

# St. Lucia

Naturetrek Tour Report

9 – 17 January 2015



Male Lesser Antillean Bullfinch



Pantropical Spotted Dolphin



Male Antillean Crested Hummingbird



Birdwatching at the wetlands

Report & Images compiled by Ed Drewitt



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## Summary

A fine week was had in tropical St Lucia in the Caribbean, heading up into the country's rain forests to see its five endemic birds, the St Lucia Parrot, St Lucia Warbler, St Lucia Oriole, St Lucia Pewee, and St Lucia Black Finch. At the largest wetlands on the island, we even found the first breeding Pied-billed Grebes for the country! We spent mornings out watching wildlife, before arriving back for lunch or early afternoon, for everyone to relax on the beach or in their beautiful open-air rooms with views across to the Pitons, the woodland hillside and down to the sea. Around our hotel complex, built into the vegetated hillside with its own beach and reef, we got wonderful views of hummingbirds, Bananaquits, Lesser Antillean Bullfinch, Carib Grackles, Lesser Antillean Saltator, Tropical Mockingbird, Zenaida Doves and Scaly-naped Pigeons. Out at sea we saw dolphins, mainly Pantropical Spotted Dolphins and a few Fraser's Dolphins, plus great views of Brown Boobies catching flying fish. By sea, foot and vehicle, we were able to experience St Lucia at its best, and savour some incredible local foods and had our own unique cooking demonstration using many local fruits, vegetables, and fish. We also stopped by to see a drive-in volcano, a collapsed volcano with bubbling water and hydrogen sulphide permeating the air. Snorkelling was worthwhile too just off the beach with hundreds of colourful fishes, corals, and other marine creatures.

## Day 1

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January

### London to St Lucia. 27°C

With deep low pressure heading into Scotland and across the rest of the UK, it was time to leave Gatwick on a sunny day (in contrast to the winds further north) and fly to St Lucia. As we took off and gained height, central London and the Surrey Hills including Box Hill could be seen from the right hand side of the plane. Despite a little bumpiness over the Channel, the journey was very pleasant. We headed across southern England before travelling southwest past the Azores and on to the Caribbean.

We arrived on a hot, steamy day at Hewanorra Airport on the southern tip of St Lucia, ready for our transfer to the hotel. Getting through security and customs took no more than fifteen minutes and, once through, we were soon heading north along the scenic tour along the south-west coastline of St. Lucia, passing through Vieux Fort, Laborie, La Fargue and Soufrière on the way. For most of the journey, the Gros Piton and Petit Piton, local volcanic landmarks, were evident.

There had been a few recent showers, but in between the clouds there was bright afternoon sunshine. A few Barn Swallows were feeding over a vegetated ditch by the airport, and an Eared Dove was resting on the security fencing. A frigate bird was foraging over the sea in front of the Maria Islands, and we watched it make a dive, a little like a gannet. During our journey, Carib Grackles were flying across the road, a few egrets were feeding beneath the feet of cows, and the odd American Kestrel and Grey Kingbird were perched on the electricity wires.

The luxury hotel resort of Anse Chastanet lies just beyond the village of Soufrière. After a refreshing non-alcoholic cocktail known as a Bentley, with amazing views looking down to the beach, and paperwork signed, we were all led to our luxury rooms to unpack and relax. Dennis, Mary, Dirk and Jaap had arrived the day before, so we met with them at the bar or later in the restaurant to say hello. A Zenaida Dove was resting in a tree close to where we were drinking our Bentleys, while a female Lesser Antillean Bullfinch fed on some sugar cane sticking out of a cocktail glass. Before dusk, Dirk and others watched a dozen Brown Boobies feeding just offshore.

We met for dinner at 6.30pm in the Treehouse Restaurant and, despite the long day, it was a chance for everyone to meet informally, and enjoy some exquisite local dishes, from fresh, locally caught fish (including a wholesome and tasty fish soup) to scrumptious desserts. While we ate in the low candlelight, a kingbird flew under the roof timber to feed on night flying insects, and later a large, dark moth flew like a slow flying bat high above our heads. During dinner and into the night, the squeaks or bleeping calls of the whistling frogs were constant, along with the odd cicada.

Jaap and Dirk even managed to photograph one of the tiny brown frogs, no bigger than a one-penny piece, by one of the orange path lights. A little earlier some members of the group had spotted up to 15 free-tailed bats flying around while it was still light and John managed to photograph a wintering Peregrine flying overhead.

## Day 2

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January

### Anse Chastanet and Anse Mamim. 29°C

After a restful night, we awoke to the sounds of Zenaida Doves and Grey Kingbirds setting off the dawn chorus. A fine breakfast of hot and cold foods greeted us, and during our dining we were able to get close views of the local avian residents – the Bananaquit, Lesser Antillean Bullfinch and Carib Grackle were used to getting a free snack, often in the form of a sugar or fruit drinks, but anything would do and they even fed from the hand. In between the brief showers the birds continued to feed and call, some preening and shaking their feathers to keep their plumage in fine tune. With a careful eye, a Grey Tumbler, a St Lucia Warbler and a hummingbird could also be seen amongst the vines and leaves. A little earlier Dennis had spotted two Grey Tremblers together and Adrian had seen a Shiny Cowbird.

After an orientation briefing from the duty manager Janelle we met with our hotel wildlife guide Mano, to explore the forest estate behind the hotel and along to Anse Mamim beach. During the three hour walk we had an incredible time, seeing three of St Lucia's endemics: the St Lucia Warbler, the St Lucia Pewee and, a particular surprise for this location, a stunning male St Lucia Oriole. The air was moist and, with occasional showers (liquid sunshine) and light breeze, the birds remained active into mid morning. A stunning male American Kestrel stole the show to begin with, perching above on the electricity wires showing off his yellow legs, grey wings, brick red brown back and black spots. Grey Kingbirds were common along our walk, actively swooping out to catch insects. While Carib Grackles were commonly in the trees and moving through in small groups, St Lucia

Warblers were often lurking in the trees, scanning for insects. A few young Scaly-breasted Thrashers hadn't been out of the nest for more than a week or so, while a juvenile Grey Trembler, lacking the bright yellow eye of the adult, was seen further along. The heat was encouraging the butterflies out too, our first being a fresh Long-tailed Skipper and, later, lots of White Peacocks and sulphur-yellow butterflies were flying around across the open grassland. A Common Buckeye was also seen by the pool, where three or four Black-crowned Night Herons (mixed ages) flew out from their roost, a Green Heron loitered in a bush and a Common Gallinule disappeared into the reeds. House Wrens, sounding almost Nightingale-like, sang along our walk and Black-whiskered Vireos were seen here and there in the trees, along with the odd Caribbean Elaenia. Pewee were heard along our walk, and one individual showed particularly well, snapping its bill as it snatched insects on its frequent circular fly-catching flights. Antillean Crested Hummingbirds were discrete but common along our walk and one male showed particularly well by the pool, resting on a branch. We were able to admire his green iridescent back and wings, and stiff, upright head feathers that form the crest; his wings were dropped below his tail which had white spots on the outer feathers. After looking out across the view towards the pitons, the two large volcanic plugs that dominate St Lucia, Meno showed us fruits of the Guava tree, and opened up a few for us to sniff and try. Overhead two Broad-winged Hawks, buzzards that are smaller than the UK's Common Buzzard, flew showing off their shorter wings and banded tail. Bananaquit and Lesser Antillean Bullfinch were common in their natural habitat, and a Lesser Antillean Saltator and a Mangrove Cuckoo were also briefly spotted. As we walked down the sloping track, the 'groaning', deep calls of a Ruddy Quail-Dove could be heard, the first time we have heard them on this particular holiday. By the man-made reservoir used to water plants at the hotel, Mano showed us how to crack open a coconut using nearby rocks – the reward a sip of tasty coconut water and freshly cut coconut flesh!

As we neared the end of our walk, we entered what is now an area of secondary woodland growth with some managed open areas, and a small reservoir of water. Artefacts and remnants of buildings left in situ leave reminders of the once lucrative sugar trade, and associated slavery that once took place here. The area is now full of Coconut Palms, African Tulip Trees, Ginger Lilies, and the national tree of St Lucia, the Calabash Tree. Some of the larger, older tulip trees were planted during the sugar plantation times to shade the sugar cane plants. The distinctive leaves of the Vanilla Orchid vine were hanging down from one of the old walls, while another was smothered by ferns, and out of a crevice in the stony bricks emerged a beautiful flowering orchid with large, white-yellow petals. Meno guided us through the plantation, telling stories about many of the plants his grandmother used to heal him with, when he was sick. From rubbing and smelling local Bay tree leaves, to trying some fresh cocoa milk from a cocoa pod, we got the chance to touch, smell and taste some of the locally grown fruits and nuts, which we take for granted in supermarkets back at home. Some of the group also tried Mano games, of spitting the cocoa bean as far as possible. Despite Mano's practice, John managed to beat him! Mano also rubbed the green leaves of a wild Teak tree and as he did so the green juices turned to red – a useful red dye used for clothing in past times. One real surprise here was a gorgeous male St. Lucia Oriole. His Magpie-like calls gave away his presence, and he sat on a tree above showing off a black glossy iridescent breast, yellow belly and wing patch, longish black tail and steel-grey bill. We don't usually see them here at Anse Mamim, so this was a real highlight. They are classified as near-threatened by Birdlife International and only 1000 individuals are thought to exist on the island and in the entire world.

Before we caught our boat back along to Anse Chastanet, we admired a Blue Heron resting by the creek sporting its powder blue plumage, whitish bill and pale yellow legs. Meanwhile, other animals had included Antillean Skimmer dragonflies, and Red Bees busily protecting a magnificent nest full of honeycomb. Apparently it has

been there for 20 years, snugly fitting in the conglomerate rock. After the heavy rains it was clear the rows of honeycomb had taken a bit of a battering, but the bees were out in force busily making new honey for the season. We also looked closely at the enclosed mud tunnels made by termites running up the trees – this helps to protect them from being eaten by birds. When broken up in places, the tiny insects quickly get to work repairing the damage. Mano showed us a log that fell apart, reduced to fine fibres by fungi and termites.

We arrived back at 12.30pm, time for lunch and a chance to indulge on the sandy beach, or snooze in our beautiful rooms. For those with a keen ear, a Tropical Mockingbird was singing, a little like a Song Thrush, on the walk down to the beach from the bar.

We met again for a relaxing evening in the hotel's Apsara Restaurant – a delightful mix of East Indian cuisines, Caribbean style. And for those wanting the beach grill menu, this was also available.

## Day 3

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January

### Des Cartier. 28°C

After a calm, clear starry night, we met together at 5.30am and headed south and then east to the rainforest track known as Des Cartier, part of the Quillesse Rainforest Reserve. For the first half an hour the journey was in the dark, but as it got lighter we watched Grey Kingbirds flying out from electricity cables to snatch insects in the first light. Carib Grackles gathered in villages, and small numbers of Cattle Egrets, fresh out of their roost, appeared amongst the cows.

Passing through several showers, we meandered up the hills and into the mountains, passing various Banana plantations. In amongst the Banana plants, there was plenty of the sought-after Dasheen (a root vegetable) and ripe grapefruits hanging on their trees.

By 7.30am we had arrived at the reserve car park where we met our experienced guide Adams Toussaint and his colleague Vision. We spent the next four hours walking a few kilometres and back exploring the tropical rainforest (c. 1800 feet above sea level) where we got to see some incredible trees, ferns, epiphytes, bromeliads, and other plants which looked a fresh, lush green colour in the dappled light. Throughout the morning low clouds and showers dominated the weather but despite this and with patience our visit paid off.

We were quickly rewarded with the sight of a Lesser Antillean Flycatcher, a little smaller than a kingbird, with a faint yellow belly and vent. Nearby, St Lucia Warblers sang and foraged amongst the leaves.

We past huge magnolia trees, introduced Blue Mahoe trees, wild fuchsias with their red flowers, bromeliads, club mosses, vines (including Vanilla Vine), an array of ferns, lichens and *Selaginellas* or spikemosses. Throughout our walk we heard the distinctive single-note whistle of the Rufous-throated Solitaire and, despite their shy nature, at least two were seen and three or four heard. One came relatively close, revealing his blue-purple plumage, white facial markings and rufous throat.

We had heard St Lucia Parrots right from the start and, from a viewpoint, an opening in the forest looking down towards a river, we watched as various small groups of parrots flew out and round before disappearing into the mist. Throughout the morning we saw at least eight parrots, some showing off their green tails, blue wings and

crimson red wing patches in flight. When they landed they just disappeared, their plumage cryptic against the trees. There are 2000 St Lucia Parrots living on the island, and it is the country's national bird. One obliging parrot showed for a little longer, which allowed for views through the scope. Across the riverine gap, a Broad-winged Hawk had also flown into a tree showing off his yellow legs, pale bill and rufous breast.

A first for our Naturetrek holidays to St Lucia was a view of an Antillean Euphonia. This sparrow-size finch like bird was a male with a green body and a bright blue head with a yellow patch above his bill. He had a Goldfinch-like call and was feeding on the berries of a *Myrcia* tree before switching to mistletoe in another mature tree higher above. The odd Scaly-breasted Thrasher flew across the viewpoint, while a Grey Trembler or two fed on the berries of palm trees, occasionally giving out a sweet, liquidly melodic song. In short bursts it sounded not unlike a Mistle Thrush. One or two Pearly-eyed Thrashers were also seen. Bigger than the Scaly-breasted and with less white on the tail, they were hard birds to track down. One individual made crow-like sounds in the canopy of a tree, and finally revealed itself showing off its finely barred breast.

Also from the viewpoint a few dark Scaly-naped Pigeons flew across, while the odd Purple-throated Carib flitted around the higher branches of trees. A few Antillean Crested Hummingbirds were also seen. While Lesser Antillean Bullfinches were commonly seen during our walk, the rare and endemic St Lucia Black Finch was rather more difficult to find. However, with some persistence in two different territories, we did spot the females of the two pairs, while the males remained elusive.

After a delicious packed lunch of salmon with new potatoes, salad leaves, tomato and mozzarella and freshly sliced bread, we headed down from the mountains towards Vieux Fort wetlands, a large brackish lake just on the edge of the town. This gem of a place is the largest lake in St Lucia, and attracts a wide range of water birds that are not seen across the rest of the island. Adams is working closely with the Government and landowner to classify it as a nature reserve or national park. Today was no disappointment and, despite getting rather wet in a very heavy downpour, we saw tens of Common Gallinules and Caribbean Coots, both species with young at different stages of growth. At least 20 Blue-winged Teal dabbled and up-ended around the edge of the lake, the males showing off their white patches at the base of their bill. A pair of American Wigeon was also feeding on the water, alongside a small family of Pied-billed Grebes. To our surprise, this was the first record of the grebes breeding here on the whole of St Lucia! The young, first spotted by Alison, were only half grown and like most grebe babies had stripy heads and necks.

Meanwhile, two wintering Ospreys (of the North-American subspecies) were resting on a post and mangrove tree respectively. The former continued to hover for fish even during the heavy rain. Snowy Egrets were dotted all across the lake (at least 20) while three or four Great Egrets and half a dozen Little Blue Egrets were also present. The latter included one or two white-phase individuals. Adams also spotted two Belted Kingfishers perched on mangrove trees for us to see.

Heading on, we passed the airport and the Maria Islands, before passing through Vieux Fort, where we stopped to see an Eared Dove feeding on a lawn alongside a Shiny Cowbird and a grackle.

Our penultimate stop was Moule à Chique, a large hill on the southern tip of the island. Despite the wind, the sun was shining and we had stunning views across the island looking north, although low clouds were heading in from the east and the Atlantic Ocean. Looking down from the cliffs and towards the lighthouse, we spotted

numerous Red-billed Tropicbirds. These are white seabirds with long tail streamers, red bills, and a barred back. Above the windy sea we also spotted the odd Brown Booby, a Red-footed Booby, a frigatebird, and an unidentifiable petrel or shearwater.

We headed back down the hill and stopped by some grassland on the edge of the airfield, just as a British Airways and then a Virgin plane came into land above our heads. In nearby bushes a Tropical Mockingbird was singing, and was joined by his mate. A male Black-faced Grassquit was resting nearby. Our target bird was the Grassland Yellow-finch, another new species for this holiday. Sounding a little like a Yellow Wagtail, one or two pairs of this bright yellow bird were seen flying across the grasses, and a pair stopped long enough for us to admire them in a leafless bush.

After a super full day seeing many different birds and plants in many different habitats, we headed back to the hotel for a relaxing late afternoon, and finished the evening with a lovely meal in the Treehouse Restaurant before retiring for the night, ready for a later 9am start to go dolphin-watching.

## Day 4

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January

### Dolphin Watching off the coast of Anse Chastanet and Soufrière. 29°C

This morning we set off from Anse Chastanet beach on a catamaran to go dolphin watching - just before we left we admired some of the Marbled Chitons and crabs on the nearby rocks. We set off at 9am and headed up to three miles out west searching. We didn't have any luck with the dolphins this time, despite them being seen the day before. However, the memorable views of the Pitons, the sea air and the birdlife gave us lots of enjoy and relax with. As we sailed along, various shoals of flying fish shot out of the water away from the boat. Towards the end of our trip up to three Brown Boobies took advantage of this glut, and continually dived at a 30 to 40 degree angle, to gobble up many of the flying fishes. After a catch, the boobies would circle round the boat before repeating their feeding behaviour all over again. Two Pomarine Skuas were also spotted sitting on the sea, before flying ahead of our boat.

Towards the end of our trip, we headed to the bay at Soufriere and a special sea cave. A vertical split in the cliffs forms a home for over 5, 000 Antillean Fruit Bats during the day. They were easy to hear as their squeaks are amplified by the sheer numbers present. There were hundreds just at the entrance to the cave, and we watched as some stretched their long wings, fluttered to a new perch, or tussled for a new space to hang.

As we headed back along the coast and round to Anse Chastanet, we honed in on the distinctive white guano of the Brown Boobies which was evident along the cliffs – one Brown Booby was present and having a preen. A little further along, at the point of the cliffs before we turned into Anse Chastanet, we saw more obvious white splashes. Suddenly a Peregrine flew quickly after a Red-billed Tropicbird which escaped. Meanwhile the Brown Boobies that had been on the cliffs headed off in the other direction and made their getaway too, leaving just a few individuals remaining on the boulders. Meanwhile the Peregrine flew back to the cliffs where it perched before flying to another ledge.

After three hours at sea, it was time for lunch and a relaxing afternoon on the beach or snorkelling. A male Antillean Crested Hummingbird allowed fantastic photo opportunities as it fed on the nectar of long tubular

Flores near the beach restaurant. And a tree with ripe fruits near most of our rooms was busy with birds including Tropical Mockingbird, Caribbean Elaenia, and Grey Trembler.

We met again in the bar to complete our checklist for the day, order some cocktails or wine, and then headed to the Treehouse Restaurant for a relaxing evening of food and drink. From the balcony where we sat looking out to sea, the planets Venus and Mercury were both visible close to each other over the horizon. Venus was bright and large while Mercury, being further away was smaller and less obvious.

## Day 5

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January

### Millet Trail. 29°C

We left at 5.45am and headed north to Millet Trail, a rainforest reserve. We were joined by our guides Charmaine and Pam who work for the forestry department. As soon as we entered the rainforest trail we had very close views of a pair of St Lucia Black Finches feeding on coconut left out on stakes for the forest birds. The male looks like that of a Lesser Antillean Bullfinch but lack the red facial markings and has pink legs. The female meanwhile resembles a female finch but has pink legs and a greyer head.

Since Hurricane Tomas in 2010 the forest services have been providing the half coconuts wedged on spikes along the walkways – this has been to help supplement the local birds with food and has become very popular with them.

During our morning we saw ten or more black finches, often feeding on or below the coconut feeders.

As we looked out across the views of the mountains, forest and a reservoir, a pair of Broad-winged Hawks soared overhead, their call resembling that of a dog whistle. Distant parrots could be heard while Bananaquit and finches fed in the bushes close by, joined by a Scaly-breasted Thrasher and a hummingbird. The sound of a mobile phone bleeping was, in fact, the calls of Red-snouted Tree Frogs.

Across the hill from another viewpoint, there were some incredible stands of tree ferns on the mountain slopes, and behind us was Mount Gimie, the largest mountain in St Lucia. Its peak was shrouded in cloud. As Broad-winged Hawks circled over a forested ridge, a Purple-throated Carib rested in a nearby tree. One or two black finches also fed in front of us, where another coconut feeder was positioned. As we headed back we admired a stand of wild flowering Bird of Paradise plants, the blooms smaller than the cultivated type we see in a flower shop or restaurant.

We retraced our steps, and ventured down another route in the forest. Back in 1995, this area used to be cultivated by farmers with houses nearby. When the reservoir was built, the government gave the local people money to move elsewhere, as they didn't want the water becoming contaminated by chemicals from the farming practices. The area was replanted and now, 19 years later, the secondary woodland is tall and thick. Some of the original, older Mango trees still remain.

Here we passed a cultivated stand of colourful Caribbean pink Anthuriums, with beautiful tongue like flowers. We paused to watch a land crab climbing up the base of a tree, with its pincers at the ready. Mano, our hotel guide, coaxed the female crab out, and between Ed, Dennis and John, we were able to observe the yellow and brown colours as well as other physical features of this land-based crab. Further along the track the coconuts

were attracting a few bullfinches, black finches and two Grey Tremblers. We watched as they used their long, thick beaks to probe the soft coconut flesh. Mano made some 'pishing' sounds attracting the curious Bananaquit, bullfinches, a third Grey Tumbler and even a St Lucia Oriole. The yellow belly contrasted with the smoky brown-black head and breast of this juvenile bird. After craning our necks upwards to view the bird, it finally came down to feed from a coconut, giving us excellent views of this very rare endemic.

After enjoying the oriole, we retraced our steps back to the centre and, after a rest, nibble of lunch and drink, we headed back to Soufriere, through the villages of Anse la Raye and Canaries, and stopping for 20 minutes at Bouton, a hamlet a few miles out from the town. Here we walked along the single road leading to houses looking out onto grapefruit, tangerine, sour orange, and mango orchards on one side, and forested hills on the other. From an opening we could see the Pitons, and the steam from a fumarole of the collapsed caldera in Soufriere. We spotted a lovely perched Purple-throated Carib, a few St Lucia Warblers, a bright orange Gulf Fritillary and, especially for Dirk, we heard one or two St Lucia Parrots, though they remained elusive to see.

Back at Anse Chastanet everyone was able to relax for the afternoon in the sunshine. We met together in the evening on the beach for a lovely meal, a unique menu for the evening, and cocktails (particularly good rum punches!) as part of Tuesday's Manager's Cocktail party! Before dinner we also got to chat with a few of the managers and Karolin, the owner of the hotel resort.

## Day 6

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January

### Castries and Aerial Tram Tour, Rainforest Adventures, near Chassin. 29°C

At an early breakfast from 7am, we watched a Scaly-naped Pigeon in the trees coo-ing, while the Bananaquit and bullfinches visited our tables for food! At 8.45am we met our skipper Desir and Jonathan, and took a guided boat tour along the coastline north, before being dropped off in Castries for our trip into the forest. Along our way we passed Canaries, Ti Kaye Village, Anse La Raye, the Roseau Valley, and Margot harbour, before entering the port of Castries. Desir has a creative imagination, and pointed out rock formations which looked like animals or objects.

During the journey we saw small numbers of Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Boobies, stopping to see a few of the latter perched on the cliffs. A few large Royal Terns also flew past.

In Castries, we were greeted by our taxi driver, Junior, who drove us up into the mountains to the Rainforest Sky Ride in Chassin. Half an hour later we arrived at the Rainforest Adventures Aerial Tram tour, and separated into two carriages which took us on a gentle one-hour tour through and over the rainforest. Pamela and her colleague gave a running commentary throughout. We were already 600ft above sea level and we travelled up to 1400ft, passing from the forest floor, through the understorey of ferns and tree ferns, into the canopy. As we came back down over the emergence layer, we also had incredible views over the north of St Lucia, seeing both the Caribbean and the Atlantic coast at the same time.

As we began our ascent, a Green-throated Carib was feeding on flowers in the hummingbird garden. Purple-throated Carib were common, and males were often sitting on their favourite perches, near where the carriage passed. At one point we could hear the Goldfinch-like calls of an Antillean Euphonia. Up to 20 Lesser Antillean

Swifts flew amongst the forest's emergence level, and at one point we were riding above them as they foraged above the trees. A Grey Trembler was also spotted foraging on a branch in the canopy layer.

The variety of plant and animal life was fascinating. Passing an area of introduced Norfolk Pines, originating from the Norfolk Island of the Pacific, we travelled through native forest and learnt about the different trees and their medicinal or everyday uses. The Blue Mahoe, a tree introduced from Jamaica in the 1950s to replace those fallen in hurricanes or through deforestation, was in flower across the rainforest. They sported a mixture of yellow, orange and red flowers. The flowers are yellow when they just emerge, orange when they are pollinated, and turn red prior to shrivelling up and developing into a fruit. This whole process can happen within a single day. The tree wood itself is used in the furniture business.

Being at canopy level enabled us to see and appreciate the bromeliads living along the branches of many of the older trees, various fruits such as the nutmeg, and the green branches and leaves of the parasitic mistletoe. Water vines hugged the trunks of trees – so called because if cut at a 45 degree angle, water can be extracted from the vine and used for drinking. There were prehistoric-looking tree ferns, strangler figs, and vanilla vines. We were shown Lansan or Frankincense trees which produce a white sap that can be lit and used by churches for its perfumed smoke. And the seed cups are fragrant too, and used to keep the insects away. The Cinchona tree was also common, and produces quinine in its bark. The Monkey Paws tree, a *Marcgravia* vine, produces a complicated green flower arrangement that looks like an umbrella.

After the ride we had a 15-minute walk through the forest to see the foliage from ground level, including the Lansan Tree, the Honduras, the West Indies Mahogany Trees and various *Heliconias*. A St Lucia Anole Lizard was showing itself on a tree trunk close by. We looked closely at the fallen skeleton of strangler fig, minus the tree that used to be inside. The tree itself had died and rotted away leaving the fig with no support to stand on its own. A real surprise was good views of a usually shy Pearly-eyed Thrasher, showing its light-coloured bill and eye. Another euphonia called in the trees above. As we neared the end of our walk, we passed an area that had been planted specifically for hummingbirds, with lots of plants with colourful, tubular flowers. There were also nectar feeders attracting a few Purple-throated Caribs, just metres away, who were staking out their perches. Nearby a male Antillean Crested Hummingbird was feeding on pink, tubular flowers. And a Frangipani shrub was home to a few huge, colourful Frangipani Hawkmoth caterpillars - you could even hear their jaws munching on the toxic stems.

After quick refreshments and stop in the gift shop, we headed back down the mountains to Castries and our boat. We stopped for packed lunch (salmon, bread, rocket, salad roasted potatoes and tomato/mozzarella/cucumber mix). Just before we left we looked at a nearby Cattle Egret colony containing more than 50 nests in some trees by a lily pool. Most of the young Cattle Egrets were just fledging. A juvenile Black-crowned Night Heron was also lurking at the base of the colony's tree.

We got very close views of male, female and young egrets. The males have a bright red bill and lots of yellow on their head feathers. Some females were sitting on eggs, while one of two fledged juveniles were bouncing around flexing their wings. When their parents arrived they begged and begged for food, before receiving some regurgitated fish in a rugby tackle between parent and chick! Two chicks had managed to fall out of their nest far too early, and were walking around the ground below. A family of Common Gallinules were foraging and

preening amongst the lilies, giving excellent views. Compared to the Moorhen this species is longer necked with a broader, longer red bill shield and obvious white on the flanks.

We made it back by boat to Anse Chastanet in just over 35 minutes, stopping to see some frigatebirds coming down to scraps on the beach at Canaries, and some passing Royal Terns. We then stopped at the cliffs by Anse Chastanet to watch half a dozen Brown Boobies of mixed ages, resting up and keeping cool by fluttering their gular/throat pouch. The adults had a pure white breast, yellow legs and chocolate brown plumage while the juveniles were brown all over. We arrived back by 2.30pm for a relaxing afternoon in the hot sunshine.

We met again for a relaxing evening in the hotel's Apsara Restaurant, and to share stories of today's adventures. One birding surprise was when Alison asked what a bird was. Looking around, we saw an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron slowly walking along the sand, near where we were sat, foraging for crabs!

## Day 7

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January

### Emeralds Estate and Sulphur Springs. 29°C

After breakfast we met at 8.45am and, prior to leaving, had excellent views of a Green-throated Carib, a Lesser Antillean Saltator, and glimpses of Scaly-necked Pigeons.

We set off to Sulphur Springs, the world's only drive-in volcano, just on the other side of Soufriere, 15 minutes from where we were staying. It is in fact a collapsed volcano known as a caldera, rather than a coned volcano, which we may be more familiar with seeing on TV. The name comes from Spanish for large cooking pot, and similar features are found in Yellowstone National Park in the USA, and Rotorua in New Zealand. Our guide was John, and we had the opportunity to stand by the barriers to see the bubbling water and smell the hydrogen sulphide. There was a lot of steam today rising off the hot pools. The whole crater is 12 kilometres square, and includes the town of Soufrière. It was produced by eruptions 32 to 39 000 years ago, and today the hot magma is only 2.5 miles below the surface, although the volcano hasn't erupted since 1766. The water itself (which is seawater) was a dark grey colour and takes up to 20 days to reach this point. The dark colour is due to the hydrogen sulphide reacting with iron to produce iron sulphide. It was bubbling up at 100 degrees Celsius and steam was rising up and across the rocks. On very high Spring tides the higher water pressure creates geysers. We looked across the Moon-like terrain made of pumice or calcium sulphate with some sulphur giving it a yellow tinge. There are 24 vents in total, and the activity of both the volcano here and other islands is monitored regularly by scientists based on Trinidad. The Pitons that overlook our hotel and beach are in fact solidified lava plugs – thousands of years ago, the lava rose up and solidified to form the Pitons but never collapsed, unlike the caldera at Sulphur Springs. A pair of tame Grey Kingbirds perched on the wires near our vehicles, while during the walk we heard St Lucia Warbler and saw bullfinches, Bananaquit and a male Antillean Crested Hummingbird.

We then drove a short distance down the road to Anse Chastanet's very own 550-acre organic farm, Emeralds, where all the fruits and vegetables for the hotel's restaurants are grown. The estate manager Pawan showed us the different fruits and vegetables being grown here for Anse Chastanet and Jade Mountain hotels. We tasted fresh turmeric sliced from a freshly dug root, the sour but moist Tree Sorrel fruits, freshly picked star fruit and a plant with sweet tasting leaves (*Stevia rebaudinana*). We saw the tropical American Soursop, the fruits of which are like an egg-shaped green melon with soft spines, a Cinnamon Tree, common herbs including garlic chives, banana and plantain trees, Sour Oranges, Ginger, Passion Fruit, Lemon Grass, fruiting Mango trees, micro salad

(picked within four days of being sown), pineapple, cauliflowers, and other vegetables. We also tasted Golden Apples which are very sour pear-like fruits. The estate has 1000 cocoa trees, and Anse Chastanet makes its own chocolate. We saw cocoa pods at various stages of development growing out from the trunks and branches of the trees.

Chef Elijah and his sous chef Salvitore, both working at the sister hotel Jade Mountain, then did a cooking demonstration showing us how to make two simple savoury dishes. The table in front of us was adorned with banana leaves, and covered in delicious looking greens and fruits. Freshly cut star fruit, grapefruits, soursop and cherry tomatoes were already prepared in front of us.

The first dish demonstrated for us to then taste, was king prawns marinated in a dash of chilli sauce, salt, pepper, garlic, celery leaves, tarragon, coriander, rosemary, Madras curry spice and olive oil, seared in hot olive oil. It was served on a colourful tasty salad comprising juicy green oranges (ripe), cherry tomatoes, bell peppers, spring onion, gem lettuce, olive oil, whole grain mustard and salt. We were then given a plate each with a delightful helping of salad and two king prawns.

The second dish was fresh Mahi-mahi fish, flavoured with a little salt and pepper and seared in olive oil. It was complemented by a hot coconut milk salad. Diced red onion and freshly made garlic paste was allowed to sweat in a deep pan with some olive oil. Sliced okra was then added, followed by sliced tomatoes, bell peppers, chopped pineapple and some salt and pepper. Freshly made coconut milk (from the water and meat of a freshly opened coconut) was then added, followed by finely chopped tarragon and celery leaves. A little curry powder, more salt and hot West Indian sauce was also added and cooked for only a short while before being served as a base for the fish. It was incredibly tasty, healthy and colourful. We completed our morning with some freshly made banana bread. It was a super morning, a chance to find out more about the exotic fruits and vegetables we may buy in our supermarkets back at home but never see growing, to learn some new culinary techniques and to taste freshly cooked Caribbean dishes.

We met together in the Treehouse Restaurant in the evening, and enjoyed some more amazing dishes, cocktails and conversations.

## Day 8

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January

### Dolphin Watching. 27°C

After our lack of Dolphins on Monday, Ed managed to arrange for a second dolphin trip and we set off at 9am on a catamaran with our skipper Nigel and spotter David. Despite a heavy shower we spent most of the hours enjoying the sunshine and relaxing on the boat. There was little around wildlife-wise, though the landscape looking back towards St Lucia was stunning with the leafy, vegetated mountains and low cloud. Occasionally small shoals of fishes darted out of the water, and flying fish glided some distance away from the boat. A brightly coloured Mahi-mahi jumped out of the water at one point, no doubt in pursuit of other fishes. As we got to the point of turning back to Anse Chastanet, three or four Pomarine Skuas flew low over the sea occasionally pecking food off the surface. The odd frigatebird also glided over. Just as we thought we were not going to see any Dolphins, David suddenly spotted some splashing closer to shore. We headed over, and watched over 50 dolphins, mainly Pantropical Spotted with some Fraser's there too. Many came to bow ride, while others surfaced all together a little further away. The school was feeding, and would suddenly disappear for a short

while deep down into the water, before reappearing all around the boat again and bow riding a few other boats nearby. They suddenly disappeared for a longer period, and we headed back to Anse Chastanet, passing another skua and Brown Boobies perched on the cliffs.

Back at the hotel we stopped for lunch and met together again at 5.15pm to say our goodbyes, as John, Jan, Dennis and Christine were staying for a little longer. We headed off to the airport at 5.30pm with a chance to see the countryside and wildlife, before it got too dark. The odd Free-tailed Bat was seen, as well as lots of grackles coming in to roost in a single large bush, and a Peregrine that flew overhead.

With no queue at check-in we were through security within ten minutes or less, and waited for our flight.

After a slightly shorter flight (8 hours) back to Gatwick Airport, everyone made their way home safely, after a relaxing, hot, sunny holiday seeing St Lucia's endemic birdlife and many other plants and animals. And we arrived back to a bright, frosty day in Sussex.

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Purple-throated Carib



Lesser Antillean Bullfinch

## Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = Heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>				1				
2	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	12		2	10		12		
3	Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>			1					
4	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	1	✓	2	2		6		6
5	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			6		1			2
6	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		2	6			1	1	
7	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>			20					
8	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	4		20		4	100		
9	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>		2	2					
10	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		4				1	1	
11	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax violacea</i>						1		
12	Osprey	<i>Pandion hallaetus</i>			2					
13	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>		2	1		6	H	2	
14	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	2	1			2		3	1
15	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1			1				2
16	Caribbean Coot	<i>Fulica caribaea</i>			50					
17	Antillean Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata cerceris</i>		1	50			4		
18	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>		1					2	1
19	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>						6		
20	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>				2		4		4
21	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓		✓			
22	Scaly-naped Pigeon	<i>Patagioenus squamosa</i>		2	2		2	1	✓	✓
23	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	1		1					
24	Ruddy Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon montana</i>		H						
25	Zenaida Dove	<i>Zenaida aurita</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Common Ground Dove	<i>Collumbina passerina</i>			2	✓	3	2	3	✓
27	St Lucia Parrot	<i>Amazona versicolor</i>			8		H			
28	Mangrove Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>		1						
29	Lesser Antillean Swift	<i>Chaetura martinica</i>			2		1	20		
30	Purple-throated Carib	<i>Eulampis jugularis</i>			3		2	6	2	
31	Green-throated Carib	<i>Eulampis holosericeus</i>		1		1		1	1	1
32	Antillean Crested Hummingbird	<i>Orthorhyncus cristatus</i>		4	2	1	2	2	2	2
33	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>			2					
34	Lesser Antillean Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus oberi</i>			2					
35	Caribbean Elaenia	<i>Elaenia martinica</i>		2					2	
36	St Lucia Pewee	<i>Contopus oberi</i>		3	1			H		
37	Grey Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>	4	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	2		2					
39	Caribbean Martin	<i>Progne dominicensis</i>				1				
40	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>		1	2	2	✓	✓	2	1
41	Grey Trembler	<i>Cinlocerthia guttaralis</i>		3		2	4	1	1	
42	Scaly-breasted Thrasher	<i>Allenia fusca</i>		5	2	1	✓		2	
43	Pearly-eyed Thrasher	<i>Margarops fuscata</i>			2			1		
44	Rufous-throated Solitaire	<i>Myadestes genibarbis</i>			2					
45	St Lucia Warbler	<i>Dendroica delicata</i>		6	4	3	6	H	1	
46	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
47	Black-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris bicolor</i>		1	1			1	6	
48	St Lucia Black Finch	<i>Melanospiza richardsoni</i>			3		10			

	Common name	Scientific name	January								
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
49	Lesser Antillean Bullfinch	<i>Loxigilla noctis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
50	Lesser Antillean Saltator	<i>Saltator albicollis</i>							1	1	1
51	Carib Grackle	<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>		1	4	2	1	1	1	1	2
53	Antillean Euphonia	<i>Euphonia musica</i>			1				H		
54	St Lucia Oriole	<i>Icterus laudabills</i>		1				1			
55	Grassland Yellow-finch	<i>Sicalis luteola</i>			4						

### Reptiles and Amphibians

1	Watts' Anole Lizard	<i>Anolis wattsi wattsi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	St Lucia Anole Lizard	<i>Anolis luciae</i>							1		
3	Lesser Antillean or Johnstone's Whistling Frog	<i>Eleutherodactylus johnstonei</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Red-snouted Tree Frog	<i>Scinax ruber</i>			H			H	H		
5	Marine Toad	<i>Rhinella marina</i>				2					

### Mammals

1	Fraser's Dolphins	<i>Lagenodelphis hosei</i>									✓
2	Pantropical Spotted Dolphins	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>									✓
3	Small Asian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes javanicus</i>						2			
4	Common Free-tailed Bat	<i>Molossus molossus molossus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Antillean Fruit Bat	<i>Brachyphylla cavernarum cavernarum</i>	1			100s					

### Crabs

1	Ghost Crab	<i>Ocypode quadrata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Mottled Shore Crab	<i>Pachygrapsus transversus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Land Crab	<i>Gecarcinus ruricola</i>						1			

### Molluscs

1	Marbled Chiton	<i>Chiton marmoratus</i>				✓		✓		✓
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### Other invertebrates

1	Spider Wasp	<i>Pepsis sp.</i>		1							
2	Red Bee	-		✓							

### Butterflies, Moths and Dragonflies (C = Caterpillar)

1	Caribbean Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>		1	1						
2	Long-tailed Skipper	<i>Urbanus proteus</i>		1							
3	Great Southern White	<i>Ascia monuste</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Gulf Fritillary	<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>					1				
5	Little Yellow	<i>Eurema lisa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	White Peacock	<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>	✓								
7	Frangipani Hawkmoth	<i>Pseudosphinx tetrio</i>							3C		
8	Antillean Skimmer	<i>Orthemis macrostigma</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Broad-winged Dragonlet	<i>Erythrodiplax umbrata</i>		1							

	Common name	Scientific name	January						
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15

## Fish

1	Flying Fish	<i>Cypselurus</i> spp			✓				✓	
2	Four-winged Flying Fish	<i>Hirundichthys affinis</i>			✓				✓	
3	Mahi-mahi	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>							1	
4	Trumpetfish	<i>Aulostomus maculatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Ballyhoo	<i>Hemiramphus brasiliensis</i>			✓					
6	Yellowhead Wrasse	<i>Halichoerus garroti</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Redband Parrotfish	<i>Sparisoma aurofrenatum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Stoptlight Parrotfish	<i>Sparisoma viridae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Princess Parrotfish	<i>Searus taeniopterus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Yellowtail Parrotfish	<i>Sparisoma rubripinne</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Queen Parrotfish	<i>Searus vetula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Puddingwife	<i>Halichoeres radiatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Brown Chromis	<i>Chromis multilineata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Sergeant Major	<i>Abudefduf saratilis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Yellowtail Damsel	<i>Microspathodon chrysurus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Bicolour Damselfish	<i>Stegastes partitus</i>			✓					
17	Dusky Damselfish	<i>Steastes fuscus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Yellowtail Snapper	<i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Blue Tang	<i>Acanthurus coeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Blue Chromis	<i>Chromis cyanea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Banded Butterfish	<i>Chaetodon striatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Bluehead Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma bifasciatum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Cleaning Goby	<i>Gobiosoma genie</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Slippery Dick	<i>Halichoeres bivittatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Yellow Goatfish	<i>Mulloidichthys martinicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Fairy Basslet	<i>Gramma loreta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Smallmouth Grunt	<i>Haemulon chrysargyreum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Ocean Surgeon	<i>Acanthurus bahianus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Stingray sp.				1					
30	Sand Diver	<i>Synodus intermedius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31	Orange-spotted Filefish	<i>Cantherhines pullus</i>			1					
32	Scrawled Filefish	<i>Aluterus scriptus</i>							1	
33	Smooth Trunkfish	<i>Lactophrys triqueter</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Sharptail Eel	<i>Myrichthys breviceps</i>			1					

## Coral/sponge/associated inverts

1	Finger Coral	<i>Porites porites</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Brain Coral	<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Symmetrical Brain Coral	<i>Diplora strigosa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Common Sea Fan	<i>Gorgonia ventalina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Swollen-knob Candelabrum	<i>Eunicea mammosa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Mustard Hill Coral	<i>Porites astreoides</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Massive Starlet Coral	<i>Siderastrea siderea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Elkhorn Coral	<i>Acropora palmata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Porous Sea Rods	<i>Pseudoplexaura</i> sp.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Split-pore Sea Rods	<i>Plexaurella</i> sp.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Sea Plumes	<i>Pseudopterogorgia</i> sp.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Giant Barrel Sponge	<i>Xestospongia muta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	January								
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
13	Yellow Tube Sponge	<i>Aplysina fistularis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Stinker Sponge	<i>Ircinia felix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Red Boring Sponge	<i>Cliona delitrix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Lumpy Overgrowing Sponge	<i>Holopsamma helwigi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Green Finger Sponge	<i>Iotrochota birotulata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	White Scroll Algae	<i>Padina jamaicensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Long-spined Urchin	<i>Diadema antillarum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	West Indian Sea Egg	<i>Tripneustes ventricosus</i>						1			
21	Christmas Tree Worm	<i>Spirobranchus giganteus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Social Feather Duster	<i>Bispira brunnea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Bearded Fireworm	<i>Hermodice carunculata</i>		✓	✓						✓
24	Algae Hydroid	<i>Thyroscyphus ramosus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Mat Zoanthid	<i>Zoanthus pulchellus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Spaghetti Worm	<i>Eupolymnia crassicornis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Plants

1	African Tulip Tree	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>		✓				✓	✓	
2	Almond	<i>Terminalia catappa</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Anthurium	<i>Anthurium andraeanum</i>			✓					
4	Avocado	<i>Persea americana</i>							✓	
5	Bamboo	<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Banana	<i>Musa x paradisiaca</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
7	Bayleaf	<i>Pimenta racemosa</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Bird-of-Paradise	<i>Heliconia psittacorum</i>						✓	✓	✓
9	Black Mangrove	<i>Avicennia germinans</i>						✓		
10	Blue Mahoe tree	<i>Talipariti elatum</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Boit Canot	<i>Cecropia peltata</i>					✓			
12	Breadfruit	<i>Artocarpus altilis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Bromeliads		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
14	Agave	<i>Agave caribaeicola</i>			✓	✓				
15	Cactus	<i>Melocactus intortus</i>								
16	Calabash	<i>Crescentia cujete</i>		✓				✓	✓	
17	Cashew Nut	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>					✓	✓		
18	Castor Oil Plant	<i>Ricus communis</i>								
19	Chataignier sp	<i>Sloanea</i> spp			✓		✓	✓		
20	Clusier tree sp	<i>Clusia</i> spp			✓		✓	✓		
21	Club Moss	<i>Lycopodiella cernua</i>			✓					
22	Cinchona Tree	<i>Cinchona</i> spp						✓		
23	Cinnamon	<i>Cinnmomum verum</i>		✓			✓		✓	
24	Cocoa	<i>Theobroma cacao</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
25	Coconut	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
26	Dasheen	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
27	Fuschia	<i>Crantzia cristat</i>		✓						
28	Red Ginger	<i>Alpinia purpurata</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
29	Golden Apple	<i>Spondias dulcis</i>								✓
30	Gommier Tree	<i>Dacryodes excelsa</i>		✓	✓		✓			
31	Grapefruit	<i>Citrus x paradisi</i>		✓			✓		✓	
32	Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>					✓	✓		
33	Lansan Tree (Incense Tree)	<i>Protium attenuatum</i>			✓			✓		
34	Lemon Grass	<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>							✓	
35	Lime	<i>Phaeolus lunatus</i>		✓			✓		✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
36	Mango	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
37	Monkey Paws	<i>Marcgravia umbellata</i>						✓		
38	Mimosa	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>		✓	✓					
39	Mistletoe	<i>Phoradendron trinervium</i>						✓		
40	Norfolk Island Pine	<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>							✓	
41	Nutmeg	<i>Myristica fragrans</i>							✓	
42	Sour Orange	<i>Citrus x aurantium</i>							✓	
43	Orange	<i>Citrus x sinensis</i>		✓					✓	
44	Plantain	<i>Musa x paradisisaca</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
45	Red Birch	<i>Myrcia citrifolia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
46	Rubber Tree	<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
47	Soursop	<i>Annoca muricata</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
48	Strangler Fig	<i>Ficus spp</i>						✓		
49	Surinam Cherry	<i>Eugenia uniflora</i>							✓	
50	Tangerine	<i>Citrus reticulata</i>		✓					✓	✓
51	Teak Tree	<i>Tectona grandis</i>		✓						
52	Ti kannou	<i>Asplundia rigida</i>			✓		✓			
53	Tree Fern	<i>Cyathea arborea</i>			✓			✓	✓	
54	Vanilla	<i>Vanilla planifolia</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓
55	West Indies Mahogany Tree	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>						✓		
56	Turtle Grass	<i>Thalassia testudinum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Sargassum Seaweed	<i>Sargassum fluitans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58		<i>Tapura latifolia</i>						✓		



Crested Hummingbird, the Pitons by John Steele