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A SIGHT RECORD OF RINGED KINGFISHER (*MEGACERYLE TORQUATA*) FOR GRENADA

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ON 31 MAY 1998 we observed a female Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*) at Levera Pond, Levera National Park, Grenada. As we approached a viewing tower via a recently constructed boardwalk through the surrounding mangrove forest, a bird nearly the size of a Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) silently flew across our path. When it landed on a limb in plain sight, we were amazed to see that it was a large kingfisher. We immediately took field notes. It was entirely rufous ventrally from its broad blue breast ring to its vent. The undertail was boldly barred black and white. Above the broad blue breast ring, the underparts to the chin were white, the white forming nearly a full collar behind the neck. The bill was strikingly large, mostly ivory but darker distally and along the cutting edge. The upperparts were blue with a ragged crest, and a prominent white spot was visible in front of each eye. When perched, the wings showed no white spotting on their dorsal surface.

In reviewing literature, the absence of wing spots suggested that it was the nominate subspecies of

Ringed Kingfisher from Trinidad and South America, not *M. t. stictipennis* from the central Lesser Antilles, which shows white wing spots varying in prominence among individuals (Ridgway 1914). Bond (1936) wrote that he doubted sight reports of this species from Grenada, but said that he believed that if correct they would represent the South American race. The American Ornithologists' Union (1998) also considered the species' occurrence on Grenada as "doubtful," perhaps based on Bond's writings, whereas Raffaele *et al.* (1998) do not mention it there. We cannot find any formally published sightings of Ringed Kingfisher from Grenada before this one; none was mentioned by Ridgway (1914) or Devas (1970). French (1973) considered it a rare visitor and occasional nester on Trinidad, mainly present from March to June. If migratory, as French (1973) implies, the species is perhaps an occasional visitor to Grenada, but it also could be overlooked as a scarce resident breeder at a site such as Levera Pond, which is difficult to access.

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THE BREEDING OF WILSON'S (*CHARADRIUS WILSONIA*) AND COLLARED (*CHARADRIUS COLLARIS*) PLOVERS IN THE SOUTHERN LESSER ANTILLES

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IN MAY–JUNE 1998, we visited the nations of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada, in the southern Lesser Antilles. Two main islands, St. Vincent and Grenada, each about 350 sq. km, and about 75 km apart, span several smaller islands, islets, and rocks, collectively called the Grenadines. These are mostly incorporated into St. Vincent, but some are part of Grenada.

On 26 May 1998, we observed pairs of Wilson's Plovers (*Charadrius wilsonia*) of the largely South American race *cinnamominus* at both Ashton Harbour and Belmont Salt Pond, Union Island, the southernmost major island in the nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Ashton Harbour pair engaged in a distraction display suggesting that a nest or young was nearby, but we did not wish to pursue them to discover the basis for their behavior. Later that day we found another pair near Harvey Vale, on the island of Carriacou, the northernmost major island in the nation of Grenada, at a salt pond formed by a former estuary. Those, too, we did not pursue. On 27 May, at a salt pond on the bay of the Mt. Harman Estate on Grenada, we found three pairs of *C. w. cinnamominus*, also behaving as if they were nesting. Here we did locate one pair's nest, on a small mound near the edge of the then-dry pond. The nest contained three eggs similar in appearance to the one shown in Harrison (1978), but more greenish in color and perhaps longer oval in shape. One in the set measured 35.3 x 25.3 mm.

All of these Wilson's Plovers had striking features compared to North American populations, in-

cluding a rather bright rusty cap with a prominent black fore-bar on some individuals, some rusty tone to the upper back below the complete white neck collar, and a rusty tone to some individuals' breastbands. The rustiness of these birds initially led us to wonder whether these were Collared Plovers (*Charadrius collaris*), the only member of the genus widely reported from the southern Lesser Antilles (Bond 1985). The size, stout bill shape, and complete white neck collar, on the other hand, suggested *C. wilsonia*. Upon our return, we learned of the distinctiveness of *C. w. cinnamominus* (Ridgway 1919, where named the "Cinnamomeous Plover"). It is long-known to breed in the Grenadines and also has been collected on Grenada (Bond 1936, 1940; Schwartz and Klinikowski 1963; not mentioned by Bond 1985). The proven breeding in the Grenadines (on Mustique) is from specimens and notes from the collection of G. H. Thayer, now housed at the American Museum of Natural History (A. Andors, *in litt.*), and the collection of S. T. Danforth, now housed at the United States National Museum (J. Dean, *in litt.*). Specimens from Grenada are from the collection of Albert Schwartz, now housed at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (V. Remsen and S. Cardiff, *in litt.*).

Our investigations failed to uncover any verifiable basis for attributing the Collared Plover to the region as anything other than an occasional non-breeding visitor, as suggested by American Ornithologists' Union (1998), *contra* Bond (1985) and Raffaele *et al.* (1998). D. W. Smith secured a Col-