

Regular breeding activities resumed during the last week of October (McNair, unpubl.). At that time, Shiny Cowbirds are absent. The absence of Shiny Cowbirds at Harrison's Point during autumn, when regular breeding resumed for bullfinches, suggests that they are not preferred hosts, but rather secondary hosts for the cowbirds, which may primarily use another, more suitable species. For example, casual observations suggest that the Carib Grackle (*Quiscalus lugubris*) is a regular host species in Barbados (Friedmann 1943; Hutt et al., in prep.; pers. obs.), although an infrequent host in St. Lucia (Post et al. 1990).

I thank W. Post and J. W. Wiley for their reviews of a draft of this manuscript.

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NOTEWORTHY BIRD RECORDS FOR TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1995-1996

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THIS PAPER PRESENTS NEW DATA on the status of seven species of birds from Trinidad and Tobago, including a new species for each island, based on my own observations while resident in the country during 1995 and 1996. These records have been submitted to the Trinidad and Tobago Rare Bird Committee for evaluation.

GREATER SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis*.—While aboard the *M. V. Tobago* on 23 June 1996, I noted six large shearwaters flying 100+ m from the ship as we passed several kilometers south of Crown Point, Tobago. In my notes I described the shearwaters as "white below, including underwings; dark brown back and wings; blackish on head; whitish collar." Rough water and sea sickness precluded better observations. There is only one previous record of this southern migrant from Tobago (Hayes 1996).

RED-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula sula*.—While aboard the *M. V. Panorama* on 17 March 1996, I observed a booby at 14:33 hr as it glided and flapped low over the surface of the water about 50 m from the starboard side of the ship's bow; about 30 sec later the bird disappeared across the bow of the ship and I was unable to relocate it on either side. This sighting occurred between Trinidad and Tobago at 10° 59' N, 61° 07' W, 17.5 km N of Matelot,

Trinidad, and 35 km WSW of Crown Point, Tobago. In my field notes I wrote: "adult dark-phased bird, brown with white tail, white-wedged triangle extending up onto back." This species is often cited for Trinidad on the basis of Belcher and Smoother (1934:578), who merely stated that it "Occurs on the coasts of both islands." Although the Red-footed Booby is a breeding resident on St. Giles (Dinsmore and French 1969) and recently on Little Tobago (D. Rooks and F. Hayes, pers. obs.), both small islands just east of Tobago, this observation apparently represents the first valid record for Trinidad, which was the closest point of land.

COCOI HERON *Ardea cocoi*.—On 24 March 1996, I found a Cocoi Heron at Buccoo Swamp, Tobago, and observed it from as close as 35 m with W. K. Hayes and a group of students. The white neck and thighs distinguished it from the Great Blue Heron (*A. herodias*), a Nearctic migrant. Although the bird possessed a whitish belly, the blackish band crossing the chest above the thighs distinguished it from the Gray Heron (*A. cinerea*) of the Old World, which has been recorded from Trinidad (French 1991). Although the Cocoi Heron is an uncommon visitor to Trinidad (French 1991), there is only one previously published record of this South American species from Tobago (French 1975).

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*.—On 26 March 1995, M. F. Hayes and I found two Little Egrets associating with a Snowy Egret (*E. thula*) at Buccoo Swamp, Tobago. The Little Egrets were white-morph birds in basic plumage, and were easily distinguished from the Snowy Egret by their larger size and dark lores. At least five previous records of this Old World species have been published for Tobago (Murphy 1992, Hayes 1996).

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*.—From 1730-1740 on 20 December 1995, I observed a scaup swimming with eight Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* in a newly created lake at Lowlands, Tobago. I observed it through a 25x telescope from as close as 40 m. The sky was cloudy with the sun low and behind the clouds, therefore light conditions were poor. In my field notes I wrote: "larger than teal; dark brownish(?) head; lot of white seen in right wing when briefly stretched; dark chest; blackish rear end; dirty gray sides; dark back; eye yellowish; bill dark gray; light not too good; head appeared rounded." I included a drawing of the shape of the "rounded" head, which nevertheless shows the peak toward the rear of the head. Kaufman (1990) considered head shape to be the most reliable field mark for distinguishing between the Greater Scaup *A. marila*, whose peak is toward the front of the head, and the Lesser Scaup, whose peak is toward the rear of the head (as in my drawing). The "dirty gray sides" also suggest a Lesser Scaup; the Greater Scaup has whiter sides. Although the Lesser Scaup is a rare but regular visitor to Trinidad, ffrench (1991) cited only a single record of this Nearctic migrant from the previous century for Tobago. The Greater Scaup is not known from the southern Caribbean (Bond 1985).

WILSON'S PLOVER *Charadrius wilsonia*.—On 27 April 1996, I found a male Wilson's Plover of the race *cinnamominus* with a small flock of Semipalmated Plovers *C. semipalmatus* at Buccoo Swamp, Tobago. I studied the bird with D. Bass from about 15 m through 7x35 binoculars and a 25x telescope for about 10 min. In my field notes I wrote: "orange on face below eye, slight orange above and behind eye; whitish ring behind neck, with lower edge orangish; whitish on forehead extending above eye; large, thick all-black bill." Although an uncommon resident in Trinidad, this is the first record for Tobago (ffrench 1991).

MARBLED GODWIT *Limosa fedoa*.—On 10 March 1996, G. White and I observed a single Marbled Godwit on mudflats at Waterloo, Trinidad. We identified it by its

long, slightly-upturned, bicolored bill and uniform cinnamon-brown coloration. Presumably this was the same bird observed on 7 and 19 October 1995 at Waterloo (G. White pers. comm.). ffrench (1991) cited only a few previous records of transients in Trinidad during the months of September and October. This observation thus represents the latest date for this Nearctic migrant. On 19 October 1996, we noted another Marbled Godwit at the same locality.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Expeditions to Tobago during Project Sabrewing were financed by the American Bird Conservancy, Amoco Trinidad Oil Co., BirdLife International, British Petroleum, Caribbean Union College, Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, Fauna and Flora International, Guardian Life of the Caribbean Ltd., Loma Linda University, Republic Bank Ltd., Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company Ltd., and Trinmar Ltd. I thank these institutions for supporting our environmental education and research program at Caribbean Union College. I thank two anonymous reviewers for comments on the manuscript.

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