



Fig. 2. Incubating Arctic Tern on Jetty Island, Washington (Photo/Klaus O. Richter).

higher at the northern shrub-covered end and grading toward a central and southern grass-covered portion. It is currently being used as an undeveloped recreation area by the Port of Everett. The number of visitors during the summer season appears to be low; however, despite easy access to the island. Owing to more intensive recreational use in the

near past, and the dumping of dredge material during 1969, we consider the colony to be of fairly recent origin.

There is a colony of approximately 100 pairs of Glaucous-winged Gulls (*Larus glaucescens*) adjacent to the tern nesting area on the north end. Other species breeding on the island, based on nests, fledglings, or persistent territorial birds,

were Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Nighthawk, Red-winged Blackbird, Savannah Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow. In addition, a small group (4 adult, 7 immature) of Common Terns (*S. hirundo*) was present from at least June 28, 1978 through July. These terns remained quietly and exclusively on the mudflats and are presumed to be summering non-breeding individuals. Photographs of both species of terns, and of the Arctic Tern nests, eggs, and fledglings, are on file with the Washington State Bird Records Committee. We also found Norway Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) and an unidentified *Microtus* sp. on the island.

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DISTRIBUTION

New records of birds for the Virgin Islands

Sight records of birds added to the Virgin Islands list, with additional distributional notes

Robert L. Norton

During my most recent visits to the Virgin Islands, October 3-6, 1976 and December 29, 1977 - April 17, 1978, I recorded several bird species that enlarge the local list of recorded migrants; six of these are new for the United States and British Virgin Islands. In addition, there are five species recorded below which have not pre-

viously been found on St. Thomas, but have been recorded on neighboring islands (Philibosian and Yntema, 1977). Nomenclature follows Bond (1971).

Ring-necked Duck, *Aythya collaris*. One female was observed feeding in a small freshwater pond, Smith Bay, St. Thomas, on January 2, 9, and 29, 1978, two observers on Jan. 29 (RAD and RLN). This is a new record for

the United States and British Virgin Islands. A previously known record for this area is from Puerto Rico in 1878 (Wetmore, 1927). Incredibly, an adult male was observed at Grootpan Bay salt pond near Lameshur Bay, St. John, February 8, 1978.

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*. An adult male was observed chasing dove spp. near Rata and Durlow Cays, north of Cruz Bay, St. John, April 13, 1978. Peregrines have not been recorded for the northern United States Virgin Islands. It was again observed at close range at Tobago Island in the British Virgin Islands on the same day.

Clapper Rail, *Rallus longirostris*. An adult with downy week-old chick was observed at the "Lagoons" near the sanitary landfill, St. Thomas January 9, 1978. The last known breeding record for this species is approximately 1940 (Nichols, 1943).

Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*. An immature bird was compared with Laughing Gulls, *L. atricilla*, at the "Lagoons" October 3, 1976. This is a first record for the northern Virgin Islands.

Chuck-will's-widow, *Caprimulgus carolinensis*. One bird was observed in Mandhal, St. Thomas January 21, 1978 providing a new record for this island, although this species is a common winter resident on neighboring islands.

Veery, Hylocichla fuscescens A dark-phase individual was observed at close range on Bordeaux Mountain Road, St. John March 23, 1978. It was closely compared with an Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*, with which it was feeding in moist deciduous, second-growth forest. It was heard calling a single flute-like note and observed occasionally taking small fruit. This constitutes a first record of any *Turdidae* in the United States or British Virgin Islands. Previously it has gone unrecorded east of Cuba (Bond, 1971).

White-eyed Vireo, Vireo griseus. A single bird initially heard singing and subsequently observed on Bordeaux Mountain trail April 1, 1978, provided a first record for the United States or British Virgin Islands. Song was heard by another experienced observer (DF).

Yellow-throated Vireo, Vireo flavifrons. This vireo was observed in a flock of foraging wintering warblers on February 4, 1978 in "Grey Gut" which is a ravine on the east side of Bordeaux Mountain, St. John. This constitutes a first record for the United States or British Virgin Islands.

Prothonotary Warbler, Protonotaria citrea. There were two observations; one of a male in a wooded swamp near Megan's Bay January 2, 1978, and one of a female seen on Cas Key March 5. Although previously unrecorded for St. Thomas, I agree with Leck (1975) that this migrant is much more common than realized.

Swainson's Warbler, Limnothlypis swainsonii. A single bird was observed on two occasions in the same locality of the National Park's Reef Bay Trail, St. John February 26, and March 27, 1978. Although the bird was very shy and remained toward the rear of a group of aroused warblers, it remained surprisingly still for several minutes during each period of observation. It could not be confused with the Worm-eating Warbler, *Helmitheros vermivorus*, which was common in the area and foraging within view of the Swainson's. The rusty cap, bone-white supercilium, longish bill and light colored legs were the most striking characteristics of this otherwise dull-plumaged warbler. The sides of the breast were dusker than field guide illustrations indicate. This provides a first record for the United States or British Virgin Islands, of a species that has gone unrecorded east of Cuba (Bond, 1971).

Yellow-throated Warbler, Dendroica dominica. A male was observed on two occasions in the same wooded swamp near Megan's Bay, St. Thomas, January 7 and 9, 1978. It has gone previously unrecorded for this island.

Chestnut-sided Warbler, Dendroica pensylvanica. There are two observations, possibly of the same individual, March 27 and April 8, 1978 on Reef Bay Trail and in "Grey Gut," respectively. These areas are near enough to be visited by foraging migrants during this period. Although regarded as accidental on Puerto Rico (Bond, 1971 and Philibosian and Yntema, 1977), this constitutes the first record for the United States or British Virgin Islands.

Northern (Baltimore) Oriole, Icterus g. galbula. A male of this species was heard and seen in a wooded swamp near Megan's Bay,

St. Thomas January 2, 1978. It has previously not been recorded for this island.

Bond (1971) suggested that this oriole was unsubstantiated east of Hispaniola. Actually, "Baltimore" Orioles have been reported in the Virgin Islands in the past, perhaps being confused with the introduced Troupial, *Icterus icterus*, on St. Thomas. I recorded orioles from February 19 continuously until April 17, 1978 from Coral Bay to Lameshur Bay, St. John.

Notes of interest: During the period February 4 - April 17, 1978, I conducted ornithological research of *Columbidae* on St. John based at the Virgin Islands Ecological Research Station (hereafter, V.I.E.R.S.), Lameshur Bay. These 72 days of field survey time enabled me to assess the relative abundance of several species during an unusually wet and cool winter.

White-cheeked Pintail, Anas bahamensis. I recorded this locally endangered pintail nearly every day during the study period. Numbers (50 daily maximum) apparently fluctuate, at least during the winter, according to the amount of water available in salt ponds. Large concentrations were observed at the Grootpan Bay salt pond and the Mary Point pond during the last two weeks of March when most of the smaller ponds began to dry up.

White-crowned Pigeon, Columba leucocephala. Robertson (1962) counted very few White-crowns during his survey of the newly established Virgin Islands National Park. During my survey of accessible mangrove areas on St. Thomas and St. John, I estimated populations of this locally endangered pigeon to be greater than anticipated. At Lameshur Bay, St. John, 18 birds arrived at the mangrove in a period of 90 minutes during dusk. St. Croix's extensive mangrove on the south coast has been greatly disturbed by industrialization. The apparent increase of White-crowns on St. John may represent a displacement of breeding birds to favorable habitat or simply taking advantage of protection from hunting and poaching in the National Park. Continued study of *Columbids* is warranted from an ecological viewpoint owing to possible overlap of habitat use by White-crowns and Scaly-naped (Red-necked) Pigeon, *C. squamosa*. On several occasions Scaly-naped were observed roosting in or leaving mangroves at various times of the day. Mirecki (1976) also reported Scaly-naped roosting in mangroves in the Virgin Islands but Sorrie (1975) claimed no evidence of this behavior on Vieques.

Parulidae. Robertson (1962), who spent about 28 days on St. John, commented on several warbler species, questioning their rarity and distribution. Admittedly, some sight records needed confirmation as do some of mine, but

interesting is the fact that Magnolia, *Dendroica magnolia*, Cape May, *D. tigrina*; Kentucky, *Oporornis formosus*, and Hooded, *Wilsonia citrina*; were warblers considered rare or accidental. I found these particular species to be winter residents, recorded at various altitudes and in widely distributed habitats throughout the period.

Lesser Antillean Bullfinch, Loxigilla noctis. First reported in the Virgin Islands in 1971 (Raffaele and Roby, 1977), its continued expansion on St. John has not been monitored, or at least reported on, west of Europa Bay. I observed the bullfinch not only in dry scrub habitat described by Raffaele and Roby, but also in other widely distributed semiscrub and moist habitats. Most surprising were observations in Reef Bay where elevation is 140 m, and in the disturbed mangrove of Great Cruz Bay March 11, 1978.

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