau et R. F. O.* 54:149–152.
- BOND, J. 1950. Check-list of Birds of the West Indies. *Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia.* 199 pp.
- 1956. Check-list of Birds of the West Indies. *Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia.* 214 pp.
- 1964. Ninth supplement to the Check-list of Birds of the West Indies (1956). *Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia.*
- 1985. Birds of the West Indies. 5th ed. Collins, London, United Kingdom. 256 pp.
- 1986. Twenty-sixth supplement to the Check-list of Birds of the West Indies (1956). *Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia.*
- 1987. Twenty-seventh supplement to the Check-list of Birds of the West Indies (1956). *Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia.*
- DANFORTH, S. T. 1939. Birds of Guadeloupe and adjacent islands. *Jour. Agric. Univ. Puerto Rico* 23:9–46.
- DE MERCEY, P. 1996. Etude de l'avifaune sur l'aire du projet de la ligne EDF Saint Pierre/Le Marigot en périodes de reproduction et de migrations pré et post-nuptiales (mi-Février à mi-October 1996). Comité Scientifique du Parc Naturel Régional de la Martinique. Unpublished report. 100 pp.
- FELDMANN, P., A. LE DRU, C. PAVIS, AND P. VILLARD. 1995. Checklist of the birds of Guade-

- loupe, Martinique and their offshore islands. Published by Association pour l'Etude et la protection des Vertébrés des petites Antilles. Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe. 16 pp.
- GUTH, R. W. 1971. New bird records from Guadeloupe and its dependencies. *Auk* 88:180–182.
- HUTT, M. B., H. F. HUTT, P. A. BUCKLEY, F. G. BUCKLEY, E. B. MASSIAH, AND M. D. FROST. In press. The birds of Barbados. BOU Check-list. British Ornithologists' Union, London.
- KEITH, A. R. 1997. The birds of St. Lucia, West Indies. BOU Check-list No. 15. British Ornithologists' Union, London. 176 pp.
- AND N. F. R. WARD. 1997. Pelagic bird sightings off Dominica. *El Pitirre* 10:60–61.
- LEVESQUE, A. 1997. Découverte du Merle à Lunettes *Turdus nudigenis* nicheur en Guadeloupe. *Alauda* 65(4):378.
- 1998. Bare-Eyed Thrush nesting in Guadeloupe, F. W. I. *El Pitirre* 11(2):53.
- NORTON, R. L. 1993. West Indies region. *Amer. Birds* 47:305.
- OUELLET, H. 1993. Bicknell's Thrush: taxonomic status and distribution. *Wilson Bull.* 105: 545–572.
- PINCHON, R. 1976. Faune des Antilles Françaises -Les Oiseaux. 2nd ed. Privately published. Fort-de-France, Martinique. 326 pp.
- AND M. BON SAINT-CÔME. 1951. Notes et observations sur les oiseaux des Antilles Françaises. *L'Oiseau et R.F.O.* 21:229–277.
- RAFFAELE, H. A., J. W. WILEY, O. H. GARRIDO, A. R. KEITH, AND J. I. RAFFAELE. 1998. Guide to the birds of the West Indies. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, New Jersey. 511 pp.
- SCHREIBER, R. W., AND E. A. SCHREIBER. 1984. Mensural and moult data for some birds of Martinique, French West Indies. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 104:62–68.
- STEADMAN, D. W., R. L. NORTON, M. R. BROWNING, AND W. J. ARENDT. 1997. The birds of St. Kitts, Lesser Antilles. *Carib. Jour. Sci.* 33:1–20.
- VOOUS, K. H. 1983. Birds of the Netherlands Antilles. de Walburg Pers, Utrecht, The Netherlands. 327 pp.

Received 14 Jul. 1997; accepted 10 Dec. 1997.