

THE LESSER ANTILLES

aboard the *Sea Cloud*

March 5–13, 2020



Purple-throated Carib, *Eulampis jugularis*. Photo: D. Ascanio.

TOUR LEADERS:

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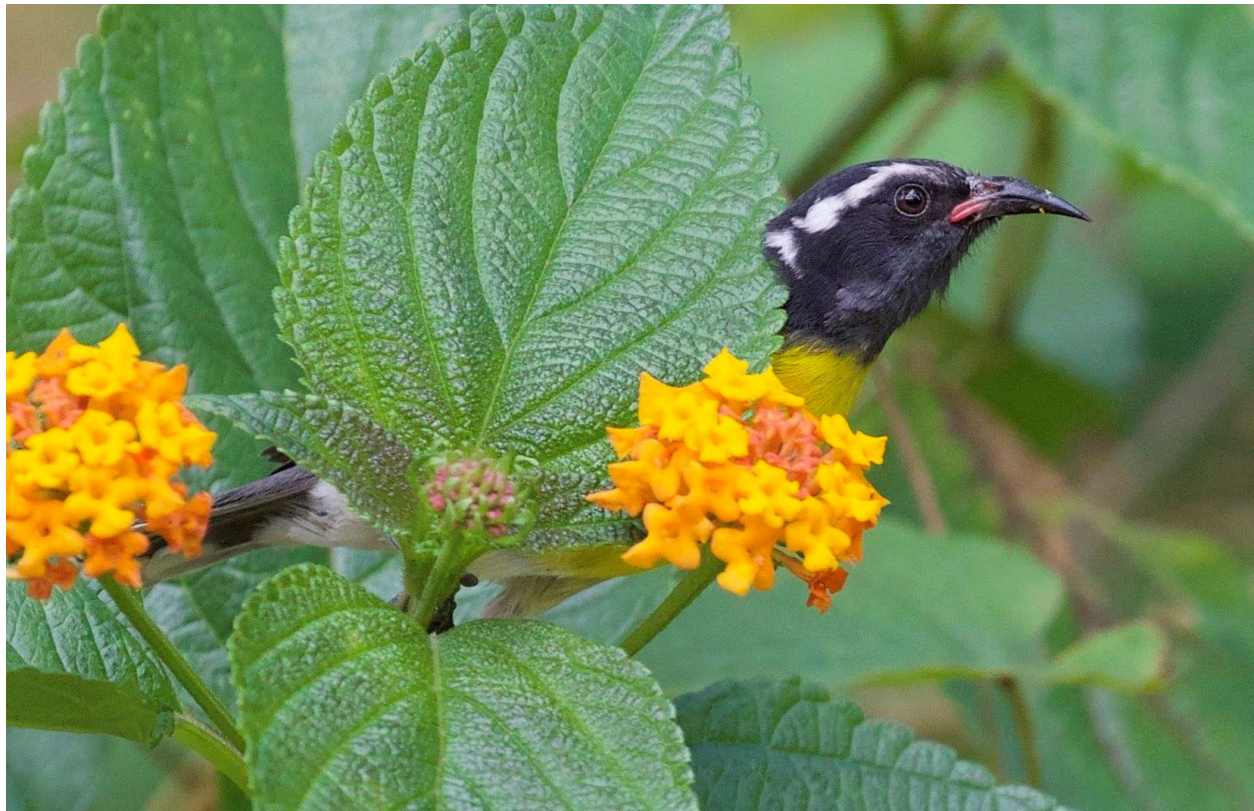
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Compiled by David Ascanio.

Photo album link:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/davidascanio/albums/72157713637647748>

When *Birds of the West Indies* was published in 1936, little was known about the ecology of the east arc of Caribbean islands and much less about its author, James Bond. Prior to this publication, ornithologists were aware that these small promontories in the Caribbean were rich in endemism, but the way the birds colonized them was much ignored, since early ornithological exploration focused solely on bird taxonomy. One good representative of the collecting period was Frederick Albion Ober, who made surveys to the Lesser Antilles around 1876–1878 and collected 22 bird taxa new to science. Therefore, to say that the 1936 book marked an important milestone in the history of ornithology of the West Indies is not an exaggeration but a tribute to James Bond (see paragraph at end to learn more about James Bond).



Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*. Photo: D. Ascanio.

Following the spirit of adventure of the early ornithologists of the Lesser Antilles, we embarked the astonishingly beautiful *Sea Cloud*, and after a day of birding in the easternmost of the islands, Barbados, we headed across the small portion of ocean that separates it from the ring of islands representing much of the Lesser Antilles. In Barbados (meaning bearded and referring to the Spanish Moss hanging from large *Ficus* trees), we were able to observe in great detail the Barbados Bullfinch (a recent split from the Lesser Antilles Bullfinch), an Osprey, a Green Heron nesting, and the unique Green-throated Carib and Antillean Crested Hummingbird. Of special interest were the Carib Grackle (a population with males and females seeming similar in

plumage), the Zenaida Dove, and the ubiquitous Bananaquit, one that showed minor plumage variation among the islands.

After embarkation, a day at sea followed, where we started pointing out some of the target species of the trip such as Masked Booby (always in small numbers in this route), Red-footed Booby in two morphs, and two species of pelagic birds, the White-tailed and the Red-billed tropicbirds.

DOMINICA

The next island was the green and lush Dominica. Dominated by steep cliffs and mountainous terrain, we drove for about 45 minutes to the Syndicate forest, where the very last remnant population of the impressive Imperial Parrot remains. Some groups got to see a pair in flight, others just got to hear other pairs. Also, everyone enjoyed great views of the Red-necked Parrot (another endemic species) and superb views of a Mangrove Cuckoo. Some participants found a male and a female Blue-headed Hummingbird, another target species and the third endemic of the island. In addition, we continued to increase our checklist with views of the unique subspecies of House Wren (one that is found inside forest), Scaly-naped Pigeon, Green-throated and Purple-throated caribs (hummingbird), Lesser Antillean Flycatcher, and Scaly-breasted and Pearly-eyed thrashers.



Bridled Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon mystacea*. Photo: D. Ascanio.

GADELOUPE

A night sail along the Caribbean allowed us to start the following morning in beautiful Guadeloupe. Geologically speaking, this political unit consists of two islands separated by a narrow strait. We visited the one called *Basse-Terre*, which is the one with a volcanic origin. A very early arrival to the Guadeloupe National Park gave us the opportunity to observe the otherwise difficult-to-see Bridled Quail-Dove. Later, many of us nailed the superb shy Forest Thrush in three separate locations. I have to say that seeing this bird is always challenging, and we were fortunate that many of you got to see it. But the jewel of the crown was about to come, and it happened when a pair of Guadeloupe Woodpeckers landed on an open branch, and we observed it for several minutes. Later in the morning, we paid a short but productive visit to the Valombreuse Gardens where we enjoyed very close views of Purple-throated Carib. Other birds reported today were the small but well-dressed Antillean Crested Hummingbird, the little-known Lesser Antillean Swift, and the distinctive Lesser Antillean Saltator.



White-breasted Thrasher, *Ramphocinclus brachyurus*. Photo: D. Ascanio.

MARTINIQUE

Heading south, our next stop was over to a very different island, Martinique. Its flat landscape was a prize conquered by early European colonists to grow tobacco and cotton. Later, it made it into the sugar industry. And such conditions pushed colonizers to wipe-out forests, thus affecting several endemic birds. Two of the most affected species were the Martinique Oriole (seen virtually by only one cruise participant!) and the critically endangered White-breasted Thrasher, one that everyone managed to see very well! Many of us got to see it tossing leaves or perched on open branches for several seconds. After this rewarding early morning departure, we returned to the beautiful *Sea Cloud* and headed to the next island, pretty St. Lucia.



St. Lucia Black Finch, *Melanospiza richardsoni*. Photo: D. Ascanio.

ST. LUCIA

As the sun rose out in the Caribbean Sea, we were astonished by the jaw-dropping scenic view of St. Lucia. Two pitons, and amazing mountains and lush forest at its steep cliffs. A short tendering to the harbor found us loading small vans and driving up to a protected area of Bouton. We divided into three groups, and with the assistance of incredibly talented local guides (and well organized) we managed to see the St. Lucia Parrot, St. Lucia Pewee, St. Lucia Black Finch, Gray Trembler, and St. Lucia Warbler. Four endemic species in just a morning! Also, we added Short-tailed Swift, enjoyed scope views of Caribbean Martin, and observed Lesser Antillean Flycatcher at length. In the afternoon we went down to a trail where our local guides have found the St. Lucia Oriole, and within minutes of search, we found it. The afternoon closed with astonishing views of Antillean Euphonia, one that resembles two other species found in South America.

ST. VINCENT

To round-up a successful journey to the wonderful Lesser Antilles, we visited an island that has a long name and one of the most beautiful beaches in the Caribbean, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This island hosts another parrot species—the only one we were still missing—the St. Vincent Parrot. We divided into two groups. Some of us walked the steep trail of the Vermont Forest where we enjoyed views of parrots in flight, and the second group visited the forest edge where they were rewarded with scope views of perched parrots. Seeing the parrot was not difficult, but the special winged prize of this island was a small and dull passerine, the Whistling Warbler. Once we managed to reach a location on the trail to look for it, we eventually found a family group; some of us got to see the juvenile, and the lucky ones enjoyed views of the two

adults plus the juvenile. In the late morning all groups met for a short walk in the Botanic Garden where we added Grenada Flycatcher (a relative of Great Crested Flycatcher) but missed the Lesser Antillean Tanager. A species bonus was seeing a wonderful male Baltimore Oriole, a rare Neotropical migrant in the Lesser Antilles. Once back at the ship, we celebrated our visit to another island and adding more endemic birds to our list.



Red-footed Booby (white morph), *Sula sula*. Photo: D. Ascanio.

BARBADOS

Following an afternoon at sea where we were delighted with eye level views of Red-footed and Brown boobies flying along with the ship, tropicbirds flying by, and some Brown Pelicans and Magnificent Frigatebirds flying overhead, our cruise ended where it all began, in the beautiful Barbados. Here we paid a visit to the Botanic Gardens and a plantation house. We arrived in time at the airport for our flights back home. As we took off, we left behind these wonderful islands, some surrounded by aquamarine-blue beaches and rich-green forest, some dominated by steep mountains, and others with flatter landscapes, but all, absolutely all, examples of nature's amazing experiment of evolution and adaptation. What a privilege to have sailed the *Sea Cloud* and to have seen such amazing birdlife!

A paragraph about James Bond. By the time of publication of *Birds of the West Indies*, Bond was virtually unknown out of scientific circles, but by the time his book was reviewed, he learned about his name being known to the public and related to shaken martinis, the company of beautiful women, and sadomasochism. What happened? He learned that his name was stolen by a novel writer, Ian Fleming, who might have been looking at *Birds of the West Indies* when looking for a name for his next yet-to-be-named spy novel. So, the relation between Agent 007

and the passionate ornithologist was not a mere coincidence but the fact that Fleming was a birdwatcher!



The *Sea Cloud* in Dominica. Photo: D. Ascanio.

Now that you have enjoyed the Lesser Antilles, I would like to invite you to consider some of the tours that we lead in other bird-rich countries, such as:

Cuba: Supporting the Cuban people and its birds.

Photo album:

<https://ventbird.com/view-photo-gallery/5d4da5e07c74350df0108205/Cuba-352019-3162019>

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLRHvB1jzdI>

The Amazon Cruise

Photo album:

<https://ventbird.com/view-photo-gallery/5d4d79087c74350df0107cc0/Amazon-River-Cruise-2212019-3032019>

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b3xYG0cPSo>

Colombia, Magdalena River Valley & Western Andes: a Relaxed & Easy Tour

Photo album:

<https://ventbird.com/view-photo-gallery/5d425b427c74350df010200f/Colombia-Magdalena-River-Valley--Western-Andes-7132019-7212019>

I look forward to seeing you again!

THE LESSER ANTILLES ABOARD THE *SEA CLOUD* ITINERARY

March 5–13, 2020

05 March 2020. Arrival to Barbados.

06 March 2020. Morning in Barbados. Embarkation.

07 March 2020. At sea.

08 March 2020. Dominica. Syndicate Estate.

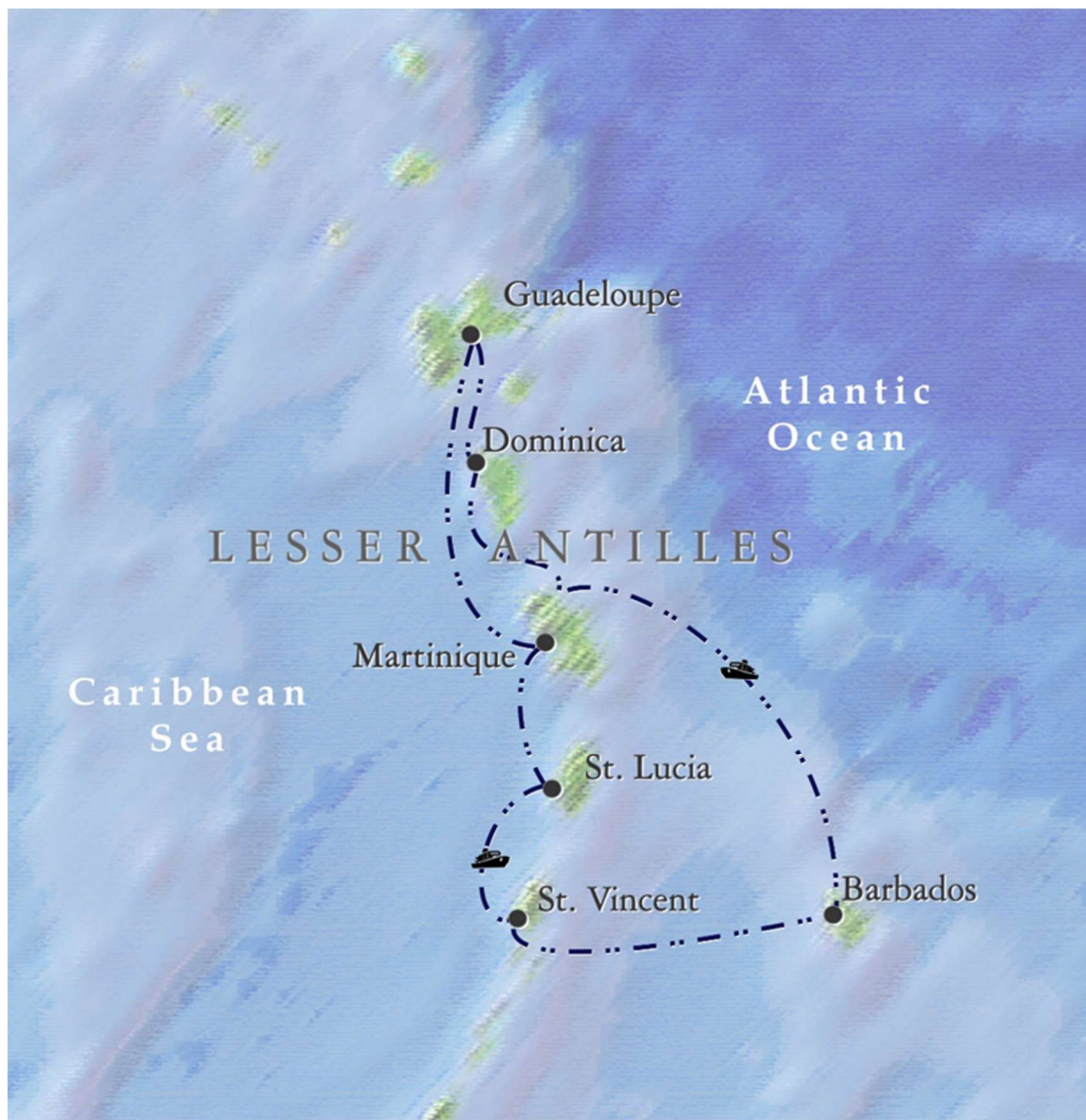
09 March 2020. Guadeloupe. Parc National de la Guadeloupe (Guadeloupe National Park) and Les Jardins de Valombreuse (Gardens of Valombreuse).

10 March 2020. Martinique. *Réserve naturelle nationale de la presqu'île de la Caravelle* (Caravelle Peninsula natural reserve).

11 March 2020. St. Lucia. Bouton community road.

12 March 2020. St. Vincent. Vermont Forest trail and St. Vincent Botanical Gardens.

13 March 2020. Barbados. Disembarkation. Departure for international flights.



BIRDS

Pigeons and Doves / Columbidae

Rock Pigeon. *Columba livia*. Introduced. Common in urban areas in most islands.

Scaly-naped Pigeon. *Patagioenas squamosa*. Particularly common and easy-to-see in Barbados. A forest species in Guadeloupe, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

Eurasian Collared-Dove. *Streptopelia decaocto*. Introduced. Observed in Barbados and Martinique.

Common Ground-Dove. *Columbina passerina*. Seen in Barbados and Dominica.

Ruddy Quail-Dove. *Geotrygon montana*. Observed in flight in St. Lucia.

Bridled Quail-Dove. *Geotrygon mystacea*. When it comes to quail-doves, this one wins the beauty contest. We were rewarded with views of two individuals in Guadeloupe.

Zenaida Dove. *Zenaida aurita*. Particularly common and easy-to-see in Barbados. Also seen in Dominica, Martinique and St. Vincent.

Eared Dove. *Zenaida auriculata*. It was called in St. Vincent.

Cuckoos / Cuculidae

Smooth-billed Ani. *Crotophaga ani*. Dominica.

Mangrove Cuckoo. *Coccyzus minor*. Briefly seen in Dominica and later, in an open branch in St. Lucia.

Swifts / Apodidae

The swifts are probably the least known family of birds in the Americas. That is because of their habits to travel long distance and roost in hard-to-find locations.

Short-tailed Swift. *Chaetura brachyura*. Few were observed in St. Lucia.

Lesser Antillean Swift. *Chaetura martinica*. A common species found in most of the Lesser Antilles. Numerous in St. Lucia.

Hummingbirds / Trochilidae

Purple-throated Carib. *Eulampis jugularis*. This exquisite hummingbird was enjoyed by everyone in the cruise. We came across it many times in the islands of Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

Green-throated Carib. *Eulampis holosericeus*. This species was another gem of the Lesser Antilles. It was reported in Barbados, Dominica, Guadeloupe and St. Vincent.

Blue-headed Hummingbird (E). *Cyanophaea bicolor*. Some cruise participants got to see a pair inside the Syndicate trail in Dominica.

Antillean Crested Hummingbird. *Orthorhyncus cristatus*. Another little gem of the Lesser Antilles. We noticed the crest color difference among the northern and southern Lesser Antilles. It was seen every island.

Rails, Gallinules and Coots / Rallidae

Common Gallinule. *Gallinula galeata*. A wetland species found in Barbados and St. Lucia.

Plovers and Lapwings / Charadriidae

Black-bellied Plover. *Pluvialis squatarola*. Barbados.

Semipalmated Plover. *Charadrius semipalmatus*. Observed in Barbados.

Sandpipers and Allies / Scolopacidae

Ruddy Turnstone. *Arenaria interpres*. Barbados.
Spotted Sandpiper. *Actitis macularius*. Barbados.
Greater Yellowlegs. *Tringa melanoleuca*. Barbados.
Lesser Yellowlegs. *Tringa flavipes*. Barbados.
Least Sandpiper. *Calidris minutilla*. Barbados.
Stilt Sandpiper. *Calidris himantopus*. Barbados.

Gulls, Terns and Skimmers / Laridae

Laughing Gull. *Leucophaeus atricilla*. Amazing numbers in St. Lucia. We counted 200+ individuals.

Royal Tern. *Thalasseus maximus*. Few pairs in Martinique, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

Sooty Tern. *Onychoprion fuscatus*. Seen once in the Atlantic Ocean.

Phaethontidae / Tropicbirds

White-tailed Tropicbird. *Phaethon lepturus*. About 6 individuals were seen in the Atlantic Ocean between Barbados to Dominica. We noticed its distinctive wing patches.

Red-billed Tropicbird. *Phaethon aethereus*. Only once observed near Dominica.

Frigatebirds / Fregatidae

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*. Daily views.

Procellariidae / Petrels and Shearwaters

Black-capped Petrel. *Pterodroma hasitata*. Caribbean Sea.

Manx Shearwater. *Puffinus puffinus*. Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean.

Boobies and Gannets / Sulidae

Masked Booby. *Sula dactylatra*. Seen first on our way to Dominica and later, between Guadeloupe and Martinique.

Brown Booby. *Sula leucogaster*. Various individuals were seen in the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

Red-footed Booby. *Sula sula*. The most numerous of the boobies. Common in the Atlantic Ocean. Two morphs were observed.

Pelicans / Pelecanidae

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*. Particularly common around Guadeloupe, Martinique and Dominica.

Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns / Ardeidae

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*. Observed in Guadeloupe.

Great Egret. *Ardea alba*. Seen in Barbados.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*. Barbados.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*. Barbados.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*. A common species in the Lesser Antilles. Apparently, arrived at these islands during the second wave of migration (first documented in Suriname, in the late 1800).

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*. Seen in Barbados and Guadeloupe.

Ospreys / Pandionidae

Osprey. *Pandion haliaetus*. Observed in Barbados and Dominica.

Hawks, Eagles and Kites / Accipitridae

Common Black-Hawk. *Buteogallus anthracinus*. St Vincent. This subspecies found in that island (*cancrivorus*) is sometimes regarded as a separate species.

Broad-winged Hawk. *Buteo platypterus*. Although being a boreal migrant species in South America, the Lesser Antilles host a resident population of this species. Seen in Dominica, Martinique and St. Vincent.

Kingfishers / Alcedinidae

Belted Kingfisher. *Megaceryle alcyon*. Seen in Dominica.

Woodpeckers / Picidae

Guadeloupe Woodpecker. *Melanerpes herminieri*. Endemic to Guadeloupe. A pair was observed in the picnic area of the Guadeloupe national park. It was later reported in the Velambrouse gardens as well. The epithet *herminieri* was given after Felix Louis l'Herminiere, a French naturalist in Guadeloupe. A Guadeloupe endemic!

Falcons / Falconidae

American Kestrel. *Falco sparverius*. Guadeloupe and St. Lucia.

Merlin. *Falco columbarius*. St. Vincent.

Parrots / Psittacidae

Red-necked Parrot (E). *Amazona arausiaca*. Endemic to Dominica. The commonest and probably the easiest-to-see parrot in the Lesser Antilles. Seen by everyone.

St. Lucia Parrot (E). *Amazona versicolor*. S Endemic to Saint Lucia. Everyone enjoyed great views of this parrot along the Bouton community road.

Imperial Parrot (E). *Amazona imperialis*. Some participants were at the right location in the right time to get to see this parrot species in flight. Other participants (unfortunately) were only able to listen pairs in flight inside the forest. But, it was rewarding just to know they are still there, despite all the threats. This is probably the most endangered *Amazona* parrot of all.

St. Vincent Parrot (E). *Amazona guildingii*. Endemic to St Vincent. To find this species we tried two locations in the same protected area. Those that were ready to walk a steep trail to the lookout area joined Peter and myself. Barry and Victor lead the group to see the parrot from the forest edge. Everyone enjoyed views of it!

Tyrant Flycatchers / Tyrannidae

Caribbean Elaenia. *Elaenia martinica*. A common species in the Lesser Antilles. It was seen in all the islands visited.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia. *Elaenia flavogaster*. SV. Seen only in the St. Vincent Botanic Gardens. A common species in northern South America.

Lesser Antillean Pewee. *Contopus latirostris*. This little tyrant-flycatcher is fond to forest edge. It was seen only in St. Lucia. Some taxonomist has suggested that the St. Lucia population might be a separate species, and called St. Lucia Pewee, *Contopus oberi*.

Grenada Flycatcher. *Myiarchus nugator*. A target species in St. Vincent. It was seen in the St. Vincent Botanic Gardens. We noticed its incredible resemblance with Great-crested and Brown-crested flycatchers.

Lesser Antillean Flycatcher. *Myiarchus oberi*. A pair was observed in Dominica and a second pair in St. Lucia.

Gray Kingbird. *Tyrannus dominicensis*. This species was seen in all islands. Some Lesser Antilles populations of this species do migrate to northern South America. We noticed its enormous bill size compared with populations in other locations of the Americas.

Vireos / Vireonidae

Black-whiskered Vireo. *Vireo altiloquus*. Scattered individuals were observed in Barbados. Single ones were heard in all other islands. The migratory route of this species is not completely understood.

Martins & Swallows / Hirundinidae

Caribbean Martin. *Progne dominicensis*. Seen first in Barbados. Later seen in Guadeloupe and scoped in St. Lucia.

Wrens / Troglodytidae

House Wren. *Troglodytes aedon*. This is a complex species in the Lesser Antilles with various candidates to be elevated to species rank. Below a summary:

Troglodytes aedon rufescens. The most rufous of all of the House Wren. It is a forest species. Seen in Syndicate Estate, Dominica.

Troglodytes aedon mesoleucus. St. Lucia. This one prefers desert scrub and open areas. Seen along the road to Bouton school.

Troglodytes aedon musicus. The palest of all of the House Wren in the Lesser Antilles. Observed in the Botanical Gardens of St. Vincent.

Mockingbirds and Thrashers / Mimidae

White-breasted Thrasher (E). *Ramphocinclus brachyurus*. Endemic to Martinique and St Lucia. All participants enjoyed astonishing views of two small groups. One group was active inside the forest and the second group was resting in an area contiguous to the parking lot. This species is endangered due to habitat loss.

Scaly-breasted Thrasher. *Allenia fusca*. First seen in Dominica and later in all the remaining islands except in St. Vincent.

Pearly-eyed Thrasher. *Margarops fuscatus*. A common species in Dominica and Guadeloupe. Also observed in St. Lucia.

Brown Trembler. *Cinlocerthia ruficauda*. The tremblers are comical birds with a unique behavior to shaking the wings constantly. It has been suggested that the population from Guadeloupe may represent a separate species. There are currently two species tremblers recognized and this one is more widespread. We saw the Brown Trembler in Dominica and Guadeloupe. It was also seen in St. Vincent.

Gray Trembler (E). *Cinlocerthia gutturalis*. Found only in St. Lucia and Martinique. Once considered conspecific with the previous species, this trembler has paler underparts. Everyone enjoyed views of it in St. Lucia.

Tropical Mockingbird. *Mimus gilvus*. Common in Martinique.

Thrushes and Allies / Turdidae

Spectacled (Bare-eyed) Thrush. *Turdus nudigenis*. Seen at the Botanical Gardens of St. Vincent.

Forest Thrush. *Turdus lherminieri*. Many of us got to observe this *almost impossible to see* bird, in Guadeloupe!

Red-legged Thrush. *Turdus plumbeus*. Observed in Dominica.

Finches, Euphonias and Allies / Fringillidae

Antillean Euphonia. *Euphonia musica*. What a view we enjoyed of this beautiful euphonia in St. Lucia!

Troupials and Allies / Icteridae

St. Lucia Oriole (E). *Icterus laudabilis*. Endemic to St. Lucia. Seen well near the Bouton road. Nice studies of a pair.

Martinique Oriole (E). *Icterus bonana*. Endemic to Martinique. This oriole has proved to be one of the most difficult-to-find endemic bird in the Lesser Antilles. Seen by literally only one participant as the rest of us were distracted with a White-breasted Thrasher. The epithet *bonana* refers to the believe by the local farmers that this species ate the bananas in the plantations.

Shiny Cowbird. *Molothrus bonariensis*. Seen in Barbados, Martinique, St. Lucia and St. Lucia.

Carib Grackle. *Quiscalus lugubris*. Our first sighting of this species was in Barbados, which host an interesting and distinctive population since they are not sexually dimorphic (meaning males and females look alike). Furthermore, the populations observed in Guadeloupe, Martinique and St. Lucia are vocally distinct from the ones inland South America. Here you got a good example of two cryptic taxa, and both will probably be ranked as full species status in the future.

Baltimore Oriole. *Icterus galbula*. What a nice surprise to have observed this species in St. Vincent Botanic Garden. According to eBird, this is a rare finding in St. Vincent.

New World Warblers / Parulidae

Whistling Warbler (E). *Catharopeza bishopi*. Endemic to Saint Vincent. For those of you that did the steep walk in the forest, I can't express in words how lucky you were to have seen this species. It is always a challenge even to know about the presence of one individual. Some of you got to see a pair with the sub-adult.

Plumbeous Warbler (E). *Setophaga plumbea*. This was an easy-to-see warbler. It was observed in Dominica and Guadeloupe.

Yellow Warbler. *Setophaga petechia*. This interesting species is resident in the Lesser Antilles. The Barbados form is also called Golden Warbler while the Martinique form (with complete chestnut-maroon hood) is called Mangrove Warbler. Seen in both islands.

St. Lucia Warbler (E). *Setophaga delicata*. Endemic to St Lucia. Another easy-to-see warbler. Observed by everyone in St. Lucia. It favors open areas.

Tanagers and Allies / Thraupidae

Bananaquit. *Coereba flaveola*. Anywhere you see bananaquits you sort of see it once and ignore it for the rest of the trip. Not the way in the Lesser Antilles! We saw individuals with a dotted wingbar, some with broader throat patch and others with reduced throat patch. Furthermore, there is an all-black form in St. Vincent. Seen in all islands.

Lesser Antillean Bullfinch. *Loxigilla noctis*. A common and gregarious species that occurs open areas, forest edge and is tolerant to human disturbance. It was seen in all the islands except for Barbados, where is replaced by the endemic bullfinch occurring there.

Barbados Bullfinch. *Loxigilla barbadensis*. This bullfinch was the first of the endemic birds to be seen in our tour. They're so conspicuous that they can be seen virtually in every open area of Barbados. Some were trying to take food from the buffet breakfast!

Black-faced Grassquit. *Tiaris bicolor*. A common species found in open areas in all of the Lesser Antilles except for Guadeloupe and Dominica.

St. Lucia Black Finch (E). *Melanospiza richardsoni*. Endemic to St Lucia. What a view we enjoyed! Males and females were seen in the morning and in the afternoon field trips.

Lesser Antillean Saltator. *Saltator albicollis*. Observed in Guadeloupe, Dominica and Martinique.

OTHER SPECIES

False Killer Whale. *Pseudorca crassidens*. Three to five individuals were observed in route to Dominica.

Striped Dolphin. *Stenella coeruleoalba*. About half of a dozen were seen near Dominica.

Small Asian Mongoose. *Herpestes javanicus*. Introduced in the Lesser Antilles.

Antillean Fruit-eating Bat. *Brachyphylla cavernarum*. Dominica.

Dominican Ground Lizard. *Ameiva fuscata*. Dominica.

Barbados Anole. *Anolis extremus*. Barbados.

Dominican Anole. *Anolis oculatus*. Dominica.

Guadeloupe Anole. *Anolis marmoratus*. Guadeloupe.

Martinique Anole. *Anolis roquet*. Martinique.

St. Lucia Anole. *Anolis luciae*. St. Lucia.

St. Vincent Bush Anole. *Anolis trinitatis*. St. Vincent.

Arboreal Termite.

A few of the prominent or interesting plants seen in the Lesser Antilles
Victor Emanuel Nature Tours
March 5–13, 2020
aboard *Sea Cloud*

Compiled by Peter Zika

Barbados 5–6 March

Antigonon leptopus (coral vine) Buckwheat Family (Polygonaceae) pink-flowered vine
Bixa orellana (lipstick plant) Lipstick Plant Family (Bixaceae) source of natural red dye, food coloring
Casuarina equisetifolia (ironwood, Australian pine) Ironwood Family (Casuarinaceae) coastal
Ficus citrifolia (Barbados, wild fig) Mulberry Family (Moraceae) the many drop roots beard-like
Pseudobombax ellipticum (shaving brush tree) Mallow Family (Malvaceae) pink flowers

Saccharum officinale (sugar cane) Grass Family (Poaceae) source of sugar, molasses, and rum
Spathodea campanulata (African tulip tree) Catalpa Family (Bignoniaceae) attracts hummingbirds
Swietenia mahagoni (West Indian mahogany) Mahogany Family (Meliaceae) once common, valuable timber
Terminalia catappa (Indian almond) Combretum Family (Combretaceae) leaves turn red, coastal

Sugar Cane (*Saccharum officinale*)



Dominica 8 March

Aechmea lingulata (bromeliad) Pineapple Family (Bromeliaceae) short broad leaves, epiphyte in rain forest

Anthurium acaule (anthurium) Arum Family (Araceae) rain forest

Asplundia insignis (asplundia) Cyclanth Family (Cyclanthaceae) rain forest, leaves forked

Cecropia schreberiana (cecropia) Nettle Family (Urticaceae)

Cranichis muscosa (terrestrial orchid) Orchid Family (Orchidaceae)

Cyathea arborea (West Indian tree fern) Forked-Sori Tree Fern Family (Cyatheaceae) common in rain forest

Dacryodes excelsa (gommier, elemi) Torchwood Family (Burseraceae) massive trunks made into dugout canoes

Delonix regia (flame tree) Bean Family (Fabaceae) large red flowers, long woody pods, dockside

Eleusine indica (goosegrass) Grass Family (Poaceae) Seeds eaten by Lesser Antillean bullfish

Hura crepitans (sandbox tree) Spurge Family (Euphorbiaceae) explosive fruits

Ilex macfadyenii (tropical holly) Holly Family (Aquifoliaceae) rain forest tree

Justicia carnea (justicia) Acanth Family (Acanthaceae) attracts hummingbirds

Lantana camara (lantana) Vervain Family (Verbenaceae) orange flowers, Caribbean native now a pest worldwide

Leucaena leucocephala (leadplant) Bean Family (Fabaceae) common shrub at low elevations, white flowers

Lobelia kraussii Bluebell Family (Campanulaceae) red tubular flowers in rain forest, attracts hummingbirds

Myristica fragrans (nutmeg) Nutmeg Family (Myristicaceae) red aril is mace, seed is nutmeg

Palicourea crocea Coffee Family (Rubiaceae) red infl, yellow flowers, attracts hummingbirds

Piper dilatatum (piper) Black Pepper Family (Piperaceae) rain forest

Selaginella flabellata (spikemoss, agouti parasol) Spikemoss Family (Selaginellaceae) rain forest

Sloanea caribaea (chatannye ti-fey, maiden's blush) Marbletree Family (Elaeocarpaceae) seeds eaten by parrots

Sloanea dentata (bullwood) Marbletree Family (Elaeocarpaceae) seeds eaten by parrots

Spathoglottis plicata (David's flower) Orchid Family (Orchidaceae) roadsides, pink flowers

Swartzia caribaea (zowanje blan) Bean Family (Fabaceae) seeds eaten by parrots

West Indian Tree Fern (*Cyathea arborea*)



Agouti parasol (*Selaginella flabellata*)



Guadeloupe 9 March

Adenanthera pavonina (jumbie bead tree) Bean Family (Fabaceae) bright red seeds used in necklaces
Araucaria heterophylla (Norfolk Island pine) Monkey Puzzle Family (Araucariaceae) symmetrical conifer
Caesalpinia bonduc (marble seed, gray nickers) Bean Family (Fabaceae) gray seeds used in necklaces
Cinnamomum aromaticum (cinnamon) Avocado Family (Lauraceae) fragrant bark sold in markets
Coix lacryma-jobi (Job's tears) Grass Family (Poaceae) small gray seeds used in necklaces

Crescentia cujete (calabash) Catalpa Family (Bignoniaceae) green bowling ball fruits eaten by horses
Curcuma longa (turmeric) Ginger Family (Zingiberaceae) curry ingredient, tubers sold in markets
Entada sp. (sea bean) Bean Family (Fabaceae) seeds used in necklaces
Harpullia zanguebarica (velvetseed) Soapberry Family (Sapindaceae) velvety seeds used in necklaces
Jatropha multifida (jatropha) Spurge Family (Euphorbiaceae) orange inflorescence, botanical garden

Myristica fragrans (nutmeg, mace) Nutmeg Family (Myristicaceae) sold in markets
Nephrolepis rivularis (streamside sword fern, Boston fern) Swordfern Family (Lomariopsidaceae) walls
Pilea microphylla (artillery plant) Nettle Family (Urticaceae) sidewalks
Ravenala madagascariensis (traveller's palm) Bird of Paradise Family (Strelitziaceae) fan-like, lemur pollinated
Ricinus communis (castor oil plant) Spurge Family (Euphorbiaceae) seeds deadly poisonous

Tamarindus indica (tamarind) Bean Family (Fabaceae) sweet fruits sold in markets

Seed necklaces in Farmer's Market, Pointe-à-Pitre

- 1 = sea bean (*Entada* sp.) 2 = jumbie bead tree (*Adenanthera pavonina*)
3 = velvetseed (*Harpullia zanguebarica*) 4 = Job's tears (*Coix lacryma-jobi*)
5 = gray nickers (*Caesalpinia bonduc*)



Martinique 10 March

Bursera simarouba (gumbo limbo) Frankincense Family (Burseraceae) red peeling bark, fruits eaten by avians
Capparis flexuosa (red-fruited caper) Caper Family (Capparidaceae) bean-like fruit red inside, seed pulp eaten by mockingbirds

Cassytha filiformis (love vine) Avocado Family (Lauraceae) orange stems, white berries, leafless parasitic vine
Coccoloba pubescens (sea grapes) Buckwheat Family (Polygonaceae)
Coccoloba swartzii (bois rouge) Buckwheat Family (Polygonaceae)

Crotalaria sp. (rattlepod) Bean Family (Fabaceae) yellow flowers, pods rattle
Haematoxylon campechianum (logwood, Campeche) Bean Family (Fabaceae) yellow flowers, thorny, timber tree
Hippomane mancinella (mancineel) Spurge Family (Euphorbiaceae) poisonous fruits and sap, do not touch
Piscidia carthagenensis (fishkill plant) Bean Family (Fabaceae) winged frt
Pithecellobium unguis-cati (bread and cheese) Bean Family (Fabaceae) paired leaflets, red aril on seeds

Tabebuia heterophylla (poirier) Catalpa Family (Bignoniaceae) pink flrs

Tamarindus indicus (tamarind) Bean Family (Fabaceae) edible pulp around seeds, lumpy pod

Mancineel (*Hippomane mancinella*)



St. Lucia 11 March

Clidemia hirta (soapbush) Coffee Family (Rubiaceae) wh fl, purple fr

Clusia major (awali) Rose Apple Family (Clusiaceae)

Commelina diffusa (dayflower) Dayflower Family (Commelinaceae) blue flowers

Cyathea arborea (Antilles tree fern) Tree Fern Family (Cyatheaceae) common

Emilia fosbergii (rosy emelia) Sunflower Family (Asteraceae)

Epidendrum rigidum (green orchid) Orchid Family (Orchidaceae) epiphytic, yellow-green flowers

Gliricidia sepium (quickstick, living fence) Bean Family (Fabaceae) pink flrs, sticks root and form living fences

Gonzalagunia hirsuta (mata de mariposa) Coffee Family (Rubiaceae) infl nods, white flowers, blue berries

Heliconia bihai (heliconia) Heliconia Family (Heliconiaceae) showy bracts attract hummingbirds to flowers

Hibiscus elatus (blue mahoe) Mallow Family (Malvaceae) Cuban timber tree, yellow flowers turn orange

Inga edulis (ice cream bean) Bean Family (Fabaceae) ant glands on leaves

Ipomoea tilacea (morning glory) Morning Glory Family (Convolvulaceae) flrs pale purple dark ctr

Lobelia cirsiifolia (green lobelia) Bluebell Family (Campanulaceae) Carib pollinated green flowers

Microgramma lycopodioides (clubmoss snake fern) Polypody Family (Polypodiaceae) epiphytic

Pleopeltis polypodioides (resurrection fern) Polypody Family (Polypodiaceae) epiphytic

Polygala paniculata (wintergreen) Gay Wings Family (Polygalaceae) white flowers, scented roots

Psilotum nudum (whiskfern) Whiskfern Family (Psilotaceae)

Spathoglottis plicata (David's flower) Orchid Family (Orchidaceae) pink flowers

Stachytarpheta jamaicensis (devil's coachwhip) Vervain Family (Verbenaceae) purple flowers, herb

Stachytarpheta cayennensis (vervain shrub) Vervain Family (Verbenaceae) purple flowers, shrub

Swietenia macrophylla (mahogany) Mahogany Family (Meliaceae) introd from C Am, larger lvs than native sp.

Turnera ulmifolia (ram-goat dash-along) Passionflower Family (Passifloraceae) yellow flowers

Blue mahoe (*Hibiscus elatus*)



St. Vincent 12 March

Anthurium acaule (green anthurium) Arum Family (Araceae) climbing in rain forest

Begonia sp. (wild begonia) Begonia Family (Begoniaceae) pink flowers, primary rain forest

Costus scaber (rough spiral-ginger) Spiral-Ginger Family (Costaceae) red flowers with anoles

Couroupita guianensis (cannonball tree) Brazilnut Family (Lecythidaceae) pink flowers attract large bees

Garcinia mangostana (mangosteen) Rose Apple Family (Clusiaceae) botanical garden

Hibiscus elatus (blue mahoe) Mallow Family (Malvaceae) Cuban timber tree, yellow flowers turn orange

Nautilocalyx melittifolius (nautilocalyx) African Violet Family (Gesneriaceae) purple flowers, herb, rain forest

Pinus caribaea (Caribbean pine) Pine Family (Pinaceae) reforestation plantings along trail

Selaginella flabellata (spikemoss, agouti parasol) Spikemoss Family (Selaginellaceae)

Swietenia mahagoni (West Indian mahogany) Mahogany Family (Meliaceae) once common, valuable timber

Syzygium jambos (water apple) (Myrtaceae) red fruits attract Baltimore oriole, bananaquit, spectacled thrush

Rough spiral-ginger (*Costus scaber*) & St. Vincent anole

Cannonball tree (*Couroupita guianensis*)

