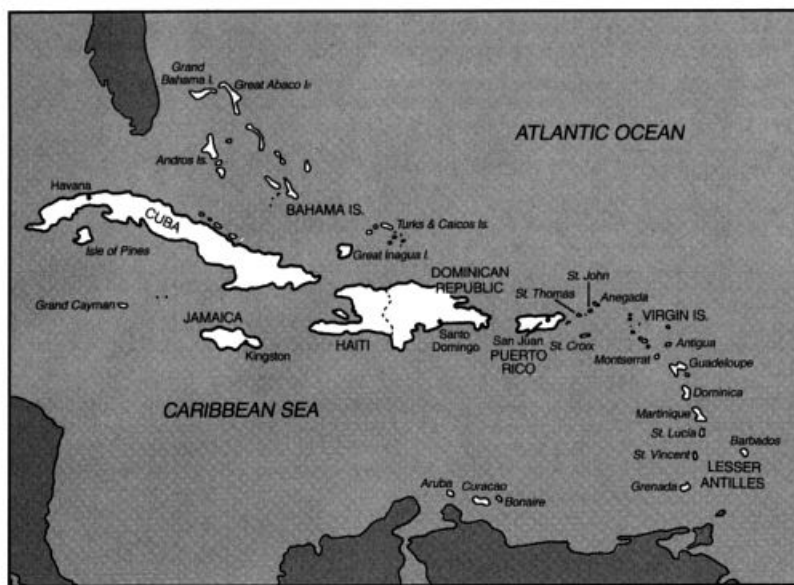


West Indies



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Cyclonic storm *Debby* affected the Region in late August when it passed over the northern Lesser Antilles and the British Virgin Islands before moving on to Puerto Rico and passing north of Hispaniola and weakening before reaching southeastern Cuba. The progenitor of storm *Helene* dumped heavy rains on the northeastern Leeward Islands in mid-September before it passed northeast of Grand Cayman. Storm *Joyce* passed through the southern Windward Islands 1 October. The “perfect storm” for birders at Bermuda was the passing of Category-1 Hurricane *Florence* 16 September, followed by a cold front that dumped more than 30 warbler species on the island. October was one of the wettest on record at Bermuda, with 8.72 in. of rain. Rainy weather continued into November, with another three inches in the first two weeks. Flooded areas prolonged the stay of many shorebirds well into late November.

Waterfowl hunting in Haiti may be a concern to biologists monitoring species populations or recovery in North America. Crouse reports that some hunters may take as many as 80–100 ducks per day during season, or as

many as they can take. Other birds taken include Glossy Ibis and Great Blue Heron. If Haiti is receiving U.S. federal assistance, could not the Haitian government be encouraged to adhere to international bird-protection laws?

Abbreviations: Be. (Bermuda)

Petrel Through Terns

The critically threatened population cannot afford losses even from another listed species. A Least Bittern was noted at Small Hope Bay, North Andros, Bahamas, 5 Nov (JD, TW). A single Roseate Spoonbill was noted at Gonaives Bay, Haiti, 22 Aug (JRC, IP). Greater Flamingos were estimated at 150 (JRC) at Trou Caiman, Haiti, 2 Sep, where numbers swelled to 400 by 14 Oct. At San Andros, N. Andros, JD and TW found 2 West Indian Whistling-Ducks. The arrival of 4 imm. Brant (*B. b. horta*) at Bermuda’s St. George’s dairy 31 Oct (LG) was considered a highlight of the season and provided only the 4th record since the mid-1960s (AD). White-cheeked Pintail numbered 45 at Trou Caiman 2 Sep (JRC). A drake Eurasian Wigeon (JM) was found at Nonsuch Island, Be., 14 Nov. A male Wood Duck was noted at Garden of Groves, Grand Bahama, 21 Nov (GW). A Merlin was seen at Trou Caiman, Haiti, 18 Nov (JRC).

Four Limpkins were found at San Andros 3 Nov (JD, TW). A single American Golden-

Plover was carefully noted at Trou Caiman 18 Nov (JRC), where it was compared with other shorebirds, including 100+ Black-bellied Plovers. Two Snowy Plovers were at Trou Caiman 2 Sep. A Piping Plover was noted at Castle Harbour, Be., 19 Aug. Four Whimbrels at Gonaives Bay 23 Nov were considered late migrants (JRC). On 30 Sep at Trou Caiman, JRC found 100+ Pectoral Sandpipers among a mixed flock of shorebirds. A White-rumped Sandpiper was noted (PD, EC, BH, TW) at San Salvador 12 Nov. Fifteen Stilt Sandpipers were at Trou Caiman 18 Nov (JRC). There were separate sightings of Ruff at St. Georges’ dairy, Be., and Mid-Ocean golf course 16 Sep; the rarely recorded Baird’s Sandpiper was at the airport the same day. Common Snipe numbered 26 on 21 Oct at one location on Be., as a result of flooding (AD). A first-winter Black-headed Gull was on the Dockyard jetty, Be., 22 Oct (AD). Also at Trou Caiman were 2 Gull-billed Terns (JRC); 5 Caspian Terns were there 14 Oct., as were 3 Least Terns 2 Sep (JRC). A Bridled Tern in Castle Rocks, Be., 4 Aug was the first record from there since 1978. A Black Tern was noted at Castle Harbour 18 Aug, while 3 Black Terns were at Gonaives Bay 22 Aug (JRC, IP).

Cuckoos Through Orioles

A Black-billed Cuckoo on Nonsuch Island, Be., 19 Aug was a good find. A single Hispaniolan Cuckoo was noted 20 Sep at Fermanthe, Haiti (JRC), as were an Antillean Mango and a Vervain Hummingbird (JRC). A Northern Flicker was a surprise on Vesey Street, Hamilton, Be. (AD). The flycatcher of the fall at Bermuda was an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** (MW) 21 Nov–mid-Dec, only the 3rd recorded there. Kingbirds have been scarce at Be., but all three species turned up at Mid-Ocean golf course: a Western 12 Oct (AD), an Eastern (DBW), and a Gray (DBW). A Northern Shrike appeared on the Bermuda CBC (AD) for one of the more remarkable finds in the Region. A Red-eyed Vireo was seen 11 Nov at San Salvador (PD, TW, EC); another was retrieved from a cat at Saba, Netherland Antilles (MMW). One Palm and 3 White-necked Crows were noted at Trou Caiman 30 Sep (JRC). Four Black-crowned Palm-Tanagers were noted at Fermanthe (JRC). An American Robin was heard at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama, 21 Nov (GW).

Among the 37 species of warblers that rained on Be. in the days and weeks following the 16 Sep storm and cold front were Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided found easily in a variety of locations. Swainson’s Warblers were reported from a number of locations at

Be., including Port Royal 4 Oct (AD), Hog Bay Park 25 Oct (AD), and Spittal Pond 2 Nov (AD). A tour on North Andros produced 20 species of warblers 1–5 Nov (ABA *vide* TW), including a Wilson’s Warbler 1 Nov. Another Wilson’s was at San Salvador 12 Nov (PD), much farther ese. in the Bahamas, and GF found another at Grand Bahama 23 Nov for the latest report in the area. A male American Redstart and a Black-and-white Warbler 20 Sep at Fermanthe were noted again 11 Nov (JRC), along with 6–8 Cape May Warblers and singles of Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat. On 7 Oct at Furcey, Haiti, JRC recorded Black-throated Blue and Yellow-throated Warblers. A Northern Waterthrush was noted 2 Sep in a small stand of mangroves at Trou Caiman, possibly an arrival that day.

A Clay-colored Sparrow was noted 8 Oct at Hog Bay Park, Be. (AD), and a Fox Sparrow was at Hog Bay Park 13 Nov (SF). The aforementioned 1–5 Nov tour found a Chipping, 4 Savannah and 4 Grasshopper Sparrows and 2 Indigo and 5 Painted Buntings (ABA). At

Bermuda 18 Sep were 300 Bobolinks feeding in pumpkin fields. Two ad. and one juv. Greater Antillean Orioles were noted at Fermanthe 20 Sep (JRC). Baltimore Orioles were noted at the extremes of the Bahamas, with one at N. Andros 1 Nov (ABA) and another at San Salvador 12 Nov (PD, EC, BH, & TW). Imagine finding 25 Baltimore Orioles, birds not ballplayers, on Bermuda in one day (18 Sep)!

Addenda/Corrigenda

Fall 1999 reports from GK include a Yellow-throated Vireo at Marshall’s Pen, Jamaica, 8–9 Nov (GK, RPM, JP, FR); a Willow Flycatcher tape-recorded(!) at Windsor Caves 10 Nov (GK, FR); a Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Rocklands, Jamaica, 11 Nov (GK, FR). Also from GK came 2000 reports of a Chimney Swift s. of Matanzas, Cuba, 14 Apr and a Bananaquit (not native to Cuba) at Palpite, Matanzas, Cuba, 23 Jul, the 21st for the island. Five White-rumped Sandpipers were near Jaguey Grande, Matanzas, 24 Jul, and a Northern Rough-winged Swallow was near Palpite 21 Jul (earliest

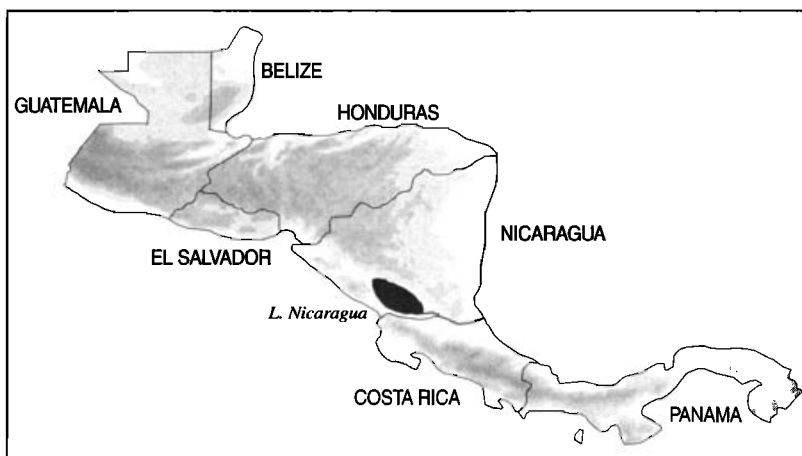
autumn record). Dean found both Glossy and White Ibises on Cat Cay, Biminis, Bahamas, 30 Jul for the first records of both species for that group of islands (TW). The 28 Aug 1999 Little Egret (*N. Am. Birds* 54:109) should read “imm white-morph Reddish Egret (CS *vide* TW).”

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Central America



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In this, the first seasonal report from Central America, coverage is weighted toward Belize. However, thanks to the work of George Angehr, Oliver Komar, and James R. Zook, who graciously agreed to serve as country coordinators for Panama, El Salvador, and

Costa Rica respectively, records from these three countries lend a regional perspective that otherwise would not have been possible. I expect future reports will achieve a balance of coverage, as more people living in or visiting these and other Central American countries learn of this new vehicle for publicizing their noteworthy field observations. Lacking this broader perspective for the moment, it is difficult to discern Regional trends, especially weather-related phenomena that can so profoundly affect both the timing and pulse of migration and other seasonal movements from season to season. Nonetheless, even with limited data at hand, it is clear that this fall season was a remarkable one. In addition to several supposed “resident” species in out-of-the-way places, several earliest arrival and latest departure dates on record, and an unexpected subspecies of warbler, the autumn migration produced one new country record, at least two second country records, and several others nearly as rare. And three intrepid souls got a rare bird’s-eye-view of life in the eye of a Category 4 hurricane!