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Photo: Tjonne Fernhout

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Cover Page: *Sula dactylatra* Masked Booby on 1 February 2025, Tent Bay slope, Saba (17°37'12.9"N, 63°15'27.7"W). Photo: Tjomme Fernhout.

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Abstract

The avifauna of Saba (Caribbean Netherlands) is poorly known because the island attracts few birders and ornithologists, presumably due to a combination of its lack of endemics, small size, logistical remoteness, and lack of habitat diversity including a near absence of freshwater bodies. Here we describe nine new species records for the island: *Aythya affinis* Lesser Scaup, *Calidris pusilla* Semipalmated Sandpiper, *Calonectris borealis* Cory's Shearwater, *Sphyrapicus varius* Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *Riparia riparia* Bank Swallow, *Setophaga magnolia* Magnolia Warbler, *Setophaga pensylvanica* Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Setophaga caerulescens* Black-throated Blue Warbler, and *Setophaga coronata coronata* Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler. Further, we update the status of nine species: *Spatula discors* Blue-winged Teal, *Anrostomus carolinensis* Chuck-will's-widow, *Sternula antillarum* Least Tern, *Thalasseus sandvicensis acufavidus* Cabot's (Sandwich) Tern, *Sula sula* Red-footed Booby, *Sula dactylatra* Masked Booby, *Seiurus aurocapilla* Ovenbird, *Mniotilta varia* Black-and-white Warbler, and *Setophaga citrina* Hooded Warbler. We argue that the potential to discover additional new species on Saba is large, and we provide a list of species likely to occur on Saba, based on findings from surrounding islands.

Keywords

avifauna, Caribbean region, checklist, Dutch Caribbean, Lesser Antilles, West Indies

Resumen

Nuevos registros de aves de interés en Saba, Caribe Neerlandés • La avifauna de Saba (Caribe Neerlandés) es poco conocida, debido a que la isla atrae a pocos observadores de aves y ornitólogos; probablemente por la combinación de la falta de especies endémicas, su pequeño tamaño, su aislamiento geográfico y la escasa diversidad de hábitats, incluyendo la casi total ausencia de cuerpos de agua dulce. Aquí describimos nueve registros recientes de especies para la isla: *Aythya affinis*, *Calidris pusilla*, *Calonectris borealis*, *Sphyrapicus varius*, *Riparia riparia*, *Setophaga magnolia*, *Setophaga pensylvanica*, *Setophaga caerulescens* y *Setophaga coronata coronata*. Además, actualizamos el estado de nueve especies: *Spatula discors*, *Anrostomus carolinensis*, *Sternula antillarum*, *Thalasseus sandvicensis acufavidus*, *Sula sula*, *Sula dactylatra*, *Seiurus aurocapilla*, *Mniotilta varia* y *Setophaga citrina*. Discutimos que el potencial para descubrir nuevas especies en Saba es grande, y proporcionamos una lista de aquellas que probablemente se encuentren en la isla, basándonos en los registros de las islas circundantes.

Palabras clave

avifauna, Antillas Menores, Caribe Insular, Caribe Neerlandés, lista de especies, región del Caribe

Résumé

Nouvelles observations ornithologiques notables à Saba, Antilles néerlandaises • L'avifaune de Saba (Antilles néerlandaises) est mal connue, car l'île attire peu d'ornithologues amateurs et professionnels, sans doute en raison à la fois de l'absence d'espèces endémiques, de sa petite surface, de son éloignement géographique et du manque de diversité des habitats, notamment la quasi-absence de plans d'eau douce. Nous décrivons ici neuf nouvelles observations d'espèces sur l'île : *Aythya affinis* (Fuligule à tête noire), *Calidris pusilla* (Bécasseau semipalmé), *Calonectris borealis* (Puffin cendré), *Sphyrapicus varius* (Pic maculé), *Riparia riparia* (Hirondelle de rivage), *Setophaga magnolia* (Paruline à tête cendrée), *Setophaga pensylvanica* (Paruline à

flancs marron), *Setophaga caeruleascens* (Paruline bleue) et *Setophaga coronata coronata* (Paruline à croupion jaune). De plus, nous actualisons le statut de neuf espèces : *Spatula discors* (Sarcelle à ailes bleues), *Antrastomus carolinensis* (Engoulement de Caroline), *Sternula antillarum* (Petite Sterne), *Thalasseus sandvicensis acyflavidus* (Sterne caugek), *Sula sula* (Fou à pieds rouges), *Sula dactylatra* (Fou masqué), *Seiurus aurocapilla* (Paruline couronnée), *Mniotilta varia* (Paruline noir et blanc) et *Setophaga citrina* (Paruline à capuchon). Nous estimons que le potentiel de découverte de nouvelles espèces sur Saba est important, et nous fournissons une liste des espèces susceptibles d'être présentes sur l'île d'après des observations faites sur les îles environnantes.

Mots clés

Antilles, Antilles néerlandaises, avifaune, liste d'espèces, Petites Antilles, région caribéenne

Saba is a small (13 km²) island and is the smallest overseas municipality of the Netherlands, located in the Lesser Antilles (17°63'N, 63°23'W). Among the surrounding islands of St. Martin, St. Barthélemy, and St. Eustatius, Saba has the highest elevation, with the dormant volcano Mt. Scenery reaching over 870 m above sea level (asl).

According to de Freitas et al. (2016), the landscape of Saba is dominated by cliffs, mountains, and different types of forest, ranging from dry evergreen to cloud forest. Saba's lower elevations have a tropical savanna climate, whereas the upper slopes of Mt. Scenery are characterized by a tropical rainforest climate (de Freitas et al. 2016). The lower slopes of Mt. Scenery, which lie in the *Philodendron–Inga* montane zone ("M3" as defined per de Freitas et al. 2016), feature a relatively drier forest with a mix of taller canopy trees and lower shrub vegetation with some open areas.

The island's ecosystems are threatened by the regular occurrence of hurricanes (Eppinga and Pucko 2018), abundant invasive plant species, and feral goats (*Capra hircus*) that mainly graze the vegetation of lower mountain slopes (de Freitas et al. 2016); however, an ongoing goat removal program has reduced destructive impacts of this introduced species (Debrot et al. 2025).

Voous (1983) produced the first comprehensive overview of Saba's avifauna, followed by an update by Boeken (2018), who pointed out that some information in intervening technical reports (Rojer 1997, Walsh-McGehee 2004, Brown et al. 2009) was contradictory, incomplete, or potentially unreliable. The most recent checklist of birds on Saba and surrounding maritime areas included 109 species (Boeken 2018); this checklist was adopted by Kirwan et al. (2019). The avifauna of Saba is perhaps best known to include a significant breeding population of *Phaethon aethereus* (Red-billed Tropicbird).

Similar to its nearest neighbor, St. Eustatius (approximately 20 km to the southeast), Saba's small size and lack of endemic bird species have resulted in the island receiving little attention from birders and ornithologists. Avian diversity is limited on Saba, as well as on St. Eustatius, by the near-complete absence of permanent freshwater bodies. Both islands, together with nearby St. Martin and St. Barthélemy, lie on the pathway of birds migrating to and from North America. Yet, a number of regular and vagrant passage migrants recorded from these three nearby islands have not yet been documented on Saba. This paper describes observations of previously undocumented and rare species on Saba between July 2018 and March 2025.

Methods

Between December 2023 and March 2024, NR observed birds in all habitats of Saba, recording two previously undocumented

species for the island. MB, who visited the island for shorter periods in most years from 2018 to 2025, also found two new species during this period. Moreover, he contacted several observers, including MvdB, who uploaded records of new species to Observation.org Saba (saba.observation.org). This resulted not only in documentation of new species for the island, but also in the withdrawal of previously reported species. Finally, KW, a permanent resident on Saba, added two new species that were found in February 2024 and January 2025.

Species accounts

Where appropriate in these species accounts, we refer to eBird checklists (using "S"; ebird.org) or to Macaulay Library sonograms or photos ("ML"; macaulaylibrary.org). Also, we refer to observations on saba.observation.org ("OBS"). Nomenclature and taxonomic order of the species follows Birds of the World (2026).

Spatula discors—Blue-winged Teal

According to Boeken (2018), the first *Spatula discors* recorded on Saba was a single bird found in October 2012. On 20 September 2020, KW found an exhausted female in Fort Bay (17°36'58.4"N, 63°15'05.6"W). On Saba and St. Eustatius this species is listed as vagrant, while on other Lesser Antillean islands (Anguilla, St. Martin, St. Barthélemy, St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda), it is considered regular (Kirwan et al. 2019).

Aythya affinis—Lesser Scaup

An exhausted female *Aythya affinis* (ML614341646) was found at Cove Bay by KW and others (17°38'35.8"N, 63°13'15.1"W) on 2 February 2024, a first record for Saba. The bird was caught by KW and transferred to a freshwater pond belonging to Saba Conservation Foundation (SCF) in Windwardside, where it was not seen again after 3 February. The species has been observed on most major Lesser Antillean islands, where its status ranges from regular (Anguilla, St. Martin, St. Barthélemy) to vagrant (St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Eustatius; Raffaele et al. 2003, Kirwan et al. 2019).

Antrastomus carolinensis—Chuck-will's-widow

This species was first reported from Saba by Bond (1974) and subsequently listed by Voous (1983). Walsh-McGehee (2004) listed *Antrastomus carolinensis* as a winter visitor on Saba, while Raffaele et al. (2003) described it as uncommon, and Kirwan et al. (2019) considered the species as regular for Saba. We know of only one previous record, on 10 February 1973 in Windwardside (Voous 1983), and we believe all the above references are based on this record. We know of no audio or photographic

documentation that accompany this record.

NR heard *Anrostomus carolinensis* singing during the evenings of 31 January, 13 February, and 18 February 2024 (ML630320506) in the hills between St. Johns and Windwardside (17°37'25.8"N, 63°13'52.7"W), between ~300–400 m asl. This landscape on the lowest slopes of Saba (0–400 m asl) is subject to grazing by goats and consists of sun-exposed grasslands dominated by *Aristida–Mitracarpus* vegetation and smaller amounts of *Bothriochloa pertusa* and *Wedelia–Plumbago* (de Freitas *et al.* 2016).

Anrostomus carolinensis rarely sings during winter except just before migrating north (Barbour 1943, Downer *et al.* 1990). In the Bahamas, males begin singing in March (Brudenell-Bruce 1975). An estimated 500–1,000 pairs breed on North Andros, Grand Bahama, and Great Abaco, and the species is now recognized as being more widespread than historical records had indicated (Hayes *et al.* 2010). In addition, on Cuba, not generally included in the species' breeding range, two birds with enlarged gonads were collected in April, suggesting possible breeding (O. Garrido and A. Kirkconnell pers. comm.).

The earliest eBird records of song on the winter range are from 13 March in Costa Rica (ML522858661) and 19 March on Cuba (ML616263644); all other observations of singing individuals on the winter range are from April, with a late extreme on 4 May from Guatemala (ML625477152). The only area where this species has been recorded singing in January and February is Florida, which is within the known breeding range. The exceptionally early dates of singing on Saba in January and February of 2024 suggest that the individual was likely a passage migrant or winter visitor. However, singing by *Anrostomus carolinensis* during January and February might indicate breeding; we cannot reject this hypothesis without further study.

***Calidris pusilla*—Semipalmated Sandpiper**

On two consecutive days during October 2021, a *Calidris pusilla* was observed near Fort Bay. On 11 October, Oscar Franken registered a *Calidris alba* (Sanderling) on Observation.org (17°36'57.6"N, 63°15'03.6"W). After correspondence and examination of photos, the bird's identification was changed to *Calidris pusilla* (OBS232068137). The next day, Martijn Terpstra photographed what was likely the same individual (OBS227500311) at almost the same site (17°37'01.2"N, 63°15'07.2"W). This species is generally a common resident throughout the West Indies (Raffaele *et al.* 2003) and has been registered on all neighboring islands.

***Sternula antillarum*—Least Tern**

Although a regular visitor on most islands in the West Indies, and a documented breeder on St. Martin (Raffaele *et al.* 2003), only one record of *Sternula antillarum* is known from Saba. In his checklist, Boeken (2018) mentions the presence of this species, based on the 5 July 2011 observation of Stef Strik from a boat between Saba and St. Martin. After Boeken's (2018) publication, Strik (pers. comm.) reported that his observation had been made closer to St. Martin than to Saba, invalidating the record for Saba. However, on 31 July 2018, Hans Verdaat photographed a foraging *Sternula antillarum* (OBS160785396) on the Saba Bank (17°28'12.0"N, 63°12'39.6"W), so the species can legitimately be maintained on the Saba list.

***Thalasseus sandvicensis acufavidus*—Cabot's (Sandwich)Tern**

This species, a common visitor to nearby St. Barthélemy (Raffaele *et al.* 2003), is listed in the Saba checklist based solely on an observation by Stef Strik during the above-mentioned boat trip on 5 July 2011 (Boeken 2018). This individual also proved to be located on the St. Martin's side of the marine boundary between the two islands. For this reason, the species must be removed from the Saba list.

***Calonectris borealis*—Cory's Shearwater**

According to Raffaele *et al.* (2003), this species is a rare summer migrant in the Caribbean; Kirwan *et al.* (2019) listed *Calonectris borealis* as regular only for Antigua and Barbuda. On 31 July 2018, Hans Verdaat observed and photographed an individual *Calonectris borealis* (OBS160772470) foraging with a group of *Sula leucogaster* (Brown Booby), *Onychoprion anaethetus* and *Onychoprion fuscatus* (Bridled and Sooty Terns), and a single *Ardena gravis* (Great Shearwater) on the Saba Bank (17°27'36"N, 63°12'36"W). The available photo shows all-dark wing tips without pale primary bases, as is typical of *Calonectris borealis*, rather than the morphologically similar *Calonectris diomedea* (Scopoli's Shearwater).

***Sula sula*—Red-footed Booby**

Boeken (2018) listed *Sula sula* as an occasional visitor at sea, but undocumented on Saba itself. According to Raffaele *et al.* (2003), this species is abundant near remote roosting and nesting islands, which do not include Saba. On 26 May 2019, Alwyn Hylkema photographed a single bird roosting (OBS224,02000) together with a group of *Sula leucogaster* on the outer slope of Old Booby Hill (17°38'13.2"N, 63°13'01.2"W). Six weeks later, on 6 July, he photographed an individual roosting in a group of *Fregata magnificens* (Magnificent Frigatebird) at the same site. These are the only recorded on-island observations of this species.

***Sula dactylatra*—Masked Booby**

The few previous reports of *Sula dactylatra* for Saba have been from offshore waters (Boeken 2018). This species is a rare local resident in the West Indies (Raffaele *et al.* 2003). On 1 February 2025, MB and others observed (OBS111030070, cover photo) an adult bird roosting on the slope above Tent Bay (17°37'12.9"N, 63°15'27.7"W). The bird was seen during the entire month of February, more or less at the same location. This observation constitutes the first record of *Sula dactylatra* on Saba. On 5 February 2025, a second Saba record was obtained, when a subadult bird was observed and photographed flying off the beach of Tent Bay (OBS338016355).

***Sphyrpicus varius*—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Sphyrpicus varius is a regular winter visitor to the Greater Antilles, but a rare vagrant to the Lesser Antilles, where it has been recorded only on St. Martin, St. Barthélemy, St. Kitts and Nevis, Guadeloupe, and Dominica (Kirwan *et al.* 2019). KW found a juvenile female (ML629597310) on a palm tree on the Harry L. Johnson's Museum grounds in Windwardside (17°37'41.8"N, 63°13'56.1"W) on 24 January 2025, constituting Saba's first record.



Fig. 1. *Setophaga caerulea* Black-throated Blue Warbler on 17 January 2024 at the Crispeen Trail, Saba (17°37'38.8"N, 63°14'27.7"W). Photograph by Nicole Rijsemus.

***Riparia riparia*—Bank Swallow**

According to Raffaele et al. (2003), *Riparia riparia* is an uncommon to rare migrant in the West Indies. On 2 January 2020, MB and Mardik Leopold observed a single bird (OBS183753509) flying around the summit of Old Booby Hill (17°38'09.4"N, 63°13'02.8"W), the first observation on Saba. During the next three days, the bird was seen at the same location. Two years later, 23 January 2022, MB again observed a single bird at the summit of Old Booby Hill (OBS232803833). Voous (1983) did not list this species for the Dutch Windward islands, nor did Kirwan et al. (2019), who mention *Riparia riparia* as a regular visitor from Anguilla westward and from St. Kitts southward.

***Seiurus aurocapilla*—Ovenbird**

This species was not reported by Voous (1983) but is listed by Walsh-McGehee (2004) as a migrant/vagrant. Saba's first documented record is from 31 October 2023 (B. van Es pers. comm.) on the Crispeen Trail (17°38'05.1"N, 63°13'55.9"W).

NR found the species on several occasions during a three-month period in 2024. On 13 January 2024, NR saw and heard a *Seiurus aurocapilla* (ML613460135) on the Tara Ground Trail (17°37'37.3"N, 63°14'33.8"W). On 30 January 2024, NR found three individuals on the Crispeen Trail (17°37'35.6"N, 63°14'28.6"W), and on 16 February 2024, NR heard two *Seiurus aurocapilla* a little further north on the Crispeen Trail (17°37'36.7"N, 63°14'28.0"W). MB subsequently observed an individual on the Mt. Scenery Trail (17°37'44.4"N, 63°14'2.4"W) on 8 October 2025.

With multiple individuals documented over three consecutive years, *Seiurus aurocapilla* can no longer be considered as vagrant and is likely a regular winter visitor to Saba. On the surrounding islands, eBird data indicate no increase in numbers during 2023–2025 period, suggesting that Saba's records were unlikely to have reflected a short-term influx.

***Mniotilta varia*—Black-and-white Warbler**

Since Saba's first record from 21 March 1955 (Voous 1983), only two individual *Mniotilta varia* have been reported, one each during the winters of 2021 and 2022 (OBS229852364, OBS260378216). Although no other documented records appear to exist, Kirwan et al. (2019) listed this species as a regular visitor.

On 26 December 2023, NR found two *Mniotilta varia* together (ML612671514) in a mixed flock with *Elaenia martinica* (Caribbean Elaenia), *Setophaga americana* (Northern Parula), *Coereba flaveola* (Bananaquit), and *Loxigilla noctis* (Lesser Antillean Bullfinch) on Mary's Point Trail (17°38'30.9"N, 63°14'52.8"W). On 30 December 2023, NR again found two individuals at the same spot (ML612840846) within a similar flock. On 17 February 2024, NR found one adult male together with two *Setophaga ruticilla* (American Redstart), two *Setophaga citrina* (Hooded Warbler), and several *Coereba flaveola* at the Bottom Mountain Trail (17°37'52.4"N, 63°14'43.7"W); this was almost certainly a third individual, as the two sites are separated by 1.2 km.

As a common winter visitor throughout the Lesser Antilles and wider Caribbean (Kirwan et al. 2019), *Mniotilta varia* is probably an overlooked regular visitor to Saba.

***Setophaga citrina*—Hooded Warbler**

According to Kirwan et al. (2019), *Setophaga citrina* is vagrant in the Lesser Antilles, as well as on Saba, with one documented record of a male at Ladder Hills (17°37'47.9"N, 63°15'12.8"W) on 6 March 1952 (Voous 1983).

NR observed the species three times on the Bottom Mountain Trail (17°37'52.4"N, 63°14'43.7"W). The first individual, an adult male (ML615307862), was seen and heard on 17 February 2024. The next day there were two *Setophaga citrina*, a male and a female, at the same location. Both were observed in a flock with *Setophaga ruticilla* and *Coereba flaveola*. On 26 February 2024, NR found one male and a female, less than 100 m further up the trail, presumably the same individuals as on 18 February. An adult male was seen by Jonne Veldboom on 2 March 2025 at the Sandy Cruz trailhead at Upper Hell's Gate (17°38'20.4"N, 63°14'02.4"W).

Although Kirwan et al. (2019) listed *Setophaga citrina* as regular only on Guadeloupe, this species has been observed multiple times in the Lesser Antilles, including records from Anguilla, St. Martin, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Barbuda. We suggest the status of *Setophaga citrina* on Saba be changed to a regular winter visitor.

***Setophaga magnolia*—Magnolia Warbler**

NR observed a *Setophaga magnolia* (ML613460139) on 13 January 2024 on the Tara Ground Trail (17°37'36.0"N, 63°14'32.2"W). The bird did not vocalize and moved in a mixed flock of *Coereba flaveola* and a *Melanospiza bicolor* (Black-faced Grassquit). This previously unreported species was expected on Saba as it is a vagrant on other islands of the Lesser Antilles including St. Martin, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Anguilla. On Antigua and Barbuda, the species is even listed as regular (Kirwan et al. 2019).

***Setophaga pensylvanica*—Chestnut-sided Warbler**

According to Raffaele et al. (2003) and Kirwan et al. (2019), *Setophaga pensylvanica* is a vagrant in the Lesser Antilles

Table 1. Currently undocumented but probable species for Saba, with an overview of records from surrounding islands. Species are considered probable if suitable habitat is present on Saba and the species has been recorded on at least three of six surrounding islands (or island groups). Species in bold have been reported from Saba, but without adequate documentation.

Species	Anguilla	St. Martin	St. Barthélemy	St. Eustatius	St. Kitts and Nevis	Antigua and Barbuda
<i>Chordeiles minor</i> Common Nighthawk	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Chordeiles gundlachii</i> Antillean Nighthawk	x		x		x	x
<i>Porzana carolina</i> Sora	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Fulica americana</i> American Coot	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Pluvialis dominica</i> American Golden-Plover	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i> Killdeer	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Anarhynchus wilsonia</i> Wilson's Plover	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Anarhynchus nivosus</i> Snowy Plover	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Bartramia longicauda</i> Upland Sandpiper		x	x			
<i>Numenius hudsonicus</i> Hudsonian Whimbrel	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Tringa semipalmata</i> Willet	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i> Greater Yellowlegs	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Calidris canutus</i> Red Knot	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Calidris subruficollis</i> Buff-breasted Sandpiper		x	x		x	x
<i>Calidris alba</i> Sanderling	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i> White-rumped Sandpiper	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Calidris melanotos</i> Pectoral Sandpiper	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Calidris mauri</i> Western Sandpiper	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Larus fuscus</i> Lesser Black-backed Gull	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> Gull-billed Tern	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i> Neotropic Cormorant		x	x		x	
<i>Tyrannus savana</i> Fork-tailed Flycatcher		x	x		x	
<i>Icterus galbula</i> Baltimore Oriole		x	x		x	
<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i> Worm-eating Warbler		x	x			x
<i>Protonotaria citrea</i> Prothonotary Warbler	x	x	x		x	
<i>Geothlypis formosa</i> Kentucky Warbler		x			x	x
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i> Common Yellowthroat	x	x				x

with observations on St. Martin, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Barbuda. On 1 March 2025, Eva Drukker and Jonne Veldboom photographed a single bird (ML631500133) at the end of the Mountain Road near Windwardside (17°37'14.8"N, 63°14'13.2"W).

***Setophaga caeruleascens*—Black-throated Blue Warbler**

Previously unreported on Saba, *Setophaga caeruleascens* is listed as vagrant on other Lesser Antilles islands including

Anguilla, St. Martin, St. Barthélemy, and St. Kitts and Nevis (Kirwan et al. 2019). On 17 January 2024, NR found an adult male at 390 m as on the Crispeen Trail (17°37'38.8"N, 63°14'27.7"W; Fig. 1); no vocalizations were heard. The individual was in a flock with *Coereba flaveola*, *Loxigilla noctis*, and *Melanospiza bicolor*.

On 20 January 2024, NR observed what was likely the same individual, 100 m NE from the previous site. Again no vocalizations were heard. On 25 February 2024, NR observed another individual, again an adult male, but this time at the Bottom

Mountain Trail (17°37'52.2"N, 63°14'43.8"W), in a mixed flock with *Coereba flaveola* and a *Setophaga ruticilla*. We cannot rule out that this was the same individual as the bird reported twice in January, as the locations were separated by ~600 m.

***Setophaga coronata coronata*—Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler**

Setophaga coronata coronata is a “rare migrant in the Lesser Antilles” (Raffaele et al. 2003). According to Kirwan et al. (2019), the species is vagrant on Anguilla, St. Martin, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Barbuda. On 14 February 2025, MvdB observed and photographed (OBS338897567) an adult male at Fort Bay (17°37'01.2"N, 63°15'07.2"W), the first observation on Saba. Likely the same individual was again observed at the same location on 28 February 2025.

Discussion

It is clear that Saba’s avifauna is still incompletely known, as several species have been added to the bird list in recent years. Other species have been observed with increasing frequency, such that their classification as vagrant to the island is no longer valid. We believe that many of the species listed in Table 1 will eventually be found on the island with increased observation effort. We thus urge both local birders and those visiting from other regions (e.g., Netherlands) to more carefully investigate the avifauna of Saba, particularly during the migration and winter periods, when many North American migratory species may be visiting or residing on the island, and after hurricanes, when storm-driven vagrants may appear.

Likewise, any information on the winter ecology and habitat use of Saba’s avifauna is welcome and useful. Our notable records of terrestrial birds reported here were obtained mainly in the *Philodendron–Inga* montane zone (M3; de Freitas et al. 2016). The vegetation in this zone is dominated by *Philodendron* and *Cordia* with scattered *Inga*, *Pharus*, *Coccoloba*, and *Myrcianthes*. This climatic zone and its vegetation may be particularly attractive to migrant and overwintering birds because of an abundance of food and cover, and relatively benign weather. However, we emphasize that noteworthy observations and new information on Saba’s avifauna can be obtained anywhere on the island at any time of year.

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The authors declare that no generative artificial intelligence tools or machine-based language translation services were used in the preparation of this manuscript.

Author Contributions

Contributed observations: NR, MB, MvdB, KW; writing original draft: NR, MB, PvE; improving subsequent versions of manuscript: NR, PvE, MB; supervision: NR, MB, MvdB, PvE.

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