

St Lucia

Naturetrek Tour Report

8 – 16 January 2016



Pantropical Spotted Dolphin



Snowy Egret



Bananaquit



Sperm Whale in front of Pitons

Report & images compiled by Ed Drewitt



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Introduction

Hot sunshine, sandy beaches and sightings of whales, endemic birdlife and stunning coral reefs were all in abundance in St Lucia during this holiday away from the cloud and gloom of the UK weather. Along with the endemics such as the St Lucia Warbler, Parrot, Pewee, Oriole and Black Finch we saw other usual suspects too such as Caribbean Elaenia, Rufous-throated Solitaire and Lesser Antillean Saltator. Even after five years of running this holiday, we saw new birds including a White-tailed Tropicbird, American Coots, a Brown Pelican and Cliff Swallows.

At sea we had excellent views of bow-riding Pantropical Spotted Dolphins and seabirds such as Pomarine Skua, Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Booby and Masked Booby. A highlight was seeing Sperm Whales, the first in five years. On two separate days we saw five or six adult females and a calf showing in front of St Lucia's iconic volcanic Pitons.

Day 1

Friday 8th January

London to St Lucia

After all the flooding across the UK and repeating waves of low-pressure weather it was the perfect time to leave for hotter climes. Leaving Gatwick on a bright, colder day, we headed west over southern England and travelled nine hours over the Atlantic to St Lucia.

We arrived on a mild, humid day at Hewanorra Airport on the southern tip of St Lucia, ready for our transfer to the hotel. There had been some rain but it made for a cooler transfer. Getting through security and customs took no more than 15 minutes. We boarded our transfer vehicles where, nearby, a small flock of Carib Grackles and Shiny Cowbirds were feeding. We were soon heading north along the scenic tour of 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 always evident. Grey Kingbirds were often perched on electricity lines and Carib Grackles feeding on the ground. Half a dozen Cattle Egrets were seen along the way, usually near cows, and a Snowy Egret was standing by a stream in Soufrière. A pair of Tropical Mockingbirds also dashed out of a tree.

Leaving Soufrière, we slowly travelled along a track looking back down at the town with superb views of the Pitons as the backdrop. After ten minutes or so we reached the luxury hotel resort Anse Chastanet. After a refreshing non-alcoholic cocktail known as the Bentley, amazing views looking down to the beach, and paperwork signed, we were all led to our luxury rooms to unpack and relax. A few Lesser Antillean Bullfinches came to say hello before we left.

Some of the group had arrived a few days earlier. All 14 of the group plus Ed 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 food and courses. Lesser Antillean Whistling Frogs called in the background - their chime-like regular calls distinctive along with the grating sounds of cicadas singing.

Day 2

Saturday 9th January

Anse Chastanet and Anse Mamim

After a restful night, we awoke to the sounds of Zenaida Doves, Grey Kingbirds and occasional singing Tropical Mockingbird setting off the dawn chorus. A fine buffet breakfast of fruits and cereals greeted us, as well as a wholesome a la carte cooked menu including local St Lucia dishes. During our dining, Lesser Antillean Bullfinches and Carib Grackles came to greet us, perching on our chairs and tables giving incredibly close views. Bananaquits kept an eye on the juice dispensers in the hope of a sugary drink. From our tables we looked out into the tree canopies where more birds gathered for this feast, flying to tables as soon as someone left them vacant - they were looking for sugar or other tasty treats. In the trees, Zenaida Doves and a Grey Trembler were also perched and a female Antillean Crested Hummingbird dashed by.

After an orientation briefing from the duty manager, Jonathan, at 8.30am we met with our hotel wildlife guide Mano to explore the forest estate behind the hotel and along to Anse Mamim beach.

We kicked off with a lovely male American Kestrel perched in a tree above us. 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 two striking male St Lucia Orioles. The pwees were often fly-catching and made their location easier to detect. The bright yellow, grey and black St Lucia Warblers, usually singletons, were busy gleaning insects from the leaves of trees. And the orioles, two separate birds, were busy foraging or preening before flying off. 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. So it was a treat to see them both.

Along the walk several Antillean Crested Hummingbirds showed well, feeding on long tubular flowers for nectar or sitting preening in the sunshine. At least two Green-throated Caribs, larger than the crested hummingbirds, were also seen, with one flying right above us. As the sun broke through and its heat penetrated, other birds became more visible - Grey Kingbirds were commonly perched out in the open. At one spot there was a sudden hive of activity with Antillean Saltator, two Black-whiskered Vireos, a berry-laden Scaly-breasted Thrasher and a male Black-faced Grassquit all making brief appearance. Another male grassquit showed well, feeding on seeds on the edge of the track. Various white and sulphur-yellow butterflies appeared and a bright orange Gulf Fritillary flew past. Brightly coloured flowers adorned the trees and bushes along our walk - including the pink, round flowers of *Mimosa* - we had fun touching their leaves which quickly folded up as protection from being eaten. In a more wooded area, a Ruddy Quail Dove flew past and was seen by a few - it had distinctive red-brown wings. And Meno spotted a pair of St Lucia Black Finches also seen by just one or two of the group. As everyone walked on, Tony and Ed watched a perched saltator promptly seen off by another. Overhead a Broad-winged Hawk, a small buzzard, soared overhead and cried its squeaky, whistle-like call. Some of the group spotted a Mangrove Cuckoo before it slipped away. Along the walk Meno picked leaves from different citrus trees for us to scrunch and smell - orange, lemon and lime. Each had a slightly different, distinctive aroma.

As we headed down towards Anse Mamim beach, an adjacent sandy beach to Anse Chastanet and a good place to lunch or bathe, we watched a medium-size land crab crossing the track and hiding amongst the leaf litter. Steve found a stripy orb-web spider sprawled across its web. And a little further along we looked up to a Red Bee's nest - a magnificent nest full of plates of honeycomb snugly fitting into the conglomerate rock - some bees were present and busy protecting it. Apparently it has been there for 20 years.

We came to a large, deep man-made lake used in slavery times as water to supply and power the sugar factories a little downstream. Today the lake is calm and tranquil; a Little Blue Heron was resting on the edge. Between two nearby mango trees a Green Heron was foraging amongst the grasses. By an earlier pond a large red dragonfly, the Antillean Skimmer was hawking for insects.

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 are reminders of the once lucrative sugar trade and associated slavery that once took place here 200 years ago. The area is now full of Coconut Trees, Cocoa Trees, African Tulip trees, Ginger Lilies, and the national tree of St Lucia, the Calabash Tree. Sapling coconuts were growing on the woodland floor. And some of the Cocoa Trees were sporting tiny flowers growing out of their bark. Some of the larger, older tulip trees were planted during the sugar plantation times to shade the sugar cane plants. The distinctive fronds of the Vanilla Orchid vine were hanging down from one of the old walls. 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. We also tried Mano's childhood game of spitting the cocoa bean as far as possible - Clive almost made it as far as Mano. 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. As we arrived at Anse Mamim beach a Spotted Sandpiper, in winter plumage, was happily perched and preening on a large rock in the nearby forest stream. We walked the five-minute trail along the coast to Anse Chastanet arriving back at 12.20pm. The rest of the afternoon was free for everyone to rest, for lunch, enjoy the sandy beach, birdwatch or snorkel.

During this time various wildlife was spotted. A very tame Spotted Sandpiper allowed us to approach within a few metres near the beach bar. A Great and Snowy Egret frequented the rocks and nearby jetty and Brown Boobys flew low over the water to and from their rocky cliff perches. Snorkeling meanwhile provided an abundance of fish from grunts to trumpetfish, parrotfish to a Porcupine Fish and Blue Tangs to Yellow-headed Wrasse. The coral reefs were beautiful and full of fan coral, Porous Sea Rods and Yellow Tube Sponges. Common Free-tailed Bats flew past lodges just before 6pm, flying fast and shaped like swifts. And the first evening chorus of whistling frogs started at just after 6pm.

We met again for a relaxing evening in the hotel's Apsara Restaurant at 6.30pm – a delightful mix of East Indian cuisines Caribbean style. And for those wanting the beach grill menu, this was also available.

Day 3

Sunday 10th January

Des Cartier

Leaving our rooms below a star-lit sky, 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. It was named after a Mr Des Cartier who oversaw the making of a horse-drawn track through the forest in 1847. We meandered up the hills and into the mountains passing various banana plantations, planted pineapples, 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 guides Adams and Vision, and trainee Willow who has spent 15 years showing people turtles on the island. 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, *Heliconias*, epiphytes, bromeliads, and other plants which looked a fresh, lush green colour in the dappled light. Low clouds and showers dominated the weather but despite this, and with patience, our visit paid off. When the rain stopped the birds became more active and St Lucia Parrots were easily heard with their raucous calls. From the viewpoint looking out across the forest we saw various individuals and pairs fly past, some overhead and others in the distance. This species is a success story, increasing from just 100 individuals in the 1970s to over 2000 today, thanks to tighter laws against trapping for the pet trade and making it the country's national bird.

We spent some time at this viewpoint, an opening looking out across the forest and riverine. The time here gave everyone the chance to see other forest specialties such as Pearly-eyed Thrashers and Purple-throated Caribs. As we had been walking to the viewpoint another St Lucia endemic, the Black Finch also showed well. Firstly a female, who looks like a female Lesser Antillean Bullfinch but with pink legs, perched close by. And then her mate, all black with pink legs, came to join her and spent some time a little further away by a stream. Only 500 Black Finches are left in the world and they all live on St Lucia. They nest close to the ground and are vulnerable to predation from rats and opossums. In high quality forest, however, up to 25 birds may be found per hectare.

Across the opening in the forest Lesser Antillean Swifts flew around foraging in between the rain showers. An Antillean Euphonia showed very briefly in some mistletoe before taking flight; another was seen later but disturbed by a thrasher before everyone could see it. A really tricky bird to see was the Rufous-throated Solitaire - its distinctive drawn out single note call could be heard below us. After some time and patience the group were rewarded with views of one in a tree - at some angles it looked like other nearby leaves, revealing how cryptic this species is in this forest environment. Another Pearly-eyed Thrasher showed well as it headed for the fruits of a palm tree, and nearby a Grey Trembler skulked amongst the bromeliads. Other birds included Scaly-naped Pigeon, Scaly-breasted Thrasher and St Lucia Pewee as well as the calls of Lesser Antillean Flycatcher, St Lucia Warbler and St Lucia Oriole.

We passed huge magnolia trees, Blue Mahoe trees, the national tree of Jamaica introduced for timber and landslip stabilisation, incense trees, bromeliads, vines (including Vanilla Vine), an array of ferns, lichens and lesser clubmosses (spikemosses). Vision told stories about how the trees here are used by the St Lucians. The sap of the incense trees is used in the house to create harmony and the petals of a magnolia tree, *Magnolia* (formerly *Talauma*) *dodecapetala*, are used as a fragrance in the perfume Chanel no.5.

As we headed back Vision found a male land crab in the drainage furrow and picked it up for us all to see. And a St Lucia Anole Lizard, with a distinctive line running between its front and back legs, was standing vertically on a thin tree. After a packed lunch, we headed down 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. Despite less rain during the rainy season, we still saw plenty of birds, although this may have been due to two other major wetlands on St Lucia drying out due to the reduced rainfall. We saw over 20 Common Gallinules, which are larger than the Moorhen. And at least 30 Caribbean Coots - unusually there were also two American Coots amongst them, lacking the big white knob on

the forehead. A large flock of ducks took off - somewhere between 200 and 300 Blue-winged Teal were showing off their blue wings. They came to land in the centre of the lake along with at least three American Wigeon with their distinctive white wing patches. Simon also found a pair of Lesser Scaup dabbling in circles at the back of the lake.

Meanwhile, two Ospreys were resting on the parched mud at the back of the lake - one took off and flew across. A single Great Egret was looking for fish on the other side of the lake while Snowy Egrets were feeding nearby along with a small numbers of Little Blue Herons, both blue and white phases. Cattle Egrets were also seen; one was feeding close to a man strimming the roadside grasses as we left, no doubt looking for disturbed insects. Just before we left Catrina spotted a Small Asian Mongoose disappearing out of sight.

We headed into Vieux Fort, stopping before the airport by some warehouses where a pair of Eared Doves was perched on overhead wires. Further behind, half a dozen Collared Doves were also perched while, on the ground, over 100 doves, a mix of Eared, Collared and Zenaida, were feeding on spilt grain.

We then stopped at the exit of the airport to look into a muddy ditch where two Lesser Yellowlegs and two Solitary Sandpipers were feeding - all northern migrants wintering from the cold winter in North America. A small group of Shiny Cowbirds was also feeding nearby.

Our penultimate stop was Moule à Chique, a large hill on the southern tip of the island where the world's second highest lighthouse stands. In glorious sunshine and a light breeze, we had stunning views looking north across the island. Looking out south across the water we could clearly see the Caribbean island of St Vincent. Looking down from the cliffs and towards the lighthouse we spotted half a dozen Red-billed Tropicbirds flying around over the sea. A small group of Barn and Cliff Swallows passed by as we listened to Adams telling us about the conservation of the nearby Maria Islands - they are two small islands just offshore, home to the rarest snake in the world, the St Lucia Racer. A rat-eradication programme has been in place to protect this snake, other reptiles and many seabirds such as terns and noddies (that come here later in the year). Vision pointed out some key features in the landscape such as Mount Gimie, the highest mountain in St Lucia, and of course the Pitons.

After saying our thanks and farewells to Adams, Vision and Willow, we headed back down the hill and off to Anse Chastanet. We stopped near the airfield for a short while to transfer some of the group to another vehicle; a second mongoose was seen crossing the road as we stopped. Two more of these invasive species were seen on the journey back to Anse Chastanet.

We arrived back around 4.30pm and had a few hours to relax and enjoy the Caribbean sunshine before meeting to check off what we had seen and then gather for a lovely meal in the Treehouse Restaurant at 6.45pm.

Day 4

Monday 11th January

Dolphin Watching off the coast of Anse Chastanet and Soufrière

This morning we set off from Anse Chastanet beach on a catamaran to go dolphin watching. Our spotters were Andrew and Steve with skipper Jay. We set off at 9am and headed north-west up to mile or two out from shore where the sea bottom drops away to 1500 metres (5000ft). The sea was perfect - calm, blue and clear. And with few clouds we had perfect sunshine and heat. With the Pitons behind us we continued out and it was long before

we had our first cetaceans - within half an hour we had found a whale! A first for this particular tour. It was very distant and Steve noticed its fluke as it dived down. However, we soon found another, a calf and probably the baby of this adult whale. We stayed behind the calf watching it as it surfaced close by - its smooth dome-shaped head, wrinkled, prune-like back and single blow that sputtered out to the left were all appreciated. The calf turned direction and headed away closer to land.

This area was busy with Sperm Whales today - they were females, some with young, spread out across a large area along the west coast. Another adult whale was seen blowing and, just as we arrived, it arched its back and dived deep, but not before revealing its distinctive fluke. Another two whales were revealing their blows closer to the Pitons. We headed for one and, again, it dived almost as we arrived. The female Sperm Whales stay underwater for up to 45 minutes and surface for 10-15 minutes to replenish their oxygen supplies. Usually, by the time we arrive, they have finished their surfacing and are ready to dive again foraging for deep-sea squid.

Leaving the whales, we continued along - Steve, one of our whale spotters, caught sight of some splashes. We headed over and found a school of Pantropical Spotted Dolphins. There were 15 to 20 surfacing at any one time and probably two or three times that many under water. Some had small calves while others were sub-adults with fewer spots. The animals swam around our boat bow riding before seeking out two other nearby boats. As we circled around, the dolphins came back to join us. This species of dolphin is common here in St Lucia - small groups are usual, though sometimes super-pods can reach into the thousands. They feed near the surface and in mid-water looking for fish, squids and other sealife.

The odd Brown Booby flew past the boat and a Magnificent Frigatebird drifted overhead, shortly joined by a Pomarine Skua. As we sailed along, various shoals of flying fish shot out of the water away from the boat.

Towards the end of our trip we headed to the bay at Soufrière 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 with the sheer numbers present. There were hundreds just at the entrance to the cave, and we watched as some fluttered to a new perch or tussled for a new space to hang. Overhead, five or six frigatebirds, including an adult male with his red throat, drifted by. Two boobies took off from the water and a White-tailed Tropicbird flew high in the blue sky before returning low towards the nearby cliffs. This species is scarce in St Lucia and the Lesser Antilles so was a good spot. An Osprey sporting a blue-green wing tag flew along the cliffs and landed in a tree where it became invisible. Large white splotches on the cliffs were telltale signs of where Brown Boobies roost; three were perched on the cliffs close to Anse Chastanet.

We arrived back just before midday in good time for lunch and a relaxing afternoon on the beach, snorkeling or taking a water taxi to Soufrière.

We met again in the bar to complete our checklist for the day and order some drinks, then headed to the Treehouse Restaurant for a relaxing evening of food and drink. From the balcony where we sat doing the checklist, a sliver of moon was just appearing in the night sky: a post-new moon which moved towards the horizon while we sat. It had followed a stunning sunset over the sea.

Day 5

Tuesday 12th January

Millet Trail

We left at 5.30am and headed north to the Millet Trail, a rainforest reserve. It had been a cooler night and mist hung in the Roseau Valley where banana plantations provide supplies for supermarkets in the UK. We arrived at Millet at just after 7am and were joined by our guides Pam and Justin who work for the forestry department. Mano, our hotel guide, had also come. 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. They were feeding on coconut that had dropped to the ground. The male looks like that of a Lesser Antillean Bullfinch but lacks the red facial markings and has pink legs. The female meanwhile resembles a female finch but has pink legs and a greyer head. The male was flicking his tail, something you don't see in the bullfinches.

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. A Pearly-eyed Thrasher was also tucking into a coconut giving nice views of its pale bill and eyes.

As we looked out across the views of the mountains, forest and a reservoir, the trees were busy with birds. A Caribbean Elaenia remained elusive but was seen by some. Bananaquits squeaked above while bullfinches were common around the coconuts. And a pair of Lesser Antillean Flycatchers was obliging and perched nearby, as Pam and Mano made their own squeaking sounds to raise their curiosity. Meanwhile, a pair of Mangrove Cuckoos was giving occasional close views, in between chasing each other or mating. A Lesser Antillean Saltator perched out in the open for a short while too. Amongst the trees Purple-throated Carib and Green-throated Carib both made appearances, the former often perching just long enough for people to find it. The odd St Lucia Parrot called in the distance. One of the views looked out across stands of tree ferns on the mountain slopes of Mount Gimie, the largest mountain in St Lucia. Its peak was shrouded in cloud. Just as we were about to move on, an obliging St Lucia Oriole flew into the trees above us sporting his bright yellow and black plumage and steely-grey legs. As we walked back to the main building, a St Lucia Warbler sang nearby.

We paused shortly before continuing on to another trail. 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.

A Grey Trembler was singing, along with the odd St Lucia Warbler. A male Antillean Crested Hummingbird sat out on different branches in between feeding on long, pink flowers. We stopped and sat to watch what birds would come to a set of coconut feeders - a female Black Finch came to feed, as did another Pearly-eye Thrasher. We headed back up the forest steps and stopped for some early lunch by the vehicles. A close Broad-winged Hawk flew overhead while another called from the nearby trees. A Purple-throated Carib was perched in a tree and some saw another oriole and a Scaly-breasted Thrasher. A few Black-faced Grassquits fed by some plant pots, and Bananaquits and bullfinches came to some bananas and apples spiked on the nearby fencing. Mano saw a Bare-eyed Thrush slip away but it was missed by most. Part of the soundscape included the calls of Red-nouted Tree Frogs which resembled the sounds of a mobile phone bleeping.

At 11am we headed back to Soufrière, through the villages of Anse la Raye and Canaries. We stopped at the lower entrance of Anse Chastanet to look at many striking Frangipani Hawk-moth caterpillars feeding on Allamanda shrubs. We looked for some Scaly-naped Pigeons without any luck but admired calabash fruits growing on nearby trees and had photos taken by the huge entrance name instead.

Back at Anse Chastanet everyone was able to relax for the afternoon. It was overcast with less intense sunshine compared to yesterday. We met together in the evening on the beach for a lovely buffet meal 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 13th January

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

After we had seen no rain for most of the week, this morning saw a deluge. However, just after breakfast the rain eased off and the rest of the day was sunny and hot.

We boarded our catamaran at 8am, meeting Steve and Andrew again from our dolphin trip on Monday, plus a new skipper Wendell. We sailed 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 being entering the port of Castries. During the journey we saw a first for this tour, a Brown Pelican. They are more common later in the year but usually absent now. We also saw 15 Royal Terns, a few Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Boobies, and a single Laughing Gull. Various flying fishes glided away from the boat as we sailed on.

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 on a gentle one-hour tour through and over the rainforest. Experienced guide Jesse and his colleague Irwin gave a running commentary throughout. We were already 600ft above sea level and we travelled up to 1400ft, passing from the forest floor with openings covered in lesser clubmosses (spikemosses or *Selaginella*), through the understorey of ferns and tree ferns, and 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. The island of Martinique was also clearly visible.

During the tour the group had close views of foraging St Lucia Warblers, a Green-throated Carib and Purple-throated Caribs perching on their favourite branches close to the ride. Bananaquits squeaked in the trees above. A Pearly-eyed Thrasher was also in a tree. The front carriage watched a hummingbird harassing a lizard that didn't quite know which way to turn.

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 were just starting to flower - they sport a mixture of yellow, orange and red flowers: yellow when they just emerge, orange when they

are pollinated, and red prior to them shrivelling up and developing in to 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, *Heliconias*, strangler fig trees, nutmeg trees, fig trees 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* woody vine, produces a complicated green flower arrangement that looks like an umbrella. The Swizzlestick Tree or Bwa lèlè has an arrangement of five branches coming out of the trunk at regular intervals - the branches may be cut to within a few inches of the thin stem which is cut to a foot in length. This may then be used as a whisk as just one example. Hanging vines of the wild passion fruit stream down from the trees and can be swung from like the fictional Tarzan.

After the ride we had a walk through the forest to see the foliage from ground level, including the Lansan Tree, strangler fig trees, ferns and various *Heliconias*. A St Lucia Warbler foraged nearby and, across the stream, a land crab was seen briefly. Jesse could smell the distinctive scent of a boa snake but it wasn't to be seen. Before we turned back along the path, a St Lucia Pewee was calling and fly-catching. Along the route back another warbler gave by confiding views. Three St Lucia Anole Lizards were also showing well on different trees - Irwin caught one, a male, for us to see close. They have a distinctive dewlap under their chin which the females lack. As we neared the end of our walk we passed an area that had been planted specifically for hummingbirds - there were lots of plants with colourful, tubular flowers. There was also an artificial nectar feeder where a Purple-throated Carib was holding territory and busy preening. A Frangipani shrub was home to many small Frangipani Hawk-moth caterpillars. Two Grey Kingbirds perched nearby and a Black-whiskered Vireo was feeding in a tree above.

After quick refreshments and a stop in the gift shop, we headed back down the mountains to Castries and our boat. Before we left and ate lunch 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 or perching on branches. A juvenile Black-crowned Night Heron sat out on a branch in the sunshine. Two Snowy Egrets flew across the lily pond and began foraging near a Common Gallinule. And a Green Heron flew out of the lilies while another perched in a tree.

We headed back to Anse Chastanet in hot glorious sunshine, enjoying our pasta lunch and beautiful views before arriving back at 3pm in time for a snorkel or a snooze. We met again for a relaxing evening in the hotel's Treehouse restaurant at 6.45pm.

Day 7

Thursday 14th January

Emeralds Estate and Sulphur Springs; 29°C

To catch up on a few birds not yet seen so well, some of the group met at 6.30am before breakfast and headed down towards the beach. Inspecting the bushes and quieter areas of the hotel, especially near to the entrance, we caught up with St Lucia Pewee, a skulking Bare-eyed Thrush, a singing Tropical Mockingbird, a Caribbean

Elaenia, St Lucia Warbler and heard a House Wren. Back at the Treehouse restaurant we watched the finches and Bananaquits coming to some food - a splendid Grey Tumbler came to join them.

After breakfast we met at 8.30am for our trip to Sulphur Springs, a nearby drive-in caldera (collapsed volcano); prior to leaving some of the group were watching half a dozen Common Ground Doves and a Tropical Mockingbird. At the beach of Soufrière an Osprey was flying overhead.

We set off to Sulphur Springs which is just on the other side of Soufrière, 15 minutes from where we were staying. The collapsed volcano, known as a caldera, gets its name from the 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 walk along the pathways looking out across the moon-like landscape with steam rising up and the smell of sulphur (bad egg) coming from the hydrogen sulphide. 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 a combination of 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 on our walk up. In amongst the trees we found a Scaly-breasted Thrasher, St Lucia Warbler, Antillean Crested Hummingbird and a very obliging Caribbean Elaenia.

Leaving Sulphur Springs we stopped briefly at a viewpoint looking out across Soufrière – below, 15 Laughing Gulls were flying around and three frigatebirds were gliding with their long, arched wings. 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. Chef Elijah, along with gardeners Bryton and Martin, showed us a variety of plants they are growing from okra to cocoa. We saw a huge variety of fruit, vegetables and plants including freshly sliced turmeric, a Cinnamon Tree; common herbs including garlic chives, banana and plantain trees, passion fruits, micro salads (picked within four days of being sown) and flowering egg plants. The estate has 1,000 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. And, as on our first day with Mano, we tried the sweet goo inside that surrounds the 20 - 30 cocoa beans.

Chef Elijah and his sous chef Salvatore, both working at the sister hotel Jade Mountain, then performed a cooking demonstration showing us how to make a simple surf 'n' turf dish using duck breast and prawns. The table in front of us was adorned with banana leaves and covered in delicious looking greens and fruits. As a snack they provided chopped up coconut, delicious banana cake and small cookies. The duck breasts were quietly cooking gently on the pan and taken out to rest. Meanwhile Elijah marinated the king prawns in a bowl of kosher salt, freshly made garlic paste, rosemary, thyme, coriander, Madras curry spice and olive oil. And Salvatore prepared a colourful tasty salad comprising juicy green oranges (ripe), tomatoes, bell peppers, red gem lettuce, olive oil, squeezed passion fruit juice and salt. The prawn mix was then cooked up in the duck fat and

placed into a bowl where a few knobs of British butter were added. The duck breasts were sliced lengthwise. The chefs then served up the salad with a slice of duck and a few prawns on top, garnished with a lime and honey sauce. It was delicious.

It was a super morning finding 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 at 6.30pm for our checklist and enjoyed some cocktails with some of the management staff before heading for the Apsara beach restaurant.

Day 8

Friday 15th January

Dolphin Watching; 27°C

Eight of the group went on a whale and dolphin trip at 8.30am while others went birding around the hotel or popped to Soufrière. On the boat we were joined by watchers and boatmen Xystus, Andel and Steve. Within half an hour, we were watching a school of 60 or more Pantropical Spotted Dolphins. They were in feeding mode and swimming away from us without much interest in the boat. A small number did bow ride, however, and one individual splashed out of the water. As they swam on, we continued looking out across the sea. Still within the first hour of our tour we spotted the shallow blows of Sperm Whales. We headed over and watched a female with her calf surfacing - the young animal disappeared for periods, probably suckling under water. The female then dived, revealing her tail, while the calf continued swimming in the direction of the island. During the next hour we saw another three or four whales surfacing for five or ten minutes before shallow diving or deep diving. We then found the same calf, or more likely a different calf, at the surface. It came close to the boat before heading away towards another whale. It then breached out of the water and splashed lots before joining the adult, presumably its mum or helper. The two continued to surface. They then made some larger blows, bobbed and deep dived. The female went first closely followed by the calf and its much smaller fluke.

During the tour there were just a few birds around. A Masked Booby, infrequent here, flew past and dived like a Northern Gannet, dropping straight from above. A Pomarine Skua and a Brown Booby also flew past. The sea was full of flying fishes gliding away from the boat as we sailed. We arrived back at 11.30am in time to finish packing and check out at midday.

Those that had stayed behind for the morning had seen Green Heron, Little Blue Heron, Scaly-breasted Thrasher, Grey Trembler, Less Antillean Saltator, Black-faced Grassquits and the usual suspects.

We all met again at 12.15pm for the final checklist and goodbyes - Jane and Stephen were off on the earlier flight to Trinidad to then fly on to Grenada for five days. The rest of us stopped for lunch and met together again at 5.15pm to say our goodbyes as Brian, Fiona, Clive and Phil were staying for a little longer. We headed off to the airport with a chance to see the countryside and landscapes before it got too dark.

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

Day 9

Saturday 16th January

Arrive UK

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, cold frosty day in Sussex.

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Adult Sperm Whale

Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>			6					
2	White-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>				1				
3	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelicanus occidentalis</i>						1		
4	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	1	2	2	6		2	2	1
5	Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>								1
6	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>		2	2	6	1	2	3	7
7	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		1	1					
8	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		1	6			1		2
9	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1	1	10			2	1	
10	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	6	1	20	12	6	100	4	2
11	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>		1	1			3		
12	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						1		
13	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>			300					
14	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>			3					
15	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>			2					
16	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			3	1			1	
17	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>		1	2		3	4	2	
18	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>		2	1	1	2	2	2	2
19	Caribbean Coot	<i>Fulica caribaea</i>			30					
20	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>			2					
21	Antillean Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata cerceris</i>			20			1		
22	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>			2					
23	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>			2					
24	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>		2	1	1	1	1	1	1
25	Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>						1	15	
26	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maxima</i>						15		
27	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>				1				1
28	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓				2			
29	Scaly-naped Pigeon	<i>Patagioenus squamosa</i>		✓	✓					

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
30	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>			30					
31	Ruddy Quail-Dove	<i>Geotrygon montana</i>		1						
32	Zenaida Dove	<i>Zenaida aurita</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	2		15					
34	Common Ground Dove	<i>Collumbina passerina</i>		4		6	4	2	6	✓
35	St Lucia Parrot	<i>Amazona versicolor</i>			8		H			
36	Mangrove Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>		1	H		2			
37	Lesser Antillean Swift	<i>Chaetura martinica</i>			4					
38	Purple-throated Carib	<i>Eulampis jugularis</i>			6		1	6		
39	Green-throated Carib	<i>Eulampis holosericeus</i>		2	1		1	1		
40	Antillean Crested Hummingbird	<i>Orthorhyncus cristatus</i>		4	1	1	2	2	2	1
41	Lesser Antillean Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus oberi</i>			H		2			
42	Caribbean Elaenia	<i>Elaenia martinica</i>					1		2	
43	St Lucia Pewee	<i>Contopus oberi</i>		4	2		H	1	2	1
44	Grey Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>	4	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			6					
46	Cliff Swallow	<i>Pterochelidon pyrrhonota</i>			6					
47	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>		H				1	H	H
48	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	2	2	H	2	H	H	2	1
49	Grey Trembler	<i>Cinclocerthia gutturalis</i>		1	1		H		1	1
50	Scaly-breasted Thrasher	<i>Allenia fusca</i>		2	3	1	1		1	1
51	Pearly-eyed Thrasher	<i>Margarops fuscata</i>		1	4		2	1		
52	Rufous-throated Solitaire	<i>Myadestes genibarbis</i>			2					
53	Bare-eyed Thrush	<i>Turdus nudigenis</i>					1		1	1
54	Black-whiskered Vireo	<i>Vireo altoquus</i>			2			1		
55	Antillean Euphonia	<i>Euphonia musica</i>			2					
56	St Lucia Warbler	<i>Dendroica delicata</i>		6	H		2	6	2	
57	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Black-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris bicolor</i>		2	1		2	12	8	8
59	St Lucia Black Finch	<i>Melanospiza richardsoni</i>		2	2		3			
60	Lesser Antillean Bullfinch	<i>Loxigilla noctis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61	Lesser Antillean Saltator	<i>Saltator albicollis</i>		3			1	1	2	1

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
62	Carib Grackle	<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	8	1	6					
64	St Lucia Oriole	<i>Icterus laudabills</i>		2	H		2			

Reptiles and Amphibians

1	Watts' Anole Lizard	<i>Anolis watsi watsi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	St Lucia Anole Lizard	<i>Anolis luciae</i>			1		3			
3	Lesser Antillean or Johnstone's Whistling Frog	<i>Eleutherodactylus johnstonei</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Red-snouted Tree Frog	<i>Scinax ruber</i>		H			H			
5	Hawksbill Turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>							1	

Mammals

1	Pantropical Spotted Dolphins	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>				20				60
2	Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>				5				6
3	Small Asian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes javanicus</i>			4					1
4	Common Free-tailed Bat	<i>Molossus molossus molossus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Antillean Fruit Bat	<i>Brachyphylla cavernarum cavernarum</i>				✓				

Invertebrates

	Crabs									
1	Ghost Crab	<i>Ocypode quadrata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Land Crab	<i>Gecarcinus ruricola</i>		1	1			1		
3	Spotted Spiny Lobster	<i>Panulirus guttatus</i>		✓	✓					

Other inverts

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

Butterflies, Moths and Dragonflies

1	Broken Dash	<i>Wallengrenia otho</i>					1			
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	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
2	Long-tailed Skipper	<i>Urbanus proteus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Great Southern White	<i>Ascia monuste</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Gulf Fritillary	<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>		1						
5	Flambeau	<i>Dryas iulia</i>						1		
6	Little Yellow	<i>Eurema lisa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Blackwitch Moth	<i>Ascalapha odorata</i>						1		
8	Frangipani Hawkmoth caterpillars	<i>Pseudosphinx tetrio</i>			✓		✓	✓		
9	Antillean Skimmer	<i>Orthemis macrostigma</i>		1	1					
10	Gold Rim Swallowtail	<i>Battus polydamous</i>						1		
11	Orcus Checkered Skipper	<i>Pyrgus orcus</i>			2					
12	Large Orange Sulphur	<i>Phoebis agarithe</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
13	Hanno Blue	<i>Hemiargos hanno</i>		2					✓	

Plants

1	African Tulip Tree	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>		✓				✓	✓	
2	Tropical Almond	<i>Terminalia catappa</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Anthurium	<i>Anthurium andraeanum</i>			✓					
4	Avocado	<i>Persea americana</i>							✓	
5	Agave	<i>Agave caribaeicola</i>			✓	✓				
6	Bamboo	<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Banana	<i>Musa x paradisiaca</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
8	West Indian Bayleaf	<i>Pimenta racemosa</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Bird-of-Paradise	<i>Heliconia psittacorum</i>						✓	✓	✓
10	Black Mangrove	<i>Avicennia germinans</i>						✓		
11	Blue Mahoe Tree	<i>Talipariti elatum</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Boit Canot	<i>Cecropia peltata</i>					✓			
13	Breadfruit	<i>Artocarpus altilis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Bromeliads		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
15	Cacti	<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>								

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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>Theoboma cacao</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
25	Coconut	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
26	Crantzia	<i>Crantzia cristat</i>		✓						
27	Dasheen	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
28	Fig	<i>Ficus citrifolia</i>						✓		
29	Red Ginger	<i>Alpinia purpurata</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
30	Golden Apple	<i>Spondias dulcis</i>		Y					✓	
31	Gommier Tree	<i>Dacryodes excelsa</i>		✓	✓		✓			
32	Grapefruit	<i>Citrus x paradisi</i>		✓			✓		✓	
33	Heliconia	<i>Heliconia caribaea</i>			✓			✓		
34	Heliconia	<i>Heliconia bihai</i>								
35	Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>					✓	✓		
36	Lansan Tree (Incense Tree)	<i>Protium attenuatum</i>			✓			✓		
37	Lemon Grass	<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>							✓	
38	Lime	<i>Phaeolus lunatus</i>		✓			✓		✓	
39	Mango	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
40	Monkey Paws	<i>Marcgravia umbellata</i>						✓		
41	Mimosa	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>		✓	✓					
42	Mistletoe	<i>Phoradendron trinervium</i>						✓		
43	Norfolk Island Pine	<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>							✓	
44	Nutmeg	<i>Myristica fragrans</i>							✓	
45	Sour Orange	<i>Citrus x aurantium</i>							✓	
46	Orange	<i>Citrus x sinensis</i>		✓					✓	
47	Plantain	<i>Musa x paradisisaca</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
48	Red Birch	<i>Myrcia citrifolia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
49	Rubber Tree	<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
50	Soursop	<i>Annoca muricata</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
51	Strangler Fig	<i>Ficus</i> spp						✓		
52	Surinam Cherry	<i>Eugenia uniflora</i>							✓	
53	Swizzlestick tree	<i>Quaroribea turbinara</i>						✓		
54	Tangerine	<i>Citrus reticulata</i>		✓					✓	✓
55	Tapura Tree	<i>Tapura latifolia</i>						✓		
56	Teak Tree	<i>Tectona grandis</i>		✓						
57	Ti kannou	<i>Asplundia rigida</i>			✓		✓			
58	Tree Fern	<i>Cyathea arborea</i>			✓			✓	✓	
59	Vanilla	<i>Vanilla planifolia</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓
60	West Indies Mahogany Tree	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>						✓		
61	Wild Passion Fruit	<i>Passiflora</i> sp.						✓		
62	Turtle Grass	<i>Thalassia testudinum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Sargassum Seaweed	<i>Sargassum fluitans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Sea life noted on 8th January

Fish

Flying Fish, *Cypselurus* spp

Yellowhead Wrasse , *Halichoerus garoti*

Striped Parrotfish, *Scarus iserti*

Yellowtail Parrotfish, *Sparisoma rubripinne*

Sergeant Major, *Abudefduf saratilis*

Dusky Damselfish, *Steastes fuscus*

Blue Chromis, *Chromis cyanea*

Cleaning Goby, *Gobiosoma genie*

Fairy Basslet, *Gramma loreta*

Caesar Grunt, *Haemulon carbonarium*

Foureye Butterfish, *Chaetodon capistratus*

Whitespotted Filefish, *Cantherhines macroceros*

French Angelfish, *Pomacanthus paru*

Trumpetfish, *Aulostomus maculatus*

Redband Parrotfish, *Sparisoma aurofrenatum*

Blue Parrotfish, *Scarus coeruleus*

Puddingwife, *Halichoeres radiatus*

Yellowtail Damsel, *Microspathodon chrysurus*

Yellowtail Snapper, *Ocyurus chrysurus*

Banded Butterfly, *Chaetodon striatus*

Slippery Dick, *Halichoeres bivittatus*

Smallmouth Grunt, *Haemulon chrysargyreum*

Ocean Surgeon, *Acanthurus bahianus*

Orange-spotted Filefish, *Cantherhines pullus*

Smooth Trunkfish, *Lactophrys triqueter*

Lion fish, *Pterois* sp.

Sharpnose Puffer, *Canthigaster rostrata*

Stoplight Parrotfish, *Sparisoma viridate*

Queen Parrotfish , *Searus vetula*

Brown Chromis , *Chromis multilineata*

Bicolour Damselfish, *Stegastes partitus*

Blue Tang, *Acanthurus coeruleus*

Bluehead Wrasse, *Thalassoma bifasciatum*

Yellow Goatfish, *Mulloidichthys martinicus*

French Grunt, *Haemulon flavolineatum*

Halfbeak,

Scrawled Filefish, *Aluterus scriptus*

Sharptail Eel, *Myrichthys breviceps*

Black Durgon, *Melichthys niger*

Green Moray Eel, *Gymnothorax funebris*
 Peacock Flounder, *Bothus lunatus*
 Rosy Blenny, *Malacoctenus macropus*
 Graysby, *Cephalopholis cruentata*

Spotted Moray Eel, *Gymnothorax moringa*
 Blackbar Soldierfish, *Myripristis jacobus*
 Porcupine Fish, *Diodon holocanthus*
 Squirrelfish, *Holocentrus adscensionis*

Gold spotted Eel, *Myrichthys ocellatus*
 Clown Wrasse, *Halichoeres maculipinna*
 Doctorfish, *Acanthurus chirurgus*

Coral/sponge/associated inverts,

Finger Coral, *Porites porites*
 Common Sea Fan, *Gorgonia ventalina*
 Massive Starlet Coral, *Siderastrea siderea*
 Split-pore Sea Rods, *Plexaurella sp.*
 Yellow Tube Sponge, *Aplysina fistularis*
 Lumpy Overgrowing Sponge, *Holopsamma helwigi*
 Long-spined Urchin, *Diadema antillarum*
 Algae Hydroid, *Thyroscyphus ramosus*

Brain Coral, *Diploria labyrinthiformis*
 Swollen-knob Candelabrum, *Eunicea mammosa*
 Elkhorn Coral, *Acropora palmata*
 Sea Plumes, *Pseudopterogorgia sp.*
 Stinker Sponge, *Ircinia felix*
 Green Finger Sponge, *Iotrochota birotulata*
 Christmas Tree Worm, *Spirobranchus giganteus*
 Mat Zoanthid, *Zoanthus pulchellus*

Symmetrical Brain Coral, *Diplora strigosa*
 Mustard Hill Coral, *Porites astreoides*
 Porous Sea Rods, *Pseudoplexaura sp.*
 Giant Barrel Sponge, *Xestospongia muta*
 Red Boring Sponge, *Cliona delitrix*
 White Scroll Algae, *Padina jamaicensis*
 Social Feather Duster, *Bispira brunnea*
 Spaghetti Worm, *Eupolyornia crassicornis*



Tropical Mockingbird



Male, St Lucia Oriole