
First Record of The Double-Striped Thick-Knee in Trinidad W.I.

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ON 24th June. 1983, I saw a Double-Striped Thick-Knee (*Burhinus bistriatus*) in the Queen's Park Savannah at 5.30 p.m. This is a first record for Trinidad; the bird is a Venezuelan species and is commonly found in savannas or open fields. It was standing in the area near the race track opposite Casuals Club.

Being on the lookout for the annual arrival of migrants in the Savannah I saw this bird and its unusual appearance excited my curiosity. From the distance of the roadway, it had the appearance of a piece of wood stuck in the ground and with that

general colouration. I stopped the car and walked towards it. As I got near, it gave a trembling sort of song, trotted away for a few feet with the most amusing gait, then stopped and straightened up, pulling its tail in towards its heels. It looked so funny, I almost burst out laughing. No matter how I approached it, it would not fly but each time repeated its trembling call and continued its strange gait for only a few feet.

I thought to myself that I must get a picture but as it was already late in the afternoon and the bird seemed so comfortable and established in the Savannah, I was sure it would be there in the morning when I would be able to get a good picture so I went home without disturbing it and returned next morning at dawn. It was nowhere to be found. I have kept a look-out but have not seen it again. Fortunately, I had made careful detailed notes of its appearance.

At first, I could find no reference to similar birds anywhere but on discussing it with Richard French he told me to look it up in the Birds of Venezuela which I did and there it was.