

near Hotel Miramundo, San Ignacio posed for photographs 15 Oct (OK, CZ).

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West Indies & Bermuda



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The Region was mostly spared severe tropical storms during this quiet fall season, although Hurricane *Florence* came close to Bermuda on 10 September. While reporting continues to be strong from the Bahamas and Bermuda, as well as from Barbados and a few of the southern Lesser Antillean islands, we received nothing from Hispaniola or Cuba or Jamaica or the Cayman Islands—in other words, from most of the landmass of the Region. North American birding visitors to these islands are few in autumn, and local reporting has always been spotty from the Greater Antilles. How marvelous it would be to change that!

The Bahamas produced a remarkable variety of vagrants, including the Caribbean's first Ross's Goose, nesting Anhingas, a Veery, and a Hudsonian Godwit, and there were also notable Bermuda sightings this fall, including potential first records of MacGillivray's War-

bler and Western Tanager, plus a rare Sandhill Crane and four Northern Wheatears. On Guadeloupe, Levesque turned up House Martin, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Baltimore Oriole, among others.

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

On 18 Nov+ the West Indies' and Bahamas' first Ross's Goose was found at the Reef G.C., Grand Bahama (MH, EG, ph. NB, m.ob.). A Brant was present at Daniel's Head, Bermuda 31 Oct (DW). At Ste. Anne, Guadeloupe, a Northern Pintail was present 9-26 Nov (AL). On Barbados, a Garganey frequented East Pt. 30 Nov (MF, EM). An imm. male Surf Scoter was discovered on Mangrove L., Bermuda 27 Nov+ (EA). The same bird was probably in Castle Harbour 24 Nov (JM). A Red-breasted Merganser was at Brown's Pt., New Providence, Bahamas 26 Nov (HC, PD et al.).

From Guadeloupe, seawatching during



An immature male Surf Scoter was discovered on Mangrove Lake, Bermuda 27 November 2006 (here 22 December) and remained into the New Year, furnishing the ninth record for Bermuda. Photograph by Andrew Dobson.



A Ross's Goose at Reef Golf Course, Grand Bahama Island, Bahamas 18 November 2006 (here) provided a first record of the species for the country and for the West Indies. Photograph by Noreen Brent.

Nov (10 hours) from Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe produced 11 Cory's Shearwaters, a Black-capped Petrel, and 2 unidentified *Pterodroma*. A late White-tailed Tropicbird was over Darrell's I., Bermuda 22 Oct (AD, PW). Three Masked Boobies were seen off the East End, Bermuda 14 Sep (PW), probably the result of Hurricane *Florence*, which skirted the island 10 Sep; another was seen 17 Oct, also off the East End, Bermuda (PW). Single Brown Pelicans in the Bahamas at Warderick Wells, Exumas 4 Aug (LD), Clifton Cay, New Providence 10 Sep (MD), and Montague Foreshore, New Providence 20 Sep (LG) were unusual. On Barbados, a juv. Brown Pelican took up residence in Bridgetown by the Main Bus Terminal 23-30 Sep (MF, EM). Grand Bahama's first 2 Neotropical Cormorants found at Reef G.C. 26 Sep were last seen 18 Nov (BH, EB, BP, PB). An Anhinga nest with 2 ads. and 3 young on Paradise I. 10 Sep (ph. PD) established the first nesting record of the species for the Bahamas; 3 female/young were seen there 17 Nov (CW, CI).



The Bahamas' second (first substantiated) Bufflehead was found in a pond at Ruby Golf Course, Grand Bahama Island, during a pre-Christmas Bird Count scouting trip 13 December 2006 (here). The first report (also of a female-plumaged bird) was from Eleuthera Island in the winter of 1976-1977. Photograph by Shamie Rolle.



This fledgling Anhinga (here 10 September 2006) was one of two young produced in the first nesting of this species in the Bahamas. The nest was at Lakeview Ponds on crowded, touristy Paradise Island. Photograph by Paul Dean.

In Bermuda, single American Bitterns were at Cloverdale 14 Oct (DBW) and in Paget Marsh 29 Nov (DW); in the Bahamas, others were at Shannon G.C. and along Midshipman Rd., Grand Bahama 7-9 Oct (GK, BP, PB) and at Harrold & Wilson Ponds N.P., New Providence 25 Nov (PD, LH, KHL, LL). Single Least Bitterns were seen at Pitman's Pond 14 Oct (AD) and Cloverdale, Bermuda 24 Oct (AD). The long-staying Gray Heron in Bermuda was present throughout the period, mainly in the Tuckers Town area. A Tricolored Heron was noted at Port Louis Swamp, Guadeloupe 14 Sep (AL); at Petite-Terre N.R., the first Great Egret was recorded for the reserve 14 Sep (AL). An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen at Spittal Pond, Bermuda during Oct (AD, PW). At Port-Louis Swamp, Guadeloupe, a juv. Black-crowned Night-Heron was found 26 Nov (AL); at Martinique, 4 were present at Le Robert 7-26 Nov (VL).

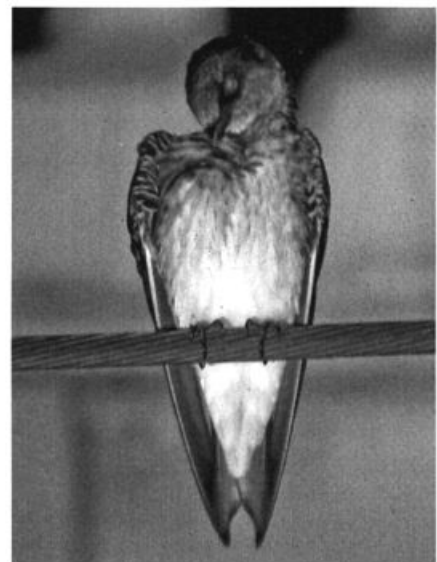


Empidonax flycatchers are regular migrants in Bermuda but not always identifiable to species. This probable Alder Flycatcher (heard vocalizing) was photographed 17 September 2006 at Riddell's Bay Golf Course. Photograph by Andrew Dobson.

The leucistic Turkey Vulture was on Big Wood Cay, Andros in Aug for the 2nd year in a row (DB). Over 30 Sep-1 Oct, the Sammy Nixon Bird Club and others conducted a ground-truth survey of Greater Flamingo nests and counted 8661 at the main colony on L. Rosa, Great Inagua. A ranger for Inagua N.P. reported that there were two smaller colonies farther up the lake (HN). A Northern Harrier was at Bahama Palm Shores, Abaco 30 Oct (EB); one was at a typical location at the Bermuda Airport 15 Oct+ (PA). On 20 Sep, EG saw a Swallow-tailed Kite perched near her home in Lucaya, Grand Bahama (EG). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was over Cemetery Hill, Bermuda 28 Oct (DBW). The 2 long-staying Red-tailed Hawks in Bermuda were present throughout the period. A Merlin at Gosier, Guadeloupe 29 Sep (AL) provided the earliest date for the island. From Martinique, the first Peregrine Falcon and Merlin of the season were found 24 & 26 Sep, respectively, and individuals have been seen in the le Lamentin, Fort de France, and Le Robert areas regularly during Nov (VL).

A Virginia Rail was flushed from Kindley Field mangroves, Bermuda 8 Oct (AB, PW). A Sora was seen at Salines, Ste. Anne, Guadeloupe 29 Oct (AL). Bermuda's 3rd Sandhill Crane flew over Long I. 22 Oct (NBa, AD, PW). Also on Bermuda, Piping Plovers were noted at a number of locations during the fall. Piping Plovers reported from the Bahamas this fall included 5 at Green Turtle Cay, Abaco 2 Sep (EB), 3 at Lucaya Beach, Grand Bahama over the week of 18 Sep (EG), 7 n. of

Kemps Bay, Andros 27 Sep (CW, PM), 2 at South Beach, Grand Bahama 28 Sep (EB, BH), and 2 at Barbary Beach 9 Oct (EG). Upland Sandpipers were noted at the Bermuda Airport 21 Sep (DBW), St. Georges G.C., Bermuda 27 Sep (PW), and Heydon Trust, Bermuda 12 Oct (DW). The shorebird of the season from the Bahamas was a Hudsonian Godwit, rare in those islands, on the Reef G.C. 2 Sep (EG, T&SR). A Ruddy Turnstone color-banded in Delaware Bay returned to Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe 16 Aug to spend its



This juvenile Purple Martin, a first record of the species for Guadeloupe, was at Pointe à Pitre town center 20 August (here) through 25 September 2006. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.



Northern Mockingbird, a rarity in Bermuda, was detected there twice in autumn 2006, including this bird at Boaz Island 26 October 2006 (here). Photograph by Andrew Dobson.

6th winter (AL). Forty-six Red Knots, a high count, graced Green Turtle Cay, Bahamas 8 Oct (EB). A flock of 23 Semipalmated Sandpipers was unusual at Riddell's Bay G.C., Bermuda 18 Sep (DW). A White-rumped Sandpiper was at West End, Grand Bahama 26 Sep (BH, EB). On Guadeloupe, single Up-land and Buff-breasted Sandpipers were present at Pôle Caraïbe Airport 14 Sep (AL). On 10 Sep, an oiled Baird's Sandpiper was on Riddell's Bay G.C., Bermuda (DBW, EA), where a Dunlin spent early through mid-Oct; another Dunlin was at nearby Spittal Pond 24 Oct (DBW). A Long-billed Dowitcher was at Jubilee Rd., Bermuda 17 Oct (EA). Bracey reported about 10 Long-billed Dowitchers at Angelfish Pt., Abaco 23-24 Oct (vt. EB); this is the first documented report from Abaco and 3rd for the Bahamas.

A dark skua seen about 19 km off Desecheo, Puerto Rico 16 Aug was not identifiable from the description but was most likely a South Polar (Jeremy Nance). A Pomarine Jaeger flew past Ruth's Pt., Bermuda 11 Sep (PW), the day after Hurricane *Florence*. From Guadeloupe, seabird watching in Nov (AL) produced a Parasitic and 2 unidentified jaegers. A Black-headed Gull was on the Causeway 29 Oct (AD), while 2 (plus a Bonaparte's) were at Royal Naval Dockyard, also Bermuda 15 Nov+ (PW). A Black Tern, usually an Aug or early Sep migrant, was seen on Great Inagua 1 Oct (LG, HN, RS).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

At least 50 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found feeding in a young fallow field at Basse Pointe, Guadeloupe 27 Oct; one was still present at Schoelcher 28 Nov (AL). At Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe, a Black-billed Cuckoo was mist-netted during a banding session 18 Oct (3rd record in Guadeloupe, first confirmed, ph.), along with 4 Yellow-billed Cuckoos (AL). From 21-23 Oct, an additional 21 Yellow-billeds were

banded at Pointe des Châteaux, Guadeloupe (AL). Three Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen on Grand Bahama 26-28 Sep (BH, EB), and singles at the Retreat and Venice Bay, New Providence 4 Nov (CW, PD, LH). Two Burrowing Owls were observed flying over Fox Hill Road s. of Nassau 11 Sep (WP); another was e. of the Trans-Island Waterway, Grand Bahama 15 Sep (BP), and yet another was at the Bahamas Youth Camp, New Providence 4 Nov (OG, ph. TH); it remains uncertain whether the species still nests on these two islands. Record-early Belted Kingfishers turned up at Coral Harbour, New Providence 3 Aug (CW) and at Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe 10 Sep (AL). An unidentified hummingbird was reported from Devonshire, Bermuda 15 Oct (RM).

Sep. Two Brown-headed (Bahama) Nuthatches were found 8 Aug (LM, BP) and 29 Sep (BH, EB) in the pine woods across the highway from Owl Hole Road, Grand Bahama. A single Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen at Ferry Point Park, Bermuda 27 Oct–11 Nov (DW), while Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen at many Bermuda locations, including 6 total on 11 Nov (DW, PW).

It was a record year for Northern Wheatears on Bermuda, where singles were the National Stadium 9 Sep (AD), Heydon Trust 23-24 Sep (DW), St. Georges G.C. 13 Oct (DBW), and Lukes Farm 6 Oct (DBW). Thrushes were once again thin on the ground in Bermuda: a Swainson's Thrush was on Nelly's I. 22 Oct (AD, PW); Hermit Thrushes were scattered widely, with at least 12 individuals 28-29 Oct (AD); and there was a small influx of American Robins noted in late Oct, with 5 in the East End 27 Oct (PW). On 14 Oct, a Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush was eating berries under a fig tree near Rock

SA A new website (<<http://www.grenadovecampaign.com>>) has been organized by Graeme Gibson and Margaret Atwood (joint Honorary Presidents of BirdLife International's Rare Bird Club) to incite activism on behalf of the endangered **Grenada Dove**, now threatened by development of a new Four Seasons resort in its stronghold on Grenada. The website has a sample letter that can be sent to the management of Four Seasons resorts, to Michael Pemberton (the developer), to Grenada Prime Minister Keith Mitchell, to the leader of the Grenada opposition party, and to Bill Gates, who presently owns 6.6% of the Four Seasons.

A wholly inadequate and misleading environmental analysis was conducted, in an effort to keep plans for the Four Seasons resort moving forward. If constructed, the resort would almost certainly lead to the extinction of Grenada's national bird and would also largely negate a \$750,000 Global Environment Facility project aimed at protecting the dove and its habitat, in addition to encouraging sustainable ecotourism—a model project for the Caribbean that has, ironically, only enhanced the developers' interest in the property.

Perhaps as many as 15 *Empidonax* flycatchers were reported in Oct at Bermuda, mainly Alder/Willow Flycatchers. On Grand Bahama, an Eastern Phoebe was at Ruby G.C. 18 Nov (EG et al.). A Western Kingbird was at Bahamia, Grand Bahama 20-21 Oct (BP). Once thought to be scarce migrants, Eastern Kingbirds moved through the Bahamas in good numbers in late Sep: 35-40 at Coral Harbour 27 Sep and 17 there 29 Sep (PD et al.) and 12 on Grand Bahama 26-28 Sep (EB, BH). A Gray Kingbird feeding young at the nest at McLean's Town, Grand Bahama 27 Sep was probably a late multiple brooder (BH, EB). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was reported near Gibbs, St. Peter, Barbados 17 Sep (MF, EM). At Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe, a **House Martin** was an island first 17 Aug (AL). Also on Guadeloupe, 1960 Caribbean Martins were at Pointe à Pitre 15 Sep; a male Purple/Cuban Martin was also present, and a juv. **Purple Martin**—another island first—was at Pointe à Pitre town center from 20 Aug–25

Sound, Eleuthera, and two days later, a **Veery** was under the same tree (JW, RB, JWu). A Hermit Thrush at Angelfish Pt., Abaco 12 Nov (EB) was unusual. Several Northern Mockingbirds were photographed on Bermuda, where rare: at Boaz I. 20 Sep+ (PHo), at Tee St. 16 Oct (PJH), and in St. Georges 17 Oct (PW). American Pipits arrived 24 Oct on Cooper's I. and 28 Oct at Brighton Hill, Bermuda (DW).

Thirty-four species of warbler were recorded during the season at Bermuda (*vide* AD); especially notable were hundreds of Blackpoll Warblers detected 12 Oct (EA, PW et al.). Banded 21-23 Oct at Pointe des Châteaux, Guadeloupe were 19 Blackpoll Warblers, a Magnolia Warbler, a Prairie Warbler, and 3 Northern Waterthrushes, among 209 birds banded (AL). At East Pt., Barbados, a Blackpoll Warbler was found at Friendly Hall 4 Nov (EM, MF). Uncommon warblers in the Bahamas this fall included a Blue-winged Warbler at Bahamas Youth Camp, New Provi-

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This Baltimore Oriole was found 18 November 2006 (here) at Port-Louis Swamp, Guadeloupe. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.

dence 4 Oct (TH, RBo), a Tennessee Warbler in Nassau 17 Nov (SB, CW, CI), a Nashville Warbler near the Grand Bahama Highway 30 Nov (BP), 2 Chestnut-sided Warblers near Pelican Pt., Grand Bahama 27 Sep and one at Pinewood Stables, Grand Bahama 29 Sep (both BH, EB), a Swainson's Warbler at Rainbow Farm, New Providence 28 Oct (LH, PD), and Prothonotary Warblers at Rand Nature Centre, Grand Bahama 9 Aug (LM, BP), Reef G.C. 3 Sep (SR), High Rock, Grand Bahama 27 Sep (EB, BH), and the fruit farm, Abaco 30 Sep (BH, EB). At Petite-Terre N.R., Levesque found a Black-throated Green Warbler 27 Sep, a male Black-throated Blue Warbler at 17 Oct, and 19 Northern Waterthrushes, 2 Prairie Warblers, and 16 American Redstarts 6 Oct; he also found a Black-and-white Warbler at Port-Louis Swamp 18 Nov and imm. or female Kentucky Warbler 19 Sep at Gosier, Guadeloupe. A potential first for Bermuda was a briefly seen MacGillivray's Warbler 28 Oct at Paget Marsh (PHo), an imm. or female in a dead cedar at the end of Paget Marsh boardwalk. A Pine Warbler near Rock Sound, Eleuthera 14 Oct (JW, RB, JWu) was s. of its range as a permanent resident in the Bahamas and may have been a rare inter-island migrant. Another potential first for Bermuda was a well-described Western Tanager (DBW) at Ferry Point Park 21 Oct.

Scarce sparrow species at Bermuda included Clay-colored at Pitman's Pond 6-12 Oct (DBW), a Song Sparrow at Bailey's Bay 13 Nov (PW), and a Swamp Sparrow and a Dark-eyed Junco 22 Nov at Ferry Point Park (PW). On

22 Oct, a Lincoln's Sparrow was along Bacardi Rd., New Providence (PD et al.). Single White-crowned Sparrows were near High Rock, Grand Bahama 27 Sep (EB), at Bacardi Rd. 22 Oct (PD et al.), and at the Treasure Cay Dump, Abaco 23 Oct (EB). Dickcissels on Bermuda were present at Cedar Grove 30 Sep (EA), Paget I. 8 Oct (AD, PW), and Port Royal G.C. 16 Oct (AD). The Bahamian high count for Bobolinks this fall was 40: 25 at Rainbow Farms and 15 at the Government Research Agricultural Center, both New Providence, 9 Sep (PD, LL). At Pôle Caraïbe Airport, Guadeloupe, a Bobolink was noted 24 Sep (AL). Three Shiny Cowbirds at Rainbow Farm, New Providence 9 Sep (PD, LL) suggest that the species may have parasitized the Red-winged Blackbirds common there. At Port-Louis Swamp, Guadeloupe, a Baltimore Oriole furnished the first fall record for Guadeloupe 18 Nov (AL).

Addendum: A Little Egret was present on Antigua in Apr 2006 (NL).

Corrigenda: Daphne Gemmill notes the following errors in the spring 2006 report: in Mar, 3 Bridled Quail-Doves were heard only on Vieques, Puerto Rico; at the same location, the Connecticut Warbler was not photographed, as indicated.

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