

Lesser Antilles Birding & Nature | Species List

December 2 – 13, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by Chris Harbard. With help from Ryan Chenery and our lovely participants Jim, Janice, Peter, Diane, Joy, Marion and Ed.

Summary: The group of six participants, plus guides Chris and Ryan, arrived on different flights in to St Lucia airport, but all gathered for dinner at Balenbouche Estate to begin our fabulous three-island trip. We were to visit St Lucia, Dominica and St Vincent with a short stop on the bonus island of Barbados. Our main targets were the islands and regional endemic birds, as well as any other wonderful wildlife on the way. We were at the tail end of a very wet rainy season and managed a couple of days of downpour during the trip.

St Lucia delivered five endemics on the first morning (including the difficult St Lucia Black Finch and St Lucia Oriole) and a few near endemics on the following day. Chocolate making and a volcano added color to our time there. On Dominica the main target was the very rare Imperial Parrot, which was successfully seen along with the other near endemics, and a whale watch gave close-up views of Sperm Whales. A short stop over in Barbados Airport, gave us the Barbados Bullfinch, a bonus endemic, and our final island, St Vincent delivered its endemic parrot and a lucky few saw the Whistling Warbler. The final day was spent swimming and snorkeling on the Grenadines, and even managed a couple of boobies and a tropicbird for good measure. Throw in a scattering of other wildlife and this was a recipe for a very successful trip with 90 species of birds, four mammals, six reptiles (most endemic), seven butterflies and several crabs.

An eBird trip report can be found at: [Naturalist Journeys - Lesser Antilles trip - eBird Trip Report](#)

Make sure to click the 'Show all details' option to the right of the list to see the full information of what was seen where plus any uploaded photographs

BIRDS (90):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (5):

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Domesticated bird seen from the river bridge neat Tamarind Tree, Dominica on December 6.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*

At least 30 birds seen on the brackish lake at Eau Piquant (Aupicon), St Lucia on December 3.

American Wigeon *Mareca americana*

Four birds seen on the brackish lake at Eau Piquant (Aupicon), St Lucia on December 3.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Two birds seen with Lesser Scaup on the brackish lake at Eau Piquant (Aupicon), St Lucia on December 3.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

At least 20 birds seen on the brackish lake at Eau Piquant (Aupicon), St Lucia on December 3.

GREBES: Podicipedidae (1):

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus Podiceps*

Two birds seen on the brackish lake at Eau Piquant (Aupicon), St Lucia on December 3.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (6):

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*

Four seen at Gros Islet, St Lucia on December 4 and 10 seen at Portsmouth, St Vincent. Possibly overlooked elsewhere.

Scaly-naped Pigeon *Patagioenas squamosa*

Attractive pigeon. Seen in flight along Des Cartiers Trail, St Lucia, on December 3, one seen well at Sulphur Springs, St Lucia on December 5, and another in flight at Montreal Gardens, St Vincent on December 11.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

One at Fond Doux, St Lucia on December 5, and one rather pale bird at Grantley Adams International Airport, Barbados might have been an African Collared Dove.

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerine*

Two seen at Balenbouche, St Lucia on December 3, and others seen several times near river bridge by Tamarind Tree, Dominica, plus two at Grantley Adams International Airport, Barbados.

Zenaida Dove *Zenaida aurita*

Very common in St Lucia and Dominica, but not seen in St Vincent.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*

A few seen in St Vincent on December 11.

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES Cuculidae (2):

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*

Seen by river bridge near Tamarind Tree, Dominica on December 7 and 8, and at Spanny Falls, Dominica on December 7.

Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor*

Seen at Balenbouche, St Lucia on December 4 and 5.

SWIFTS Apodidae (2):

Lesser Antillean Swift *Chaetura martinica*

A couple seen flying over the forest at Lower Colihaut, Dominica on December 7, and from one vehicle while driving on St Vincent on December 11.

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura*

Three seen from vehicle, near Belmont, St Vincent on December 11.

HUMMINGBIRDS Trochilidae (4):

Purple-throated Carib *Eulampis jugularis*

Large and beautiful hummingbird. Confined to the Lesser Antilles. Fairly common, seen on St Lucia, Dominica and St Vincent.

Green-throated Carib *Eulampis holosericeus*

One seen at Balenbouche, St Lucia on December 3, and also on Dominica on December 8 and 9.

Blue-headed Hummingbird *Riccordia bicolor*

Endemic to Dominica and Martinique. A bright male and female were seen along the Syndicate nature trail, Dominica during two visits in the morning and afternoon on December 9.

Antillean Crested Hummingbird *Orthorhyncus cristatus*

Common. This tiny hummingbird was seen most days on St Lucia, Dominica and St Vincent.

RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES Rallidae (2):

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*

At least 50 birds seen on the brackish lake at Eau Piquant (Aupicon), St Lucia on December 3. One other on the River Layou, Dominica on December 7.

American Coot *Fulica americana*

About 15 on the brackish lake at Eau Piquant (Aupicon), St Lucia on December 3, with a few looking like 'Caribbean' Coots

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS Charadriidae (1):

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

One flew past while close to shore near Bequia, St Vincent on December 12.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES Scolopacidae (3):

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

The commonest shorebird, seen on St Lucia, Dominica and St Vincent.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

Two individuals seen on coastal river mouths in Dominica on December 7.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Two birds seen on Isle a Quatre, St Vincent on December 12.

JAEGERS AND SKUAS Stercorariidae (1):

South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki*

One birds seen from boat offshore from Roseau, Dominica on December 8. A large, chunky all-dark skua with white wing patches.

GULLS AND TERNS Laridae (2):

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

31 counted on a jetty while having lunch at Gros Islet, St Lucia on December 4.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

Common. Seen along the coasts in St Lucia, Dominica and St Vincent.

TROPICBIRDS Phaethontidae (1):

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*

At least seven birds seen from the boat between Bequia and isle a Quatre with a couple sitting on ledges on Petit Nevis, St Vincent on December 12.

FRIGATEBIRDS Fregatidae (1):

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

Common. Seen along the coasts in St Lucia, Dominica and St Vincent.

BOOBIES AND GANNETS Sulidae (3):

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

25 seen from boat, heading out to Bequia from St Vincent, with possibly some of the same when heading back, on December 12.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

Fairly common. Birds seen along coasts of St Lucia, Dominica and t Vincent.

Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*

One seen from boat on return from Bequia to St Vincent on December 12.

PELICANS Pelecanidae (1):

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

One seen at Balenbouche, St Lucia on December 3, and several seen along the coast of Dominica.

HERONS AND EGRETS Ardeidae (7):

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*

One seen flying along Layou River, Dominica on December 10.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Fairly common, seen in St Lucia, Dominica and St Vincent.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Fairly common. Seen in St Lucia and Dominica.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*

Seen along river near Tamarind Tree, Dominica on December 7 and 8, and along Indian River, Dominica on December 9.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Seen often while driving in St Lucia, and also at Montreal Gardens, Dominica on December 11.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

10 seen on the brackish lake at Eau Piquant (Aupicon), St Lucia on December 3, and one seen along river near Tamarind Tree, Dominica on December 7 and 8.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

One seen on the brackish lake at Eau Piquant (Aupicon), St Lucia on December 3, and one seen along river near Tamarind Tree, Dominica on December 7.

OSPREY Pandionidae (1):

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Occasional sightings on St Lucia, Dominica and St Vincent.

KITES, HAWKS, AND EAGLES Accipitridae (2):

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*

Immature seen at Jennings Guest House, St Vincent on December 10, and an adult at Montreal Gardens on December 11.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*

Common resident on St Lucia, Dominica and St Vincent and seen or heard most days.

BARN OWLS Tytonidae (1):

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Very dark individual seen roosting in church in Portsmouth, Dominica on December 9. Regarded by some as a full species – Lesser Antillean Barn Owl (*Tyto insularis*).

KINGFISHERS Alcedinidae (2):

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*

Seen along river near Tamarind Tree, Dominica on December 8.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*

One heard at belenbouche, near beach, on December 4 and another seen along river near Tamarind Tree, Dominica on December 6 and 7.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS Falconidae (3):

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

Male seen near Des Barras, St Lucia on December 4, and a female was eating lizards at Balenbouche, St Lucia on December 4.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Winter visitor. Two seen at Montreal Gardens, St Vincent on December 11.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

One at Eau Piquant (Aupicon), St Lucia on December 4 and one seen near Petit Nevis, St Vincent, diving on an Osprey.

PARROTS Psittacidae (4):

Red-necked Parrot *Amazona arausiaca*

Endemic to Dominica. Fairly common at higher elevation, seen often in pairs. Mostly seen along Syndicate nature trail on the two visits there on December 9.

St. Lucia Parrot *Amazona versicolor*

Endemic to St Lucia. Poor views at viewing point along Des Cartiers Trail, seen only in flight, on December 3.

Imperial Parrot *Amazona imperialis*

Endemic to Dominica. One of the world's rarest parrots. After giving up during torrential rain in the morning, an afternoon visit to the Syndicate nature trail paid off, after patient watching and listening. At least three birds were heard, and one was seen perched, briefly, through a scope by all. This bird and its mate were seen in flight a little later.

St. Vincent Parrot *Amazona guildingii*

Endemic to St Vincent. A very colourful parrot, with at least six birds, many seen well, coming in to roost at Jennings Guest House, St Vincent on December 10.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS Tyrannidae (5):

Caribbean Elaenia *Elaenia martinica*

Widespread resident, often very vocal, seen in St Lucia, Dominica and St Vincent.

Lesser Antillean Pewee *Contopus latirostris*

The distinctive St Lucian race (*latirostris*). Three seen at Des Cartiers Rainforest Trail on December 3 and one at Des Barras on December 4.

Grenada Flycatcher *Myiarchus nugator*

Endemic to St Vincent and Grenada. Two seen at Jennings Guest House, St Vincent on December 10 and one at Montreal Gardens, St Vincent on December 11.

Lesser Antillean Flycatcher *Myiarchus oberi*

Endemic to the Lesser Antilles. One at Des Barras on December 4 and one at Lower Colihaut, Dominica on December 7.

Gray Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis*

One of the commonest birds, seen perched on wires and bushes everywhere.

VIREOS Vireonidae (1):

Black-whiskered Vireo *Vireo altiloquus*

Surprisingly uncommon. See and heard along Micoud Highway and in Des Barras, St Lucia on December 4 and in Montreal Gardens, St Vincent on December 11.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS Hirundinidae (1):

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*

Two seen flying over the brackish lake at Eau Piquant (Aupicon), St Lucia on December 3 and two seen at mouth of Indian River, Dominica on December 9.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Two seen at mouth of Indian River, Dominica on December 9.

WRENS Troglodytidae (1):

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

One of the very pale St Lucia race (mesoleucus) seen in Des Barras, St Lucia on December 4. Singles of very dark Dominica race (rufescens) seen at Lower Colihaut on December 7 and singing on Tamarind Tree and nearby river on December 7 and 8. St Vincent race (musicus) seen at Montreal Gardens on December 11.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS Mimidae (6):

White-breasted Thrasher *Ramphocinclus brachyurus*

Endemic to St Lucia and Martinique. Three birds seen well along Micoud Highway on December 4.

Scaly-breasted Thrasher *Alenia fusca*

Common, endemic to Lesser Antilles. Several seen well in Ficus tree at Balenbouche, St Lucia on December 5 and also seen on Dominica and St Vincent.

Pearly-eyed Thrasher *Margarops fuscatus*

Difficult to find. One seen in flight along Des Cartiers Rainforest Trail, St Lucia on December 4.

Brown Trembler *Cinlocerthia ruficauda*

Endemic to Lesser Antilles. One seen at Lower Colihaut, Dominica on December 7 and five seen at Montreal Gardens, St Vincent on December 11.

Gray Trembler *Cinlocerthia gutturalis*

Endemic to St Lucia and Martinique. Seen along Des Cartiers Rainforest Trail on December 3, two seen in Micoud Highway area on December 4, and one seen feeding on fruiting papaya at Fond Doux on December 5, all in St Lucia.

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*

Fairly common. Often heard and not seen in St Lucia, Dominica and St Vincent.

THRUSHES Turdidae (3):

Rufous-throated Solitaire *Myadestes genibarbis*

At least two, male and female seen along Des Cartiers Rainforest Trail, St Lucia on December 3.

Spectacled Thrush *Turdus nudigenis*

One heard and seen flying over along Micoud Highway, St Lucia on 4 December and seen well at Balenbouche, St Lucia on December 4 and 5.

Red-legged Thrush *Turdus plumbeus*

Two heard and one seen at Lower Colihaut, Dominica on 7 December, and also seen at Tamarind Tree, Dominica in the garden on December 7 and 8.

WAXBILLS Estrildidae (1):

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

Introduced species. Four seen near Tamarind Tree, Dominica on December 8.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS Passeridae (1):

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Introduced species. Two seen by lunch place, Gros Islet, St Lucia on December 4 and two seen at lunch place in Portsmouth, Dominica on December 11.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS Fringillidae (1):

Lesser Antillean Euphonia *Chlorophonia flavifrons*

Endemic to Lesser Antilles. One seen along Des Cartiers Rainforest Trail, St Lucia on December 3, one heard at Micoud Highway, St Lucia on December 4 and one seen at Des Barras, St Lucia on December 4.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS Icteridae (3):

St. Lucia Oriole *Icterus laudabilis*

Endemic to St Lucia, often difficult to see. Three seen along Des Cartiers Forest Trail on December 3.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

Three seen at Pigeon Island Causeway, St Lucia on December 4, and six at Sulphur Springs, St Lucia on December 5. Several seen elsewhere from the vehicle on St Lucia.

Carib Grackle *Quiscalus lugubris*

Common on St Lucia and Dominica. Several seen at Grantley Adams International Airport on December 12 were the 'Barbados' Grackle race (*fortirostris*) which is endemic to Barbados and St Vincent.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS Parulidae (5):

Whistling Warbler *Catharopeza bishop*

Endemic to St Vincent. Difficult to find. One seen by a couple of the group near Montreal Gardens on December 11.

Plumbeous Warbler *Setophaga plumbea*

Endemic to Dominica and Guadeloupe. Fairly common. Two seen at Spanny Falls and five at Lower Colihaut, on December 7, and one at Indian River on December 9.

Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina*

A rare vagrant. One seen and photographed near Tamarind Tree, Dominica on December 8.

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*

The so-called 'Golden Warbler' subspecies *ruficapilla* with several seen near Tamarind Tree on December 6 and 8, and one along Indian River, Dominica on December 9.

St. Lucia Warbler *Setophaga delicata*

Endemic to St Lucia. This beautiful bright-coloured warbler was common and seen most days on St Lucia from mountain forest to near sea level.

TANAGERS AND ALLIES Thraupidae (7):

Lesser Antillean Tanager *Stilpnia cucullata*

Endemic to St Vincent, the Grenadines and Grenada. Five birds seen well at Montreal Gardens, St Vincent.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*

Seen every day. On St Vincent, a good proportion of the birds were of the black morph.

Lesser Antillean Bullfinch *Loxigilla noctis*

Endemic to Lesser Antilles. Common throughout, often coming to tables to look for food.

Barbados Bullfinch *Loxigilla barbadensis*

Endemic to Barbados. Two seen by Gate 9 at airport building on December 10.

St. Lucia Black Finch *Melanospiza richardsoni*

Endemic to St Lucia. One male and two females seen along Des Cartiers Rainforest Trail, St Lucia on December 3

Black-faced Grassquit *Melanospiza bicolor*

Common near Tamarind Tree, Dominica and also seen at Jennings Guest House, St Vincent on December 10.

Lesser Antillean Saltator *Saltator albicollis*

Endemic to four of the Lesser Antilles. Seen and heard at several locations on both St Lucia and Dominica.

MAMMALS (5):

Southern Opossum *Didelphis marsupialis* – one seen at Balenbouche, St Lucia on December 4.

Small Indian Mongoose *Herpestes javanicus* - Introduced, One seen on St Lucia on December 3

Velvety Free-tailed Bat *Molossus molossus* – seen on Dominica on December 9 and St Vincent on December 10.
Red-rumped Agouti *Dasyprocta leporina* – seen in Dominica (introduced)
Sperm Whale *Physeter macrocephalus* - two seen offshore from Roseau, Dominica on December 8

REPTILES (6):

Lesser Antillean Iguana *Iguana delicatissima* – seen along Dominica on December 8 and Indian River on December 9
Dominican Anole *Anolis oculatus* – Endemic to Dominica, seen in Lower Colihaut on December 7
St Vincent Bush Anole *trinitatus* – Endemic to St Vincent, seen at Jennings Guest House on December 10
St Lucian Anole *Anolis luciae* – Endemic to St Lucia, seen on December 3
Puerto Rican Crested Anole *Anolis cristatellus* – Introduced, seen on Dominica on December 8
Dominican Ameiva *Pholidoscelis fuscatus* – Endemic to Dominica, seen on December 8 and 9

BUTTERFLIES (10):

Seen on most of the islands but tricky to identify as they rarely stopped flying

Little Sulphur
Great Southern White
Julia Heliconia
Tropical Buckeye
Caribbean Buckeye
White Peacock
Fiery Skipper
Orsus Checkered-Skipper
Tropical Checkered-Skipper
Long-tailed Skipper