

PARROTS THROUGH PASSERINES

Six Rose-ringed Parakeets were observed in downtown Honolulu 14 Jun, and 10–15 were reported at the same location 20 Jul (MO). This introduced species has been established on the main Hawaiian Islands since at least 1988, but distribution and numbers are poorly known.

Forty-eight active nests of the Guam Swiftlet (*Endangered*) were found on a visit to the breeding colony in N. Halawa Valley, O'ahu, 11 Jul (DS, GS, EV), suggesting at least 96 adults in the colony. This is the only known nesting site in the Hawaiian Islands. Both the number of nests and the apparent number of adults are much higher than any previous counts. The Guam Swiftlet is native to the Mariana Islands, and the birds on Oahu are descendants of birds transplanted from Guam in the early 1960s.

The introduced Japanese Bush-Warbler continues to expand its range on Hawai'i Island. Over 20 were reported in early Jun in Kawainui Valley near the north end of the island. (KB *vide* TP).

SA A Maui Parrotbill chick (*Endangered*) hatched 21 Jul at the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center, Hawai'i I., the first time this species has been bred in captivity.

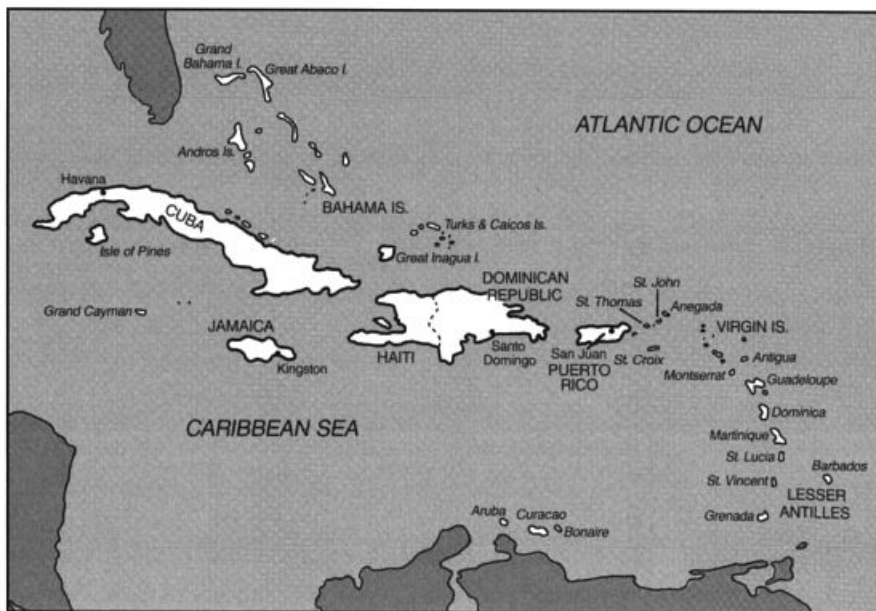
Maui 'Amakihi have been reported recently along the Hana Highway, Maui, near sea level (*vide* DP, LT). The presence of these native forest birds at lower elevations is encouraging. It may be an indication these species are becoming better adapted to mosquito-borne diseases prevalent at low elevations.

Single Saffron Finches were seen in three locations in Hilo, Hawai'i I., and two were seen in Honoka'a, Hawai'i I., 11 Jun (TP). These exotics have been abundant on the leeward (w.) side of Hawai'i I. for years. They now appear to be spreading northward along the windward (e.) side of the island.

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west indies



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As Andrew Dobson of Bermuda aptly describes, this season is the nadir for bird activity. The other seasons offer those willing to explore the pond, beach, woodland, marsh, and horizon a prize or a reward for their efforts. Migrants are the spice of an otherwise common fare, the unforgettable intruder in neighborhood harmony, the unexpected tryst of bird and watcher. One should always be prepared for the spring straggler and the early fall transient. One might (or perhaps should) also ask if there is story in these trends. Who is watching that horizon? So, for those dedicated summer season birders, these birds are for you.

The tropical, breeding season extends beyond this short reporting period; however, there are few reports of indigenous birds and their habitats from contributors during this time. The ever-quiet summer season in the West Indies still has a few surprises or gifts to those who are persistent. For example, the elusive Grenada Dove was seen in the Mt. Hartman area and provides an opportunity yet for those willing to make the best of two trips if nec-

essary, once in the morning or in the afternoon. Next time you are in Cuba, check out the Playa Largo region, where C&SG managed to find all five quail-dove species. Another species that is somewhat troubled is the West Indian Whistling-Duck, although it may not seem like it at Grand Cayman, where hundreds of birds are being fed by a local farmer. This conservation effort may be responsible for emigrants populating other areas and keeping the gene pool healthy.

No early season cyclone activity disturbed birds or birders, but the lull may have contributed to wider spread or longer migrant stays in the Lesser Antilles; a La Niña effect? Finally, thanks to Mark Gawn, who recently returned to Canada from an extended stay in Barbados where he helped to contribute much to the remarkable records and Martin Frost's reports.

Abbreviations: Bd. (Barbados); Be. (Bermuda); Cu. (Cuba); G.C. (Grand Cayman I.); Ha. (Haiti); Ja. (Jamaica); P.R. (Puerto Rico).

PETRELS THROUGH TERNS

The last date of departure for resident Cahow from Nonsuch Is., Be., was 10 Jul. Cory's and Greater Shearwaters could be still be seen passing northeastwards off

the South Shore of Be in mid-Jun (AD). Bermuda's first summer record of Double-crested Cormorant was noted 8 Jun at Nonsuch I. (JC et al.). Two ad. Neotropical Cormorants in non-breeding dress were well studied at Falmouth, Ja., fish ponds 17 Jun (C&SG). Least Bitterns were noted at Falmouth, Ja., 17 Jun, and Patrick Island Rd., G.C., 24 Jun (both C&SG). Although two Green Herons, one of which was displaying and another male was heard, were noted at South Pond, Be. (EA), 12 Jun, no evidence of breeding was reported. At Trou Caiman, Ha., near Port-au-Prince, 250+ Greater Flamingos were noted 29 Jul (JRC, JB, DB).

West Indian Whistling-Ducks numbered 300+ at Willies pig farm, G.C., where they come to be fed (C&SG); 56 were counted 9 Jun (PRR *vide* C&SG) near La Baleen, NP, Cu, and a singleton noted 23 Jul at Cano Tiburones, P.R., provided only the 2nd record for that location in the last few years (*vide* MO). Masked Ducks numbered ten at Bd. 23 Jul. Eighteen Ruddy Ducks were seen at Trou Caiman, Ha., 4 Jul (JRC et al.) Ruddy Ducks (two males, three females were noted at Lake Antoine, Grenada (hereafter Gr.) were noted 27 & 30 Jul (FH). One of the rarest raptors in the region, Gundlach's Hawk, was noted near Zapata Swamp, Cu., 13 Jun (OG, C&SG).

Black-bellied Plovers began to arrive at Be. 4 Jul at Spittal Pond (AD). Wilson's Plovers, apparently of the South American subspecies *C. w. cinnamominus*, were found 26 & 30 Jul in three locations on Grenada; Mt. Hartman (7), True Blue (6), and two at Rex Grenadian Hotel where one female was on eggs. Eight Whimbrels were present throughout the summer at Be. An imm. Great Black-backed Gull remained through the summer at Be. At Trou Caiman, Ha., 29 Jul, Crouse et al. found 8 Gull-billed Terns working the edge of the shallow lake.

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Two Grenada Doves were noted at Mt. Hartman Dove Sanctuary 26–31 Jul (FH). Several others were heard during the period, attesting to the potential for encountering one of only about 100 individuals left on the island, and thus the planet. Eurasian Collared-Dove is being reported from Saba, where it was seen at Windwardside (MW-M, EP). Three West Indian Quail-Dove, another elusive denizen of dry forests of the region, were noted near Laguna Tortugero refuge, P.R.,

23–24 July (MO). Two ad. Blue-headed Quail-Doves were s. of Sopillar, Cu., 11 Jun (C&SG). Jamaica's endemic Black-billed Parrots (8–19) were noted on the Sherwood Forest road e. of Port Antonio (C&SG). According to CG, the parrots are difficult to find in this area and perhaps unusual this far east in Ja. A nest of Chuck-will's-widows containing two eggs was found (NK) 6 Jun near Little Harbour Lighthouse, Abaco, for one of the few but increasing reports of this species breeding in the Bahamas. A Belted Kingfisher found at Nonsuch I., Be., 2 Jul was certainly an early migrant. Fifteen Fernandinas Flickers were noted near Sopillar and Australia, Cu., 11 Jun (OG, C&SG). Gonzalez has found 21 nests (*vide* CG) between these two locations. Another South American migrant found over-wintering at Grenada was a Fork-tailed Flycatcher at several localities in the s. peninsula 26–31 Jul.

A Bahama Swallow was noted 14 Jun at Cayo Coco, Cu. (C&SG). J.R. Crouse reports on the probability that Golden Swallows are resident near Fermathe, Ha. (el. 4500 ft), where 2 were noted 24 Jun. Daily counts of up to 100 Barn Swallows were recorded at all locations on Be. at the end of Jul exceeding all previous counts, according to AD. A Louisiana Waterthrush was noted 18 Jul at Jenningsland, Be. Also noted at Fermathe 24 Jun (JRC et al.), in the steeply sloped high-country terraces, were 2 endemic Black-crowned Palm Tanagers. Nutmeg Mannikin (20) and Chestnut Mannikin (20) were noted at Verettes, an agricultural area in the Artibonite R. valley, Ha., 11 Jul (JRC et al.).

ADDENDUM

A Giant Cowbird was reported from Barbados (FH) as having been on the island 9 Mar 2000 through the summer at Palm Beach, Hastings, providing the first record for the island and the West Indies. Several Scarlet Tanagers were noted at Mt. Scenery, Saba, 10 Apr, and a Summer Tanager was noted at Saba 11 Apr (MW-M).

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