



Waterbird Conservation for the Americas
Conservación de las Aves Acuáticas para las Américas

REPORT

WATERBIRDS IN CURAÇAO



(PHOTO: ADOLPHE DEBROT)

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1. Introduction

Curaçao, which is politically part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, is one of the three Netherlands Antillean islands (Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao) that lie off the north-west coast of Venezuela. Curaçao is the middle one of the three islands (c.80 km east of Aruba, and 50 km west of Bonaire), and lies c.70 km off the coast of mainland Venezuela. It is the largest of the three “Leeward” Netherlands Antillean islands and c.56 km long by 4–10 km wide. The island consists of a basaltic centre of volcanic origin, rimmed in the coastal zones by marine limestone terraces. The landscape is rugged and rocky with prominent cliffs. Christoffelberg, at the north-west end of the island, is the highest point in Curaçao. The island has a dry, windy climate with an annual average rainfall of c.550 mm. The resultant vegetation comprises xeric shrubland characterized by columnar cacti. Curaçao possesses several semi-enclosed inland bays, which are densely fringed by mangroves. There are also several enclosed shallow, hypersaline lagoons that are important for waterbirds, as are the numerous man-made freshwater catchment dams, some of which retain significant amounts of fresh water well into the dry season. The island is surrounded by coral reefs and a variety of rocky, sandy or rubble shores.

Curaçao has the largest human population of the Leeward Netherlands Antilles, and about 30% of the island has been occupied by housing and industry. In bygone eras, the vegetation of the island was heavily impacted by agricultural activities such as the cultivation of seasonal crops, charcoal production and livestock grazing. However, traditional agricultural activities have all but ceased due to economic factors, rampant theft of livestock and produce, and an increase in speculative private land ownership. As a consequence, dense secondary woodlands are gradually recuperating from the impacts of man and beast, and are not uncommon, especially on the western half of the island.

2. Protected Areas and Conservation Systems

In Curaçao about 30% of the island surface area has been legally designated as conservation habitat since 1997 by means of a land-use ordinance, the Curaçao Island Development Plan. Environmental policy and implementation is overseen by the Department of Environment and Nature (Ministry of Public Health and Social Development), the Curaçao Urban Planning and Public Housing Service, the Curaçao Environmental Service, and the Curaçao Agricultural and Fishery Service. However, the CARMABI Foundation is the island’s park service and formally manages nine conservation areas distributed around the island amounting to c.3,000 ha of terrestrial and lagoonal habitat (primarily within Northeast Curaçao parks and coastal sites) and 600 ha of coral reefs (in the Curaçao Underwater Park on the leeward side of the island). The 2001 draft nature management plan for Curaçao identifies the need to update and expand all island level protective legislation. However, the plan still awaits ratification by the island council. Government funding for environmental protection and management remains sparse and often non-structural in spite of the recognized importance of the environment to sustainable tourism. In 2006, funding to the island park service (CARMABI Foundation) was cut by 70%. Limited institutional capacity due to insufficient funding has been identified as a key bottleneck to environmental management and conservation in the Netherlands Antilles.

Since 1988 when Defensa Ambiental (Environmental Defense) was founded, the local environmental NGO movement has grown significantly. A number of organizations are currently active, including Amigu di Tera (Friends of the Earth), Reef Care and Kids for Corals (with a focus on coral reefs), Uniek Curaçao (focusing on awareness and guided tours), Korsou Limpi i Bunita (clean ups), and the Stichting Dierenbescherming (animal cruelty and welfare). All of these organizations contribute to general environmental awareness, but none have a significant focus on the island’s avifauna.

The CARMABI Foundation is the only organization that has conducted or supported (albeit intermittent) studies on priority birds, and organized birding excursions and workshops. At present, urbanization through real estate and tourist development, coastal development and disturbance (especially due to tourist-oriented recreational activity) are the principal threats to remaining habitat areas on Curaçao. These factors pose a major threat to the future integrity of the legally designated conservation areas, and the resultant habitat fragmentation (and disturbance) threatens a number of sensitive species such as nesting terns (*Sterna* spp.) and other landbird species. An antiquated ordinance



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dating from 1926 provides limited legal protection to some native bird species (including some terns), but enforcement remains totally lacking.

3. Conservation Initiatives

Since 1988, with the founding of Defensa Ambiental (Environmental Defense), the local environmental movement has grown significantly. Various organizations that are variously active at present include Reef Care (focus on coral reefs), Uniek Curaçao (focus on awareness and guided tours), Korsou Limpi i Bunita (focus on clean ups), and the Stichting Dierenbescherming (focus on animal cruelty and welfare). All of these organizations contribute to awareness in some way or other, but none have a significant focus on avifauna. Carmabi Foundations is the only organization that has intermittently conducted or supported studies on endangered birds in the recent past (e.g. terns, Curaçao Barn Owl, Caribbean Coot, Flamingo), and which has organized birding excursions and workshops.

4. Conservation Concerns

Unbridled urbanization and touristic development poses a major threat to the future integrity of the legally designated conservation areas. In addition fragmentation of island habitats, coastal development and disturbance, especially due to touristically oriented recreational activity form the largest threat to biodiversity on the island. An antiquated ordinance dating from 1926 provides limited legal protection to some native bird species, among which several terns, but enforcement remains totally lacking.

5. International Conservation Agreements

Through the national government of the Netherlands Antilles, Curacao forms party to several conventions and treaties of particular importance to bird conservation. These include the RAMSAR Convention (since 1980), the Bonn Convention on migratory species (since 1983), the Cartagena Convention (since 1985), and its SPAW Protocol (since 1990), as well as the CITES Convention. The national legal framework for nature management and conservation, enacted in 1998 (Landsverordening Grondslagen Natuurbeheer), requires insular implementation yet at the island government level these international obligations are implemented quite poorly if at all.

6. Conservation Needs

The draft nature management plan of 2001 for the island of Curaçao identifies the need to radically update and expand all island level protective legislation. The plan still awaits ratification by the island council. Government funding for environmental protection and management remains sparse and often non-structural, notwithstanding the regionally high per capita GNP and standard of living, and the recognized importance of the environment to sustainable tourism. In 2006, funding to the island park service (Carmabi) was cut by a whopping 70% and the situation is not likely to improve any time soon as island government struggles with high debts and deficits. ECLA (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) has identified the limited institutional capacity due to low funding as a key bottleneck to environmental management and conservation in the Netherlands Antilles.

7. Waterbirds species occurring within Curaçao

Of the 215 species of bird that have been recorded from Curaçao only 57 are resident (current or former) breeding species, the vast majority being migrants, winterers, and occasional vagrants.

Curaçao is globally important for its nesting terns (Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* and Least Tern *S. antillarum*) and for the Near Threatened Caribbean Coot *Fulica caribaea*, the national population sizes of which are listed in Appendix 1. Just two species of tern currently nest on Curaçao, but Royal Tern *S.*



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maxima, “Cayenne” Tern *S. sandvicensis eurygnatha* and Roseate Tern *S. dougalli* all bred during the twentieth century. The relatively large size of Curaçao, the wide variety of habitats, and the more pristine and diverse state of its vegetation compared to the smaller and still more pastoral neighboring islands of Aruba and Bonaire, mean that Curaçao provides some of the best opportunities for protecting native bird diversity in the Leeward Netherlands Antilles.

8. Locations and descriptions of key sites used by aquatic species

All of the sites have urgent management requirements if the populations of the birds for which they are internationally important are to thrive. However, securing disturbance free zones around the tern nesting colonies appears to be one of the greatest needs. If implemented effectively, the tern populations would increase dramatically (as seen at the protected colonies on Aruba) and perhaps some of the 1,200 pairs of “Cayenne” Tern *S. sandvicensis eurygnatha* that used to breed (pre-1962) at Jan Thiel Lagoon might return. Monitoring the populations of the terns and waterbirds should be used for the assessment of state, pressure and response variables in order to provide an objective status assessment as well as to highlight management interventions that might be required to maintain these internationally important biodiversity sites.

KEY SITES

1. North-east Curaçao parks and coastal (12°21'N 69°06'W)

- **Location:** It extends along coast from Westpunt and Noordpunt at the northern end of island around the northern tip and east along coast through Playa Grandi and ending near Hato airport. At the northern end of the island it extends inland from the 100-ha coastal Shete Boka National Park to include the 2,000-ha Christoffel National Park.
- **Size:** 13,555 ha
- **Habitats:** The area comprises coastal limestone terraces and inland hills supporting evergreen woodland, coastal lagoons with sea grass beds and mangroves, and dry deciduous shrubland on volcanic soils. Christoffel National Park supports one of largest contiguous blocks of shrubland remaining on island.
- **Conservation Status:** It is largely state owned. The Shete Boka and Christoffel national parks are managed by the CARMABI Foundation, and the rest is legally designated as Protected Conservation Area but is unmanaged. Extensive research on all aspects of the ecology, biology and geology of this area has been carried out by CARMABI and visiting scientists.
- **Importance:** It is regionally significant for its breeding colony of 500+ Least Terns *Sterna antillarum*. There is a Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* roosts of c.12 birds within the IBA, and just offshore are important feeding areas for this species and the terns.
- **Threats:** The tern colonies are threatened by disturbance from humans, and disturbance and predation from feral dogs and cats. Free-ranging goats have impacted the shrubland in Christoffel National Park, but eradication measures have lead to a recovery in vegetation. Elsewhere, illegal livestock rearing is increasing, as is illegal dumping, and effective management is urgently needed..
- **Recommendations:**
- **Involved institutions:**

2. Malpais–St Michiel (12°09'N 68°59'W)

- **Location:** It is on the southern side of central Curaçao. It is an area of basalt rock over-capped by coralline limestone hills. Malpais is a former plantation, just north of St Michiel Bay
- **Size:** 1,100 ha



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- **Habitats:** Includes: two freshwater lakes (created by a dam) which retain at least some water during most dry seasons; a hyper-saline lagoon at St Michiel (on the south coast c.5 km north-west of Willemstad, lying inland from the coral reef-fringed bay); dry deciduous vegetation (on the volcanic soils); and a well developed *Coccoloba swartzii*–*Erithal fruticosa* woodland habitat on the limestone.
- **Conservation Status:** It is under mixed (private and state) ownership. The Malpais area is managed as part of a conservation area and has excellent well-signed and designated hiking trails which are maintained by the local conservation organisation Uniek Curaçao. The island's increasingly large dumpsite is just north and upstream of the Malpais freshwater ponds.
- **Importance:** This IBA is significant for the Near Threatened Caribbean Coot *Fulica caribaea* which breeds at Malpais (numbers regularly exceed 100). The St Michiel lagoon supports a globally important population (15 pairs) of Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, and is one of a network of sites supporting Curaçao's Caribbean Flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber*.
- **Threats:** The dumpsite (and pig farm) near the Malpais ponds pose a potential threat of wetland contamination. Uncontrolled recreational access by hikers (and dog walkers) is a threat to birds and other fauna. Poor maintenance of the dam may result in one of the two lakes drying out during prolonged dry seasons, significantly decreasing the area's value for waterbirds and the endemic fish. The main threat at St Michiel is uncontrolled public access that disturbs the flamingos (the nesting terns are located on the less disturbed west side of the lagoon).
- **Recommendations:**
- **Involved institutions:** The CARMABI Foundation and Zoological Museum of Amsterdam have carried out research in this IBA.

3. Muizenberg (12°09'N 68°55'W)

- **Location:** It comprises an intermittent shallow lake/wetland in the northern suburbs of Willemstad, central Curaçao.
- **Size:** 65 ha
- **Habitats:** The wetland typically retains some water for more than six months each year (and in wetter years water can be present year-round). Periodically inundated grassland and shrubland surround the wetland.
- **Conservation Status:** It is state owned and legally designated as protected parkland, although it is not being actively managed. Although it is one of Curaçao's two most important and rare freshwater areas, no biological conservation or research projects are known to have been implemented at the site apart from the Zoological Museum of Amsterdam's 2006 inventory of waterbirds and freshwater fish.
- **Importance:** It is significant for its population of Near Threatened Caribbean Coot *Fulica caribaea*. The species is a resident breeder, with congregations of up to 800 birds during the wet season. Caribbean Flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber* occasionally feed in the wetlands, with flocks of up to 170 birds recorded. Many other waterbirds (both residents and migrants) are supported within this site.
- **Threats:** It is threatened by the unregulated dumping of garbage, pollution, drainage of surrounding wetlands and recreational disturbance.
- **Recommendations:**
- **Involved institutions:**

4. Jan Thiel Lagoon (12°09'N 68°55'W)

- **Location:** It is on the south coast of southern Curaçao, east of Willemstad.
- **Size:** 430 ha



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- **Habitats:** The site comprises 80 ha of hyper-saline lagoons (with islands) surrounded by c.228 hectares of dry deciduous woodlands and (on the limestone) evergreen shrubland. The vegetation near the margins of the lagoon is characterized by water and salt-tolerant tree species. There is also one spring and several abandoned dams within the IBA which support fresh water during the rainy season, significantly increasing the diversity of habitats
- **Conservation Status:** It is a part state- and part privately-owned conservation area. A management plan developed by the CARMABI Foundation has been approved by the government, but implementation has not been financed.
- **Importance:** The population of Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (75 pairs) is globally significant, while the fluctuating population of 10–60 pairs of Least Tern *S. antillarum* is regionally so. Up to 1,200 pairs of Sandwich Tern *S. sandvicensis* used to breed (pre-1962) but disturbance has reduced numbers to insignificant levels. The lagoon is an important foraging area for the 200–300 Caribbean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* that occur on the island. The IBA is also important for migratory shorebirds and other migrants.
- **Threats:** Uncontrolled public recreational access has resulted in a c.90% reduction of breeding terns. With adequate protection, tern (and flamingo) abundance will certainly recover. In 1999, the government proposed to build a road through the conservation area, but the plans were successfully contested in court (by the local environmental group Defensa Ambiental). An abandoned, unsealed landfill bordering the lagoon is an unquantified threat.
- **Recommendations:**
- **Involved institutions:**

5. Klein Curaçao (12°09'N 68°55'W)

- **Location:** It is a small (c.170 ha), flat, offshore reef island about 10 km south-east of the south-easternmost point of Curaçao.
- **Size:** 1,130 ha
- **Habitats:** The Island was originally well-vegetated but was extensively mined for phosphate in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and overgrazed by livestock since the 1800s. As a consequence, the island has been devoid of all trees and bushes for more than 100 years. Up until 2000 the vegetation consisted of a few small herbs and grasses but since a highly successful restoration project, the native flora has grown and landscape changes are taking place rapidly.
- **Conservation Status:** The island is state owned, legally designated as “open land”, and thus has no protected status (in spite of requests for such by the CARMABI Foundation). Feral goats were eradicated from the island in 1996 by the Curaçao Agriculture and Animal Husbandry and Fishery Service. Feral cats were eliminated by CARMABI in 2004. These two successful eradications have paved the way for ecological recovery which has been assisted (since 2000) by CARMABI through the planting of drought and salt resistant native trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses.
- **Importance:** This IBA is significant for its breeding population of Least Tern *Sterna antillarum*, 286 of which nested in 2002, making this globally important.
- **Threats:** The island’s main threat is now disturbance from uncontrolled recreational access by over 600 visitors per week (in 2006).
- **Recommendations:**
- **Involved institutions:**



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9. Formal and informal international instruments for aquatic bird conservation:

- ❖ Ramsar Convention: Convention on Wetlands of International Importance = *Signed and ratified*
- ❖ SPAW Protocol to the Cartagena Convention: Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region = *Signed and ratified*
- ❖ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) = *Signed and ratified*
- ❖ World Heritage Convention (WHC) = *Signed and ratified*
- ❖ Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) = *Signed and ratified*
- ❖ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) = *Signed and ratified*

10. References/experts consulted

Institution	Address	Telephone	Email	Name	Contribution to the report
Vogelbescherming Nederlands				Bert Denneman	
Applied Ecological Solutions Inc.				Adrian del Nevo	
Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance				Kalli de Meyer	
Zoological Museum Amsterdam				Vincent Nijman	
Zoological Museum Amsterdam				Tineke Prins	

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Table 1. Waterbirds occurrence, distribution, habitat and population estimates in Curaçao.									
Family	Species	English name	Category (IUCN)	Occurrence	Habitat	National population estimate	Distribution	In-country trends	References
Anatidae	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	Fulvous Whistling-duck	LC						
Anatidae	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	White-faced Whistling-duck	LC						
Anatidae	<i>Dendrocygna arborea</i>	West Indian Whistling-duck	VU	Vagrant					
Anatidae	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	Black-bellied Whistling-duck	LC						
Anatidae	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Greater White-fronted Goose	LC	Vagrant					
Anatidae	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	Comb Duck	LC						
Anatidae	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Wood Duck	LC	Vagrant					
Anatidae	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Gadwall	LC	Passage					
Anatidae	<i>Anas americana</i>	American Wigeon	LC						
Anatidae	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	LC						
Anatidae	<i>Anas discors</i>	Blue-winged Teal	LC						
Anatidae	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Northern Shoveler	LC						
Anatidae	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>	White-cheeked Pintail	LC		Inland wetland, shrubland, salina		Malpais-St Michiel		Debrot and Wells 2008
Anatidae	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail	LC						
Anatidae	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Ring-necked Duck	LC						
Anatidae	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Greater Scaup	LC	Passage					
Anatidae	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Lesser Scaup	LC						
Anatidae	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Bufflehead	LC	Rare					
Anatidae	<i>Nomonyx dominicus</i>	Masked Duck	LC						
Anatidae	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Ruddy Duck	LC	Passage					



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Procellariidae	<i>Pterodroma hasitata</i>	Black-capped Petrel	EN	Vagrant					
Procellariidae	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>	Great Shearwater	LC	Vagrant					
Procellariidae	<i>Puffinus lherminieri</i>	Audubon's Shearwater	LC	Resident					
Procellariidae	<i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>	Bulwer's Petrel	LC						
Hydrobatidae	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Wilson's Storm-petrel	LC						
Hydrobatidae	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	Leach's Storm-petrel	LC						
Podicipedidae	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>	Least Grebe	LC						
Podicipedidae	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Pied-billed Grebe	LC						
Phoenicopteridae	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	Caribbean Flamingo	LC	Breeding	Inland wetland, shrubland, salina, artificial wetland, woodland		Jan Thiel Lagoon, Malpais-St Michiel, Muizenberg	Stable	Debrot and Wells 2008
Ciconiidae	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	LC						
Threskiornithidae	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	White Ibis	LC						
Threskiornithidae	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>	Scarlet Ibis	LC						
Threskiornithidae	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy Ibis	LC						
Threskiornithidae	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	White-faced Ibis	LC						
Threskiornithidae	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	Roseate Spoonbill	LC						
Ardeidae	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>	Boat-billed Heron	LC						
Ardeidae	<i>Botaurus pinnatus</i>	Pinnated Bittern	LC						
Ardeidae	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night-heron	LC						
Ardeidae	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	Yellow-crowned Night-heron	LC						
Ardeidae	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Green Heron	LC						
Ardeidae	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret	LC						
Ardeidae	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron	LC						
Ardeidae	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Great Egret	LC						
Ardeidae	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	Reddish Egret	LC						
Ardeidae	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Tricoloured Heron	LC						
Ardeidae	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little Blue Heron	LC						



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Ardeidae	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	LC	Rare					
Ardeidae	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Snowy Egret	LC						
Phaethontidae	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>	Red-billed Tropicbird	LC						
Phaethontidae	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	White-tailed Tropicbird	LC						
Fregatidae	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Magnificent Frigatebird	LC						
Pelecanidae	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	American White Pelican	LC	Vagrant					
Pelecanidae	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Brown Pelican	LC						
Sulidae	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>	Masked Booby	LC						
Sulidae	<i>Sula sula</i>	Red-footed Booby	LC						
Sulidae	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	Brown Booby	LC					Stable	
Phalacrocoracidae	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	Neotropic Cormorant	LC						
Phalacrocoracidae	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Double-crested Cormorant	LC	Vagrant					
Rallidae	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	Sora	LC						
Rallidae	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	Purple Gallinule	LC						
Rallidae	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen	LC						
Rallidae	<i>Fulica americana</i>	American Coot	LC	Passage					
Rallidae	<i>Fulica caribaea</i>	Caribbean Coot	NT	Non Breeding	Inland wetland, shrubland, salina, artificial wetland	1,000	Malpais-St Michiel, Muizenberg	Stable	Debrot and Wells 2008
Aramidae	<i>Aramus guarana</i>	Limpkin	LC						
Burhinidae	<i>Burhinus bistriatus</i>	Double-striped Thick-knee	LC						
Haematopodidae	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	American Oystercatcher	LC						
Recurvirostridae	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt	LC	Resident					



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Recurvirostridae	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	Black-necked Stilt	LC		Inland wetland, shrubland, salina, artificial wetland		Malpais-St Michiel, Muizenberg		Debrot and Wells 2008
Recurvirostridae	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	American Avocet	LC						
Charadriidae	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	Southern Lapwing	LC						
Charadriidae	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	American Golden Plover	LC						
Charadriidae	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Grey Plover	LC						
Charadriidae	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	Semipalmated Plover	LC						
Charadriidae	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	Wilson's Plover	LC						
Charadriidae	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Killdeer	LC						
Charadriidae	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping Plover	NT						
Charadriidae	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Kentish Plover	LC						
Charadriidae	<i>Charadrius collaris</i>	Collared Plover	LC						
Jacaniidae	<i>Jacana jacana</i>	Wattled Jacana	LC						
Scolopacidae	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe	LC						
Scolopacidae	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	Wilson's Snipe	NR						
Scolopacidae	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	Short-billed Dowitcher	LC						
Scolopacidae	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Long-billed Dowitcher	LC						
Scolopacidae	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>	Hudsonian Godwit	LC	Vagrant					
Scolopacidae	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel	LC						
Scolopacidae	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Upland Sandpiper	LC						
Scolopacidae	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Greater Yellowlegs	LC						
Scolopacidae	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Lesser Yellowlegs	LC		Inland wetland, shrubland, salina		Malpais-St Michiel		Debrot and Wells 2008
Scolopacidae	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	Solitary Sandpiper	LC						
Scolopacidae	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	Spotted Sandpiper	LC						



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Scolopacidae	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	Willet	LC					
Scolopacidae	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone	LC					
Scolopacidae	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot	LC					
Scolopacidae	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	LC					
Scolopacidae	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	Semipalmated Sandpiper	LC					
Scolopacidae	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	Western Sandpiper	LC					
Scolopacidae	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Least Sandpiper	LC					
Scolopacidae	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	White-rumped Sandpiper	LC					
Scolopacidae	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	Baird's Sandpiper	LC					
Scolopacidae	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper	LC					
Scolopacidae	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	Stilt Sandpiper	LC					
Scolopacidae	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	NT	Passage				
Scolopacidae	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Ruff	LC	Passage				
Scolopacidae	<i>Steganopus tricolor</i>	Wilson's Phalarope	LC					
Scolopacidae	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Red-necked Phalarope	LC					
Laridae	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Ring-billed Gull	LC					
Laridae	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Great Black-backed Gull	LC	Vagrant				
Laridae	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	LC					
Laridae	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser Black-backed Gull	LC					
Laridae	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	LC					
Laridae	<i>Larus philadelphia</i>	Bonaparte's Gull	LC					
Laridae	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	Laughing Gull	LC					
Laridae	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	Franklin's Gull	LC					
Laridae	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	Gull-billed Tern	LC					
Laridae	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Caspian Tern	LC					
Laridae	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	Royal Tern	LC					Stable
Laridae	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern	LC					Stable



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Laridae	<i>Sterna sandvicensis eurygnatha</i>	Sandwich Tern (Cayenne)	LC					Increasing	
Laridae	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Roseate Tern	LC	Passage				Stable	
Laridae	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	LC		Inland wetland, shrubland, salina, woodland	400	Jan Thiel Lagoon, Malpais-St Michiel	Stable	Debrot and Wells 2008
Laridae	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Forster's Tern	LC	Passage					
Laridae	<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	Least Tern	LC		Inland wetland, shrubland, woodland, sea, coast, mangrove	1,860	Eastpoint, Jan Thiel Lagoon, Klein Curaçao, North-east Curaçao parks and coast, Sint Jorisbaai-Koraal Tabak	Stable	Debrot and Wells 2008
Laridae	<i>Sterna anaethetus</i>	Bridled Tern	LC						
Laridae	<i>Sterna fuscata</i>	Sooty Tern	LC						
Laridae	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern	LC						
Laridae	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>	Large-billed Tern	LC						
Laridae	<i>Anous stolidus</i>	Brown Noddy	LC						
Laridae	<i>Anous minutus</i>	Black Noddy	LC						
Laridae	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	Black Skimmer	LC						
Stercorariidae	<i>Catharacta skua</i>	Great Skua	LC						
Stercorariidae	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Pomarine Jaeger	LC						
Stercorariidae	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Parasitic Jaeger	LC						