

# West Indies

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## Corrigendum

The caption for the Black-tailed Godwit photographs (*N.A.B.* 55: 234) should have read that the bird moved from Maui to O'ahu



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aimed at sorting out affinities and emerging speciation among landbirds and of warblers in particular. Her gentle passion and enthusiasm will be desperately missed. A scholarship fund has been established to honor and remember her.

## SHEARWATERS THROUGH TERNS

The "ice was broken" on the pelagic front when EB reported the first migrant Greater Shearwater on 2 Mar some five mi off Guana Cay, off Abaco, Bahamas. This was followed by Wilson's Storm-Petrels, Audubon Shearwaters, and a Black-capped Petrel eight mi off Elbow Cay 21 Apr. Thereafter, shearwaters and storm-petrels were seen on 11 May about 20 mi ne. of Abaco, Bahamas near Tabletops seamount, including Audubon Shearwaters, a Black-capped Petrel, Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrels, and one **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** (EB, BB, PD, LL). Audubon's Shearwaters were noted near Highbourne Cay, Bahamas on 19 May; 24 were near Spanish Wells, Eleuthera, Bahamas on 21 May (NM). R. and N. Lindquist reported a Leach's Storm-Petrel off Musha Cay, Exumas 21 Apr and Wilson's Storm-Petrel (ph.) off Little Exuma 9 May. Another Wilson's was seen on 19 May near Highbourne Cay, Bahamas (NM). At Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe, remarkable numbers and species of seabirds were noted (MF) during a 3-hour seawatch 25 May that produced a **Manx Shearwater** as well as multiple Sooty,



A Palm Warbler, an island first, was photographed in May at Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe. Photograph by Anthony Levesque/VIREO.

Nearly all the highland frontiers in the Antilles have begun to be explored for the lost endemic Caribbean seabird taxa, i.e., Jamaican Petrel on Jamaica and Black-capped Petrel on Dominica. One of the new frontiers for finding unrecorded or rare seabirds is offshore, in the realm of the 100-fathom contour or greater depths and around sea mounts or other areas of upwelling. From the Bahamas to Barbados, observers are venturing out when benevolent sea conditions and migration coincide and are finding the formerly elusive storm-petrels, shearwaters, and perhaps the biggest catch, albatrosses (cf. *Field Notes* 52: 507).

Another frontier lies in the genetic code of each insular bird population may have that distinguishes itself from its closest relatives. This column is humbly dedicated to the memory of one of the most dedicated researchers in this field, Dr. Nedra Klein, whose work on the genetics of insular birds in the Region was

Audubon's, and Cory's Shearwaters, and Wilson's Storm-Petrel (Table 1). Earlier seavatches at Nature Reserve of Petite-Terre produced similar species but lower numbers, and a repeat effort on 26 May produced fewer species and numbers, although a Greater Shearwater arrived that day, right on schedule. Andrew Dobson reports that a large pelagic migration was witnessed 26 May off Nonsuch I., Bermuda. Among the 1500 shearwaters counted there, Cory's Shearwaters were passing at about 30 per hour. Greater and Sooty Shearwaters peaked at 250 per hour. It appears that weeks of strong winds from the e. provided ideal conditions in the Region for savvy birders to expand our understanding of species composition and numbers just beyond the limits of our binoculars. Thirty-three Cahow chicks this spring represented a record high count for Bermuda's endangered gadfly petrel population (DBW). Overwash of nesting burrows from cyclonic storms and predation by Peregrines (*N.A.B.* 50: 111) continue to be a major concern for the continued survival of

the species. A Red-billed Tropicbird, first seen over Nonsuch I. on 19 May (LM) and again 21 May (DBW), provided only the 3rd Bermuda record. An imm. Masked Booby, also a very rare visitor to Bermuda from the Antilles, was seen at Gurnet Rock 21 Mar (DBW).

Two Snow Geese were found at Diamond Farms, New Providence, Bahamas 11–14 May, a very late spring record (PD). A male Ring-necked Duck that lingered at Spittal Pond, Bermuda through May was unusual (AD). A Swallow-tailed Kite first seen on 17 Mar over Devonshire Marsh, Bermuda (RG) stayed for at least a week and provided good views for many. Three ad. Swallow-tailed Kites were noted at West End, Grand Bahama on 21 Mar (AK), while a Red-shouldered Hawk there 20 Mar was the first report from the Bahamas (AK). Two Peregrines were seen on 18 Mar passing over the shallow lake at Trou Caiman, Haiti (JRC, SJ).

A **Yellow-breasted Crake** seen at close range on 24 Mar (JRC, SJ) at L. Bois Nef, near Pierre Payen, Haiti provided the first report from that country. It was seen again 15 Apr at the same

location (JRC). A Least Bittern was noted at L. Bois Nef, near St. Marc, Haiti 15 Apr (JRC) Greater Flamingos numbered 175 on 18 Mar at Trou Caiman, Haiti (JRC, SJ), where hunters had taken a few that day. A single Greater Flamingo was noted at Great Salt Pond, St Kitts on 21 Mar, for one of the few reports from the Leeward Is. (RH); and 2 were noted at Little Whale Cay on 12 May, providing documentation for this little known birding site (NM). On 30 May, RL found a **Southern Lapwing** at Aruba. A **Reeve** was observed closely at Runaway Bay, Antigua on 19 Mar (RH). An American Woodcock at Great Bay, Bermuda on 31 May (PW) was very unusual

Also noted among the passing shearwaters off Nonsuch I. on 19 May were 4 **South Polar Skuas** (PW et al.), a record number for that location. Not to be outdone, at Guadeloupe, MF recorded 3 **Long-tailed Jaegers**, along with single Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, on 25 May. A first-winter Great Black-backed Gull was seen at West End, Grand Bahama 21 Mar (AK). At Bassetterre, St. Kitts, possibly 2 first-winter Black-headed Gulls were seen 17 Mar

**Table 1. Records of resident and pelagic seabirds from Bermuda, Bahamas, and Guadeloupe in spring 2001.**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Black-capped Petrel	1	21 Apr.	off Elbow Cay, Bahamas	EB
	1	11 May	seamount, 20 miles ne. of Abaco, Bahamas	EB
Cory's Shearwater	2	25 May	off Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe	MF
	30/hr	26 May	off Nonsuch Is., Bermuda	PW
Greater Shearwater	1	2 Mar	off Guana Cay, Bahamas	EB
	250/hr	26 May	off Nonsuch Is., Bermuda	PW
	1	26 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
Sooty Shearwater	2	25 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
	250/hr	26 May	off Nonsuch Is.	PW
Audubon's Shearwater	25	21 Apr	off Elbow Cay	EB
	20	11 May	seamount, off Abaco	EB
	2	19 May	off Highbourne Cay, Bahamas	NM
	24	21 May	off Spanish Wells, Eleuthera, Bahamas	NM
	8	25 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
Manx Shearwater	3	25 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	6	21 Apr	off Elbow Cay	EB
	1	11 May	seamount, off Abaco	EB
	1	19 May	off Highbourne Cay	NM
	48	25 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
Leach's Storm-Petrel	1	11 May	seamount, off Abaco	EB
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	1	11 May	seamount, off Abaco	EB
Red-billed Tropicbird	1	19 May	off Nonsuch Is.	DBW
Masked Booby	1	21 Mar	off Gurnet Rock, Be	DBW
Pomarine Jaeger	1	25 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
Parasitic Jaeger	1	25 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
Long-tailed Jaeger	3	25 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
South Polar Skua	4	19 May	off Nonsuch Is.	PW



This Wood Thrush struck a window at Nassau, New Providence 28 May, a rather late date for a migrant through the Bahamas. Photograph by Melissa Maura.

(RH), providing a first report from that location. A second-winter Herring Gull was recorded on 19 Mar from Potsworks, Antigua (RH), one of the few reports from that island. The tally of Laughing Gulls (50), Royal Terns (10), Bridled Terns (24), Least Terns (3), and Brown Noddies (24) at Spanish Wells, Eleuthera, Bahamas 21 May (NM) may indicate local breeding. A Sandwich Tern was noted at Pigeon I. National Landmark, St. Lucia 7 Mar (JB), and one at Castle Harbour, Bermuda provided a rare occurrence (AD, JM). Twenty Roseate Terns were noted migrating past Little Whale Cay 11 May (WB et al.), while NM counted 12 there the next day. Egg dates for breeding Roseates in the Virgin Is. begin around 20–26 May (RLN). At Trou Caiman, near Port-au-Prince, Haïti, 22 Caspian Terns were noted 3 Mar (JRC) and one Gull-billed Tern was studied near Gonaives, Haïti 10 Mar. A Sooty Tern at Bermuda 22 May was an unusual visitor there (DBW); it was injured and perished (\*Bermuda Aquarium & Museum).

#### DOVES THROUGH SISKINS

A White-winged Dove appeared at Saba, Netherlands Antilles for a few days in May (MW-M). While birding with DA on St. Lucia, JB counted about 20 St. Lucia Parrots. The success of the public school education campaign to save a symbol of the island's natural heritage was measured by a recent census that located 800 parrots, a major increase realized just in the past decade. Near a village at Trou Caiman,

Haïti, JRC noted 8 Hispaniolan Parakeets. A late Common Nighthawk was seen and heard at Cavello Bay, Bermuda 31 May (DH). A Chuck-will's-widow nest with two eggs was found 7 May at Rand Nature Centre, Freeport, Grand Bahama (RO). White-collared Swifts numbered 10+ on 18 Apr at Verrettes, Haïti (JRC), and 2 Black Swifts were also noted there 21 Apr. J. R. Crouse found 2 Golden Swallows 24 Apr at Fermanthe, Haïti, elev. 1350 m, an area that needs to be investigated for possible sanctuary or reserve status as montane habitat of the Golden Swallow, whose subspecies on Jamaica is apparently extinct. Both Hispaniolan Palm (3) and White-necked Crows (2) were reported from coastal habitat near St. Marc, Haïti 25 Mar (JRC, SJ). A window-killed Wood Thrush found at Nassau, New Providence 28 May provided evidence of late migration through the central Bahamas (MM). A Red-eyed Vireo on 14 May from Petite-Terre was also a good find (AL) in the Lesser Antilles. A Tennessee Warbler was reported (AL) from Nature Reserve, Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe, the first for that island, on 11 May. A Yellow-breasted Chat was found at Rand Nature Center (RO) on 15 Apr, one of the few spring records from the n. Bahamas. Two Scarlet Tanagers were seen at Saba on 1–2 May (MW-M). A female Antillean Siskin was seen 25 Apr (JRC) at Fermanthe, Haïti, while 15 were noted at Morne Tranchant, el. 1800 m, on 26 May. A female Giant Cowbird, a first for Barbados and the West Indies, was at Palm Beach 6 Mar (ph. Martin Frost).

#### Corrigendum

In *N.A.B.* 55: 111, the first line under "Petrel through Terns" was omitted and should read "Bermuda's Cahows are being predated by Peregrine Falcons (DBW)."

#### Addenda

Received too late to be included in the winter season report are sightings of 7 Greater Flamingos using ponds of e. Vieques Is, Puerto Rico according to a Navy wildlife biologist (*vide* DG) from Oct 2000–Jan 2001; with bombing resumed there, the birds have undoubtedly departed. Apparently Killdeer have not nested at Vieques in the past three years, as drought conditions seem to be still evident. White-cheeked Pintail and other waterbirds were not evident there.

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