

A RECORD OF THE SCARLET-SHOULDERED PARROTLET

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While walking across Aripo Savannah on an early morning at the end of July I heard an unfamiliar bird call. I looked up and saw a flock of parrotlets, about fifteen in number, flying towards the North Range. They were similar in size to the Lilac-tailed Parrotlet (*Touit batavica*), and as they flew I could see scarlet under the wings. The scarlet must have been quite extensive since it was conspicuous even though they were flying fairly high.

Unfortunately I have since lost (or mislaid) the notebook with my field notes, and even the exact date. However, when I got home I compared my notes with descriptions in various books and have no doubt that the birds I saw were Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlets (*Touit huetii*). The call I had noted down agreed with the call given for this species by Snyder in her book 'The Birds of Guyana, Salem 1966'. -'a high witch-wit ch'.

This appears to be the first record for Trinidad since Leotaud's records in the last century. It would appear to be genuinely rare, rather than easily overlooked, since the call is quite distinct from that of the common Lilac-tailed Parrotlet.