

St Lucia and Martinique birding trip report

18 December 2021-1 January 2022

18 December 2021

A last-minute trip, on my part, with Vaughan Watkins saw us leave Heathrow T5 late morning on a direct BA flight to Hewanorra International airport in St. Lucia. Thanks to the generous steward service, I slept for most of the flight but awoke just in time to witness a fly past of Martinique as we began our descent.

The trip was made at the height of the Omicron wave of the Covid 19 pandemic; at the time a pre-arrival PCR test was needed for entry to St. Lucia as well as the completion, and approval, of an online travel authorisation document. Fully vaccinated travellers had no need to quarantine but all documentation had to be presented in paper form.

Our flight was a little on the drag touching down due to unexpected stacking over the Caribbean. On the ground we found ourselves in a large, air-conditioned tent with lines of confused looking tourists. By now it was dark and after finally getting through Covid control, immigration, baggage collection and customs we made our way to the car hire desk sporting shiny new wrist bands proclaiming our right to be on the island. VW had arranged for a Suzuki Jimny 4x4 to be waiting for us and it was.

VW had booked accommodation via AirBnB in Soufriere but this had fallen through, twice, with an eleventh hour replacement in the same town seemingly far from secured. We drove the 40 minute journey without much to distract us apart from a few Grey Kingbirds hovering up moths under the streetlights and a short lived attempt to string a nightjar out of a hawking bat.

In Soufriere, we found our accommodation ready and waiting after only a modicum of faffing. It turned out to be rather plush with all mod-cons and a well-appointed position.

Too late for the supermarkets (they close at 2000 hours) we headed into town to a take-away restaurant and bar called "Dreams" to get some supper. I reconnoitred the place while VW tried to find a place to park. Being new faces in town, we attracted the attention of a local ne'er-do-well called Mitch who professed to be the go-to guy for parking. He managed to get VW parked the wrong way round on a one-way street then became a little sour when his requests for payment were met with polite refusals. After a long wait we collected our baguettes, chips and beers and headed back to the digs. Mitch had been hanging around in the street waiting for us to depart but the slow service and a stern warning from the barman had fortunately encouraged him to move on before we left. We hurried back as the curfew was about to start at 2200 hours.

19 December 2021

Up early and out by about 0545 hours just as it was getting light (curfew had ended at 0400 hours). We headed north-east out of town for about 5 Km on the road to Castries and parked in a layby just before the road crests the ridge where there is a left turning and, on the right, a track to some cottages and a telecommunications mast. This area appears to be called Morne Tabac but has been called Belvedere in other reports. We walked uphill past the cottages but never got into the forest proper. We spent time acquainting ourselves with the common birds of St Lucia but also connected with many of the endemics including: 2 SL Amazons, SL Pewee, several SL Warblers and a SL Black Finch.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S99106196>

We headed back to Soufriere to hit the supermarket and have some brunch. We ended up birding from the balcony with the Pitons as a backdrop.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100023410>

After lunch we birded the road/track to Anse Chastanet. The whole area seemed to be good habitat. As it was Sunday the curfew would begin at 1700 hours, so we returned back to the apartment to abuse alcohol and watch the sun sink. Dark by about 1815 hours.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100026210>

20 December 2021

A pre-dawn departure had us heading towards the White-breasted thrasher stake-out at Praslin. We parked on the verge of the main road and walked inland on a track just north of the stream. 2+ birds were found quite quickly but were reluctant to move far from the dense scrub. There was quite a lot of bird and butterfly activity in this area.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100027074>

We next travelled the short distance to Mamiku Gardens where we hoped to see Bridled Quail-Dove, however we dipped. The gardens were closed so they only charged us 10 XCD entrance instead of 20!

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100029072>

Our next stop was the Des Cartier trail in the Quillesse Forest Reserve, Micoud. We missed the signed turning (it is obvious when heading back though) at the last stage but helpful locals pointed us in the right direction. The bedraggled entrance sign said that permits are needed but nobody seemed to be around to check.

Birding was slow in the rainforest but then picked up with most of the endemics eventually offered up. Highlights: SL Amazons, SL Warblers, SL Oriole, SL Black Finch, Rufous-throated Solitaire and Lesser Antillean Euphonia.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100029827>

With the weather looking calm and sunny, and the curfew not until ten O'clock, we decided to head to the Marquis Estate in the far north-east of the island. We arrived at 1720 hours as the sun was dropping behind the hills and were greeted with another SL Oriole and then a SL House Wren. We walked south then into the forest for only a short distance along a woodland ride. As it became dark, we attracted 2 SL Rufous Nightjars. We left at 1830 hours and drove back to Soufriere via a supermarket and had the Bounty rum open shortly after eight.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100030373>

21 December 2021

Out at 0600 hours, we birded the road to Anse Chastanet then at 0800 hours we went to look for Meno, the bird guide, to take us to his Bridled Quail-Dove stake-out near Anse Mamin. This cost 50 XDC per head

and was money well spent. We had several Quail-Doves in the forest and on the track but photography proved challenging. Ask for the bird guide at the visitor reception near the car park but he does not arrive until 0800 hours. The beaches here have public access but inland is private property so you would probably be, very politely, asked to sling your hook if you are caught unescorted on the forest trails.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100055655>

As VW needed Grassland Yellow Finch and Eared Dove, we headed south to the area west of Hewanorra airport but there was little bird activity in the strong sun and freshening breeze so we quickly moved on.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100055864>

Next, we bashed the bushes south of the airport where we found many Finches but the Doves were wisely tucked away in the shade. This is the well known site where the taxi vans park up and there is an open ditch/sewer.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100056089>

Our last stop of the day was a visit to the lighthouse at Cape Moule a Chique to look for Red-billed Tropicbird. By now the wind had picked up to a strong gale on the headland and, combined with the steep cliffs, it made for an exciting venue. The Tropicbirds did not disappoint and were probably my personal highlight of the trip. I estimated that there may have been 100 birds seen but this figure is far from reliable as birds were coming and going in small flocks all the time, some were also landing and sitting out of sight on the cliffs below us.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100056459>

22 December 2021

A relatively late kick-off saw us leave Soufriere at 0730 hours to head north in a quest for Red-footed Booby which had been seen near Pigeon Island earlier in the month.

A Short-tailed Swift over Soufriere was all that was noted before departure.

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S100056934>

En route, a stop at Anse La Raye produced American Moorhen and 2 Solitary Sandpipers were feeding in a roadside puddle near the Cul-de-Sac river close to Monkeytown.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100057373>

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100057167>

Arriving in Castries, we checked out Captain Mike's whale watching trips near the airport and booked ourselves onto a trip for the next day. A few birds were seen around the harbour.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100057542>

After the slow drive north out of Castries due to congestion we searched in vain for Red-footed Booby around Pigeon Island having to content ourselves with numerous Browns.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100057753>

Loosing heart with the Boobies we consulted the map and decided to investigate an interesting looking body of water inland from Rodney Bay. The Beausejour Water Treatment Ponds produced a Glossy Ibis which appears to be a rarity on the island. Later, an ebird search revealed that others had seen birds at this site and there appeared to have been a small invasion in the preceding months. Logically, one would assume they are overshooting winterers from the North American population, however, a ringed bird from a few years earlier had originated in Doñana, Spain.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100058078>

Returning to Soufriere, we stopped near the “Parrot Sanctuary” at Morne Tabac to watch a large flock of Lesser Antillean and Short-tailed Swifts. This is located only a little way downhill towards Soufriere from the main birding site. We did not go into the sanctuary, but the owner assured us that every late afternoon sees SL Amazons descend on the property to feed or gather before roosting. He also said that SL Oriole was a regular too. I think he was charging a 20 XCD entrance fee.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100058795>

23 December 2021

An early arrival in Castries saw us killing time around the harbour and on the beach front next to the airport before joining Capt. Mike’s whale watching trip. The highlight here was a first calendar Laughing Gull sat on a rock in the harbour.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100060972>

Captain Mike’s Whale watching trip out of Castries is well worth the US\$55 per head and offers the potential of seabirds. The only bird of note for us was a Cory’s Shearwater but we were more than compensated by point blank views of a female Sperm Whale and her calf as well as a “lolling” school of (short-finned?) Pilot Whales. Complimentary rum punches were served frequently by the crew. The boat headed out and south before returning after three and a half hours.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100061296>

After returning to Soufriere, we headed to Anse Chastanet to do a little swimming and snorkelling. A few birds were noted.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100062618>

24 December 2021

A rainy start to the day meant a spot of birding from the balcony before we headed down to Vieux Fort where we caught up with lots of Eared Doves beside the road north-west of the airport.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100102135>

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100102501>

Then we searched the area around Eau Piquant Pond, north-east of Hewanorra airport hoping to find some interesting waterbirds but the pond was pretty dry and there were few surprises.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100102779>

We returned to Soufriere and birded around the town before getting a boat to take us on a trip around the cliffs near Anse Chastanet to look for Red-footed Boobies. We saw lots of Browns but none of the target bird. This cost us US\$60 which is twice the amount we should have paid. The boatman was a nice guy however and he threw in some beers. The views of the Pitons and town were spectacular set against the storm clouds.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100125667>

25 December

What better way to celebrate Christmas than to drive for an hour then stand in a queue for two more at Tapion Hospital to get an expensive PCR test to enter Martinique? The test, if negative, should also allow us to re-enter St Lucia but was at the very edge of the five day window given by the St Lucian authorities. As if the day could not get any better, we then spent over two more hours touring likely car parking spots near Castries harbour after discovering that there were no car parks at the ferry terminal. A number of shifty looking characters offered their assistance in our quest including a private car park outside their prime minister's office; what could go wrong with that? We finally decided to park it up near the hospital as this area looked much safer and would only be a 20 minute walk to the ferry. A few birds noted including the same Laughing Gull sat on the same rock in the harbour.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100126100>

A late afternoon walk, and swim, at Anse Chastanet was pleasant but yielded nothing new.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100126334>

We received our negative PCR results late in the evening giving Martinique the green light.

26 December 2021

Boxing Day started with birding around Soufriere.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100127492>

Then back down to the Vieux Fort area checking the beaches for waders. It was slow going with the star being a Sora at very close range near Eau Piquant Pond.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100128222>

Late morning saw us back on the Des Cartier Trail looking unsuccessfully for VW's speaker, lost on the previous visit. We did get some nice views of the SL Black Finches but little else.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100128394>

27 December 2021

Up very early and out not long after curfew ended to drive to Castries. We parked the car near the hospital and walked down to the ferry terminal in the dark. The ferry left on time and reached Fort de France about

90 minutes later. Return fares were about 100 Euros with the L'express des îles company. Birding was not that exciting with the usual seabirds noted from the ferry and Royal Terns in Castries harbour.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100129291>

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100192588>

Worried that our travel applications might not be authorised if the St Lucians were sticklers for timings, we made our first port of call a Covid PCR testing laboratory which was only a short walk from the ferry terminal. An hour and fifty Euros later we took a taxi to the airport to collect our Peugeot hire car from Alamo and then drove north to Plateau Boucher.

We connected quickly with Martinique Oriole and finally with Blue-headed Hummingbird close to where we had parked. Birding here was good with trails uphill near the main layby and picnic site and a downhill trail located a couple of hundred metres back towards Fort de France. In fact, we did not have to walk far at all and even enjoyed a cold drink purchased from a vendor who had set up shop in the layby.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100194370>

Spurred on by success, we headed towards our accommodation at Tartane located next door to the Caravelle reserve on the east coast. Hotel Residence Oceane was rather pleasant and set in quite a birdy area and very close to the Caravelle birding sites.

Once we had checked in, and reorganised, we walked the short distance to the main car park at Caravelle. On arrival our target, Martinique White-breasted Thrasher, was hopping around the edge of the car park picking up scraps of food discarded from tourists' picnics.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100195016>

Conscious of time and an approaching curfew we walked back to the hotel, drove to a supermarket to stock up on beer and food and then returned to the car park at Caravelle for dusk. A short walk down to Chateau Dubuc to look and listen for White-tailed Nightjar proved fruitless. The nightjars are supposedly resident here but there was no obvious activity on a calm and clear evening, so we wondered if they had moved out of the immediate area at this time. Again, negative PCR tests were received by email but not a sausage from the St Lucian government regarding our (re)entry authorisations.

28 December 2021

Up and out at dawn to Caravelle to hunt out our next target Lesser Antillean Pewee. It looks like there will be a three-way split into St Lucian, Puerto Rican and those on Martinique, Dominica and Guadeloupe remaining as Lesser Antillean. This was a rather forgotten bird that we assumed we would just bump into. Checking ebird, there seems to be rather few sightings on Martinique with at least one image not showing anything recognisable as a Pewee! We drew a blank at Caravelle.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100195820>

Our search then continued on the slopes of Mount Pelée. Pelée has the dubious honour of hosting the twentieth century's deadliest volcanic eruption in 1902 with 30,000 deaths in St Pierre. No Pewees but 2 Blue-headed Hummingbirds were noted on the track above the refuge/restaurant. The mountain top had disappeared in the clouds but views from here out over the Island towards Caravelle were spectacular.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100196002>

The afternoon was spent walking the track down slope from Plateau Boucher for a couple of Kilometres. Lots of Rufous-throated Solitaires were seen and heard and yesterday's Blue-headed Hummingbird performed again near the layby but no Pewees.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100196172>

Dusk saw us back at Caravelle for another go at the Nightjars, again, not a sniff. We still had not had our travel plans to St Lucia authorised when we hit the hay but an email arrived in the middle of the night giving us the thumbs up.

29 December 2021

Up and out in the dark for a pre-dawn crack at the Nightjars was as successful as the evenings had been; big fat zero. More White-breasted Thrashers were nice though. I birded back to the hotel where I met up with VW and we headed out and south to check some ebird Pewee spots.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100196506>

We wasted a fair amount of time checking sites observers had plotted on ebird with some clearly unsuitable for Pewees and realised that some had been inaccurately plotted for one reason or another. Forest around Piton Creve Coeur looked promising and was indeed quite birdy giving us nice views of the Euphonia amongst others but no Pewees.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100196799>

We ended up investigating the Etang des Salines near the southern tip of the island. Here we saw a good flock of hirundines and some close waders but the whole area was awash with tourists which made for irritation, so we moved on quickly.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100197007>

Following ebird we headed to the Absalon Trail at the Balata Thermal Station, north of Fort de France for yet another try for the Pewee. The weather here was cool and wet and the path steep and slippery and with darkness starting to creep in, we began to lose faith so cut our losses and headed back to the hotel, of course, Peweeless.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100197188>

Driving on one of the dual carriageways through the city I spied 2 Orange-winged Parrots sitting in a treetop but we could not stop due to the heavy traffic.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100197258>

30 December

Another look round Tartane and Caravelle produced more sightings of the Thrashers but nothing new. We left mid-morning to return the car to the airport.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100197558>

Everything went rather too well leaving us with time to kill in Fort de France. Luckily, they sell beer there!

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100197747>

The early afternoon ferry departure was delayed by over an hour due to the police dealing with criminals and on arrival in Castries they took over an hour to clear passengers from the boat. Birding was slow on the crossing apart from an adult Masked Booby sighted in St Lucian waters.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100129593>

When we finally cleared our second round of St Lucian entry shenanigans it was nearly dark. Luckily, the car was still there and wheel clamp free. A slow drive back to Soufriere via the supermarket meant that the top of the duty-free vodka bottle was not loosened until nearly nine.

31 December 2021

Up early to fill in passenger locator forms and to take our lateral flow tests under strictly controlled conditions to enter the UK resulted in quite a lot of “effing and jeffing” as nearly every stage was fraught with difficulty. The tests were quite easy to do but were really a con as they could have been done at any time by anyone. Results came back quickly via email and you could just make out the “ka-ching” of cash registers all the way from London.

Birding around Soufriere on and off with a visit to Anse Chastanet for a midday swim produced a few things including another SL Pewee.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100166051>

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100166462>

The evening was spent packing and finishing off the beer and vodka.

01 January 2022

Overnight celebrations were surprisingly subdued probably as a result of the curfew and I was glad that we had run out of alcohol fairly early on as travelling in a delicate situation is no fun at all.

After lots of faffing around we paid our last visit to Morne Tabac then it was off to the airport for our early evening flight back to Heathrow.

Location and species list here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S100166872>

A pre-departure meal near the airport took so long to arrive that we barely had time to consume it before having to leave to checking-in. The “Jimny” was returned without incident.

The flight left on time and seemed to pass without incident, arriving ahead of schedule. Back in blighty, the first thing we did was get our “Day 2” PCR test out of the way, “Ka-ching”!

Birding stuff

Field guide: "Birds of the West Indies" by Kirwin et al (2019) published by Lynx was the only text that we used; we found it to be excellent. Merlin was helpful as was the Sibley V2 app.

Sounds: Clips saved from Aves Vox app and from Xeno Canto. Sibley V2 app was used a couple of times. Merlin not used but could have been.

Telescope and tripod: Never used in the forest and only deployed a couple of times to look for seabirds and distant waders. If we had left them at home it would have made no difference to the trip list.

Playback: Phones and small portable speakers were used to attract a few key species. In the end, it was probably only essential with the nightjars, wrens and Sora as everything else was seen at some point without playback. Pishing/squeaking worked well especially with St Lucia Warblers.

General information

Flights: BA non stop London Heathrow T5 to Hewanorra, St Lucia were on time and without incident.

Car hire: On St Lucia we had a Suzuki Jimny 4x4 from Dive-A-Matic. On Martinique, a Peugeot 108 from Alamo. Both hired via HolidayAutos.

Health: No vaccinations were needed apart from Covid 19! No malaria on either island but Chikungunya is potentially an issue. Mosquitoes bothered VW but surprisingly left me alone. Fer-de-lance are supposed to be common on both islands and are deadly without anti-venom but we saw no snakes.

Money: St Lucia uses East Caribbean Dollar (XCD) with 3.4 to the pound at the time. US\$ seemed to be popular and Euros for Martinique, being a department of France.

People: St Lucia: Friendly, polite and helpful but lots of "characters" that had partaken of the local brews and/or herbs. Locals would often engage us in conversations, a few tried it on for money but not aggressively, apart from Mitch. Locals were often keen to share their knowledge of birds and seemed genuinely interested in what we were doing. I never felt threatened but you could probably find trouble after dark in all the larger settlements if you were determined to. Poverty seemed to be an issue in many places. The police had a presence around the resorts but mainly to keep undesirables out. Martinique: No issues, pretty much like being in France.

Climate: Pleasantly hot in the day, warm at night (20-30 Celsius all the time). There were sporadic rainstorms with little warning but only one morning and one late afternoon could be described as wet. However, at night there would often be torrential down pours hammering on the tin roofs. There was often a strong east or north-east (Trade) wind.

Roads: St Lucia: Slow going and winding but often empty. Drivers were courteous but not keen to hang around and seemed to have a penchant for overtaking on blind bends and summits. Driving permits are required but can be purchased when collecting hire vehicles. Martinique: Roads much as is western Europe. Driving was fast and furious with lots of tailgating and gallic gusto.

Language: St Lucia: English understood by everyone we encountered but many spoke creole or English with heavy accents and an unusual phraseology. Martinique: French. English seemed to be spoken by many in the tourist industry.

Navigation: Mapsme worked well on both islands. There are free downloads and it operates using GPS and not data.

Key Species summary

Bridled Quail-Dove: Anse Mamin, St Lucia and easy with the guide.

Rufous Nightjar: At the well-known ebird stake-out on the Marquis Estate, St Lucia. A likely split?

Short-tailed Swift: Common at Morne Tabac and frequent over Soufriere, St Lucia.

Lesser Antillean Swift: Common at Morne Tabac, St Lucia. Single only on Martinique, at Plateau Boucher.

Purple-throated Carib: Common on both islands especially on higher ground.

Green-throated Carib: Seen on both islands. Less numerous and usually at lower altitude than Purple-throated.

Blue-headed Hummingbird: Seen in open areas at Plateau Boucher and above the treeline on Mount Pelee, Martinique.

Antillean Crested Hummingbird: Common on both islands at all altitudes.

St Lucia Parrot: Morne Tabac and Des Cartier. Supposedly, they give prolonged views at the Morne Tabac Parrot Sanctuary in the late afternoons but we didn't try.

Caribbean Elaenia: Common on both islands, anywhere with forest or scrub, even in hedges on Martinique.

St Lucia Pewee: Fairly common around Soufriere eg Morne Tabac.

Lesser Antillean Flycatcher: Singles regularly encountered in wooded or forested areas on both islands.

House Wren: Seen only at the Marquis Estate and Anse Chastanet, St Lucia. A likely split?

White-breasted Thrasher: Seen only at Caravelle, Martinique, where easy around the car park.

St Lucia (White-breasted) Thrasher: Seen only at the well-known Praslin stake-out site.

Scaly-breasted Thrasher: Very common on St Lucia, fairly common on Martinique.

Pearly-eyed Thrasher: Only seen on St Lucia at Morne Tabac, Des Cartier and the Mamiku gardens.

Grey Trembler: Fairly common on both islands in forested areas.

Rufous-throated Solitaire: A single seen on the Des Cartier Trail, St Lucia but common at Plateau Boucher, Martinique.

Antillean Euphonia: A single seen on the Des Cartier Trail, St Lucia and at Plateau Boucher and Creve Coeur, Martinique.

St Lucia Oriole: Singles only at Des Cartier and on the Marquis Estate. Possible at many sites though.

Martinique Oriole: Fairly common at Plateau Boucher. Not seen at Caravelle though!

Carib Grackle: Very common on St Lucia and common on Martinique.

St Lucia Warbler: Squeak and they will come! Any wooded habitat held them. Common.

Lesser Antillean Bullfinch: Very common on both islands. A garden bird in Tartane, Martinique.

St Lucia Black Finch: Seen at Anse Chastanet, Morne Tabac and Des Cartier, where fairly common.

Lesser Antillean Saltator: Common on St Lucia and common on Martinique, around Caravelle at least.

Daily sightings December 2021-January 2022

| Species Date | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Rock Dove <i>Columba livia</i> | | | x | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scaly-naped Pigeon <i>Patagioenas squamosa</i> | 1 | | | | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 4 |
| Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | 30 | | 20 | 50 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 20 |
| Common Ground Dove <i>Columbina passerina</i> | 2 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 8 | | 10 | | | 4 | | 1 | 2 |
| Bridled Quail-Dove <i>Geotrygon mystacea</i> | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zenaida Dove <i>Zenaida aurita</i> | 3 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 3 |
| Eared Dove <i>Zenaida auriculata</i> | | | | | | 20 | | | | | | | | 20 |
| Mangrove Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus minor</i> | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Rufous Nightjar <i>Antrostomus rufus</i> | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Short-tailed Swift <i>Chaetura brachyura</i> | 50 | | | 10 | | 3 | | | | | | | | 10 |
| Lesser Antillean Swift <i>Chaetura martinica</i> | 25 | | | 100 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 100 |
| Purple-throated Carib <i>Eulampis jugularis</i> | 20 | 4 | 5 | | | | | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 |
| Green-throated Carib <i>Eulampis holosericeus</i> | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Blue-headed Hummingbird | | | | | | | | | 1 | 4 | | | | |
| Antillean Crested Hummingbird <i>Orthorhyncus cristatus</i> | 10 | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Sora <i>Porzana carolina</i> | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| American Moorhen <i>Gallinula galeata</i> | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Semipalmated Plover <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i> | | | | | | 40 | | | | | 5 | | | |
| Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | | | | | | | | 20 | | | 4 | | | |
| Least Sandpiper <i>Calidris minutilla</i> | | | | | | 4 | | | | | 30 | | | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper <i>Calidris pusilla</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 12 | | | |
| Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularius</i> | | | | 1 | 3 | | 1 | 8 | | | 2 | 1 | | |
| Solitary Sandpiper <i>Tringa solitaria</i> | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Laughing Gull <i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i> | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> | | | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | |
| Royal Tern <i>Thalasseus maximus</i> | | | 5 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 20 | 10 | | 2 | 5 | | 1 |
| Red-billed Tropicbird <i>Phaethon aethereus</i> | | | 100 | | | | | | 5 | | | | | |
| Cory's Shearwater | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Magnificent | 30 | | 10 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 5 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Grey Trembler <i>Cinlocerthia gutturalis</i> | 1 | 4 | 3 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | |
| Tropical Mockingbird <i>Mimus gilvus</i> | 5 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | | 1 | | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Rufous-throated Solitaire <i>Myadestes genibarbis</i> | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 5 | H | | | |
| Species Date | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 |
| Spectacled Thrush <i>Turdus nudigenis</i> | 1 | | 3 | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Antillean Euphonia <i>Chlorophonia musica</i> | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | |
| St. Lucia Oriole <i>Icterus laudabilis</i> | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Martinique Oriole | | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | |
| Shiny Cowbird <i>Molothrus bonariensis</i> | 30 | 50 | | 20 | 50 | 30 | 20 | 10 | | | | | 50 | 20 |
| Carib Grackle <i>Quiscalus lugubris</i> | 30 | 100 | 100 | 50 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 100 | 200 | 30 |
| Yellow Warbler <i>Setophaga petechia</i> | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 | | |
| St. Lucia Warbler <i>Setophaga delicata</i> | 10 | 20 | 6 | | | | | 2 | | | | | H | 1 |
| Grassland Yellow-Finch <i>Sicalis luteola</i> | | | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bananaquit <i>Coereba flaveola</i> | 50 | 100 | 30 | | | | 10 | 10 | 20 | 50 | 60 | 200 | 100 | 20 |
| Lesser Antillean Bullfinch <i>Loxigilla noctis</i> | 40 | 60 | 30 | | | | 4 | | 20 | 50 | 50 | 200 | 200 | 4 |
| St. Lucia Black Finch <i>Melanospiza richardsoni</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| Black-faced Grassquit <i>Melanospiza bicolor</i> | 30 | 500 | 100 | 20 | 10 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 15 | 20 | 40 | 100 | 50 | 2 |
| Lesser Antillean Saltator <i>Saltator albicollis</i> | 10 | 10 | 8 | | | | 2 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 8 | | 2 |
| Mammals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Small Indian Mongoose | | 2 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Sperm Whale | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Pilot Whale (Short-finned?) | | | | | C30 | | | | | | | | | |
| Opossum | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Bats still to ID. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Dips/misses

Ruddy Quail-Dove: We just didn't try for them as we thought we would bump into them but didn't.

Brown Noddy: Summer visitor only??? Few records November to March (ebird)

Red-footed Booby: Perhaps we were unlucky with these but many locally taken ebird photos do show young Brown Boobies.

White-tailed Nightjar: Supposedly resident at Caravelle on Martinique, however, ebird records only span 30 March-25 August.

Lesser Antillean Pewee: A cock up really as we had forgotten about the Pewees (probably) being different species on the two Islands. We had assumed they would be easy on Martinique. Many of the ebird sites were vague or simply inaccurately plotted with, at least, one of the attached images showing another species!

Caribbean Martin: Present from late February-October with only occasional winterers.

Forest Thrush: No recent information from St Lucia. Absent from Martinique.

Dragonflies (Odonata) from St Lucia

Band-winged Dragonlet

Single at the Yellow Finch site in the Hewanorra airport boundary ditch near the taxi van rank on 21/12.

Spot-tailed Dasher

Single near Eau Piquant pond on 26/12.

Antillean Skimmer

Single near Des Cartier trail, Micoud on 20/12 and 3+ near Eau Piquant pond, Vieux Fort on 26/12.

Others did not rest for a photograph and remain unidentified. None noted on Martinique.

Identification and taxonomy based on the following report:

[The Odonata of St Lucia \(Lesser Antilles\) - Société l'Herminier \(yumpu.com\)](http://yumpu.com)

Butterflies and moths

Mangrove Buckeye *Junonia genoveva*

St Lucia: Photographed at the White-breasted Thrasher site, Praslin on 20/12. Confusion with Caribbean (Tropical) Buckeye is possible here.

White Peacock *Antartia jatrophae*

St Lucia: Photographed at the White-breasted Thrasher site, Praslin on 20/12.

Julia Heliconian (aka Flambeau) *Dryas iulia*

St Lucia: ssp *lucia* Photographed at Morne Tabac on 01/01/22.

Martinique: ssp *martinica* Several at Plateau Boucher on 28/12.

Gulf Fritillary *Dione vanillae*

St Lucia: Single at the White-breasted Thrasher site, Praslin on 20/12.

Martinique: Seen at Caravelle on 30/12.

Hanno Blue *Hemiargus hanno*

St Lucia: Photographed at Morne Tabac on 01/01/22.

Great Southern White

St Lucia: Single at the White-breasted Thrasher site, Praslin on 20/12.

Tropical (Florida) White *Appias drusilla*

Martinique: Single at Creve Coeur on 29/12.

Pale (AKA Little or Yellow and White Yellow) **Yellow** *Pyristia* (formerly *Eurema*) *venusta*

St Lucia: Photographed at the White-breasted Thrasher site, Praslin on 20/12.

Martinique: Photographed at Plateau Boucher on 28/12.

Stub-tailed Skipper *Urbanus obscurus*

Martinique: Single at Plateau Boucher on 28/12.

Orcus Chequered Skipper *Pyrgus ocrus*

St Lucia: Single at Morne Tabac on 01/01/22.

Southern Broken-dash Skipper *Wallengrenia (otho) ophites*

Martinique: 3 at Plateau Boucher on 28/12.

Brimstone like butterflies were regularly seen speeding through sites but none settled for a portrait.

Frangipani Hawk Moth

St Lucia: Caterpillar photographed at the Mamiku Gardens, Praslin on 20/12.

Identifications based on Riley (1975) "Butterflies of the West Indies", Glassberg (2019) "Butterflies of Mexico and Central America" and the "Faune Martinique" website www.faune-martinique.org .

Reptiles

Martinique Anole *Anolis roquet*

Photographed at Creve Coeur on 29/12. An island endemic.

St Lucia Anole *Anolis luciae*

Photographed on the track to Anse Chastanet on 19/12. An island endemic.

Paul Holmes.