

**St. Croix Environmental Association (SEA) Project Field Report –  
St. Thomas wetland bird surveys, 2022**

SEA conducted wetland bird surveys in St. Thomas on March 20-25, 2022. Seven (7) sites were surveyed: Mandahl Pond, Magen’s Bay, Red Hook Salt Pond, Compass Point Salt Pond, Bolongo Salt Pond, Perseverance Salt Ponds, and Brewer’s Bay/Range Cay. Bird survey methodology followed the Caribbean Waterbird Census (CWC) Level 1 (Site Inventory) Area Search protocol. In this method, the observer moves around the site or search area identifying and counting all the birds in the area. The observer records species present and number of individuals of each species. Further and more specific information on this survey method can be found in the CWC Manual (Sorensen et al 2019).



Figure 1. Floating nest at Red Hook Pond

All surveys were conducted in the morning. Survey days started in the early morning and on days when multiple sites were visited, no surveys started later than 9:00 am. Although there was occasional rain during the survey dates, weather conditions were favorable overall and the rain did not negatively affect survey data.

All survey data was entered into eBird and links to each specific survey and some basic summary data can be found in Table 1. No site stood out with especially high species diversity; the same number of species were observed at the Compass Point Pond and Perseverance Pond(s)

(n=12) and the Red Hook Pond was similar (n=10). By far the largest number of individual birds were found at the Perseverance Pond (n= 92), followed by Red Hook (64) and Compass Point (35). See the Table 1 for species and individual numbers at all ponds surveyed.

These surveys will be repeated in the fall of 2022 to better capture the wet season avifauna at each site and early winter migrants.



Figure 2. Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Brewer's Bay

Sorenson, L. G., A. Haynes-Sutton, F. Rivera-Milan, and J. Gerbracht. 2019. Caribbean Waterbird

Census Manual: Promoting Conservation of Waterbirds and Wetlands through Monitoring. BirdsCaribbean, Natick, MA.

Table 1. Summary data and links to full survey data on eBird for first round of wetland bird surveys on St. Thomas, USVI, March 2022.

Site	number of species (mean/survey)	number of species (cumulative)	number of individuals (mean/survey)	link to survey data in eBird
Magen's Bay (main ghut)	6	6	8	<a href="https://ebird.org/caribbean/checklist/S107031019">https://ebird.org/caribbean/checklist/S107031019</a>
Mandahl Pond	4	4	6	<a href="https://ebird.org/caribbean/checklist/S107031408">https://ebird.org/caribbean/checklist/S107031408</a>
Red Hook Salt Pond	10	10	64	<a href="https://ebird.org/caribbean/checklist/S109899383">https://ebird.org/caribbean/checklist/S109899383</a>
Compass Point Salt Pond	12	12	35	<a href="https://ebird.org/caribbean/checklist/S110396504">https://ebird.org/caribbean/checklist/S110396504</a>
Bolongo Bay Salt Pond	5	5	6	<a href="https://ebird.org/caribbean/checklist/S110396917">https://ebird.org/caribbean/checklist/S110396917</a>
Perseverance Ponds	12	12	92	<a href="https://ebird.org/caribbean/checklist/S107033828">https://ebird.org/caribbean/checklist/S107033828</a>
Brewer's Bay (Range Cay)	9	9	13	<a href="https://ebird.org/caribbean/checklist/S107035629">https://ebird.org/caribbean/checklist/S107035629</a>

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Compass Point Salt Pond	12	12	35	<a href="https://ebird">https://ebird</a>
Bolongo Bay Salt Pond	5	5	6	<a href="https://ebird">https://ebird</a>
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