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THE BIRDS OF ELEUTHERA ISLAND, BAHAMAS

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Abstract.—In this paper we report on the avifauna of Eleuthra Island, Bahamas, based upon over five years of field observations. Included are accounts of 205 species, 31 new to the island, nine new to the Bahamas, and three new for the West Indies.

The birds of the Bahama Islands remain superficially known, owing to a paucity of comprehensive faunistic work or long-term observations in any one place. Available faunistic summaries include those of Bond (1956, 1974 and annual Supplements 1-25, 1956-1984); Brudenell-Bruce (1975) and the Florida Audubon Society (1968). Other than on New Providence, the birds found on specific islands are particularly poorly documented, and to our knowledge no long-term studies have been published on the relatively large island of Eleuthera. In this paper we report on observations of the avifauna of Eleuthera made over a five year period.

METHODS

Connor observed birds on Eleuthera (Fig. 1) between May 1971 and May 1973, and again between April 1976 and June 1979. He was attached to the U. S. Naval Facility, so most of his birding was from Ten Bay to James Cistern, but he covered the whole island several times. Between November 1978 and April 1979 he tended mist nets under the direction of Paul A. Stewart, on a study of the Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*). Although only Palm Warblers were banded, he caught and made notes on many other land birds. All the field work reported in this paper was done by Connor. Loftin searched the literature, did the actual writing, and saw the paper through the editorial process.

RESULTS

The list of birds observed is given below. The nomenclature is that of the 6th edition of the AOU Checklist (1983). We categorized the species as follows: Common - hard to miss; Uncommon - found when looked for; Scarce - appears in small numbers but may not be present every year; Rare - very difficult to find; Accidental - birds which are out of normal distribution or migratory range.

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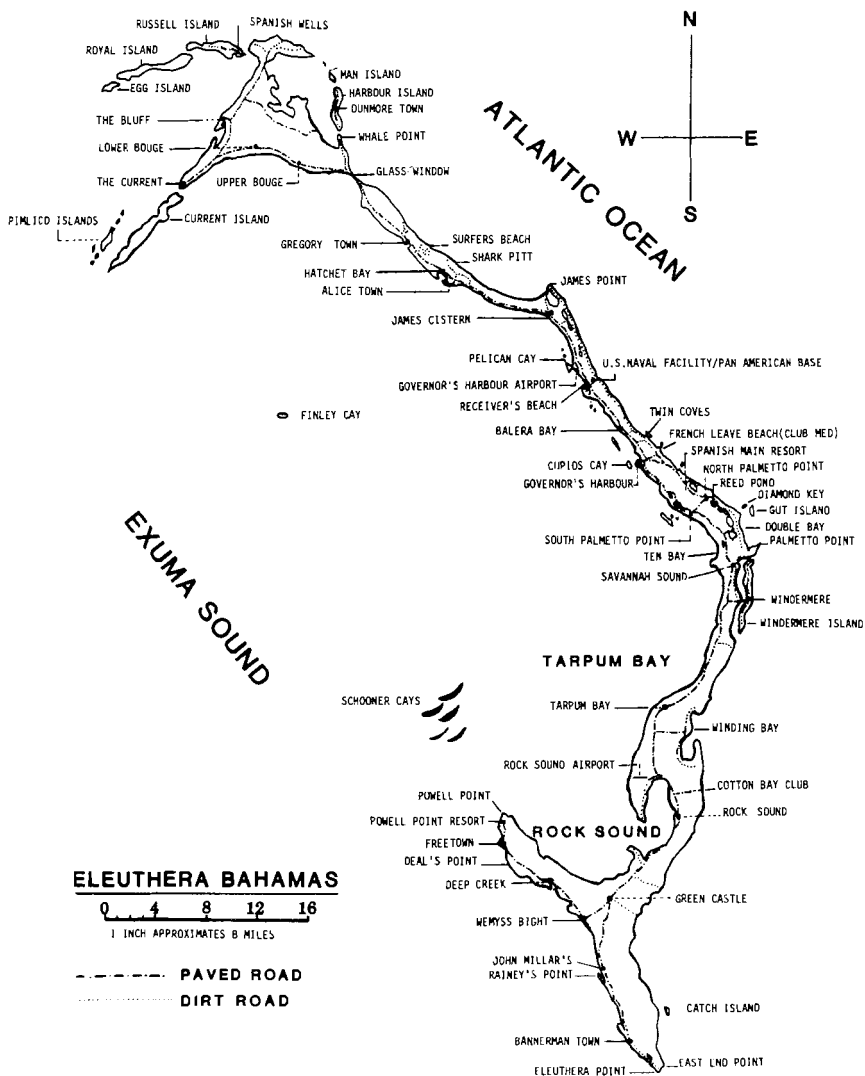


Figure 1. Map of Eleuthera, Bahamas.

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) is an uncommon permanent resident. This nesting species is found primarily on small natural and man-made fresh water ponds, especially along the Old Queen's Highway between north Palmetto Point and Double Bay, and at Twin Coves.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) is a common winter and rare summer resident. A pair was present in the third small pond SE of North Palmetto Point along the Old Queen's Highway during the summer of 1977. No positive evidence of breeding was obtained, but the birds were in breeding plumage, calling and obviously paired. Generally found in the larger saltwater ponds in winter, especially the one NW of the Palmetto Point intersection along the Queen's Highway.

White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*) is an uncommon summer resident from 21 May to 17 September. Four to six pairs nested in the cliffs just north of the Glass Window on the Atlantic (eastern) side of the island.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) is an uncommon straggler year round for which we have no breeding records. Seen primarily in harbors. Generally one to several birds could be found at "The Current" on the north end of the island.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) is a common permanent resident. Forty to sixty pairs nest in the big salt pond NW of Palmetto Point Intersection along the Queen's Highway.

Olivaceous Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*) is a common summer resident seen from 19 March to 28 October. It may breed. Although no nests were found, immature birds, which may have been reared locally, are often seen in the fall. The species breeds on San Salvador and Great Inagua and there is probable a colony at Cat Island (Bond, 23rd Supplement, 1980). Frequently seen in the man-made ponds at Twin Coves (20 to 30 birds) and at Double Bay. There are no previous records for Eleuthera. Photographs are available.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) is a common summer and rare winter resident. A nesting colony, c. 40 pairs, is on Gut Island.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) is a scarce winter resident from 4 November to 14 March. Found in reeds around fresh water ponds, especially the pond NE of North Palmetto Point.

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) is a rare visitor. One record on 6 October 1977, between North Palmetto point ballfield and a nearby reed pond.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) is an uncommon fall, winter, and spring resident, but rare or absent from late May through early August. Not known to breed.

Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) is a common fall, winter, and spring resident; rare or absent in summer. Not known to breed.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) is a common fall, winter, and spring resident; rare or absent in summer. No breeding records.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) is a common fall, winter, and spring resident; some moulting immature birds spend the summer. No breeding records.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) is a common permanent resident, nesting on small offshore islands and keys such as Gut Island.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) is a common permanent resident, suspected of nesting, though no nests have been found. Flocks of 75 to 125 birds in breeding plumage can be found in the Hatchet Bay farm and dairy area.

Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*) is a common permanent resident, nesting near ponds and on offshore cays.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*) is a common permanent resident, nesting on the more densely vegetated offshore cays.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) is a rare straggler to the island. A single immature bird was noted 12 November 1977, and stayed in the ponds near the town of James Cistern until 19 November 1978 while moulting to adult plumage. There are no other records for the island, though it is presumed to occur throughout the Bahamas as a straggler from Florida. Identifiable photographs are available.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) is a sporadic visitor in fall, winter, and spring. Up to 17 have been seen at one time in the ponds near James Cistern.

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) is a sporadic visitor from 19 September through 3 April. There are no previous records of this species on Eleuthera, though it is assumed to be vagrant throughout the Bahamas from the breeding colonies on Great Inagua, Andros, and Abaco. Photograph available.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) is a rare straggler. Four birds were seen on 6 September 1976 in a small freshwater pond near Governor's Harbor airport. There are no other records for Eleuthera, though it has occurred on other islands in the Bahamas.

West Indian Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*) is a rare visitor. Six birds were seen on 9 November 1978 in the deepest of the man-made ponds at Twin Coves. There are no other records for Eleuthera, though it has been recorded on Andros and San Salvador and breeds on Great Inagua (Don Buden, pers. com.). Photographs are available.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) is an accidental. One bird stayed from 17 December 1977 until 4 January 1978 in the third pond SE of North Palmetto Point along the Old Queen's Highway. Though hunters stated they have seen others on the island, there is no previous record for the Bahamas.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) is a rare straggler. We have one record, 18 December 1976 of an adult male in brilliant plumage, north of Ten Bay along the western shore.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) is an uncommon winter resident, from 6 November to 27 February. Found in the ponds along the eastern ridge of the island between Governor's Harbor airport and James Cistern. Most authorities have assumed that this duck is merely a passage migrant in the Bahamas. This is the first winter record for Eleuthera.

White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*) is an uncommon spring, summer, and fall resident from 11 March to 4 December. It breeds in ponds along the Old Queen's Highway between North Palmetto Point and Double Bay. Connor has photographs taken at a distance, in which the bird is indistinguishable.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) is a common winter resident from 13 September to 7 February. It is found most often in ponds near James Cistern. Though regarded as a passage migrant in the Bahamas by most authorities, this species winters on Eleuthera. There are no other records for the island.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) is a common fall, winter and spring resident on ponds throughout. From 25 July to 8 April it is the most abundant duck on the island. A few birds injured by hunters may be present in summer.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) is an uncommon winter resident from 28 September through 3 March. From 6 to 25 each year can be found in ponds between Governor's Harbor airport and James Cistern, and in the third pond along the Old Queen's Highway SE of North Palmetto Point.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) is a rare winter visitor from 13 September to 2 March. It is found primarily in the ponds near James Cistern. Though Bond (1974) lists it for the Bahamas and Brudenell-Bruce (1975) has it as an occasional winter visitor on New Providence, there are no other records for Eleuthera.

American Widgeon (*Anas americana*) is a sporadic winter visitor from 20 September to 12 April. It is found in both fresh and salt water ponds in the Double Bay area and in ponds from Double Bay to James Cistern along the Old Queen's Highway.

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) is a rare winter visitor from 20 November to 3 January. Noted in the small ponds between Governor's Harbor airport and James Cistern. There are no other records for the Bahamas.

Redhead (*Aythya americana*) is a rare winter visitor. Seen by Connor on 20 November 1977 in a small pond near Governor's Harbor airport. According to Brudenell-Bruce (1975), this species was said to have been the most abundant duck on New Providence in 1859, but there are no recent records. This observation is the only recent one for the Bahamas and the only one for Eleuthera.

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) is a common winter resident from 21 October to 19 March. It is found on larger ponds throughout the island, especially the big ponds at Double Bay, varying greatly in numbers from year to year.

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) is an accidental. Connor saw one on 31 January 1972 in a pond near James Cistern. According to Bond (1974), this species was recorded on New Providence 31 January 1971, with questionable records from Watling's Island, Rum Cay and Cuba. There are no previous records for Eleuthera.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) is a common winter resident from 31 August to 20 April. It is found in larger ponds throughout the island, especially those at Double Bay.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) is an accidental. From 24 December 1976 to 9 January 1977 a female stayed in a small pond between Governor's Harbor and James Cistern. This is the only record for the Bahamas and for Eleuthera.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) is an uncommon winter resident from 27 November to 9 January. A few can be found on freshwater ponds throughout the island, especially those near James Cistern. Brudenell-Bruce (1975) lists the species as an occasional winter visitor to New Providence. He mentions one record from Grand Bahama and a probable record from North Eleuthera in February.

Reb-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) is a rare winter visitor. One seen 1-15 March 1972 on a small pond NW of Governor's Harbor airport. This is the only record for Eleuthera.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) is an uncommon permanent resident. Six to eight birds generally can be found all year in a sulphur pond near Spanish Main resort, and another small group in the third pond SE of North Palmetto Point. Five downy young were observed at the sulphur pond 25 August 1976. Four of these were reared to maturity. Young were also observed at the other pond. These observations are the first records of breeding on Eleuthera. Schwartz and Klinikowski (1965) have discussed the subspecies of this bird on Eleuthera. The fact that the species breeds here would tend to indicate that most seen here are *O. j. jamaicensis* rather than migrant *O. j. rubida* from the continent.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) is a common winter resident from 1 September to 16 April. Found primarily at Ten Bay and Twin Coves.

American Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) is an accidental. We have one record, 1 March 1978. There is not other record for Eleuthera or the Bahamas.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) is a scarce winter resident from 8 October to 11 March. It is usually found soaring over fields and pastures at Hatchet Bay Farms and the Black Angus ranch NE of Rock Sound.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) is a common winter resident from 23 September to 2 May. Generally found on power lines or fences in the vicinity of pastures and other open areas.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) is a scarce winter resident from 15 September to 22 April. This species may show up anywhere on the island.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) is a scarce winter visitor from 2 October to 8 March. A maximum of 3 in one day has been seen, generally around the Governor's Harbor airport and along the beaches.

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) is an introduced permanent resident. The birds are now breeding in the wild and are common in the Hatchet Bay area where they are becoming a nuisance to farmers.

Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) is an uncommon permanent resident, seen most frequently around the ponds near James Cistern where it may nest. It is most readily seen during the dry season when it crosses or feeds on the exposed mud flats of the ponds and lakes.

Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) is an accidental. Connor saw an immature, crossing the road NW of the Palmetto Point intersection near the large salt water pond on 4 March 1972. This is the only record for the Bahamas. According to Bond (1974) the only other record for the West Indies was 16 October on Cuba.

Sora (*Porzana carolina*) is a common winter resident from 18 September to 17 April. It is found around small fresh water ponds throughout the island.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) is an uncommon permanent resident. This species nests in fresh water ponds, especially the third, fourth and fifth ones along the Old Queen's Highway SE of North Palmetto Point.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) is a common winter and uncommon summer resident. In winter, large numbers (200-300, maximum 1100) can usually be found in the ponds near James Cistern. The third and fourth ponds SE of North Palmetto Point also have large concentrations. Occurs in the larger ponds in summer, but no evidence of nesting has been found, though Connor suspects that they do nest. Reported breeding on New Providence (Brudenell-Bruce 1975).

Limpkin (*Aramus guarana*) as late as the mid-1970's was only a vagrant in the Bahamas, (Bond 1974, and Brudenell-Bruce 1975) but since then it has apparently established itself on Eleuthera. Bond (24th Supplement, 1982) mentions two found dead and photographed near Gregory Town 22 December 1979. Mrs. Delbert Ruch of Gregory Town first saw them there in the spring of 1979 (Bond, 23rd Supplement, 1980). Connor found it to be an uncommon permanent resident. From 10 to 20 birds, in groups of 2-6, could often be found feeding on land snails along the edge of scrub where clearing was in progress near Gregory Town. According to Bond (1956), there are two subspecies known from the West Indies, *A. g. pictus* of Cuba, Jamaica, and Florida and *A. g. elucus* of Hispaniola and Puerto Rico. The latter is said to be more of a forest bird, so those on Eleuthera may well represent this form.

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) is a common winter and uncommon non-breeding summer resident.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) is a permanent resident. It is common in summer but there are fewer in winter. It nests on the many white sandy beaches and in bare pebbly areas around ponds.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) is a common winter resident, rare or absent in summer. It can generally be found along the beaches and on the edges of larger salt water ponds with exposed banks or mud flats. Does not nest.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) is an uncommon winter resident from 24 July to 19 April. A maximum of 8 seen in one day, generally along the beaches.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) is a common permanent resident which is more abundant in winter. Nests in grassy areas near ponds. Can readily be found at the Cotton Bay Club Golf Course at Rock Sound.

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) is a resident, uncommon in winter and rare in summer; probably breeding. No nests were found but immature birds were seen with adults in the fall.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) is common in spring, summer and fall; absent in winter. Found from 5 March to 12 November. Nests in shallow water at the edges of ponds. Most small bodies of fresh water will have at least one pair.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) is a rare fall visitor. Seen 24 October 1976 in a pond SE of North Palmetto Point on the Old Queen's Highway, and 2 October 1978 in the large shallow pond near James Cistern. The only previous record for the Bahamas is a bird on Andros 30 June (Bond 1974). Photographs are available.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) is a common transient and winter resident, absent in June and early July. Found primarily in the large ponds near James Cistern and in ponds between North Palmetto Point and Double Bay.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) is a common transient and winter resident, absent in June. Found primarily in the large ponds along the Old Queen's Highway between North Palmetto Point and Double Bay.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) is an uncommon fall and scarce spring transient, 5 August to 18 November and 9 April to 5 May. Found primarily in small secluded ponds along the eastern side of the island from James Cistern to Ten Bay.

Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) is an uncommon permanent resident, becoming abundant during spring migration. Connor suspects it of breeding, for he observed copulation, though no nests or young were found. Primarily noted in larger ponds and along beaches.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) is a common transient and winter resident, absent in June and early July. It may be found feeding along the edges of any pond or small body of water.

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) is a fall migrant. We have one record of a single bird which stayed along the edges of the mowed grass on the Pan American Base, 24 to 30 October, 1977.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) is an uncommon winter resident from 24 July to 2 May. Only one or two birds seen at a time in the larger ponds near James Cistern. There are no previous records for Eleuthera.

Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) is an accidental. A single bird was present from 1 January to 19 March 1972 near Governor's Harbor. Connor first believed this bird was a Long-billed Curlew (*N. americanus*), but when the bird was flushed, the white rump and triangle up the back could be seen clearly. This is the first record of this species for the West Indies (Paul Sykes, pers. com.).

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) is an uncommon winter resident, with a few nonbreeders lingering over the summer. Found along beaches and rocky shores of larger ponds.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) is a scarce fall and spring migrant; 19 September to 2 October and 8 May. Noted primarily in the Double Bay area and at Windermere Island. There is no previous record for Eleuthera, though it was recorded on Harbour Island 11 November 1961 (Brudenell-Bruce 1975) which lies only a few hundred yards off the northern end of Eleuthera.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) is a common winter resident from 30 July to 29 May. Found primarily along beaches.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) is a common transient and possible winter resident; 10 August to 22 May. It is found primarily on the mudflats of the larger ponds near James Cistern and at Double Bay.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) is a common transient and winter resident from 7 August to 22 May. It is found primarily on the mud flats of the larger ponds near James Cistern and at Double Bay.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) is a common transient and winter resident from 10 July to 24 May. Found on most shallow ponds with exposed mud flats, especially those near James Cistern and Double Bay.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) is a scarce fall transient from 12 September to 22 October. A few birds are noted each fall at the catchment basin on the U. S. Naval Facility. Observed once on the mud flats of the large pond near James Cistern.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) is an accidental. One was observed closely on 3 October 1976 while feeding with Western and White-rumped Sandpipers at the bottom of the catchment basin on the Pan American side of the U. S. Naval Facility. This species is new for the Bahamas, and there are only two other records for the West Indies, both from Barbados (26 August and 5 November, Bond 1974).

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) is a scarce fall transient from 14 August to 19 October. It is found primarily on freshly planted or newly mown fields. Photographed in the Pan American catchment basin.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) is an uncommon winter visitor from 18 September to 28 March. It is found primarily in the large pond with mud flats near James Cistern. Though recorded on several other islands (Bond 1974, and Brudenell-Bruce 1975) there are no other records for Eleuthera.

Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*) is a regular spring and irregular fall migrant, 21 July to 27 August and 3 April to 10 May. Found primarily in the large ponds at Double Bay.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) is a common winter and rare summer resident, 10 July to 4 June, generally absent from late May through early June. Can be found feeding in most shallow ponds.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) is a common winter resident from 2 October to 4 March. Found in wet areas of pastures and around ponds. The area between North Palmetto Point Ball Field and the Reed Pond is a good place to look for this species.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) is a common permanent resident which is more abundant in winter when flocks of 80+ birds can be seen feeding offshore on the western side of the island. Suspected of nesting on offshore cays, though no evidence has been obtained.

Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) is a rare winter visitor. Several birds at Double Bay, 22 January to 5 February 1977 constitute the only definite record for Eleuthera. Previously reported only as a vagrant after storms in the Bahamas (Brudenell-Bruce 1975).

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) is a scarce winter resident with a maximum of 4 seen per day, invariably sub-adults, from 18 October to 20 March. Generally found in the big pond NW of Palmetto Point Intersection along the Queen's Highway.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) is a scarce winter resident with a maximum of four seen in one day, invariably 1st and 2nd year birds. From 21 August to 1 May it can generally be found in the big pond NW of the Palmetto Point intersection along the Queen's Highway.

Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) is a common summer resident, from 10 April to 12 November. Though no nest was found, birds were observed in courtship display and copulation. Young birds were also seen in late summer begging for food.

Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) is a common permanent resident. A group of 30-40 birds can usually be found in the large pond NW of the Palmetto Point Intersection.

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) is a common summer and uncommon winter resident. No nesting colonies were found but Connor often saw young birds that may have been reared locally begging food from adults.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) is an uncommon permanent resident. A colony of c. 30 pairs nests on the cays north of Pelican Cay, near Governor's Harbour Airport.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) is an uncommon winter resident, from 22 July to 22 April. Occasionally found with Roseate Terns in late summer. There are no other records for Eleuthera, but most authorities have assumed that this species occurs on the island from time to time.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) is a rare winter visitor. From one to four birds seen on several occasions at Double Bay, 22 January to 5 February and 19 September 1977. These are the only Eleuthera records. Previously recorded in the Bahamas only from Exuma, 21 November 1954 (Brudenell-Bruce 1975).

Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) is a common summer resident from 16 April to 18 September. It nests throughout the island on pebbly surfaces near ponds.

Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*) is a common summer resident from 6 May to 11 September. Small colonies of up to 12 pairs nest on small cays offshore and on the mainland near the Navy pier at Receiver's Beach.

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) is a common summer resident from 20 April to 23 September. Up to 1000 pairs nest on Gut Island and another 25 pairs or so on Diamond Key, both off Double Bay. They also nest on the Schooner Cays off Powell Point.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) is a common fall migrant from 22 July to 16 September. It is found primarily over ponds between James Cistern and Governor's Harbour Airport, where up to 18 have been seen in one day. There is only one previous published record for Eleuthera, a bird captured 17 October 1956 by Maurice Collett (Bond, 2nd Supplement, 1957).

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) is a common summer resident from 24 April to 11 September. As many as 40 have been observed on Gut Island, where it may nest. Though no nest was found, immature birds were observed along with adults on this island.

Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) is an introduced species with a few pairs in every small town, with up to a dozen birds in Hatchet Bay.

White-crowned Pigeon (*Columba leucocephala*) is a common permanent resident, more abundant in summer. It can normally be seen in the evenings flying from the main island to the cays off the Western shore where it nests.

Zenaida Dove (*Zenaida aurita*) is a locally common permanent resident. It is easily located in the vicinity of Ten Bay Beach where young have been observed, though no nest was located.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) is a common permanent resident. It is found throughout the island, but is more abundant in the vicinity of farms and dairies, especially those around Hatchet Bay. Nests may be found anywhere.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*) is a common permanent resident, nesting throughout the island.

Key West Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon chrysis*) is an uncommon permanent resident whose secretive habits make it difficult to find. It frequents fruit trees where it feeds on fallen fruits, especially sapodilla.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) is a fall and spring transient, common in some years, and scarce or absent in others; 23 to 30 April and 1 August to 19 November. Can show up anywhere.

Mangrove Cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*) is a common permanent resident frequenting dense scrub from which it can be heard calling in the evenings anywhere on the island.

Great Lizard Cuckoo (*Saurothera merlini*) is an uncommon permanent resident frequenting dense scrub throughout the island. The tall scrub at Ten Bay and SE of North Palmetto Point along the Old Queen's Highway are good places to look for this species.

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) is a common permanent resident found throughout the island on roadsides and in fields. Groups of 6 to 14 are often seen.

Common Barn-Owl (*Tyto alba*) is an uncommon permanent resident. It nests in caves in cliffs on the western side of the island and on small cays offshore which have small caves in their clifflike faces.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is a common permanent resident. A colony is located on Whale Point just NW of the Glass Window.

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) is an uncommon spring migrant from 28 April to 21 May. This species probably transits the island in fall as well, but can only be separated from the Antillean Nighthawk (*C. gundlachi*) when its nasal "peent" call can be heard. It is found throughout the island.

Antillean Nighthawk (*Chordeiles gundlachi*) is a common summer resident from 23 April to 1 October. It can be separated from the Common Nighthawk (*C. minor*) by its "pity-pit-pit" call in the spring. It nests throughout the island on bare areas and on beaches near the base of sand dunes. It is hard to miss in the evenings when it is hawking for insects overhead.

Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) is a rare winter visitor. A single bird stayed from 26 December 1977 to 1 January 1978 in the stand of trees at the North end of French Leave (Club Med) Beach. This is the only record for Eleuthera.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) is a fall and spring transient from 16 September to 26 October and 27 April to 5 May, with one summer record, 13 June 1976 at Governor's Harbor. Of interest is an observation of 1000 + birds 2 May 1979 over North Palmetto Point Ball Field.

Bahama Woodstar (*Calliphlox evelynae*) is a common permanent breeding resident. It is found throughout the island in gardens and at flowering agave stalks.

Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) is an uncommon winter resident from 5 July to 7 May. It is found around ponds throughout the island.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) is an uncommon winter resident from 23 September to 28 April. It is found in larger trees throughout the island, especially those at the NE end of North Palmetto Point near the Reed Pond.

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) is an uncommon fall and scarce spring transient; 18 September to 12 November and 28 March. It may show up anywhere on the island.

Greater Antillean Pewee (*Contopus caribaeus*) is an uncommon summer and scarce winter resident. It can be found in the casuarina and coconut palms at the north end of North Palmetto Point from 21 May to mid-August.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) is an accidental. One record from South Palmetto Point, 3 October 1976. This is the first Bahamian record, the only other West Indian records are from Cuba (Bond 1974).

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*) is a rare fall transient. One 11 September 1972 in a small citrus grove SE of North Palmetto Point along the Old Queen's Highway. There are no other records for Eleuthera.

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) is a rare winter visitor. The one seen 20 January 1972 at the U. S. Naval Facility is the only record for Eleuthera. The only other Bahamian records are from Bimini and Grand Bahama (Bond 1974, and Brudenell-Bruce 1975).

LaSagra's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus sagrae*) is an uncommon summer resident from 27 March to 25 September. It nests in tree cavities at Palmetto Point and Ten Bay.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) is a rare fall transient. Two records, 23 October 1977 and 11 November 1972. Both were in the casuarinas on the U. S. Naval Facility.

Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) is a common fall migrant from 23 August to 10 November. Seen throughout the island, but of special interest was a large group of 600 + birds which appeared at the U. S. Naval Facility 23 October 1977.

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) is a common summer resident from 3 April to 18 November. It nest throughout the island, and is easily found in the vicinity of tall casuarina trees.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) is an uncommon fall and spring migrant from 20 to 27 August and 4 March to 1 May. It is seen flying over open areas throughout the island.

Cuban Martin (*Progne cryptoleuca*) is a rare spring visitor. One bird on 4 March 1978 along with *P. subis* over a shallow pond near Receiver's Beach, just SE of Governor's Harbour airport. Both species rested on power lines giving a good opportunity to study and compare them. There are no records for the Bahamas, but since many authorities consider this form conspecific with *P. subis*, the two are not always distinguished in published statements.

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) is a scarce fall transient from 28 August to 24 November. It is found over open fields and ponds along with Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*), especially near Hatchet Bay.

Bahama Swallow (*Tachycineta cyaneoviridis*) is a scarce summer visitor which appears only after heavy rains; 8 June to 12 August. No evidence of breeding was found. May show up anywhere on the island, usually perched on power lines.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) is a rare fall and spring transient for which we have two records, 7 October 1978 and 10 May 1976. To be looked for in groups of Barn and Tree Swallows, especially over ponds.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) is a common fall and uncommon spring transient, from 19 August to 19 November and 5 April to 20 May. The most common swallow by far, found over open fields and small ponds, especially around Hatchet Bay.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) is an accidental. Connor saw one on 1 October 1976 sitting on a large rock and on cement blocks which held a water pipe above ground on the road to Receiver's Beach. Its upright stance, buff color, white rump and inverted black "T" on the tail made the bird unmistakable. This sighting was mentioned in *American Birds*, 31:229 (Finch 1977). There are three records for this species from the West Indies (Cuba, Puerto Rico, Barbados), but this is the first record for the Bahamas.

Bluebird sp. (*Sialia currucooides?*) is an accidental. One record: 24 and 25 November 1976, after several days of high winds from the west. When Connor first saw the bird, he identified it as an Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) but in retrospect, the shade of blue on the bird seemed too light and pastel. He returned and studied the bird intensively, using several field guides, and satisfied himself that the shade of blue and brown color (not rust) on this individual indicated a female Mountain Bluebird. The bird was photographed, but the weather was rainy and conditions were not good for photography. When the weather cleared, the bird disappeared. There is no other record for the West Indies.

Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) is a rare fall transient. Two on 3 October 1976 at the far end of the second pond SE of North Palmetto Point. This is the only record for Eleuthera.

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) is a rare fall migrant from 3 to 20 October. Found primarily in the area north of and SE along the Old Queen's Highway from North Palmetto Point and on the U. S. Naval Facility. There are no other records for Eleuthera.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) is a rare winter visitor. Two records, 24 December 1977 and 25 January 1977, one at Spanish Main Resort and the other in the northern part of North Palmetto Point.

Red-legged Thrush (*Turdus plumbeus*) is a common permanent resident. It can be found nesting throughout the island, primarily in dense moist places with a few coconut palms.

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) is a common winter resident from 5 October to 11 May. Found throughout the island.

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) is a common permanent resident found throughout the island. It nests primarily in and around towns.

Bahama Mockingbird (*Mimus gundlachi*) is a common permanent resident found throughout the island. In contrast to the Northern Mockingbird, this species nests primarily in scrub away from human habitations.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) is an accidental. One on 21 September 1971 on the U. S. Naval Facility. This is the first record for Eleuthera. There are three other records for the Bahamas, two from Grand Bahama, 19-23 October 1966 (Brudenell-Bruce 1975) and 20-21 October (Bond 1974), and Andros Island 13 April (Bond 1974).

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) is a scarce fall visitor that appears to be becoming a yearly regular. Some typical sightings include: twelve at the U. S. Naval Facility on 29 October 1976; thirty in a field and on power lines near James Cistern on 30 October 1976, eight near James Cistern on 15 November 1977, two at the Naval Facility on 28 October 1978.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) is an uncommon winter resident from 3 October to 2 April. Found throughout the island in brush.

Thick-billed Vireo (*Vireo crassirostris*) is a common permanent resident found throughout the island nesting in scrub and thickets.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) is a scarce winter resident from 29 September to 5 March. It is found primarily north of Governor's Harbour near a small pond NE of the water tank at the top of the hill, and in the scrub north of North Palmetto Point.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) is a rare fall transient for which we have one record, 29 September 1976. Noted in the wooded area north of North Palmetto Point. Both Bond (1974) and Brudenell-Bruce (1975) reported this species from Eleuthera.

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) is an uncommon fall migrant from 16 September to 31 October. Found throughout the island.

Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*) is a common summer resident from 16 April to 16 October. Nests throughout the island.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) is a rare fall transient for which we have three records, 18 September 1976, 11 October 1976 and 17 December 1978. These are the only records for Eleuthera. Found in the woods north of North Palmetto Point.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) is a rare fall transient for which we have one record, 27 September 1978. Found approximately 2 miles NE of Balera Bay along the Atlantic Coast.

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) is an uncommon fall transient from 12 September to 18 November. Found primarily in the casuarinas behind Governor's Harbor airport.

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) is an uncommon winter resident from 29 September to 13 May. Found throughout the island in low scrub, but easily overlooked due to its habit of staying under cover and low to the ground.

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) is a scarce fall migrant from 18 September to 31 October. Found primarily in stands of casuarinas near water, especially behind Governor's Harbor airport.

Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) is a common winter resident from 25 August to 28 April. Found throughout the island.

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) is a scarce fall migrant from 17 August to 4 November. Found primarily in the area near the second pond SE of North Palmetto Point along the Old Queen's Highway. There is an old record of *D. p. gundlachi* collected on 12 March 1891 (Ridgway, 1891). This form is widespread as a breeding bird in the Bahamas and probably once bred on Eleuthera, but Connor did not find it in 5 years of field work. Extensive cutting and farming may have extirpated the taxon on the island.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) is a scarce fall migrant for which there is one record, 20 September 1978, an immature bird at the SE end of the Reed Pond at North Palmetto Point. This is the only record for Eleuthera.

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) is an uncommon winter resident from 1 October to 9 April. Found throughout the island.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) is a common winter resident from 28 August to 2 May. Found throughout the island.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) is a common winter resident from 18 September to 25 April. Easily found in the wooded area and near the Reed Pond at North Palmetto Point.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) is a common winter resident from 17 October to 2 April. The second most abundant warbler on the island and found throughout.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) is a scarce transient and winter resident from 5 October to 9 April. Found in the area SE of North Palmetto Point in trees around the Reed Pond.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) is a rare fall transient for which we have one record, 22 October 1977. Seen in the casuarinas behind Governor's Harbor airport.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) is a common winter resident from 20 July to 4 April. Found throughout the island primarily in stands of larger trees.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) is a rare visitor. One 16 to 22 October 1972 in the casuarinas north of North Palmetto Point. Though recorded from Harbour Island, a stone's throw off North Eleuthera, this is the only record for Eleuthera. The scarcity of this species is due to the fact that there are no natural pines on Eleuthera.

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) is a common winter resident from 30 July to 12 April. Found throughout the island.

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*) is a common winter resident from 17 September to 3 May. The most abundant warbler on the island and found throughout.

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) is a rare transient. We have two records, 3 October 1976 and 4 October 1977. Both sightings were in the stands of casuarinas behind Governor's Harbor airport.

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) is an uncommon fall and spring transient, 22 September to 26 October and 22 April to 3 May. Noted primarily on the U. S. Naval Facility, but found throughout the island.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) is a common winter resident from 1 August to 14 May. Found throughout the island.

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) is a common winter resident from 25 August to 25 May. Found throughout the island.

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) is an uncommon fall and spring transient from 4 August to 13 October, and 3 April to 5 May. Found throughout the island primarily near ponds.

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) is a scarce winter resident from 19 September to 25 April. Found primarily in the area around the Reed Pond SE of North Palmetto Point.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) is a scarce spring transient for which we have two records; 5 March 1979, SE of Gregory Town in the development at Surfer's Beach, and 6 May 1972 at South Palmetto Point. This species may be more plentiful than indicated, but overlooked due to its habit of foraging on the ground in dense cover.

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) is a common winter resident from 22 August to 8 May. Found throughout the island, but primarily in damp, heavily vegetated areas.

Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) is a common winter resident from 27 August to 8 May. Both races occur and are found primarily in damp areas, especially around the ponds between North Palmetto Point and Double Bay.

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) is an uncommon winter resident from 17 July to 3 April. Found primarily around the Reed Pond at North Palmetto Point.

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) is a rare fall transient for which we have one record, 9 November 1978. Seen at the edge of the woods at the North End of North Palmetto Point. This is the first record for Eleuthera.

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) is a common winter resident from 9 September to 30 April. Found throughout the island.

Bahama Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis rostrata*) is an uncommon permanent resident at the Northern part of the island, but scarce in other parts. It can often be found in fields and pastures around Hatchet Bay. Easily confused with the Common Yellowthroat, which is much more common in winter but absent in summer.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) is a scarce fall and spring transient from 20 September to 31 October, and 25 April 1977. Noted in the woods north of North Palmetto Point.

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) is a rare spring transient for which we have one record, 28 March 1976 near the Reed Pond at North Palmetto Point. This is the only record for Eleuthera.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) is a rare fall transient, seen 20 October 1977 near the top of the hill at Governor's Harbor. This is the only record for Eleuthera.

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) is a common permanent resident found throughout the island.

Stripe-headed Tanager (*Spindalis zena*) is an uncommon permanent resident found throughout the island.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) is a rare fall transient for which we have two records, 10 October 1976, and 22 October 1977. Both seen in the stands of casuarinas behind Governor's Harbor airport. These are the only records for Eleuthera.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) is a rare spring transient. The bird seen on 22 April 1979 at Spanish Main Resort is the second record for the Island. The other is a bird seen by Maurice Collett on 10 April 1956 (Bond, 2nd Supplement, 1957).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) is a scarce fall and spring transient from 6 October to 23 October and 4 May. May show up anywhere on the island.

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) is a rare fall and common spring transient from 16 September to 5 November and 18 April to 3 May. Found in fairly open areas with tall grass throughout the island.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) is a common winter resident from 18 September to 28 April. Found throughout the island.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) is a scarce winter resident from 18 November to 26 March. Found with the Indigo Bunting, especially near the Reed Pond at North Palmetto Point.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) is a scarce fall and winter visitor from 21 October to 31 December. Found primarily on the U. S. Naval Facility and the area behind Governor's Harbor airport. There is no previous record for Eleuthera, but the species has been noted on Harbour Island in late November 1967 by C. R. Mason and others on a Florida Audubon expedition (Bond, 13th Supplement, 1968).

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) is an accidental. One record, 26 October 1977. The bird was with Chipping Sparrows on the U. S. Naval Facility. This is the first record for Eleuthera.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) is a rare fall visitor. We have two records, 29 September and 3 October 1976. Both birds were immatures in the vicinity of the fourth pond SE of North Palmetto Point along the Old Queen's Highway. These are the only records for Eleuthera, if indeed two individuals were involved. Both records could easily be the same bird seen twice.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) is a common winter resident from 30 October to 15 April. Found primarily in the area behind Governor's Harbor airport.

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) is a scarce winter resident from 9 November to 11 March. Found primarily in the grassy area between the ballfield and the Reed Pond at North Palmetto Point.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) is an accidental. Connor saw one on 29 September 1972. The bird had a heavy bill, dark crown stripes, clearly visible eye ring, streaking on the chest, an olive colored head and nape and rusty wings. Connor saw it in the grassy areas of North Palmetto Point ballfield. This is the first record for the Bahamas and the only one for the West Indies.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) is a scarce winter resident from 2 October to 17 April. Found primarily in the area behind Governor's Harbor airport and on the U. S. Naval Facility. These are the only observations for Eleuthera.

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) is a rare fall and spring transient for which we have four records: 4 November, 12 and 20 March 1977, and 14 March 1978. Seen perched on exposed branches overhanging and in the reeds of the Reed Pond at North Palmetto Point. The species has been seen only once before on Eleuthera, on 26 November 1964 by Margaret Hundley and others on a Florida Audubon trip, (Bond, 10th Supplement, 1965). It has also been reported from Harbour Island in late November 1967 by C. R. Mason et. al. on an Audubon trip (Bond, 13th Supplement, 1968).

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) is a scarce fall visitor for which we have two records, 17 and 31 October 1976. Both were immature birds, one seen on the U. S. Naval Facility and the other just past the fourth pond in a small grassy area SE of North Palmetto Point along the Old Queen's Highway. There may have been only one bird seen twice. These sightings are the only records for Eleuthera.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) is a scarce fall and spring transient from 10 to 29 September and 20 April to 14 May. Found in tall grassy areas throughout the island.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) is a rare resident for which we have one record, 27 May 1978. A singing male at the extreme end of Whale Point.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) is a rare spring visitor. The two females seen on 28 May 1977 were on the U. S. Naval Facility. This is the only record for Eleuthera.

Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) is an uncommon fall and rare spring transient from 11 September to 12 November and 3 May 1976. Found throughout the island and noted eating seagrapes.

Black-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris bicolor*) is a common permanent resident found throughout the island.

Greater Antillean Bullfinch (*Loxigilla violacea*) is a common permanent resident found throughout the island.

DISCUSSION

We report herein, records of 205 species seen on the island of Eleuthera by Harold Connor. Thirty-one of these are new for Eleuthera; nine are new for the Bahamas; and three are new for the West Indies. New for Eleuthera are: Olivaceous Cormorant, White Ibis, Greater Flamingo, Fulvous and West Indian Whistling-Duck, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Whimbrel, Dunlin, Bonaparte's Gull, Common Tern, Forster's Tern, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Sprague's Pipit, Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, Mourning, and Wilson's Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Clay-colored, Lark, Song and White-crowned Sparrows and Brown-headed Cowbird. New for the Bahamas

are: Canada Goose, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Swallow-tailed Kite, Virginia Rail, Baird's Sandpiper, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Cuban Martin and Northern Wheatear (previously published). New to the West Indies are Eurasian Curlew, Mountain Bluebird, and Henslow's Sparrow. In addition, we suggest changes in the known status of several other species, e.g., Green-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Limpkin, Red Knot. We also report the first evidence for the breeding of the Ruddy Duck on Eleuthera. We did not see 17 species previously reported on Eleuthera (Table 1). The many revisions that are needed in our understanding of the status of the birds of Eleuthera are largely the result of the fact that relatively little concentrated observation has been done there when compared with, say, New Providence. We hope that this paper improves our understanding of the birds of Eleuthera, the Bahamas and the West Indies and provides a baseline for further research.

Table 1. Species previously reported for Eleuthera, not located in this study (includes Harbour Island).

Species		Reference
Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	Bond, Supp. 11, 1966.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Schwartz and Klinikowski 1965.
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Bond, Supp. 2 1957.
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Bond, Supp. 20 1976.
Black Rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	Bond 1956.
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyryla martinica</i>	Bond, Supp. 2 1957.
Hudsonian Godwit	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>	Schwartz and Klinikowski 1965.
Great-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Bond, Supp. 2 1957.
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Bond, Supp. 19 1974.
Pearly-eyed Thrasher	<i>Margarops fuscatus</i>	Bond, Supp. 9 1964. Bond, Supp. 22 1978.
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Bond, Supp. 11 1966.
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Bond, Supp. 2 1957.
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Bond, Supp. 14 1969.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Bond, Supp. 14 1969.
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	Bond, Supp. 7 1962.
Solitary Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Bond 1956.
Kirtland's Warbler	<i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i>	Bond, Supp. 2 1957.

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EDITORIAL

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