

BIRDS OF THE LESSER ANTILLES. Ryan Chenery. 2022. Helm Publishing, London, UK. 224 pp. \$24.00.

This is an attractive and informative guide to the birds of the Lesser Antilles that feels and reads like a true field guide. With high-quality photographs from a variety of skilled photographers, the book does a good job of illustrating the region's birds. The text is lean, but succinctly presents an adequate description of each species, its vocalizations, and where one might expect to see each bird. I particularly like the book's design, from the convenient size of the volume, to the large, sharp photos, and the clean and easy-to-read text.

As is commonly the case, *Birds of the Lesser Antilles* opens with introductory sections on the types of birds occurring in the region, conservation issues they face, and key birdwatching habitats in the region. For each of the major islands of the Lesser Antilles, the author highlights one to four of his best birding sites, including location (with latitude-longitude information), a brief description of the habitat, and lists of species to be expected. Although there is a map of the region showing the location of the islands of the Lesser Antilles, there are no maps of individual islands, or of the key birding sites. Birdwatchers may need local resources for more detailed maps of locations and routes for reaching the sites.

Of course, the heart of a field guide is the species accounts and illustrations. Each page of the book contains one, or sometimes two, species accounts. Although I am not a particular fan of photo-

graphic guides (preferring artistic images for their detailed field marks), the photos in *Birds of the Lesser Antilles* are of high quality. Many of the photos are by the late, great Yves-Jacques Rey-Millet, and have appeared in some of the other photographic guides of the Caribbean. However, other equally good photos also appear here. Most species have more than one photo, with male and female plumages, as well as breeding, non-breeding, and juvenile plumages, all represented when necessary for identification. Species descriptions are accurate and focus on the key field marks needed to identify each species. Differences within a species across islands are noted. Descriptions of vocalizations are short and focused on the most typical songs or calls. Finally, each account concludes with a short 'where to see it' section that may include information on habitat, range, and seasonality in one or two sentences.

Overall, I found *Birds of the Lesser Antilles* to be a well-written and pleasingly designed book that does very well in providing an identification guide to the birds of these many islands. I would have liked to see a table included to show the distribution and relative abundance of birds of each species across the major islands; this could also include vagrants that have occurred. Nevertheless, I would recommend Chenery's guide without reservations to any casual or serious birder visiting the Lesser Antilles who might be interested in exploring the birdlife of the islands.

—Steven C. Latta

Department of Conservation and Field Research, National Aviary, Allegheny Commons West, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, USA;
e-mail: steven.latta@aviary.org