

INTERESTING RECORDS OF SHOREBIRDS ON SAINT LUCIA

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Abstract.—Records are presented from September 2001 of some shorebirds rarely encountered on Saint Lucia. These represent the second record – the first for over 30 years – of Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) and the ninth of Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*) from the island.

Key Words: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Calidris himantopus*, distribution, Saint Lucia, Stilt Sandpiper, *Tryngites subruficollis*

Resumen.—INTERESANTES REGISTROS DE PLAYEROS EN SANTA LUCÍA. Se presentan registros de septiembre de 2001 de algunos playeros raramente encontrados en Santa Lucía. Estos representan el Segundo registro – el primero en treinta años – del Playero Canela (*Tryngites subruficollis*) y el noveno del Playero Patilargo (*Calidris himantopus*) en la isla.

Palabras clave: *Calidris himantopus*, distribución, Playero Canela, Playero Patilargo, *Tryngites subruficollis*, Santa Lucía

AT THE END OF A VISIT to Saint Lucia, I stumbled across a small area of pools in a partly flooded field near Hewonarra Airport. The field was approximately two miles west of the airport, easily viewable from the road and the top of the dyke. I have not seen any mention of this area before, yet the pools appeared semi-permanent – probably because of leakage from a neighboring dyke – and were certainly productive for shorebirds, presumably because of minimal availability of other suitable habitat on the island. On the only day I was able to visit the pools, 22 September 2001, the nine species of shorebird present included approximately 15 Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*), four Pectoral Sandpipers (*Calidris melanotos*), three Buff-breasted Sandpipers (*Tryngites subruficollis*), three Short-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus griseus*), and a single Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*). All species were observed in the pools, except the

Buff-breasted Sandpipers, which were in the wet field.

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper record comprises the second of the species from the island. The only previous record was of one at an undocumented location in October 1970 (Keith 1997). Stilt Sandpiper has only been recorded eight times previously on the island (Keith 1997). The paucity of records of these shorebirds, among others, is in part surely a reflection of observer effort on the island, and future visitors can continue to helpfully contribute to our understanding of migration patterns in the Caribbean.

LITERATURE CITED

KEITH, A. R. 1997. The birds of St Lucia, West Indies. BOU Check-list No. 15. London: British Ornithologists' Union.