BIRDING IN SAINT LUCIA

Saint Lucia is the beautiful Caribbean island blessed with a bounty of indigenous fauna and flora.
Home to the magical Piton Mountains, lush landscapes, unspoilt rainforests and palm-fringed beaches, Saint Lucia is the beautiful Caribbean island that has it all and more. Experience this sensational island and the thrilling birding for yourself.

**THE BIRDS OF SAINT LUCIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>167</td>
<td>Species</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Endemics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Endemic Subspecies</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lesser Antillean Regional Endemics</td>
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</tbody>
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From a birding point of view, Saint Lucia is very accessible being just 27 miles long and 14 miles wide and is probably one of the most important of the Lesser Antilles as it holds six single island endemics.

**Six endemic species**

Saint Lucia has six endemic species, one of which is the islands national bird, the Saint Lucia Parrot (Amazona Veriscolor), a species that recovered from dangerously low population numbers in the early 1980s. The other endemics are the Saint Lucia Pewee, Saint Lucia Warbler, Saint Lucia Oriole, Saint Lucia Black Finch and Semper's Warbler. This gives Saint Lucia the distinction of having the highest number of endemic birds in the Eastern Caribbean region.

**Saint Lucia Parrot**

The Saint Lucia Parrot is about 42-46 cm (16.5-18 inches) in length. It inhabits the rainforest in the mountains of Saint Lucia. It feeds in the forest canopy on a wide variety of fruits, seeds and flowers. The parrot nests in the cavities of tall trees.

**Saint Lucia Black Finch**

The Black Finch is about 13-14 cm in length. It is found in both moist and dry forest areas. It forages in the leaf litter in dense understory. The finch usually nests in a spherical nest of twigs built in a low shrub or palm about 2m above ground.

**Saint Lucia Pewee**

The adult pewee grows to about 15 cm in length. It is quite common and resides mostly in moist forest, but is also found in dry forest areas. It perches low and sallies for insects. The pewee nests in a cup-shaped nest made of leaves and moss placed on a branch.

**Saint Lucia Oriole**

The adult oriole grows to about 22 cm in length. It is found in woodlands including dry and moist forest. It is uncommon and perhaps becoming scarcer. It feeds on insects, fruits, flowers and nectar. The oriole builds a nest sewn under a leaf or palm well above the ground.

**Saint Lucia Warbler**

The Warbler is about 12.5 cm in length. It is found in all forest types and at all altitudes. It forages for insects and spiders from leaves and twigs. It lays in a nicely woven, cup-shaped nest built in a tree about 1-5m above the ground.

**Semper's Warbler**

The Semper’s Warbler is extremely rare or possibly extinct. The bird is about 14.5 cm in length. The plumage of the adults is dark grey at the upperparts and greyish white at the underparts. The last reliable sighting was in 1961. There have been unconfirmed sightings in 1965, 1972, 1989, 1995 and 2003. The Saint Lucian species of the House Wren is considered by some as an endemic species (although this is not as yet widely accepted). Another Lesser Antillean endemic bird in Saint Lucia is the endangered White-Breasted Thrasher.
SAINT LUCIA BIRDING SITES

Millet Bird Sanctuary
Millet Trail Office: (758) 451-1691
www.maff.egov.lc

Located in the heart of Saint Lucia, is the Millet Bird Sanctuary Trail; a heaven of bird life. Over thirty species of birds can be found there, including five endemic species: the Saint Lucia Parrot, Saint Lucia Black Finch, Saint Lucia Oriole, Saint Lucia Pewee and Saint Lucia Warbler. This trail provides a breathtaking view of the Roseau Dam, the largest in the Eastern Caribbean. 15 min. from Marigot Bay by car, 45 min. from Castries.

Des Cartier Rainforest Trail
Des Cartier Trail Office: (758) 454 5589

The trail is situated 6 miles inland from Micoud on the main Castries to Vieux Fort road. This is one of the best birding sites in Saint Lucia. Visitors have a good chance of seeing the rare birds, especially the Saint Lucia parrot.

The Forestiere Trail
Forestiere Trail Office: (758) 451-6168

The Forestiere Trail is a 20 minute drive from the capital Castries. The trail is part of an Old French Road which traverses through pristine rainforest.

Cape Moule a Chique

You can drive up to the top of the cape from Vieux Fort. Tropic birds nest below the lighthouse and it may be possible to enter the compound for better views by seeking permission. You can also distantly overlook the Maria Islands.

Vieux Fort Wetlands

There are a number of pools and wet areas where a river has been diverted at the western end of Hewanorra International Airport. The area is approximately 6 acres and it attracts several bird species throughout the year. Many species of ducks, herons, sandpipers, plovers, egrets, gallinules, rails and other shorebirds and waterfowl find a temporary place of sojourn at the pond. Many of these species are seasonal migrants.

Dennery and Praslin

This dry coastal scrub between Dennery and Praslin village is the site for White-breasted Thrasher. When visiting this area stay to the tracks and look out for snakes.

Grande Anse

This site near Desbarra is better known as a Leatherback Turtle watching site. The track down to the old airstrip and beach is poor and a 4 wheel-drive is recommended. The Rufous Nightjar can be seen at this site.

Gros Piton Trail

The Gros Piton Nature trail takes you to the top of one of Saint Lucia’s famous volcanic peaks, where a breathtaking view awaits you. It is also an excellent spot to see the Saint Lucia Wren around the broad middle zone forest. You can also spot some other endemic birds as you proceed to the summit.

Edmund National Rainforest

The Edmund National Rainforest covers 19,000 acres of lush mountains and valleys. It is home to a large variety of tree ferns, bromeliads, orchids, and birds. Some of the species you may see are the Saint Lucia Parrot, Saint Lucia Oriole and Saint Lucia Black Finch.
Birding Tour Operators featuring Saint Lucia

A number of birding tour operators offer package tours for bird watching holidays in Saint Lucia.

Heatherlea
Website: www.heatherlea.co.uk
Tel: 01479 821248

Mot Mot
Website: www.motmottravel.com
Tel: 01327 830918

Nature Trek
Website: www.naturetrek.co.uk
Tel: 01962 733051

Ornitholidays
Website: www.ornitholidays.co.uk
Tel: 01794 519445

Saint Lucia Birding
Website: www.saintluciabirding.com
Tel: 020 8845 1400

Wild Wings
Website: www.wildwings.co.uk
Tel: 0117 9658 333

Birding Guides in Saint Lucia

Adams Toussaint
Tel: (758) 5188678 or (758) 4612878
Email: toussaintadams@yahoo.com

Aloysius Charles (Millet Trail)
Tel: (758) 451-1691
Email: outkast95@hotmail.com

Forestry Department
Tel: (758) 468-5645/5648/5649

Lyndon John
Tel: (758) 451-7222 or (758) 486-8645
Email: lynjohn1@yahoo.com

Stephon Lesmond (Praslin & Maria Island)
Tel: (758) 717-0798

Saint Lucia Representatives
Email: dutyoffice@stlucia reps.com

Solar Tours & Travel
Email: solartours@candw.lc

Spice Travel Limited
Email: casalucia@candw.lc

Travel Concepts Incorporated
Email: tci@candw.lc

Saint Lucia Tourist Board

1 Collingham Gardens
London, SW5 0HW
Tel: 020 7341 7005
Fax: 020 7341 7001
Email: sltbinfo@stluciauk.org
Website: www.stlucia.org  /saintluciauk

On-island tour providers

Barefoot Holidays
Email: Barefoot@candw.lc

Caribtravel Ltd
Email: Hermina.Danzie@caribtravel.ltd.com

Cox & Co Ltd
Email: tourism-ops@coxcoltd.com

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Saint Lucia Tourist Board

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Fax: 020 7341 7001
Email: sltbinfo@stluciauk.org
Website: www.stlucia.org  /saintluciauk

Map of Saint Lucia

Road

Bird Sites