

# ARUBA EN BONAIRE

Clean up the Holarctic Carrabin species (almost)

01 UNTIL 06-04-2017



*American Flamingo's and more at the Sewage Works of Bonaire.*

## Legenda:

\*AAAA = New Holarctic Species (5)

AAAAA = Good species for the trip or for me (because not often seen)

*The list order is conform the Birds of Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire (de Boer) with the recent changes on the splitting and lumping issue mainly based on publications in the “important magazines”. Subspecies is only mentioned when thought to be important and really visible in the field. The totals of birds per species are just a total of the birds I saw to give an idea how many of a species you encounter during a trip. Only species seen are mentioned, and heard when no lifer.*

On this trip the weather was good with no rain, mostly sunny with (dry) temperatures above the 20 C and often wind.

## Itinerary

**01-04** Flew from Amsterdam to Aruba to arrive late in the afternoon and birded until dark.

**02-04** Birded with Roly and Tyron from his boat along the coast and islands around Sint Nicolaas Baai in the early morning and in the late afternoon visited several places in the south-west of Aruba.

**03-04** Birded with Roly and Tyron from his boat along the coast to Oranjestad and in the afternoon visited some birding places in the north-west of the island.

**04-04** Birded in the early morning at some places in the north-west of Aruba and in the afternoon flew to Bonaire via Curacao.

**05-04** Birded the whole day on Bonaire and visited places in the south-east and around Kralendijk. Flew in the evening to Curacao to spend the night.



*The map of the Islands, but of course this is no surprise....*

## **THE BIRD SPECIES**

**01. Black-bellied Whistling Duck – Dendrocygna autumnalis**

05-06

4 birds, two pairs with a lot of chicks at the Sewage

Works of Bonaire.

**02. Blue-winged Teal – Anas discors**

The commonest duck, all migrants and in flocks.

**03. White-ckeeded Pintail – Anas bahamensis**

Quite common in (family) flocks

**04. Neotropic Cormorant - Phalacrocorax brasilianus**

Common in small colonies.

**05. Brown Pelican – Pelicanus occidentalis**

Common all over the islands, some young in nests of these year round breeders.

**06. \*AMERICAN FLAMINGO – Phoenicopterus ruber**

05-04

130 birds in total in small groups or flocks at Bonaire.



*Missed them in Florida and the Bahama's, but easy here.*

07. **Magnificent Frigatebird – *Fregata magnificens***

Common around and over the islands.

08. **Brown Booby – *Sula leucogaster***

02-04

A total of 6 immatures seen roosting on the boys of

Sint Nicolaasbaai, I forgot to check if they were all Brown....

09. **Green Heron – *Butorides virescens***

Common on both islands, also some in “juvenile looking” plumage.

10. **Great Blue Heron – *Ardea Herodias***

Quite common on both islands.

11. **(Western) Cattle Egrett - *Bubulcus ibis***

03-04

6 ex. at a swampy place on Aruba near Bubali.

12. **Snowy Egret – *Egretta thula***

Seen daily in low numbers on both islands.

13. **Great Egret – *Ardea alba***

Seen daily in low numbers on both islands.

15. **Reddish Egret - *Egretta rufescens***

A total of 10 ex. of this spectacular species seen on both islands.



*Great to see this species again for me after so many years..*

16. **Tricoloured Heron – *Egretta tricolor***  
Seen in small numbers on Bonaire and Aruba
17. **Little Blue Heron – *Egretta caerulea***  
About 10 birds seen on Aruba, mostly white birds.
18. **Black-crowned Night Heron – *Nycticorax nycticorax***  
03-04 20 ex. at a swampy place on Aruba near Bubali.
19. **Pied-billed Grebe – *Podilymbus podiceps***  
Seen at several lakes on Aruba and Bonaire, sometimes with young.
20. **Glossy Ibis – *Plegadis falcinellus***  
03-04 1 ex. in summer plumage at the Salina in the NW of Aruba.
21. **Osprey – *Pandion haliaetus* ssp: *ridgwayi***  
Common along the coast of both visited islands
22. **Crested Caracara – *Caracara cheriway***  
About 5 seen in total on Aruba and Bonaire
23. **American Kestrel – *Falco sparverius***  
02-04 1 ex. on Aruba.
24. **Merlin – *Falco columbarius***  
02-04 1 ex. seen hunting near Oranjestad on Aruba  
05-04 1 ex. hunting at the Sewage Works on Bonaire.
25. **Peregrine - *Falco peregrines***  
A total of 3 seen on Aruba and Bonaire, often hunting.
26. **Common Gallinule – *Gallinula galeata***  
Common in the wet places on both islands.
27. **American (Caribbean) Coot – *Fulica (americana) caribaea***  
Quite common on Aruba and Bonaire all of this form, which is lumped in with American..
28. **\*SOUTHERN LAPWING – *Vanellus chilensis* ssp: *cayennensis***  
01-04 4 ex, with two immature, on the Divi golfcourse on Aruba  
03-04 5 ex. at the Salinas place, in one flock.





I wonder how widespread they will be in 10+ years.

29. **Killdeer – Charadrius vociferous**

Common on both islands.

30. **Black-bellied Plover – Pluvialis squatarola**

Quite common along the coast, most on Bonaire.

31. **Semipalmated Plover – Charadrius semipalmatus**

Very common in flocks on both islands.

32. **Snowy Plover – Charadrius nivosus**

05-04

3 ex. at the Salinas on southern Bonaire.



*It was a long time ago I saw this "new" species..*

33. **Black-necked Stilt – Himantopus himantopus ssp: mexicanus**

Quite common on both islands.

34. **American Oystercatcher – Haematopus palliatus**

02-04

2 ex. sitting along the coast at south Aruba.

35. **Greater Yellowlegs – Tringa melanoleuca**

Quite common on Bubali and the Salinas on Bonaire.

36. **Lesser Yellowlegs – Tringa flavipes**

Quite common on Aruba (the most common wader) and a few on Bonaire.

37. **Spotted Sandpiper – Actitis macularia**

About 10 seen on Aruba, all coming into summer plumage.

38. **Hudsonian Whimbrel – Numenius phaeopus ssp: hudsonicus**

03-04

40 ex. at the Salinas place, in one loose flock and gone the next day. Great to check the ID features I have learned in the years before.

39. **Ruddy Turnstone – Arenaria interpes**

Seen in low numbers on both islands.

40. **Semipalmated Sandpiper – Calidris pusilla**

05-04

50 birds in total in small groups or flocks at the Salinas of Bonaire, all in winter plumage. All close birds had short stubby bills.



41. **Least Sandpiper – Calidris minutilla**

The commonest sandpiper seen on both islands in small flocks, some birds coming into summer plumage.

42. **Sanderling – Calidris alba**

05-04

20 birds in total in small groups or flocks at Bonaire.

43. **Stilt Sandpiper – Calidris himantopus**

A total of 150+ seen in small flocks at both islands (most on Aruba). Great views of birds moulting into summer plumage



44. **Short-billed Dowitcher – Limnodromus scolopaceus ssp: griseus**

03-04

4 ex. at the visited Salinas of Aruba.

45. **Laughing Gull – Leucophaeus atricilla**

Common on both islands, mainly on Aruba in big colonies.

46. **(American) Royal Tern – Thalasseus maxima ssp: maximus**

Seen daily in small numbers along the coast, many still with a winter head.

47. **Cabot's (Cayenne) Tern – Thalasseus acuflavidus ssp: eurygnathus**

Common in big flocks along the south coast of Aruba, many birds in breeding plumage. By far the most had all yellow bills, some with black “smugs” and a few with “northern bills”. These birds where maybe still wintering northern birds?



48. **Common Tern – *Sterna hirundo***

05-04

3 ex. feeding over the Salinas at Bonaire.

49. **Roseate Tern – *Sterna dougallii***

02+03-04

A maximum of 5 birds resting on the boats in the Sint

Nicolaasbaai.



50. **\*SOOTY TERN – *Onychoprion fuscatus***

02+03-04

About 500 birds nesting on an islands in the Sint Nicolaasbaai. Seen every well with the white forehead feature seen well. Big and very black on the upperparts. Many quite full grown immatures also present. Great to hear the calls (also from land) and see them flying in and up to the island.





51. **Brown Noddy – *Anous stolidus***

02+03-04

About 60 birds all adults on the Island with the Sooty

Terns in the Sint Nicolaasbaai.

52. **Black Noddy – *Anous minutes***

02+03-04

About 4 birds all adults on the Island with the Sooty

Terns in the Sint Nicolaasbaai. The birds flew to the island and landed (out of view) in the bushes. Smaller than brown, more slender black noddy, with all black underwings. The birds had all very contrasting white upperhead, sharply demarcated in the back. Not sure (yet) so not counted. (yet)

53. **Eared Dove – *Zenaida auriculata***

The commonest dove, seen daily in many places on both islands.

54. **Bare-eyed Pigeon – *Patagioenas corensis***

A bit less common than Eared, but seen daily in small flocks, often reminding me of a small raptor in flight.

55. **\*SCALY-NAPED PIGEON – *Patagioenas squamosa***

05-04

About 10 birds in flight, on Bonaire, often in pairs.,

all dark pigeon, not very big with reddish mottled neck.

56. **Common Ground Dove – *Columbina passerine***

Seen daily in low numbers on both islands.

57. **White-tipped Dove – *Leptotila verreauxi***

05-04

Quite common on Bonaire, always solitaire.

58. **Brown-throated Parakeet – *Aratinga pertinax* ssp: *arubensis* + *xanthogenia***

02-04

2 ex. flying by at the Salinas at south Aruba.

05-04

Common in small flocks on Bonaire, giving nice

views.

59. **Yellow-shouldered Amazon – *Amazona barbadensis***

05-04

5 birds in a fruiting tree in Kralendijk, Bonaire.

60. **Burrowing Owl – *Athene cunicularia* ssp: *arubensis***

02-04

1 flushed from the ground and seen close by. A very

warm brown subspecies.

61. **Blue-tailed Emerald – *Chlorostilbon mellisugus***

02+03

2 birds each day on Aruba while birding.

62. **Belted Kingfisher – *Megaceryle alcyon***

A total of 5 birds seen on both boat trips on Aruba in the mangroves.



63. **Carribean (Northern) Scrub Flycatcher – *Sublegatus arenarum* ssp: *pallens***  
 02+03-04 4 birds in total seen while birding on several places  
 on Aruba.
64. **Brown-crested Flycatcher – *Myiarchus tyrannulus***  
 03-04 1 ex. on Aruba along the way.
65. **Grey Kingbird – *Tyrannus dominicensis***  
 Common and seen daily on both visited islands.
66. **Barn Swallow – *Hirundo rustica***  
 Common on Aruba, mostly northbound birds.
67. **\*PEARLY-EYED THRASHER – *Margarops fuscatus* ssp: *bonairensis***  
 05-03 2 ex. in a garden area in Kralendijk, a noisy pale eyed  
 thrasher but Holarctic due to its occurrence on the Bahamas.



*Out of focus bit still you can see what it is...*

68. **Tropical Mockingbird – *Mimus gilvus***  
 Quite common on all three islands and remembering of Northern.
69. **Yellow (Golden) Warbler – *Setophaga petechia* ssp: *rufopileata***  
 The only and common warbler encountered on both islands. Often in song, males with a brown cap.
70. **Bananaquit – *Coereba flaveola* ssp: *uropygialis en bonairensis***  
 One of the most common birds recorded on both islands, they were everywhere.
71. **Black-faced Grassquit – *Tiaris bicolor***  
 Seen in low numbers, daily on Aruba.
72. **Saffron Finch – *Sicalis flaceola***  
 05-04 About 10 seen spread over several places on Bonaire.
73. **Carib Grackle – *Quiscalus lugubris***  
 Common on both islands, often in noisy flocks.
74. **Venezuelan Troupial – *Icterus icterus***  
 Seen on all days in low numbers on both islands, often near fruiting trees and gardens.
75. **Yellow Oriole – *Icterus nigrogularis***  
 Seen on both Islands, often in pairs in gardens near fruiting trees.

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