

Honouliuli unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O., 10 Oct (PD); in taro fields at Haleiwa, O., 22 Oct (MO); Amorient aquafarm adjacent to Ki'i Ponds, O., 24 Oct (DP); and at Ki'i Ponds unit, James Campbell N.W.R., O., 27 Nov (MO). The steady northward progression with time suggests that some or all sightings perhaps involved the same bird. A Ruff was also sighted at Sand I. 6 Sep (USFWS). Scarcer species reported this season include a (North American) Whimbrel regularly with Bristle-thighed Curlews at Ki'i Ponds unit, O.; a Red Knot (rare in Hawaii) at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M. 25 Oct (DP); a juv. female Western Sandpiper at Kealia Pond 1 Oct (AE); a probable Rufous-necked Stint at Cyanotech Ponds. H. 23 Aug (AE); and a Short-billed Dowitcher at Honouliuli unit 11 Sep (PD) and at Ki'i Ponds unit 5 Oct and Waiawa unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O., 7 Oct, (both *fide* MS).

TERNS THROUGH JAVA SPARROW

At Sand I., Midway the second Little Tern nest reported in July also failed. Three Least and two Littles were still there 21 Aug (AE) but became difficult to distinguish by plumage. A juv. Com. Tern was at Kona W.T.P. 30 Nov (KU) and a Great Crested Tern was reported at Tern I., F.F.S. 11 Aug (USFWS). Both species are rarely seen in Hawaii. Two Mourning Doves were observed at Nu'u Pond near Kaupo, M., 21 Aug and two were at the Mokulele Hwy. entrance to Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., 4 and 7 Sep (FD, RD). One was found later at Kealia Pond N.W.R. 19 Oct (LT). These sightings follow two earlier isolated sightings on Maui as the only records away from the small population established for many decades in coastal sections of nw. Hawai'i I. A Hawaiian (Short-eared) Owl was observed well several times through the fall at Ki'i Ponds unit of James Campbell N.W.R. (MO), one of few localities on O'ahu where this species is still occasionally reported. Two tour groups had close observations for up to an hour or two of the three adult 'Alala (Hawaiian Crow) still known in the wild at McCandless Ranch near Captain Cook, H., 2 Nov (DP) and late Nov (DK). Wild birds were attracted to a large outdoor aviary containing two captive-raised young awaiting release.

Saffron Finches are still doing well on O'ahu, particularly in the Salt L. and Pearl City areas. One was seen and another heard at Leeward Community College. sw. of Pearl City 13 Nov (SM). A good collection of alien finches and estrildids were coming to pools at a country club near Pu'uana-

hulu, H., 30 Oct, including Saffron Finches, Yellow-fronted Canaries, Red Avadavats, Warbling Silverbills, Nutmeg Mannikins, one Black-rumped Waxbill, and one Red-cheeked Cordonbleu heard (DP). Java Sparrows were observed again on Waimea Canyon Rd. just above Waimea, K., 15 Jul (DK).

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west indies

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Another dread hurricane season pressed through the Region, with a record number of intense storms. Hurricane *Floyd* raced toward the northern Lesser Antilles in Sep producing some interesting seabird reports for Barbados; i.e. Red-footed Boobies, jaegers, Bridled Terns, and noddies, all rarely seen from land. Hurricane *Gert* washed over nesting islands of Bermuda's endangered gadfly petrel, the Cahow, for the second time in four years. The damage was not as bad as last time, when 40% of nest sites were affected. Repair and preventative maintenance reduced losses this time. Hurricane *Irene* sliced through the northern Bahamas at Abaco causing severe damage in September. *Lenny*, a Category 4, made an unprecedented mid-Nov run from the western Caribbean Sea to the northeast Lesser Antilles, with winds of 150 mph and a 15- to 20-foot storm surge. *Lenny* stalled as it approached St. Martin, leaving 25 to 30 in. of rain. The tiny limestone rock and seabird nesting site at Sombrero in the middle of the Anegada Passage no doubt suffered near wash-over conditions. This islet was the proposed site of a joint US-UK satellite launching facility; with projections for an increase in hurricane activity and intensity in the next decade (Gray), *Lenny* may just be a prelude to the folly planned for Sombrero. *La Niña* conditions continue to provide outstanding landbird records in the northern islands, with sparrows and warblers in higher numbers and more widespread. An unusual shift in migratory



patterns produced two extralimital kite species records, one new for the hemisphere.

Abbreviations: Ba (Bahamas); Bd (Barbados); Be (Bermuda); Cu (Cuba); Do (Dominica); Gu (Guadeloupe); Ha (Haiti); RNC (Rand Nature Center, Grand Bahama, Ba); StJ (St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands); StL (St. Lucia).

GREBES THROUGH TERMS

An Eared Grebe, the second record for Be, was at Spittal Pond 7 Nov (*fide* AD). Least Grebes numbered 10+, including young of the year at Grand Bahama, Ba, 6-12 Oct (TW et al.). Cahows returned to nesting burrows mid-Oct, but faced a major challenge with over-washing seas and erosion to nesting islands by hurricane *Gert* (DW). A juv. **Gray Heron** was observed 10 Oct at North Point, St. Lucy, Bd, (MF, EM) and a second-year bird was moving between Graeme Hall Swamp and Chancery Lane, Christ Church (EM, MF, MG). Has breeding been confirmed for this species yet? An apparently non-breeding **Little Egret** stopped briefly at Club Fortuna Beach, Grand Bahama, during the passage of hur-

ricane *Dennis* 28 Aug (CS); good details eliminated Snowy Egret. From Puerto Rico comes a report in late Sep of **Western Reef-Heron** from the mouth of the Arecibo R., where there may be second bird (JJP *vide* MO). It would appear that hurricanes are facilitating fall dispersal of Barbados' breeding herons, identified by their extraordinary variety and proclivity for wandering. The venerable White Ibis extended its stay on Be through Oct, and a Glossy Ibis flew over 7 Oct at Camden Marsh, Be, (*vide* AD). Ninety Greater Flamingoes were counted at Etang Saumatre, e.n.e. of Port-au-Prince, Ha, 14 Nov (JC), suggesting groups are moving around seeking feeding areas. Crouse found flamingoes feeding in the Artibonite Valley, a first during his tenure in Ha. Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were noted at Coles, St. Phillip, Bd, 16–17 Aug (MF). An imm. Tundra Swan made a showing 18–21 Nov at Spittal Pond, one of few Be records (*vide* AD). Among a migratory group of Osprey, two **Swallow-tailed Kites** were seen (JC, JA, IP) 28 Aug above Gonaives Bay, Ha, providing the first for the Greater Antilles east of Cu and Eleuthera, Ba. A **Black Kite** was in the British Virgin Is. mid-Oct (FS et al.). Details are expected elsewhere for this first Regional and possibly hemispheric record, though it has reached Hawaii. Two Com. Black-Hawks were at Vermont, StV, (FF, BW) 11 Nov in upland habitat, unlike the Cuban population's preference for coastal islands and lagoons.

A Whimbrel was on mudflats at Gonaives, Ha, 28 Aug (JC et al.). A **Curlew Sandpiper**, Be's sixth, was noted 17 Sep at Mid-Ocean Golf Club (AD) and eventually relocated with a second, the first Regional record of multiple individuals. Another rarity, possibly from across the Atlantic, was a Ruff seen in early Sep and again 26 Sep. A rarity from the American continent was an Am. Woodcock 28 Oct at Southampton, Be (PW). An imm. Parasitic Jaeger was seen from Oistins, Christ Church, Bd, 19 Sep, a rare occurrence from land (EM, CM). A Pomarine Jaeger was noted (AK, GK) on Cayo Paredon Grande, Cu, 1 Nov. A Lesser Black-backed Gull 4 Sep provided the earliest fall arrival for Be. A juv. Gull-billed Tern was noted at Sandy Point, Abaco, 15 Oct (WB), and a Sandwich Tern was noted at Oistins, Christ Church, Bd, 21 Sep (MG).

PARROTS THROUGH FINCHES

Frazier and Weiss pulled off a five-day psittacine quinella, with endemic Red-necked (5+) and Imperial Parrots (2) at

Syndicate, Do, 6 Nov (FF, BW), two St. Lucia Parrots at Edmond Forest, StL, 9 Nov, and 10+ St. Vincent Parrots 11 Nov near the Vermont Trail. Infrequently reported is the St. Lucia (Rufous) Nightjar, whence FF and BW found one on the west coast of StL 9 Nov. The population is curiously closely associated with the distribution of Fer-de-lance *Bothrops caribbaeus*, a deadly pit viper. Fourteen Chimney Swifts made a big show at Jenningsland and N. Shore, Be 23 Oct (*vide* AD) and three "bombed over heads" of BH et al. 17 Oct at Treasure Cay, Abaco. Among a plethora of unidentified *Chaetura* swifts at Bd, apparently associated with strong southerly flow from storm *Jose* in late Oct, was one positively identified Chimney Swift 30 Oct. There was speculation that another may have been a Short-tailed Swift (MF, FH). A pair of endemic Guadeloupe Woodpeckers was noted (FF, BW) 4 Nov near Vernon, Gu.

An E. Wood-Pewee (TW et al.) was one of the few Regional records. Increasing numbers of migrant flycatcher records from Ba in recent years perhaps represents increased coverage. Two Acadian Flycatchers were banded at RNC 8–11 Oct (B&WB, *vide* BH). An E. Kingbird was at Cayo Paredon Grande, Cu, 1 Nov (AK, GK). A Giant Kingbird 30 Oct at Hacienda La Vega, w. of Trinidad, Cu, (AK, GK) was apparently the first for Sancti Spiritus Province in several decades (*vide* AK). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Coles, Bd, 24 Aug (MF) provided one of few records from the Antilles.

A **Northern Shrike** 28 Nov (DW) at Great Head Park, Be, was a remarkable occurrence for the latitude, let alone location. **Bank Swallows** joined migrating Barn Swallows 6 Nov in lower mountains of Do (FF, BW), one of few reports from the Lesser Antilles. An octet of mostly imm. **Common House-Martins** at Harrison Point, Bd, 30–31 Oct (ME, EM) provided the first record for the West Indies. At least two lingered to 6 Nov. Photographs were provided to various knowledgeable observers for critical review; details are expected elsewhere. The only other Atlantic New World record is from Be 9 Aug 1957 (DW). Three Brown-headed Nuthatches were at the Emlen Tract, Grand Bahama, during Oct (WB, TW et al.). This species is of special concern in Ba, where the population has fluctuated during the last few decades.

Swainson's Thrushes were at RNC, GB, (BH) 18 Oct and Havana, Cu, 25 Oct (AK, GK); a Gray-checked Thrush was at the former the same day. White et al. recorded a Veery at Grand Bahama 8 Oct, one of few

Regional reports; one was also banded at Rand Nature Center (*vide* WB). Threatened by loss of habitat, a species of special concern is the Forest Thrush, reported recently near Vernon, Gu, 4 Nov (FF). Two or three White-breasted Thrashers, a critically threatened two-island endemic, were noted at Caravelle Peninsula, Martinique. It has been some time since that population has been reported, since St. Lucia has been surveying and monitoring its population closely. At StL, FF and BW found a Gray Trembler, recently sorted out of that island's confusing population of brown and gray forms that mirror endemism of the thrasher.

Bainton, the Braceys, Hallett, and White recorded 28 warbler species on Grand Bahama 6–13 Oct. Among them were a Bay-breasted, four (!) Swainson's, and a late Louisiana Waterthrush. Two Blackburnian Warblers were late at Be (SD) 28 Nov. A **Kirtland's Warbler** was near Hole-in-the-wall, s. Abaco, Ba, 28 Oct (PD, EC, *vide* WB). A female Am. Redstart at Gonaives, Ha, 1 Aug (JC) was early. A Prothonotary Warbler was at Cayo Paredon Grande, Cu, 1 Nov (AK, GK). Wilson's and Kentucky Warblers were noted at Havana 25 Oct and Playa Hiron, Cu, 26 Oct, respectively (AK, GK). Three Wilson's were noted at Grand Bahama 6–9 Oct (TW et al.). Also at Cayo Paredon Grande 1 Nov was a Scarlet Tanager (AK, GK). An imm. Dickcissel at Bahama Bay Club, GB, was a great find 9 Oct (TW et al.).

Three Clay-colored Sparrows 6–7 Oct and 19 Oct at Grand Bahama were good finds (TW et al.) for Ba. Within a week, two notable sparrows surfaced at Be, a Clay-colored at Hog Bay Park 2 Oct and a Lark Sparrow at Southside, Be 25 Sep (PW), providing a fourth island record. On Little Abaco, Ba, a **Lark Sparrow** 6 Sep (TD) was the first for that location (*vide* TW). Another good sparrow was a Lincoln's 19 Oct at Bahama Bay Club, Grand Bahama. A possible female Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Grand Bahama (TW et al.) 12 Oct, one of few for northern Ba. Not only were two Shiny Cowbirds at Grand Bahama 8 Oct, but the specter of an ad. male **Brown-headed Cowbird** there 12 Oct does not bode well for endemics. One of few Regional reports, an **Orchard Oriole** was at Cayo Paredon Grande 1 Nov (AK, GK). Three Baltimore Orioles were at Grand Bahama 6–12 Oct (TW et al.). One was at Montrouis nw. of Port-au-Prince 11 Nov, one of few reports from Ha (JC). One of the most remarkable records of the fall was a

Pine Grosbeak at Ft. Scur 14 Nov (J&LM), only the fifth for Be and first in 22 years. Perhaps another harbinger were 35 Com. Redpolls 11 Nov at Cooper's Island, Be.

ADDENDUM

Two Least Grebes in breeding plumage were at Caneel Bay, StJ, 18 Apr (RR); breeding there would reprise a 40-year hiatus. Row also reported two **Double-crested Cormorants** off Cruz Bay, StJ, mid-Apr, perhaps only the third record there. Also at Caneel Bay were several ad. and one-two imm. Black-crowned Night-Herons (RR); breeding at St.J would be a terrific record. EM found a male Hook-billed Kite near Mt. Hartman, Grenada, in Jul. A Dunlin in the Dominican Republic Apr 1996 predates the most recent report (GK). Six Fork-tailed Flycatchers were near the Grenada airport in Jul (EM). A Blue-winged Warbler was at Palpite, Zapata, Cu, 15 Feb (GK). Am. (Caribbean) Coots nested for the first time in a century at East Point, St. Philip, Bd 4 Jul, with 3 hatchlings 25 Jul (MF). A Pearly-eyed Thrasher 14 Jun (DA et al.) provided the 3rd record for Bd (*fide* MF). Check Trinidad and Tobago's Field Naturalist Club website (<http://www.wow.net/ttfnc>) for details too long to condense herein.

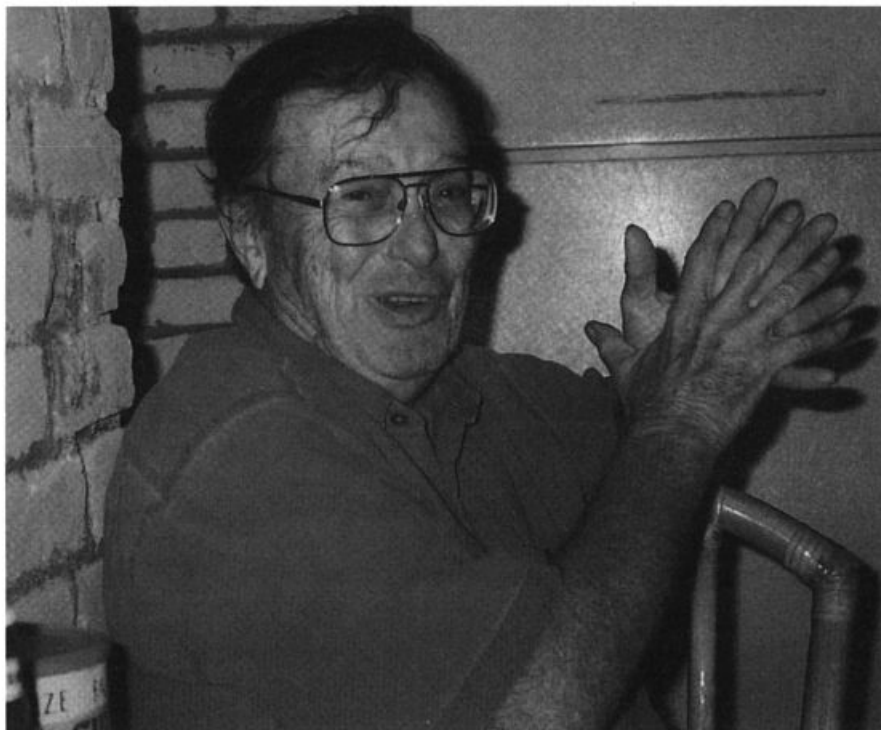
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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 20.

William B. Robertson Jr.

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The brief, dust-jacket biography of the co-author of "Florida Bird Species: An Annotated List" (1992, *Florida Ornithological Society Special Publication* no. 6) reads:

William B. Robertson, Jr. began studying landbird populations in southern Florida and the northern Bahamas in 1950 for his Ph.D. research, and received a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1955. Soon afterwards, he was employed as a research biologist in Everglades National Park. . . . In 1976 he was awarded the United States Department of Interior Medal for Distinguished Service and today he is Senior Scientist at the South Florida Research Center. A Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, he has published more than 100 articles on the Everglades ecosystem and on

the birds of Florida and the West Indies. Besides his reputation as the dean of Florida ornithologists, and his service as first president of the Florida Ornithological Society, Robertson is best known for his studies of the seabirds of Florida's Dry Tortugas.

Yet, readers today of *North American Birds* know little of his influence on the antecedent journals, *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds*, the ecology of the Everglades, and other things global. After Dr. Bill, as he was affectionately known, signed on with the National Park Service, he was assigned the duty of surveying the birdlife of St. John in the United States Virgin Islands, the newest member of the National Parks in March 1956. The result was the first manuscript devoted to avian biogeography of the Virgin Islands since