

West Indies & Bermuda

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The highlight of the season has been the successful translocation of Bermuda Petrel chicks to a new breeding site. Translocation had been agreed upon even before Hurricane *Fabian* (5 September 2003) destroyed a number of nesting burrows. Of 29 fledglings this year, 14 chicks were translocated to Nonsuch Island, and all fledged successfully. The same practice will be continued in coming years and gives hope to a continuing increase in breeding pairs in more suitable habitat. In the Lesser Antilles, Bob Wallace spent several days hiking in the Vermont Rain Forest on St. Vincent and the Edmunds Rain Forest Preserve on St. Lucia. After leaving St. Vincent on a bareboat charter, he visited Bequia, the Tobagos, Union Island and Petite St. Vincent, covering 160 km or more by water.

GREBES THROUGH TERNS

A pair of Pied-billed Grebes again nested at Somerset Long Bay N.R., Bermuda (DBW). A lone Greater Shearwater was found ashore on Lucaya Beach, Grand Bahama 19 Jun (ph. EG). Sailing between St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Wallace noted an Audubon's Shearwater 14 Jun; on 26 Jun, he saw 150

Cory's, 250 Greater, and 350 Audubon's Shearwaters around the convergence of the Antillean Current and the Gulf Stream, some 115 km nw. of Walker's Cay, Bahamas—more Cory's and Greater Shearwaters than all the previous documented Bahamian records combined (!BW)! On 3 Jul, 3 Greater and 7 Cory's Shearwaters were noted 40 km n. of the Little Bahama Bank (PH).

Six pairs of White-tailed Tropicbirds were nesting on Shroud Cay, Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park in the first week of Jun (LG). A first-year White-tailed Tropicbird was found on Fortune Cay Beach, Grand Bahama 11 Jun (ph. EG). An ad. Red-billed Tropicbird was seen at Nonsuch I., Bermuda 21 Jul (JM), possibly the same bird as in 2001 and 2003; there are fewer than 10 local records of this species. Peter Merritt reported large numbers of Brown Booby, Magnificent Frigatebird, Sooty Tern, and Brown Noddy, and smaller numbers of Bridled Tern and White-tailed Tropicbird nesting in Graham's Harbour, San Salvador in Jul; also present were 4 ad. Red-footed Boobies (2 of each morph), plus a chick on 19 Jul. Sailing between Bequia and Canouan, St. Vincent and the Grenadines 14 Jun, Wallace counted 20+ Red-footed Boo-

bies. The presence of 50+ Double-crested Cormorants on Man-O-War Bush Cay, Abaco 24 Jul suggests that they continue to nest there (PC).

Two American Bitterns were heard calling at South Westridge Estates and Harold and Wilson Ponds N.P., New Providence 6 Jun–16 Jul (PD). A Least Bittern was at the Treasure Cay G.C., Abaco 10 Jul (EB). A long-staying Little Egret was present in Bermuda to 31 Jul+ (DBW). Three Reddish Egrets were on Chub Cay, Berry Is. 11–19 Jun (SS). Green Herons, first found breeding in Bermuda in 2002, bred in a number of new locations, with a total of about 12 pairs (AD). At St. Martin, one Black-crowned Night-Heron was found at Galis Bay 23 Jun (AB/EPIC). For the 4th year in a row, Greater Flamingos failed to nest successfully on Great Inagua because the water level on L. Windsor was too low (HN). Aerial surveys 12–13 Jun found 1500–2000 flamingos on North Andros but none on South Andros. There was no sign of nesting (MB, NC, PD). A Snow Goose remained at Outerlea Farm, Bermuda through 31 Jul+ (AD). A male Wood Duck was at Pembroke Marsh, Bermuda 20 Jun (PHo, SR). A female Hooded Merganser at Spittal Pond, Bermuda



This first-summer Lesser Black-backed Gull (at left) present at Rivière Sâlée 25 and 26 (here) July 2004 was the first to be identified in Guadeloupe in more than two decades. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.

28–31 Jul+ (DBW) provided the first summer record. Two pairs of Ospreys were nesting at Pipes Creek, Exumas in early Jun (LG). The pair of long-staying Red-tailed Hawks was seen throughout Jun over Morgan's Pt., Bermuda (AD, DBW). On 10 Jun at Soufrière, St. Lucia, Wallace observed 3 Broad-winged Hawks, with several also at Georgetown, St. Vincent on 14 Jun. A Purple Gallinule was found dead in Southampton, Bermuda 23 Jun (DBW).

Frank Rivera-Milán, who discovered nesting Double-striped Thick-knees on Great Inagua last year, searched for them extensively in May 2004 but did not find any. Shorebirds on Bermuda included 3 Black-bellied Plovers and 4 Whimbrels at Bermuda's airport (EA, PW), a single Sanderling on Nonsuch I. (JM, DBW), and the first summering record for Pectoral Sandpiper at Spittal Pond (AD, EA), all in Jun. Bermuda's first fall shorebirds were noted in early Jul, with Lesser Yellowlegs at Spittal Pond 3 Jul (EA), Spotted Sandpiper in St David's 10 Jul (PW), Western Sandpiper at Spittal Pond 19 Jul (DBW), and Pectoral Sandpiper at Compston's Pond 9 Jul (AD). Black-necked Stilts departed North Pond, Bermuda 23 Jul (DBW). On 23 Jun at St. Martin, Adam Brown (EPIC) counted 32 Semipalmated Plovers, 4 Black-bellied Plovers, 27 Ruddy Turnstones, a Whimbrel, and 8 Willets. On 26 Jun, single South Polar Skuas were found at 27° 40' N, 78° 30' W and at 28° 00' N, 78° 40' W near the Antillean Current–Gulf Stream convergence (ph. BW); one was with 2 Sperm Whales. The photographs confirm the first record of the species for the Bahamas and one of the few from the West Indies.

Three imm. Laughing Gulls were at Dockyard, Bermuda 6 Jun (AD). A seasonal first for Guadeloupe was a Lesser Black-backed Gull on the coast along the Rivière Sâlée 25 Jul+ (AL). A Franklin's Gull was picked up dead at Clearwater Beach, Bermuda 1 Jun (GP), and a Gull-billed Tern was at North Pond, Bermuda 18–21 Jun (EA). Counts of 59 and 43 Roseate Terns on Rose I., off New Providence, Bahamas on 5 & 6 Jun respectively (NM) suggest that the terns are nesting there. On 14 Jun, Wallace saw several flocks of



This Palm Warbler was present 30 May (here 31 May) through 1 June 2004 at Petite-Terre Nature Reserve, Guadeloupe—a most unseasonable record for a normally very early spring migrant. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.

Roseate Terns over bait near shore at Bequia, Lesser Antilles. A Roseate Tern was in Castle Harbour, Bermuda 10 & 21 Jul (DBW, JM). Hurricane *Fabian* must have devastated the local breeding population of Common Terns, as only six of the 17 pairs returned in 2004, and these failed to breed. In 50 continuous years of observation (DBW), this is the first record of total breeding failure here. Least Terns (three+ pairs) nested successfully just off the runway on Chub Cay, Berry Is. 11–19 Jun

(SS). On 21 Jul, 50+ Least Terns were feeding young on the spoil island near Great Guana Cay, Abaco (EB OB). Erika Gates saw 100+ Bridled Terns at Peterson Cay, Grand Bahama 28 Jun; she found 20 nests, but there were undoubtedly many more.

PARROTS THROUGH ORIOLES

Five St. Lucia Parrots, including one juv., were well seen 11 Jun at Edmonds Forest Preserve; many more were heard on the e. side of the mountain but none on the w. (Soufrière) side of the pass (BW). The Eurasian Collared-Dove found on San Salvador 31 May was the 2nd for the island (WH, FH). Four Zenaida Doves were on Chub Cay 11–19 Jun, a species not noted here in previous years (SS). Some 15–20 Zenaida Doves were along the road to Barbary Beach, Grand Bahama 28 Jun (EG). Ten White-winged Doves were found at the destroyed resort on Scrub I., e. of Anguilla (AB). At Loterie, St. Martin, a single Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found 9 Jun (AB); the species was heard several times on San Salvador in early Jul (FH, WH). An ad. White-eyed Vireo at Bahama Star Groves, Abaco 15 Jul was probably an early fall migrant (EB). Bahama Mockingbirds are uncommon on Grand Bahama, so 4 at the Casuarina Bridge 28 Jun was a good count (EG). At the Edmonds Forest Preserve, 2 St. Lucia Pewees (a recent split from Lesser Antillean Pewee), 2 St. Lucia Black Finches, and an Antillean Euphonia were noted 11 Jun (BW). A pair of White-breasted Thrashers, a species with an estimated world population of 150 pairs, was found near Praslin, St. Lucia 12 Jun (BW). An early Black-and-white Warbler was at the Retreat, Nassau 19 Jul (EC, CW), and a late American Redstart was at Lucayan N.P., Grand Bahama 2 Jun (BR). Another late straggling or over-summering American Redstart was found at Loterie Farm, St. Martin (AB, EPIC) on 9 Jun and 3 Jul. West Indian orioles are threatened from a number of sources, including pollution and habitat loss. St. Lucia Orioles were seen both at Edmonds Forest Reserve near the parrots and at the Pitons near Soufrière 11 Jun (BW).

Observers: Eric Amos, Mike Baltz, Oren Bass, Elwood Bracey, Adam Brown, Eric Carey, Pam Church, Nancy Crum, Paul Dean, Andrew Dobson, Environmental Protection in the Caribbean Islands (EPIC), Lynn Gape, Erika Gates, Floyd Hayes, William Hayes, Paul Hess, Peter Hopkin (Pho), Anthony Levesque, Jeremy Madeiros, Neil McKinney, Peter Merritt, Henry Nixon, George Phillips, Steve Roell, Ben Rose, Sigrid Stiles, Bob Wallace, Carolyn Wardle, Paul Watson, David B. Wingate. 🐦