

PLATE 29

Pigeons, Doves

Columbidae: Pigeons, Doves

1. Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*), p. 189

12.5 in (32 cm). Common in urban and suburban areas. Medium-sized, stocky dove, with a variety of color morphs. This is the pigeon most commonly seen in cities.

2. Scaly-naped Pigeon (*Patagioenas squamosa*), p. 190

L 14–16 in (36–41 cm). Found only on Curaçao and Bonaire. Large dark pigeon with scaly nape. Note bare patch of skin around eyes (reddish in males, yellowish in females).

3. Bare-eyed Pigeon (*Patagioenas corensis*), p. 190

L 12–14 in (32–37 cm). Common and widespread on all three islands. Large pale pigeon with bold white wing patches in flight. At close range, note distinctive black “goggles” around eyes and pale bill.

4. White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*), p. 192

L 10 in (26 cm). Uncommon but widespread, especially in less developed areas. Medium-sized dove. Plain, unmarked; short, square tail with white edges.

5. Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*), p. 193

L 9.5 in (24 cm). Abundant particularly near suburban areas and resorts. Medium-sized dove. Square tail with cinnamon corners. Note black line extending from behind eye.

6. Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*), p. 191

L 6.5 in (17 cm). Common and widespread. Tiny dove. Rufous wings; black tail; reddish or yellowish at base of bill. Scaly appearance behind crown and on neck and upper breast.

7. Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*), p. 192

L 6.5 in (17 cm). Very rare with only a single record. Tiny dove. Rufous back; gray head; black spots on wings.

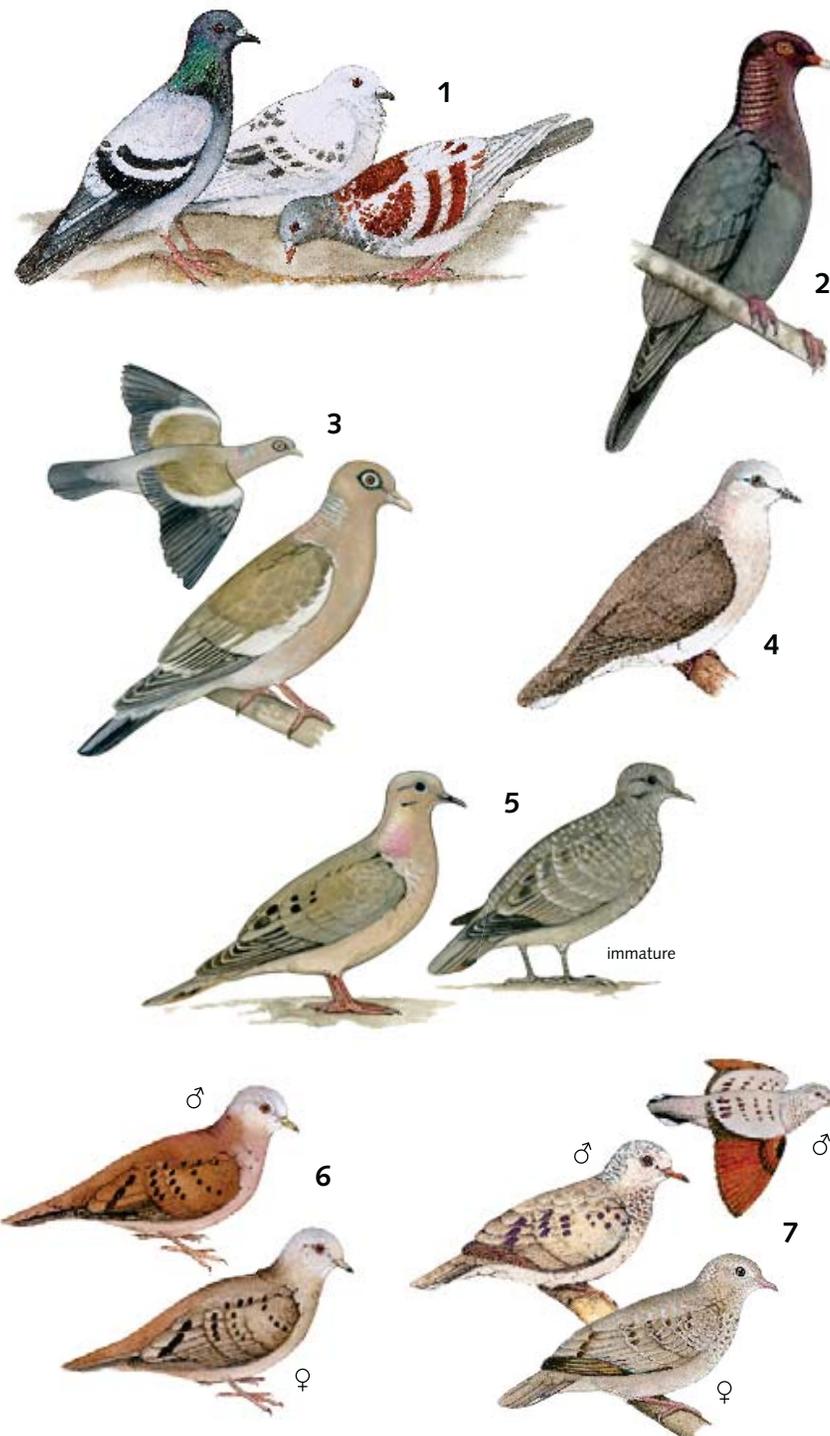


PLATE 30

Cuckoos

Cuculidae: Cuckoos

1. Greater Ani (*Crotophaga major*), p. 194

L 19 in (48 cm). Rare vagrant to Aruba and Curaçao. A much larger version of the Groove-billed Ani, with pale eyes and larger, more keeled bill. Groove-billed Ani has dark eyes and a smaller, less ridged bill. Male Carib Grackle is all black and has pale eyes but is much smaller and has a slimmer bill. Male Great-tailed Grackle is large with pale eyes but has a slim bill that lacks a high ridge.

2. Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*), p. 194

L 14.5 in (37 cm). Exceptionally rare, with a single recent record from Aruba. Very difficult to separate from Groove-billed Ani (especially immature birds) but with a higher ridged bill that has no grooves or only weak grooves on part of bill closest to face. Most definitive way to distinguish Smooth-billed Ani from Groove-billed Ani is by call. Smooth-billed Ani makes a whining, rising *qu-weeeik*, while Groove-billed Ani makes a two-syllabled, descending *TEE-who*.

3. Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*), p. 195

L 13.5 in (34 cm). Note thick bill, round-headed appearance, and long, loose tail. Grooves on bill not visible unless seen at close range. Greater Ani which has been documented on Curacao and Aruba has white (not dark) eyes and larger keeled bill.

4. Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), p. 195

L 12 in (30 cm). Regular fall stopover migrant and winter visitor, occasionally in large numbers. Note long tail and long, slightly curved, mostly yellow bill (black on upper part of upper mandible and bill tip). White underparts. Rufous in wings. Large white spots in tail.

5. Mangrove Cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*), p. 196

L 12 in (30 cm). Uncommon visitor. Note long tail and long, slightly curved, bill with black upper mandible and yellow lower mandible. Buffy underparts; dark stripe through eye; lacks rufous in wings; large white spots in tail. Although not recorded on the islands, very similar Dark-billed Cuckoo shows an entirely dark bill.

6. Gray-capped Cuckoo (*Coccyzus lansbergi*), p.196X

L 10.5 in (27 cm). Only a single previous record, so unlikely. A richly colored cuckoo, with rufous-buff underparts, rufous back and wings, gray hood, and dark tail with small white spots in tail.

7. Guira Cuckoo (*Guira guira*), p. 193

L 14.5 in (36 cm). Only a single record from 1954, but if seen, unmistakable.

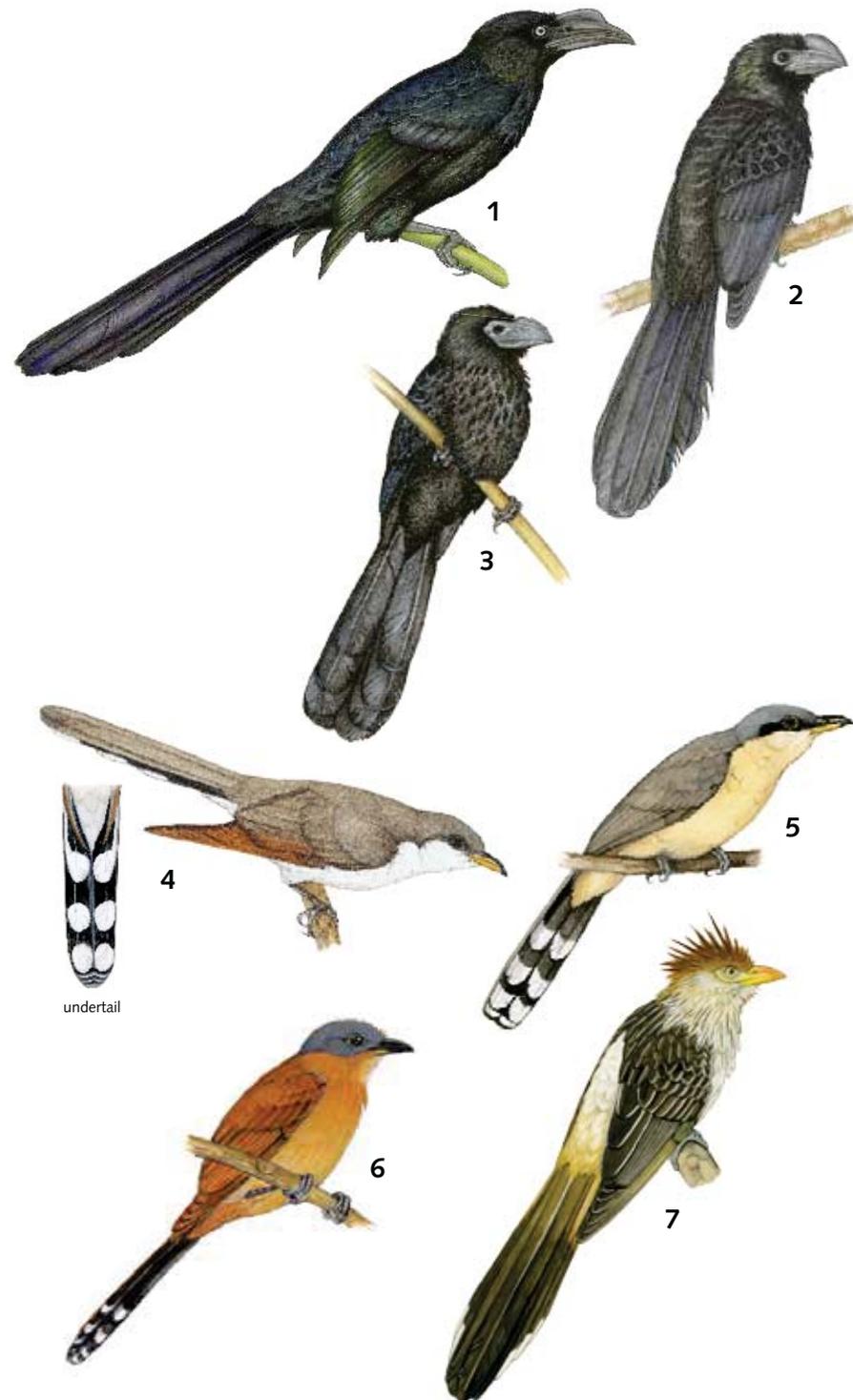


PLATE 31

Barn Owls, Owls, Oilbird

Tytonidae: Barn Owls

1. Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), p. 197

L 16 in (41 cm). Rarely seen and never during daylight hours. Occurs only on Curacao and Bonaire. Long legs, heart-shaped face, pale breast.

Strigidae: Owls

2. Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), p. 197

L 9 in (23 cm). Occurs only on Aruba. Long legs, yellow eyes, stubby tail. Often seen during day, at mouth of underground burrow.

Steatornithidae: Oilbird

3. Oilbird (*Steatornis caripensis*), p. 198

L 16–19 in (41–48 cm). Only a single previous record, so unlikely. Large, rufous-brown bird with large, dark eyes (shine red when illuminated at night), hooked pale bill. Also note white spots in wing, head, and tail edges.

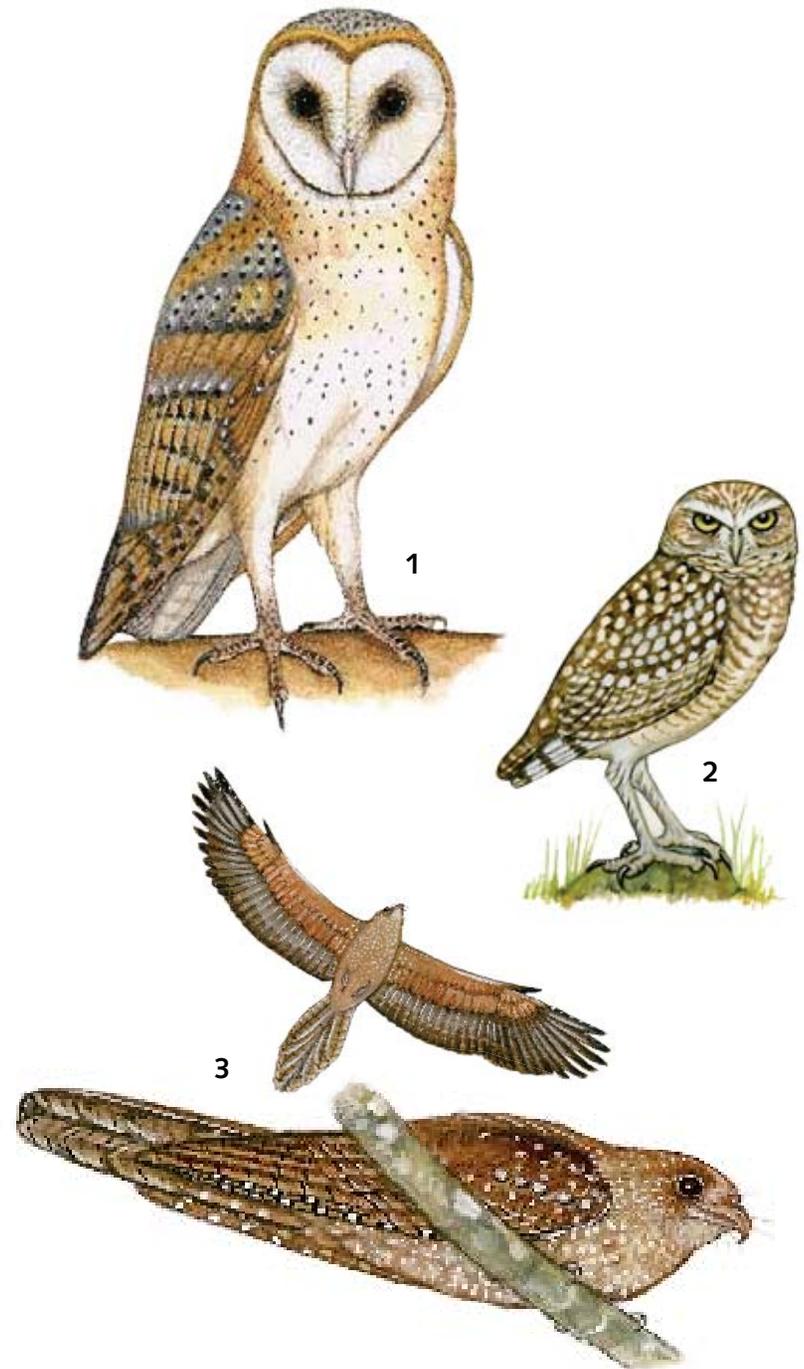


PLATE 32

Nightjars, Allies

Caprimulgidae: Nightjars, Allies

1. White-tailed Nightjar (*Hydropsalis cayennensis*), p. 200

L 8.5 in (22 cm). The only common resident nightjar; apparently more common on Curacao and Bonaire than Aruba. Most likely seen after dark, on or near roads where headlights may pick up reflected, red eyeshine. If seen clearly, note long tail, short wings (unlike nighthawks), and reddish collar. Males have white in wings and tail but difficult to see under low light conditions. Note that these birds sometimes forage at night under street lamps, where fieldmarks are more easily seen.

2. Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), p. 199

L 10 in (25 cm). Rare to uncommon stopover migrant, status of nighthawks still poorly known. Most likely seen in flight; swift flight and long pointed wings could suggest a falcon. Nighthawks fly much more erratically than falcons, however, with sudden changes of direction and quick tips of the body. Common Nighthawk is the largest and longest-winged of the three nighthawks that have been recorded from the islands. Bold white wing patches are further from wing tip than in Lesser Nighthawk. Wings extend beyond tail when bird is at rest. (Nighthawk species are very difficult to distinguish from each other, especially when in flight.)

3. Antillean Nighthawk (*Chordeiles gundlachi*), p. 200

L 8.5 in (22 cm). Rare stopover migrant, status of nighthawks still poorly known. Smaller than Common Nighthawk, with shorter wings and tail. Wing patch may appear smaller than that of Common Nighthawk. Wingtips do not extend beyond tail when bird is at rest.

4. Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*), p. 198

L 9 in (23 cm). Rare to uncommon stopover migrant, status of nighthawks still poorly known. Smaller than Common Nighthawk with shorter wings and tail. Wing patch closer to tip of wing than in Common Nighthawk. Wingtips do not extend beyond tail when bird is at rest. Usually shows more obvious spotting on inner flight feathers than do Common and Antillean Nighthawks, and a more uniformly colored upperwing.

5. Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*), p. 201

L 12 in (30 cm). Rare bird, with only four previous records. Most likely seen roosting on ground or flushed from ground rather. Compared to resident White-tailed Nightjar, larger, browner, with shorter tail, and lacks rufous collar. At rest, wings much shorter than tail, unlike nighthawks.

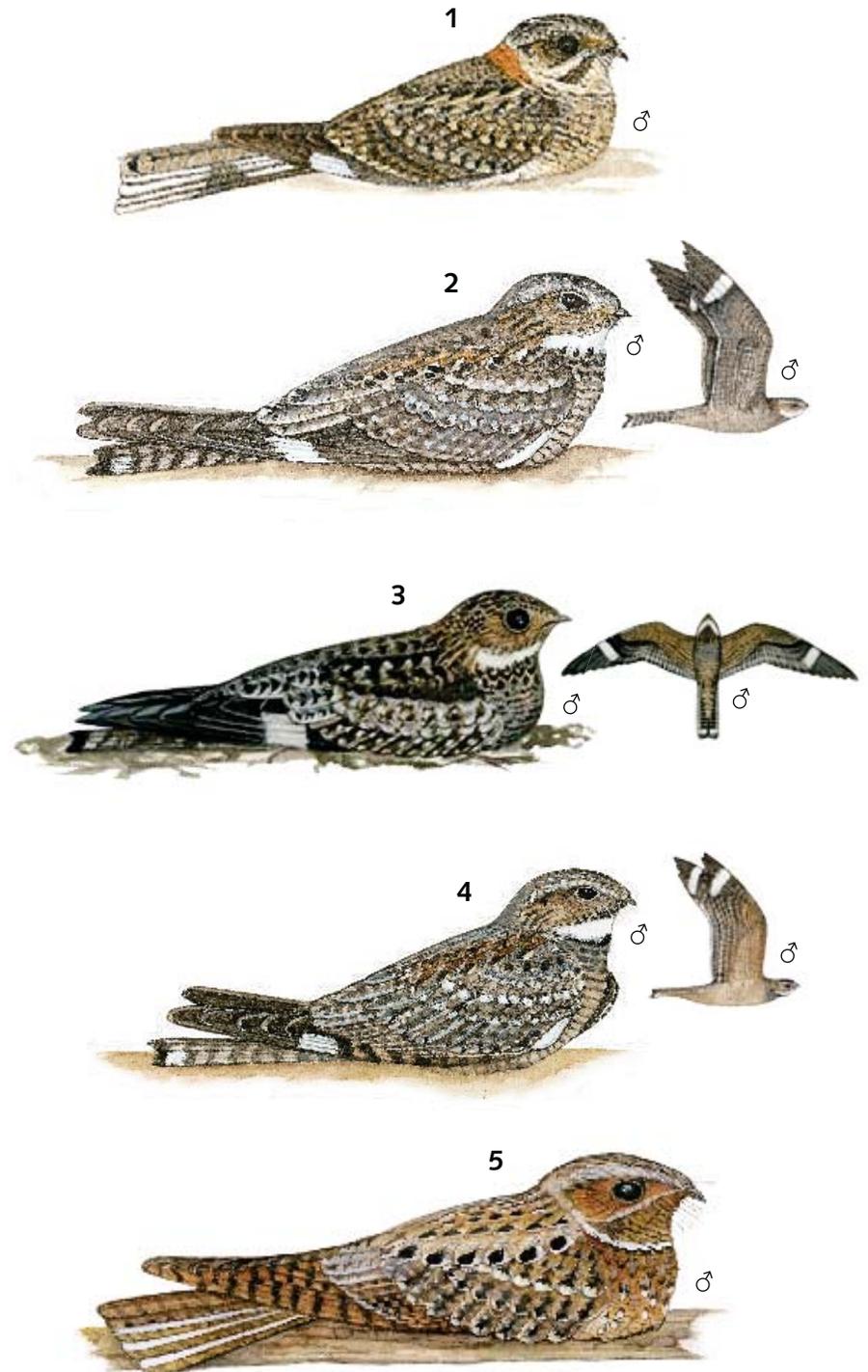


PLATE 33

Swifts, Hummingbirds

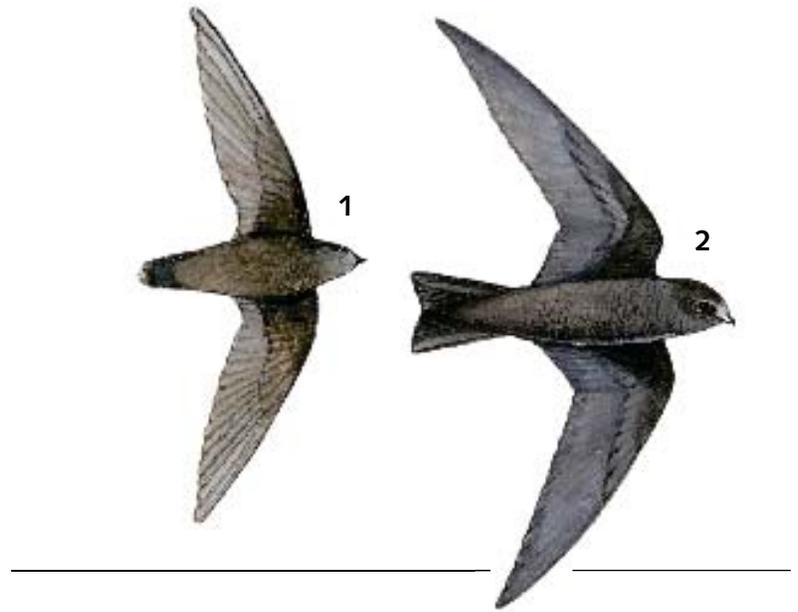
Apodidae: Swifts

1. Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), p. 202

L 4.75–5.5 in (12–14 cm). Thought to be the swift most likely to occur on the islands. Small all-gray bird always seen in flight, when it looks like a “flying cigar.” Their short, stiff wings are flapped so quickly they appear as a blur.

2. Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*), p. 202

L 7.25 in (18.4 cm). Single sight record for Curaçao, undocumented by photos or video. All-dark, large swift with proportionately long, curved wings that appear very broad where they connect with the body; also note broad tail.



Trochilidae: Hummingbirds

3. Ruby-topaz Hummingbird (*Chrysolampis mosquitus*), p. 204

L 3.5 in (9 cm). Relatively common. Male dark with ruby red crown and nape, orange-yellow throat and upper breast, and rufous tail with dark tips. Larger than Blue-tailed Emerald with longer tail; more crested appearance; slightly decurved bill; tail rounded rather than forked, and either entirely rufous or with just a rufous base, with dark terminal band and large white tips to outer tail feathers (females and immatures can have very reduced amounts of rufous). Females can look almost sooty-brown. Immatures typically show more more green on back and are pale underneath, sometimes with a dark line down center of throat.

4. Blue-tailed Emerald (*Chlorostilbon mellisugus*), p. 204

L 3 in (7.5 cm). One of two permanent resident and relatively common hummingbird species of the islands, and the one most commonly seen on the grounds of resorts and hotels. Smaller than Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, with a relatively short, straight bill and relatively short, slightly forked tail. Male has dark green body and dark blue tail, but in weak light can look all dark, especially the tail. Females and immatures are green-backed and light underneath, but look for forked, bluish tail with white tips on outer tail feathers.

5. Rufous-breasted Hermit (*Glaucis hirsutus*), p. 203

L 4.2 in (10.7 cm). Only one record. With long, down-curved bill; rufous underparts; long, rounded tail with chestnut sides and black terminal band.

6. White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*), p. 203

L 4.5 in (11 cm). Rare hummingbird, with only two records for the islands. Large hummingbird. Male has a dark blue head with all-dark bill. Lower breast and belly white. Tail mostly white. Female scaly on breast.

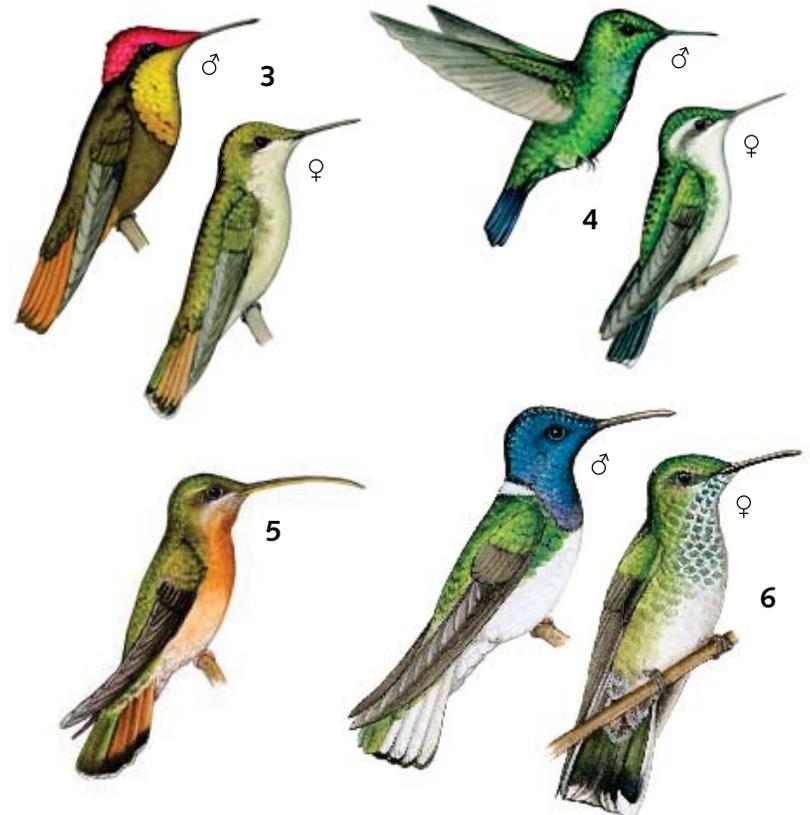


PLATE 34

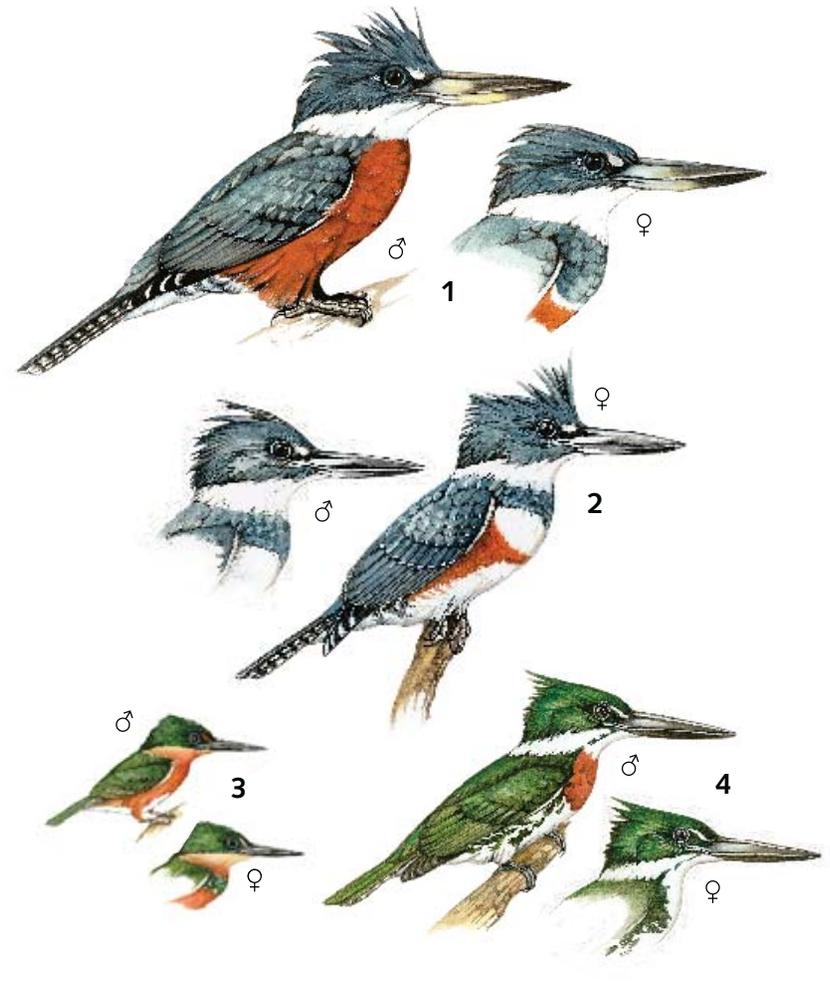
Kingfishers, Woodpeckers

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers

- 1. Ringed Kingfisher** (*Megaceryle torquata*), p. 205
L 15.5 in (40 cm). Only three records for the islands. Dark blue above and almost entirely dark rufous below, with large bill.
- 2. Belted Kingfisher** (*Megaceryle alcyon*), p. 205
L 12 in (30 cm). Relatively common winter visitor around mangrove wetlands and other wetlands. Blue-gray upperparts separated from white underparts by blue breast band (male has narrow rufous band as well); also note white spotting in wings.
- 3. American Pygmy-Kingfisher** (*Chloroceryle aenea*), p. 206
L 5–5.5 in (12.7–14 cm). Exceptionally rare, with only a single record from Bonaire. Tiny kingfisher with a dark green head; on male note rust collar, throat, breast, and flanks. On female and immature, the throat and neck collar are whitish tinged with rust. Female has green chestband. White belly extends down to tail.
- 4. Amazon Kingfisher** (*Chloroceryle amazona*), p. 206
L 11 in (28 cm). Only three records for the islands for this species. Dark green upperparts with no white spotting in wings. Female largely white underneath, male with rufous breast band.

Picidae: Woodpeckers

- 5. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus varius*), p. 207
L 8.5 in (22 cm). Less than 20 documented occurrences; a rare but relatively regular winter migrant to the islands. The only woodpecker ever documented on the islands, most in immature plumage. Note long white patch on wing.



Psittaculidae: Old World Parrots

- 1. Rose-ringed Parakeet** (*Psittacula krameri*), p. 210
 L 16 in (41 cm). Introduced population now resident in some parts of Curacao. Note long thin tail, reddish bill, and black feathers in flight. Adult male has black collar by second year.

Psittacidae: New World Parrots

- 2. Yellow-crowned Parrot** (*Amazona ochrocephala*), p. 211
 L 14 in (36 cm). Escaped cage birds seen occasionally on Curacao. Note short tail, rapid wingbeats in flight, red patch in inner wing, and yellow restricted to forehead. Extent of head markings can be very difficult to discern in flight.
- 3. Yellow-shouldered Parrot** (*Amazona barbadensis*), p. 212
 L 13 in (33cm). Historically found on all three islands; now only on Bonaire except for possible birds released from captivity. Large. Short, square tail; yellow on face; yellow and red on wing. Other Amazon species have been released and possibly have bred on Curacao and perhaps Aruba and Bonaire. These formerly captive birds are most likely seen in urban or suburban areas.
- 4. Orange-winged Parrot** (*Amazona amazonica*), p. 213
 L 13 in (33 cm). Escaped cage birds occasionally seen on Curacao and Aruba. Note short tail, rapid wingbeats in flight, red patch in inner wing, and yellow in tail tip. Yellow on crown and cheek separated by greenish-blue line extending from bill through eye. Extent of head markings can be very difficult to discern in flight.
- 5. Red-lored Parrot** (*Amazona autumnalis*), p. 211
 L 13 in (33 cm). Escaped caged birds seen occasionally on Curacao; they have bred there and might now be resident. Note short tail, rapid wingbeats in flight, red patch in inner wing, and red on forehead. Extent of head markings can be very difficult to discern in flight.



PLATE 36

New World Parrots

Psittacidae: New World Parrots *continued*

- 1. Chestnut-fronted Macaw** (*Ara severus*), p. 214
L 19 in (48 cm). Small introduced population in suburbs of Willemstad, Curacao; escaped birds spotted a number of times on Aruba. Note large size, long tail, white face, green body, and reddish underwing and undertail.
- 2. Blue-crowned Parakeet** (*Thectocereus acuticaudatus*), p. 214
L 14.5 in (37 cm). Escaped caged birds seen in suburban areas of Curacao, where it might be resident. Note long tail. All green, with white patch around eye, pale pinkish upper mandible, darker lower mandible. In flight, orangish on trailing edge of underwing and in tail. Light blue forehead only visible at close range.
- 3. Scarlet-fronted Parakeet** (*Psittacara wagleri*), p. 215
L 13.5 in (34 cm). Likely to be seen only on Curaçao where a feral population is established. A large, green parakeet with red forehead (reduced in young birds), pale bill, white eye-ring (reduced in young birds), and red thighs (lacking in immatures).
- 4. Green-rumped Parrotlet** (*Forpus passerines*), p. 213
L 4.7 in (12 cm). A small population once established on Curacao from released captive birds, but no birds have been seen there for many years. Not found on Aruba or Bonaire. Very small, entirely green; also note extremely short tail and pale bill.

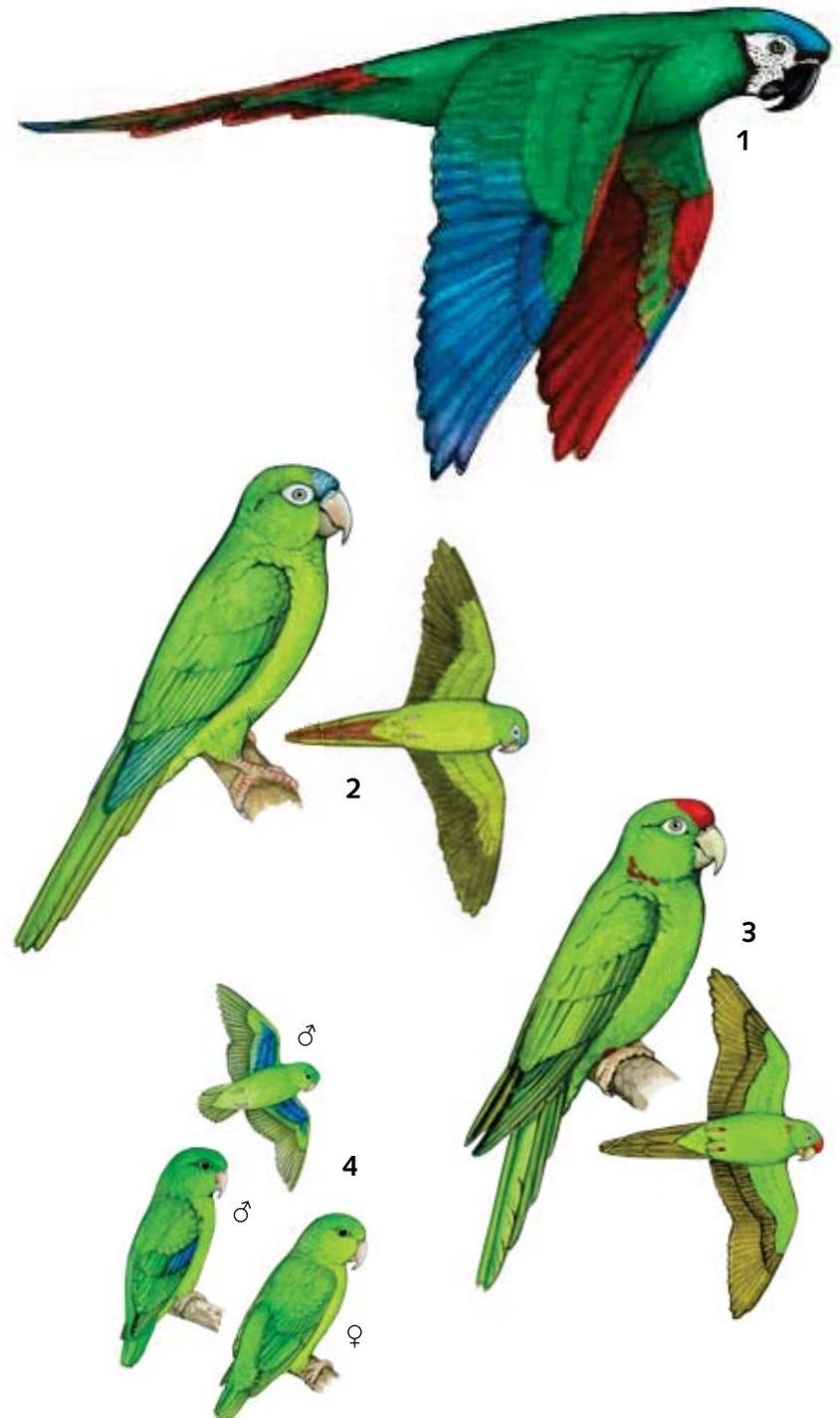


PLATE 37 New World Parrots

Psittacidae: New World Parrots *continued*

1. **Brown-throated Parakeet** (*Eupsittula pertinax*), p. 213

L 10 in (25 cm). Resident breeding bird; each of the three islands with a distinct subspecies. Long tail. Flash of blue in outer part of upperwing and in tail tip; yellow line in wing lining visible only in flight. Aruba subspecies with very brown face and throat and small, bright yellow patch surrounding eye. Bonaire subspecies with bright yellow extending from crown through face to throat. Curacao subspecies intermediate, with green crown but extensive yellow face. There have been occasional releases of a subspecies from one island onto another, so it is possible to see intermediate birds, presumed hybrids.

