

Comparative Abundance of Birds in Trinidad's Northern Range

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INTRODUCTION

During the years 1961 through 1983 we carried out fieldwork at various locations in Trinidad's Northern Range, trapping birds with mist-nets as part of a study of populations, and in order to obtain information on size, plumage and moult. The following statistics are presented in order to give some idea of comparative species abundance in the area, since little work has been done involving trapped birds in that field since the monumental study by Snow & Snow (1963), which, however, dealt mainly with measurements and was not restricted to any single habitat or district of Trinidad.

The trapping sites were at five forested locations all within 4 miles (6.5 km) of Las Lapas Trail at the watershed of the Range above Lopinot valley, mostly at an altitude of about 2000 feet (660m). Trapping was carried out on 97 days, spread unevenly between 29 January 1961 and 26 December 1983; most of the work was at Las Lapas Trail (58 days), followed by Andrews Trace (22 days), El Tucuche (9 days), St. Pats Estate (6 days) and Asa Wright Nature Centre (2 days). The main work at Las Lapas, over the dates 6 June 1964 to 23 May 1976, had to be halted when a man illegally built a house exactly on the netting site (which was a very narrow corridor at a col). A total of 2080 birds were trapped, involving 94 species.

Because the fieldwork was carried out at somewhat haphazard intervals, fitted into the schedule of a busy life 50 miles away, we have to be careful about reading too much into the statistics. In addition, some species are easier to trap than others, and the proximity of particular feeding areas or display grounds may well have influenced the results to favour certain species. Nevertheless, some useful information can be seen relating to comparative abundance of species, and the times of year when species were trapped is in some cases significant, showing periods when they were present or absent.

To give an idea of when trapping took place, figures are given showing the number of occasions each year:-

19614	19684	19755
196210	19691	19763
19634	19702	19781
19645	19716	19791
19656	197212	19822
196615	19737	19831
19672	19745	

Trapping took place are mostly in the dry season, since heavy rain makes the operation of nets difficult or even impossible. However, some trapping was carried out in every month of the year, as follows:-

January 7,	July 5,
February 20,	August 1,
March 5,	September 6,
April 20,	October 3,
May 13,	November 4,
June 7,	December 6.

In the table we have omitted scientific names in order to save space. Nomenclature follows ffrench (1991). For each species we show the number of individuals trapped, the months when they were trapped, and the years when they were trapped. Although many species are represented only by single figure totals, for a few there are many more, indicating particular abundance, e.g.

Gray-rumped Swift	110	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	97
Band-rumped Swift	56	White-necked Thrush	87
Rufous-breasted Hermit	160	Bananaquit	170
Copper-rumped Hum.	52	Green Honeycreeper	60
Plain-brown Woodcreeper	60	Violaceous Euphonia	124
Golden-headed Manakin	139	Bay-headed Tanager	196
White-bearded Manakin	64		

Table of trapped birds

Species	Number trapped	Months when trapped	Years when trapped
Scaled Pigeon	4	Jan - March	70 - 71
Gray-fronted Dove	3	Apr - May	63, 71 - 72
Ruddy Quail-Dove	1	May	64
Lined Quail-Dove	1	Apr	64
Lilac-tailed Parrotlet	2	May, Dec	65
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	2	May	61, 73
Short-tailed Nighthawk	1	Nov	67
Gray-rumped Swift	110	Jan - Jul, Oct - Nov	61 - 62, 64 - 66, 69 - 76, 79
Band-rumped Swift	56	Jan - Jun, Oct - Nov	61, 66, 69 - 75
Short-tailed Swift	1	Sep	62
Chapman's Swift	9	Jan, Mar - Apr, Oct	65 - 66, 70 - 71, 74 - 75
Rufous-breasted Hermit	160	Jan - Dec	61 - 62, 64 - 76, 82 - 83
Green Hermit	34	Jan - May, Jul, Nov - Dec	62, 64, 66 - 67, 69-76, 78, 83
Little Hermit	17	Feb, Apr - Jul, Sep-Oct, Dec	62, 64, 66, 71-74, 79, 83
White-necked Jacobin	7	Jan - Mar, May	62, 65, 69, 71, 75 - 76
Blue-chinned Sapphire	32	Jan - Aug, Oct - Dec	62 - 67, 71 - 76, 82 - 83
Ruby-topaz Hummingbird	1	Feb	66
Copper-rumped Hum.	52	Jan - Dec	61-66, 68-69, 71-75, 79, 82-83
White-chested Emerald	40	Jan - Dec	61 - 66, 68, 70 - 74, 79, 82
Black-throated Mango	35	Jan - Jul, Nov - Dec	61-64, 66, 68-69, 71-73, 82-83
Tufted Coquette	3	Apr, Nov - Dec	66, 71, 83
Long-billed Starthroat	2	Feb, May	73, 79
Collared Trogon	1	Mar	65
White-tailed Trogon	1	Mar	62
Blue-crowned Motmot	2	Apr	62
Pygmy Kingfisher	1	Feb	66
Golden-olive Woodpecker	17	Jan - Jun, Sep, Nov	61 - 66, 70 - 72, 76, 82
Chestnut Woodpecker	2	Feb, Apr	61, 64
Red-rumped Woodpecker	4	Apr - Jun, Sep	62, 72 - 73
Cocoa Woodcreeper	7	Mar - Jun	62, 64, 66, 68, 71 - 72
Plain-brown Woodcreeper	60	Jan - Jul, Sep - Dec	62 - 69, 71 - 73, 75, 79
Pale-breasted Spinetail	2	Jan - Feb	68, 73
Stripe-breasted Spinetail	4	Jan, Feb, May, Dec	71 - 72
Streaked Xenops	3	Feb, May	69, 72
Gray-thr. Leaf-tosser	2	Feb, Apr	62, 64
Great Antshrike	2	May, Dec	71, 74
Barred Antshrike	7	Jan, Apr - May, Nov	63, 66, 73 - 74
White-bellied Antbird	4	Jan - Mar, Dec	70 - 71, 74 - 75
Black-faced Ant-thrush	2	Jul, Nov	67, 72
Bearded Bellbird	13	Feb - Mar, May - Jul, Dec	65, 72 - 76
Golden-headed Manakin	139	Jan - Dec	61 - 72, 75-76, 78-79, 82 - 83
White-bearded Manakin	64	Jan - Jul, Sep, Dec	62 - 72, 75 - 76
Streaked Flycatcher	3	Jan, Apr	61 66
Boat-billed Flycatcher	1	Feb	66
Great Kiskadee	7	Feb - Jun	65 - 66, 68, 72, 82
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	1	May	79
Tropical Pewee	3	Jan, Apr, Dec	66, 71, 82

Species	Number trapped	Months when trapped	Years when trapped
Euler's Flycatcher	4	Feb - Apr, Dec	64 - 66, 73
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	5	Feb, Apr - Jun	66, 68, 72
Yellow-breast Flycatcher	3	Feb, May	69, 73 - 74
White-thr. Spadebill	4	Feb - May	62, 64, 72, 74
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	97	Jan - Aug, Oct - Dec	62, 64 - 76, 82 - 83
Olive-striped Flycatcher	2	Feb	68, 73
Slaty-capped Flycatcher	5	Feb - Apr, Sep - Oct	62, 64, 66, 72
White-winged Becard	1	Jun	71
Black-tailed Tityra	1	May	66
Gray-breasted Martin	7	Jan, Mar, Jun, Oct	64, 66, 71, 75
S. Rough-winged Swallow	1	Feb	61
Rufous-breasted Wren	11	Feb, Apr - Jun, Nov	66, 70, 72 - 74, 76, 79
House Wren	1	Mar	70
Yellow-legged Thrush	19	Feb, Apr-May, Jul-Aug, Oct-Dec	64 - 66, 71-72, 75
Cocoa Thrush	47	Jan - Sep, Nov - Dec	61-62, 64-66, 70-72, 74-75
Bare-eyed Thrush	12	Mar - Apr, Jul	62, 66 - 68, 70
White-necked Thrush	87	Jan - Jul, Sep - Dec	61 - 67, 69, 71 - 75, 78
Long-billed Gnatwren	5	Feb - May, Dec	62, 68, 70 - 71, 74
Rufous-br. Peppershrike	9	Feb - May, Dec	62, 65 - 66, 71, 73 - 74
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	Apr	71
Golden-fronted Greenlet	8	Apr - May, Jul, Nov	63, 66- 67, 73
Giant Cowbird	1	Jan	71
Crested Oropendola	1	Mar	66
Tropical Parula	1	Apr	82
Northern Waterthrush	6	Feb - Apr, Dec	64, 66, 71 - 72, 75
American Redstart	3	Feb - Mar	66, 75 - 76
Golden-cr. Warbler	23	Jan - May, Jul, Sep, Nov - Dec	62,64-66,69,71-73,75-76,78-79
Bananaquit	170	Jan - Dec	62 - 69, 71 - 75, 79, 82 - 83
Purple Honeycreeper	45	Jan - Jun, Aug - Dec	62 - 66, 68, 71 - 76, 78 - 79
Red-legged Honeycreeper	8	Mar - May, Sep	61 - 62, 64 - 66, 70, 82
Green Honeycreeper	60	Jan - May, Jul - Aug, Oct - Dec	61 - 76, 79, 82 - 83
Blue Dacnis	12	Feb, Apr, Sep - Oct	61 - 62, 66, 82
Swallow-Tanager	4	May	63, 71
Violaceous Euphonia	124	Jan - Dec	61 - 75, 79, 82 - 83
Speckled Tanager	25	Jan - May, Sep, Nov - Dec	61-63,65-67,69-71,73-74,76,82
Turquoise Tanager	11	Feb, Apr, Sep, Dec	62 - 63, 66, 73, 82
Bay-headed Tanager	196	Jan - Dec	61 - 76, 79, 82 - 83
Blue-gray Tanager	21	Feb - Jun, Sep - Dec	62 - 67, 69, 71 - 73, 79
Palm Tanager	28	Feb - Jul, Oct, Dec	64, 66 - 72, 75, 82 - 83
Silver-beaked Tanager	28	Feb - Jul, Sep, Nov	61 - 62, 65 - 66, 68, 71 - 73
Hepatic Tanager	6	Feb, Sep, Nov - Dec	62 - 63, 67, 72, 75
Red-cr. Ant-Tanager	2	Apr	64, 66
White-shouldered Tanager	1	Apr	82
White-lined Tanager	38	Jan -Feb, Apr - Aug, Oct - Dec	61 - 62, 64 - 66, 68-75, 82- 83
Blue-black Grassquit	3	Jan, May, Nov	72 - 73
Sooty Grassquit	2	Jun - Jul	64, 75
Yellow-bellied Seedeater	4	May, Jul	65 - 66

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